

"Josephite" body might assert as to succession, either to the title of the original Church or to property that belonged to it, we showed to be absurd in view of the fact that the "Josephites" call their body the "Reorganized" Church, and claim that the original Church died or was disorganized, in face of the fact that it has continued until this day, the same body, changing its location but not its name or its organization.

The facts are plain and the argument is very simple. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as organized April 6, 1830, was founded upon the revelations given to Joseph Smith the Prophet. On that very day he was named by revelation as a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, and the Church was commanded to give heed unto all his words and commandments." These were delivered to the Church from time to time till his martyrdom. Some members of the Church would not receive the later revelations and seceded from the Church or were cut off. The body of the Church remained true through all the vicissitudes it encountered, and is now in Utah, having received all the "words and commandments" given of God to the Seer and Prophet Joseph Smith.

Now which of the seceders can legally lay claim to the title of "succession" to the name and "muniments and property" of the original Church, on the wonderfully clear "rule of law" laid down by the *Lamoni Herald*? There are some people claiming to be the original church who repudiated the revelations in regard to High Priests, and tithing, and indeed all the words and commandments after the first two or three years of the history of the Church. Are not they "clearly" entitled to all that the "Josephites" claim, on the *Herald's* "attested" theory? Have they not a better show of a claim than a body that is not even a part of the original body, but a new organization claiming that the old body is dead?

If the *Herald's* argument is worth anything, then no new tenet, or doctrine, or rule or commandment could be received by the Church without placing it in danger of losing its identity, and title and muniments, and property. For those members that separated from it, retaining only the "original faith" would have the "right of succession" as a "clear rule of law" and that "whether they were few or many."

Neither in law nor in logic will the *Herald's* argument hold good. And in theology it is ruled out by a hundred

precedents. Christ told his disciples first, to go "not into the cities of the Gentiles," but "to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." Then He told them to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." He commanded His disciples to take neither purse nor scrip, and not to take up the sword, then changed the rule and told them to take both and if they had no swords to sell their coats to buy them. Would those who refused to comply with the later rules have been entitled as holders of the "original faith" to the title and property of the Church "whether they were few or many?"

The absurdities of the claims of the "Josephite" body are multiplied by each succeeding special plea of the *Lamoni Herald*. But we do not think it will be necessary for the *DESERET NEWS* to pay attention to them. When that claim to property belonging to the Church is put in, we may have something to say in regard to the matter. This will suffice for the present.

#### SENSIBLE VIEWS.

FOLLOWING is from the *Sun*, of Cheyenne, Wyoming:

"The protest made by the Mormons against the report of the Utah Commission has some merit in it. It has so long been the custom of the United States officials to denounce the Mormons that it is impossible for them to desist, although there remains very little reason for censure. A resident of Cheyenne, whose business as a cattle grower has called him quite frequently to Utah in the past twenty years, stated to us the other day that at no time had there been to exceed 6 per cent. of the Mormons in polygamy. If this be correct then the profession of the Saints has been largely in excess of their practice. At all events the odious doctrine has been publicly renounced and the Mormons declare that there has not been any deviation from the stand they took a year ago. Unless the Commission can disprove this it should cease to excite prejudice against the otherwise worthy citizens of Utah. As a matter of fact it is the Mormons who are being persecuted and not the Gentiles. The Mormons are anxious to drop the fight and divide upon political lines. They are nearly equally divided upon national issues and it is a mistake to suppose that they are controlled by the church, wherein the church is not vitally concerned.

"Judge Zane, who was a 'holy terror' to the Mormons so long as they persisted in their polygamous practices, is now giving the Saints the protection of his court and has incurred the displeasure of the rabid Gentiles by his fair and impartial decisions, although none venture to impeach his integrity or question his ability.

"A visitor to Salt Lake during any public demonstrations or gatherings is surprised to see the harmony that prevails between the previously hostile elements, and the barriers that formerly existed are quietly dropping away. This change is going on in all parts of the Territory, but more conspicuous at Ogden than elsewhere. In that city leading Gentiles and Mormons pull shoulder to shoulder in any public

enterprise and the most progressive, wide-awake newspaper, the *Standard*, is conducted by a son of that leading Mormon, George Q. Cannon."

The Reno, Nevada, *State Journal*, has this to say in the same line:

"There are Gentiles living in Utah who attribute much of the ill-feeling existing between the Mormons and Gentiles to the Utah Commission. This Commission consists of five persons, who draw a salary of \$6,000 a year from the Federal Government for supervising elections and making annual reports on the condition of the Territory. The majority of the members are opposed to having the Mormons divide on national party lines, because such a division would, naturally deprive them of office. They must, if possible, keep alive the feeling which existed between the Mormons and Gentiles years ago, for if that dies out Utah will be admitted as a State and there will be no use for the Commission.

"At the election held in Utah last August the Mormons divided on national issues, their Elders taking the stump in opposition to each other, and there is no evidence that they were not as sincere as Gentile Republicans and Democrats. To admit that they were on the part of the Commission would imply that the Territory ought to be made a State, as it has a larger population than Idaho and Wyoming combined, and that is what a majority of the Commission do not want, as it would deprive them of lucrative positions at the public crib."

#### STILL POINTING TO WAR.

THE latest Russian movement in relation to war symptoms is of decided interest. The Minister of that country to Turkey demands of the Sultan substantial proofs of what the attitude of Turkey would be in the event of war. The application is accompanied by an implied threat. It is intimated by the Czar's representative that it is believed that an understanding has been reached between the Porte and England, in case of the breaking out of actual warfare. When the Sultan pointed out that, on the request of Russia, a prominent Turkish official with pro-English tendencies had been dismissed, M. de Nelidoff promptly replied that his Majesty had assured the English and Italian Minister that this action implied no change of foreign policy.

If Russia does not intend pursuing a policy that will eventuate in war, why should she be so anxious to secure the neutrality, or assistance, of Turkey in case there should be an international outbreak? Except it be herself, and perhaps France, there are no others of the powers desiring the opening of a conflict, which must be tremendous in extent and consequences. Her policy, unless checked is sure to lead to actual hostilities.

This view of the Czar's intention is emphasized by the vast naval preparations inaugurated in Russia. She has determined to become a power on the