

term of years. It would be difficult to say what individuals contributed to that balance. And as some donated large amounts and others but trifles, it would scarcely be just to distribute it *pro rata*.

Nothing more equitable, simple and in accordance with the law has been proposed than the plan offered by counsel for the Church. It not only secures the funds to the body that actually owns them, but their use, in a lawful manner, and for purposes the nearest alike to those originally intended. The spirit of the article in the *American* is eminently just and rational.

### "MORMON" HOSTILITY TO EDUCATION

NOTWITHSTANDING the proofs that have been given of the falsity of the wide-spread stories about "Mormon" opposition to education, they still obtain credence, and editors who ought to be better informed repeat them as news and comment on them as facts. We are inclined to think that these untruths are circulated for a purpose by some of the teachers who are sent here from the East and who are detailed for work in remote rural districts.

This used to be quite common both among denominational teachers and sectarian preachers. Lately the latter have been a little more careful in telling their tales of woe, because of the statistical information which has been published and the general spread of intelligence on Utah affairs. But every now and again we see articles in eastern papers something like the following, which we clip from a Michigan journal and which lead to the conclusion that some of those missionary teachers are resorting to the old tactics. The *Grand Rapids Herald* says:

"The New West teachers have endured every ignominy and persecution at the hands of the Mormon bishops. Isolated from the world, in little mountain hamlets, they have been ostracized by the community, and even refused the necessities of life. But they have bravely held their own and already see the field ripening for the harvest, and education, through their instrumentality, has done more to remove the fetters of ignorance than the United States laws or the divine 'revelations' of Mormon Saints."

The kindness which has been shown to these people, even though they have endeavored in many instances to misrepresent to children the faith of their fathers, has been such as would inspire with gratitude any person possessing true manhood or womanhood. In spreading such reports they show their unfitness to be entrusted with the care of youth, and their real character ought to be exposed to the public.

In a recent communication by a Den-

ver woman to the *Republican* of that city, we find such stuff as this:

"The city is too recently emancipated from Mormon rule for progressive educational movements to make rapid headway. The leaders in such movements have to contend with obstacles quite incomprehensible to those unacquainted with the peculiar conditions of society here. There are one or two private kindergartens under Gentile management, but they are far from crowded. As to such institutions among the Saints themselves, while many a Mormon could easily equip a fair-sized kindergarten with pupils from his own household, and the streets are filled with swarms of filthy, ignorant and neglected children, few families would be allowed to avail themselves of the blessings of a kindergarten. To have its children taught to think is the last thing Mormonism desires. From the earliest establishment of the Church in Utah its rulers have preached against education, more especially schools. Bishop Taylor once declared in a public lecture they were 'destructive to the best interests of a community!' One of Brigham Young's well-known edicts was 'There shall not be a free school within the borders of the Saintly Kingdom.'

"Education would lead to enlightenment, and ignorance and superstition are the corner-stones of Mormonism. When, directly contrary to the doctrine he forced upon his flock, Brigham sent several of his own sons East to be educated, his followers were astounded and shocked, and it necessitated a special revelation to satisfy them it was 'the Lord's will.' Of course years of Gentile influence has changed all that, and schools abound in Utah; still, incredible as it may seem, not two years have elapsed since the organization of the first public school in Salt Lake City! And any attempt to elevate and instruct by kindergarten methods, the flock of ignorant little children among the Mormons would be viewed with bitter, insulting suspicion, and would at once be stamped out."

Perhaps the best comment that could be made on this mess of misrepresentation is contained in these lines, from the same communication:

"I am indebted to the courtesy of Judge Goodwin of the *Tribune* office for the delightful drive about the city and the adjacent points of interest."

"I was accompanied by — of the *Tribune*, a native of Utah, whose explanations and description of incidents and scenes of by-gone days added greatly to my enjoyment of the drive."

It is from such sources that these false ideas of Utah and the attitude of the "Mormons" toward education are often obtained. If the writer had taken the trouble to inquire, she might have learned that the first Kindergarten in this region was established for "Mormon" children by a "Mormon" lady, a German who is still residing here and engaged in educational work. Also that Brigham Young did more for the cause of education, financially and otherwise, than any dozen *Tribune* defamers have done or are likely to do if they should live a thousand years.

One funny paragraph from this correspondence we will reproduce, to show how simple some smart and educated people are, in believing and re-

peating what they hear and at the same time furnishing evidence of their own deception. After describing the dense ignorance of the "Mormons," she says:

"The class of music often heard in these little adobe cots, nestled down among their shrubbery, is a perpetual surprise to visitors. Fine voices abound, good pianists are everywhere, and the most difficult selections from classical music are often rendered by those whose appearance would indicate nothing but ignorance and dirt. Among the better class of Mormons is a mandolin club composed of sixty young girls, under the leadership of Miss Ella Olsen, a young lady of Danish descent, of wonderful musical talent and the purest type of blonde beauty."

"The recent visit of the Geological Association is still fresh in the minds of Denver people. While in Salt Lake City a grand concert in their honor was given in the Tabernacle, and the Young Ladies' Mandolin club rendered several numbers with such effect as to cause the staid old German savants to become wildly enthusiastic, cheering and applauding like schoolboys."

Does it not seem that even very little reflection would have shown this writer the contradiction of what she was told of "Mormon" ignorance by what she experienced of "Mormon" knowledge of "difficult classical music?" People come here expecting to hear peculiar stories about the "Mormons," and when they find such escorts as attended the Denver writer they are stuffed with them to their hearts' content.

There were public schools in Utah before the alleged "Judge" or any of his attaches ever breathed the air of Utah. And truthful people who learn of the labors of the early settlers in the cause of education, have only words of praise for what was done under the circumstances that surrounded the people in those rude times. Utah has always been a friend to education and the "Mormons" have always promoted it, and have often met with their most formidable obstacles in the form of anti-"Mormon" opposition both to the building of school edifices and the establishment of free education.

The journalists of the United States ought by this time to know something for themselves on this matter, and cease to retail these unsound and mildewed chestnuts about "Mormon" hostility to education.

### GROWTH OF LAWLESSNESS AND VICE

THE assault made by the Emperor of Germany upon the horrible vices that flourish and fester in his country is winning favor for him among the morally disposed people of the civilized world. The action of the young monarch is a sad reflection upon the legal executive machinery of the Em-