

Mormonism Theoretical and Practical

IF RELIGIONS MUST BE CONSISTENT THROUGH-
OUT, WHAT WOULD BECOME OF THE BEST OF
THEM?

SALT LAKE CITY, June 15.—(Staff Correspondence.)—In Mormonism the day of miracles is not past, nor the day of revelation. It is this absolute faith that makes Mormonism a virile religion. It is this faith that does the miracle of reducing reason to credulity and of making belief of delusion. This was the key that Joseph Smith fashioned to open benighted minds to fanaticism and to close them to enlightenment. He was visited by divine revelation the first mortal to receive it since the reformation dissolved authority and substituted forms of worship for the Word, numberless the Truth. At least, this is the Mormon argument and the theory holds it over the subjects of the church like a pedant's wand.

Revelation is the chief hope or dream of devout Mormons. So devoted are they to their hallucination, they would make everything on earth subservient to it, domestic duty, faith between man and man and even our so-called justice; for they believe no justice above that which is revealed. Of course, the difficulty is in detecting the divine manifestation. A man may have a revelation when he commits murder, and so may any man who does any crime. Therefore, the Mormons, for their own safety, confine their miracles mostly to their theology. This is not an absolute rule, however. The truth, as revealed, depends upon what the truth is. If the revelation does not disturb the social order and is otherwise harmless, it is genuine and the recipient is commended for the divine favor.

In a murder trial just ended in Salt Lake City there was a good exhibition of Mormon credulity, or delusion, or fanaticism. A man named Mortensen was charged with killing a man to whom he owed several thousand dollars. He was convicted after a hard-fought trial of murder in the first degree. Among the witnesses for the prosecution was the father-in-law of the victim. He was a devout Mormon. By occult manifestation he knew the man had been murdered before the crime was discovered, knew the exact spot where the body lay buried. When asked how he knew he responded, "The Holy Ghost was there." This testimony stirred up a profound sensation among the Mormons, and created a strong sentiment of the accused's guilt. It was probably evidence as remarkable as any ever admitted before a modern court of justice.

But as in all religions, there are devotees of varying intensity. Most Mormons assume the authority of their doctrines and do not criticize them. The writer met an educated Mormon woman. She was highly intelligent, well informed on all public subjects, was the mother of 11 children and took great pride in her family. She was devoted to the Mormon faith and gloried in its beneficent works. But as to the "fine points" of her religion she was ignorant. She knew little of the history of Mormonism or of its doctrines. "If I can raise my children to be good men and women, I shall have done my whole duty," she said at last.

The Mormons are a kindly people. They are not monsters, neither do they look unlike other people. They are victims of humorous curiosity at the gaze of tourists at Salt Lake or wherever they may be traveling. "Now you see us," said a Mormon elder to the writer, "do we have horns?"

"Plural" or "Celestial marriage" is what has caused Mormons most of their woes. This practice is one of the anomalies of Christianity, showing how even the best of doctrines may be turned to a bad meaning. Celestial marriage was revealed to Joseph Smith in 1831, and afterward practiced by him and a number of elders. It was not publicly proclaimed until 19 or 22 years later.

Plural marriage is a Mormon's chief means of glory in the next world. By it he may have an endless increase of eternal lives and attain to the power of the Godhead. "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens," said Joseph Smith. As there are countless souls awaiting incarnation, and as each man's share in the inheritance of the universe depends upon his ranking, according to the number of his progeny, it is clear what force the doctrine of plural marriage has in Mormon belief. With consistent, straight-necked Mormon, those whose zeal is greater than their wisdom, this force is as strong as ever. But nearly all Mormons are wiser than they are religious. They prefer peace on earth, at least at present, to glory hereafter.

Mormons always turn away from this subject as soon as possible. They realize the inconsistency between their morality and their religion. They say the practice is of the past, but they do not explain how or why it can consistently be so. Yet they should not be condemned for their inconsistencies entirely. If inconsistency were the indictment of a religion, what would become of Christianity? Charity and nonresistance are two postulates of the Christian faith. But the postulates we blink at in the more natural struggle for existence, whether we be good Christians or not.

In doctrine, the Mormon church is essentially communistic; in practice it is just the opposite. By a system of tithes the theocracy is kept in existence by its power of squeezing out of the members of the church the substance which the poor deduced people write from the rich soil. By the law of consecration of the church and the gospel of Jesus, all things should be held in common. But the dogmatists of the church explain that the doctrine is not followed, owing to man's selfishness and his imperfect state. The problem is still a vexing one because the Lord has declared that until the doctrine is followed out, Zion will not be built.

But let us get down to Mormon belief. This article does not pretend to originality, and if it bores anyone, that person may be excused to pass on. But there is so widespread ignorance among "gentile" Christians to the religion of the modern "hosts of Israel" that the writer will run the risk of being tedious.

Since the reformation up to the time of Joseph Smith, there had been no authorized virginate of God on earth. Protestants pretended to have authority from heaven, but as their religion had abandoned the true word for forms and husks, God refused to reveal himself to them. After Luther, Zwingle, Calvin and Cranmer, many false leaders set themselves up as leaders in the name of the "Anointed man" who was to come, but he that is called of God was as far as they.

But to Joseph Smith God revealed himself, and commissioned him to organize the Kingdom of Christ on earth in preparation for the second advent and the millennium. The growth of Zion the Mormons ascribe to the favor of the Lord and to fulfillment of prophecy. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose," went the prophecy, and so the Mormons say the land of Utah is doing. Even what the Lord said to Isaiah, that he was working out Zion: "I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Actuated by the incentive of this, the Mormons glory in the persecution and martyrdom to which they have been subjected. It is indeed a fine frenzy, showing with what bonds human reason may be shackled. Does the religious instinct which differentiates more from heart, cloud or clear his intelligence?

According to Mormonism, the father is in man's image, and Jesus Christ is the absolute image and likeness of the father. Both the father and the son are spirits, with tangible immortal bodies. Spirit is substance external to matter, permeating all things in boundless space, giving light and heat. All men and women are sons and daughters of God, and Jesus is their elder brother. By obedience to the gospel, man may be exalted with Jesus and become like him and reign with him in the holy presence as joint heirs of God. Repentance is necessary to remission of sins, through baptism or regeneration.

Thus purged of sin, a newborn disciple is ready to receive the Holy Ghost from those ordained to act in his name. The regenerated soul thus received into Christ's church is entitled to spiritual gifts such as wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, vision, speaking in tongues, healing of sick, etc.

Yes, indeed, there are miracles in the church. True, they are not done right out in the open, but that's the miracle. The gift of the Holy Ghost is that of all-intelligence. It is given to every person that enters the world, but is bestowed in greater degree upon a repentant believer. It is better to receive it in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Only those who deny the Holy Ghost after having received it will be lost after resurrection. Persons who have not had the opportunity to receive it may do so in the spirit world. Infants, instead of being damned in early birth are redeemed in the blood of Christ. After death and until resurrection the spirits which have been in probation in the flesh are separated into good and evil classes to await the millennium. A disembodied spirit may repent, but cannot be baptized. A living person, however, may be baptized for the dead. Thus one who has received the ordinances of the gospel may by a vicarious arrangement stand proxy for departed ancestors and become saviors of the dead.

And at last when the earth is purified of sin, when it is crowned with his glory and resplendent with his presence—then the redeemed will share with the son the inheritance of all things. Bibles will reign like that of the Summer plagues, gentle breezes will blow and waft the strains of sweet music. Israel will be gathered, and Jerusalem and Palestine rebuilt. War's tumults and famines will be no more. Christ will be revealed and will rule in Zion and Jerusalem, and the redeemed will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

If there ever has been a superlative cheat in the world his name was Joseph Smith. If you want one religious quick supreme above all others, that's his name. If you want a pious high priest of humbug, that's his name. Simon Magus and Schlatter, the healer, aren't in it a minute. Joseph Smith was about the slickest thing that ever came down the pike. Bishop, lunacy, lechery, these were the instruments of his power.

Joe was a prodigy all his life. Shiftness and laxy, he was a tremendous liar, too. He was a scion of a family which was noted for the same characteristics as he himself. Their neighbors knew the Smiths too well to swallow the "revelation," and besides the good people round about looked up their chicken coops at night. This was back at Sharon, Vt. and Palmyra, N. Y. Reading blood and thunder literature and telling fortunes were among the early vocations of the prophet. And long about the time a revival broke out, a revelation came to him from God. Of course there were other more worthy men in the world to be thus favored, but Joe had the revelation and that settled it. And didn't the Lord know his own business?

Then came the angel Moroni. Moroni was the defunct son of Mormon, the historian of the Nephites, who were exterminated by the Lamanites, the progenitors of the American Indians. Moroni had written the Nephite history on golden tablets. These Moroni hid in Hill Cumorah, in New York. With them he put two stones, the Urim and Thummim, whereby to read the writings. Through these magic stones Joe Smith could see the equivalent of the inscription in pure English, not so pure, however, that the translation was perfect in spelling or grammar. After the translation the golden tablets were returned to Moroni. This was to keep the delusion perfect and to preserve the mystery.

Such is the book of Mormon, to which thousands of people offer obedience. Such is the book Moroni ordered Joe to find on Hill Cumorah. Four years later, after Joe had waxed in holiness, he was sufficiently sanctified to lift out the plates and translate them. Then the plates vanished into thin air, to return again when the world is purified.

Wherever the Mormons have been, in New York, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, or Iowa, they have shown the same militant character, their religion, it is a religion that tolerates nothing but itself when it has the power, and when it has not the power, it gets along by cringing, fawning, meekness and humility. When the civil administration has been under Mormon domination, as in Nauvoo and the early days of Salt Lake City, everything else has been Mormon, including justice in the courts. Aut Mormon aut Nullus is an appropriate motto for this religious sect.

Supposed Woman Servant is a Man.
NEW YORK, June 23.—"Otille" Cast-augle, who came to this country a few days ago in the hope of getting employment as a woman servant, is a man, and now awaits deportation at Ellis Island. "Otille" will be sent home as a man, not because he was found to be one, but because he was likely to become a public charge. He says he did not knowingly deceive, but that he was deceived himself. He was taught to do housekeeping and later found work as a woman servant in Saxony. While washing dishes and scrubbing floors in his native place, a woman employed in the same household left Saxony for Philadelphia. She secured a good place, and "Otille" decided to follow her.

THE OREGON FARMER.

Today He is as Intelligent and Progressive as Any.

DILLIE, Or., June 23.—(To the Editor.)—In your issue of the 20th inst. there is an editorial entitled "Is This an Exaggeration?" referring to a letter published a few days previous and signed "A True Friend of Oregon." I failed to see the letter referred to, but will attempt to answer each part of it as it is quoted in your editorial.

In the first place, no true friend of Oregon would ever write an article condemning so large a number of his fellow-citizens with so small a basis of truth. If the conditions to which he refers are not wholly imaginary, they must have cost him a good deal of trouble to find them in reality.

He speaks of the Oregon farmer as being actively engaged in farming for 12 years, and claims to know something of farming conditions in our own state as well as other states and countries. I am constantly in touch with farmers in the Willamette Valley, and I unhesitatingly say that as a class they are as intelligent and progressive as those of any other state.

Five to ten years ago this was not true, but conditions then were different, and the reasons easily explained. The farmers of the Willamette Valley were then suffering from the same change of conditions that had overtaken the farmers of the Atlantic States 20 or 30 years previously. The opening of the great prairies of the West soon rendered unprofitable the small farms in the East, and a period of great depression followed, and thousands of farms were abandoned before the Eastern farmer learned that he could grow other crops at greater profit. So it was here; grain-growing had become a source of loss rather than profit, and we had but a limited market for other products, and also were unskilled in the raising of a variety of products. My books show that during the "hard times," from 1893 to 1897, I sold wheat as low as 25 cents, best white oats at 17 cents per bushel, and timothy hay at 25 to 35 per ton. In the face of such prices, was the Oregon farmer to blame that he was not very well dressed or very enthusiastic over farming?

But within the last five years all this has changed and conditions have improved and are improving so rapidly that one not in touch with them cannot realize it. Let our pessimistic friends of the past year or two drive over the Willamette Valley and note the improvements on every hand; let him converse with the farmers in the fields, attend the county fairs, visit the farmers' institutes, and come home and write another such letter, if he dare.

Does not such an instance as the recent sale of Shorthorn cattle held by Alex. Chalmers, where 40 head of home-grown cattle were sold to home buyers for \$2200, of itself speak volumes for Oregon's progress?

Oregon's farmers were among the first to demand free delivery of mail; hundreds of farms now have telephone connection, and new lines are being extended in all directions; and in Washington County, at least many farms are lighted by electricity.

In the march of progress the dairy industry is taking the lead in the Willamette Valley, until now nearly every farm has its herd of cows, and thousands of farms the hand separator, being ahead of almost every other state in the Union in the latter respect.

The fruit industry relatively does not make quite so good a showing, for the reason that it takes a much longer time to attain good results, and also requires greater skill and knowledge. The commercial orchards of the Valley are as well cared for as any in the land, and the smaller growers are rapidly falling into line. Unfortunately, the old-fashioned orchards are being abandoned, and will soon be a thing of the past. Does the list of awards at Buffalo and Charleston look as though the "worms and scale bugs" have done up the fruit job? Have not the Oregon farmers nobly met the demand for horses, hay and oats for the Philippines and South Africa?

Let us show our friendship for Oregon, not by belittling each other, but by working together for the common good. I am proud to be an Oregon farmer and the son of a pioneer farmer, and not ashamed to sign my name to what I write.

WILBUR K. NEWELL.

RAILROAD NEWS.

Out of Receiver's Hands.
KANSAS CITY, June 23.—The Guardian Trust Company, with offices in Kansas City and Chicago, is to be taken out of the receiver's hands, and Arthur E. Stillwell is to be reinstated as its president, according to a report current here today. Mr. Stillwell was deposed last year, when John W. Gates and his following petitioned for a receiver for the company. The plan is, it is stated, to merge the Guardian Trust Company into one of Mr. Stillwell's existing companies organized recently to promote the Kansas City, Mexican & Orient Railway.

After the Right of Way.
OREGON CITY, June 23.—President W. H. Hurlburt, Fred S. Morris, principal owner of the Portland City & Oregon River Railway, and George C. Brownell, went to Eagle Creek Saturday night and addressed a large crowd there. They placed the matter of building a railway from Eagle Creek to River to the new power station before the people, who were very enthusiastic over the project. The distance between Eagle Creek and the new power house site is only about eight miles.

Striking Boiler-makers Remain Firm.
SPOKANE, June 23.—Not one of the striking boiler-makers returned to work in the Great Northern shops at Hill and today morning, in spite of the railway's invitation to return to work at \$3.40 per day, an advance of 15 cents over former wages. A representative of the company says he does not believe the railway will take the men back after this refusal. The machinists in the Great Northern shops have also been given an increase from \$3.25 to \$3.40 per day, and it is believed they will strike in sympathy with the boiler-makers.

Train Nearly Wrecked.
EVERETT, Wash., June 23.—The west-bound Great Northern last night narrowly missed being wrecked by a landslide four miles west of Index. One rail was bent a foot out of line by a large boulder. The discovery was made by the bookkeeper of the Coquille River, who was en route to Index. He ran up the track and flagged the train.

ORIENTAL LINER IN PORT

INDRAPURA BRINGS A VALUABLE CARGO OF RAW SILK.

Also Carries Large Consignment of Tea, Gunnies and Merchandise—Weather Permits Fast Voyage.

The Portland & Astoria liner Indrapura, Captain A. E. Hollingsworth, arrived in Portland harbor Sunday evening at 9 o'clock, after a good passage from Hong Kong, via Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama and Japan. She brought over a heavy cargo, valued at \$750,000. The principal item in her manifest was 230 bales of raw silk, valued at over \$300,000. Besides the silk she carried about 500 bales of gunnies, about 400 rolls of matting, 230 bags of sulphur, a valuable consignment of tea, 300 bales of hemp and 1500 bags of clay. There was the usual shipment of Chinese merchandise, including silk preserved, medicine and provisions. There was also a heavy consignment of Chinese and Japanese curios for the East. Her passenger list for Portland was very small, but in Victoria about 100 Orientals were landed. Captain Hollingsworth reports a very pleasant trip across the Pacific. The weather was perfect during the entire voyage. The only incident worthy of note was that they sighted a large quantity of logs one day.

The Indrapura started discharging her cargo early yesterday morning at the Alaska dock, and will probably drop anchor here today. Captain Hollingsworth expects to have his ship ready for sailing on schedule time.

SPEKE STILL AT ASTORIA.

ASTORIA, Or., June 23.—The British ship Speke is still anchored in the lower harbor, where she has been for several days on account of a portion of her crew refusing duty. So far as can be learned, the men have no complaint to make except that they are not getting paid. The captain says he is not willing to go to sea with the crew, as he says he will have no trouble with them after he gets off shore, and will soon make sailors of the men, so it is expected the vessel will be towed out tomorrow morning. This morning as a fisherman was sailing by the Speke a bottle was thrown overboard from her, striking near his boat. He picked the bottle up and brought it to Astoria. It contained a letter reading as follows:

"June 23, 1902.—On board the British ship Speke. There are 15 Americans aboard this ship who refuse to go to sea. The captain says he will take her to sea with a few men, and when he gets off shore he will make us throw up our hands. If this is picked up by any one not in sympathy with this British ship, please report to the officers on shore and oblige."

THE HUNGRY FIFTEEN.
The letter was shown to United States Commissioner Thomson, but he had no authority to act in the matter, and as there appeared to be no one here who has any interest in "The Hungry Fifteen" men, they will probably be obliged to make the trip to Alaska.

Steamer Homer Arrives.

The steamer Homer arrived up this morning and docked at Couch street. She was chartered by P. F. DuPont to the United States Government to carry supplies to the Alaska lighthouses, and was turned over to Captain Langille yesterday morning. She will commence loading the supplies immediately.

Wheat Ship Arrives at Liverpool.

The German bark Reinbek arrived in Liverpool Sunday, 115 days from the mouth of the Columbia. The Reinbek left Portland February 3, with 35,000 cents of wheat, under charter by Eppinger & Co., and sailed from Astoria February 22.

Fire on Tug Samson.

ASTORIA, June 23.—The tug Samson was returning from a trip to Gray's Harbor on Saturday evening, the house over her boilers caught fire from the excessive heat. The fire was extinguished with some difficulty, but nothing but the after house of the tug was injured.

New Record by the Caracas.

NEW YORK, June 23.—A new ocean record has been established by the Caracas, which has arrived here from San Juan. The voyage of 1200 miles was covered in 94 hours, 24 hours under the previous record.

Marine Notes.

The British steamer Quito arrived down at Astoria Saturday night, and sailed for Manila at 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The coasting steamer Fulton cleared yesterday with a cargo of lumber and laths for San Francisco. On her trip up she brought 66 barrels of oil.

The French bark Aste, which has been undergoing repairs at the Willamette Iron Works, was reported as taken to carry wheat. The price or particulars were not stated.

The Alliance cleared yesterday morning with a cargo of merchandise and groceries for Coos Bay, and a consignment of laths for San Francisco. On her inward trip the Alliance brought a consignment of cargo, consigned to Portland and Astoria merchants, from San Francisco, Eureka and Coos Bay points.

Domestic and Foreign Ports.

ASTORIA, June 23.—Condition of the bar at 4 P. M. smooth; wind southeast; weather rainy.

Liverpool, June 21.—Sailed—British ship Forthdale, for Portland.

Quebec, June 21.—Arrived—German ship Reinbek, from Portland.

Yokohama, June 23.—Sailed—Pennsylvania, for New York.

Seattle, June 23.—Sailed—Steamer Queen, for San Francisco; steamer Al-Ki, for Skagway; steamer Humboldt, for Skagway; steamer Queen, for Skagway.

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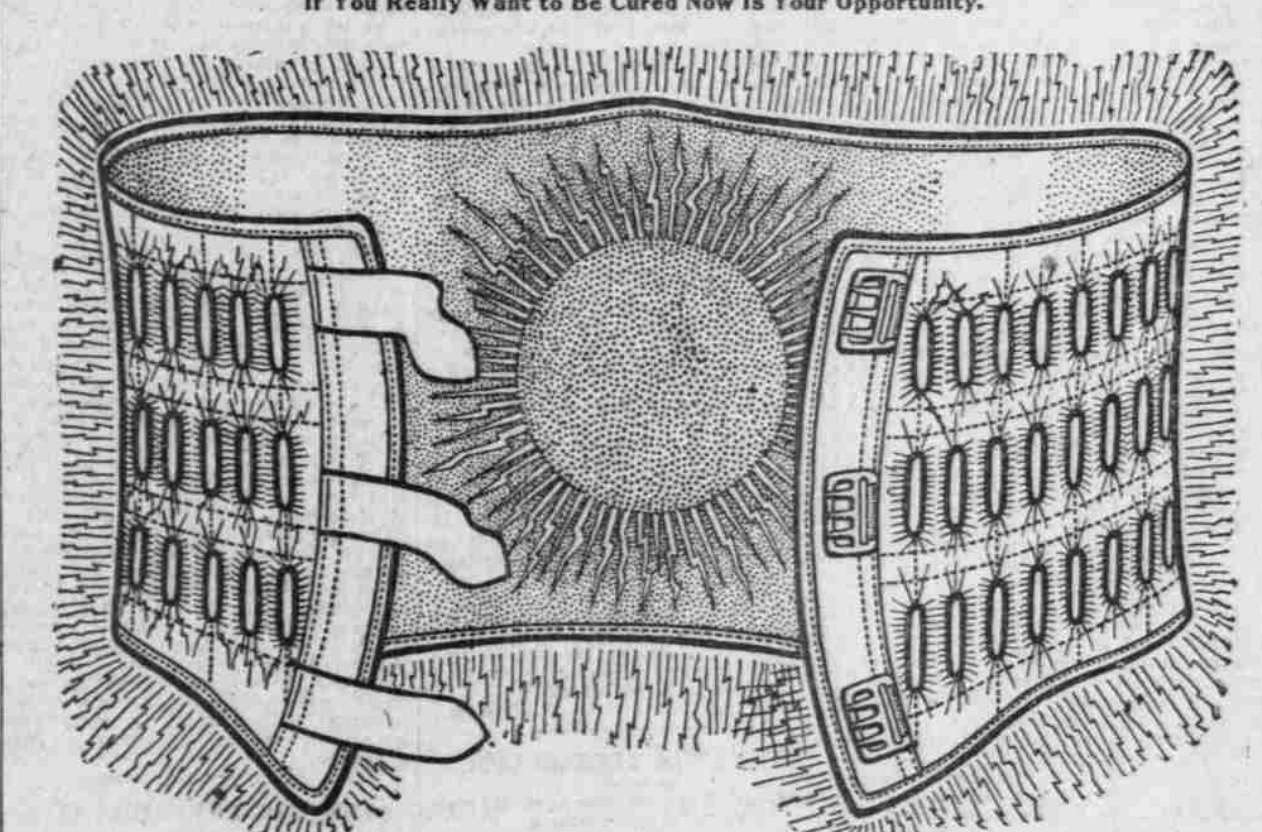
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