

... of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
47 E. South Temple St.
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

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Dr. Peter Cartton
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DOCTOR ISAAC GALLAND'S

Reply to various falsehoods, misstatements and misrepresentations, concerning the Latter-Day Saints, reproachfully called Mormons.

The subjoined article was written as a communication for the public press, but in consequence of its length, it is presented to the public in its present form.

DEAR SIRS:—

During my stay in this, and other eastern cities, which has been since some time in March last, I have been not a little surprised at the numerous vague, silly, false and malicious representations concerning the people commonly called, "Mormons," which I have observed in the public-prints. And as I am now about to return to the West, I have regarded it as a duty which I owe to the cause of truth, to correct at least some of these misrepresentations previous to my leaving this city; as it is quite doubtful that a refutation of these calumnies would ever find its way through the western prints to the eastern public. I have already observed the melancholy fact that, printers as well as parol defamers, are more-readily disposed to give credit to tales of slander, than they are to publish the refutation of those tales. The first fable which I shall notice made its appearance in the "Journal of Commerce" of the 19th ult., and purports to be "an extract of a private letter from a highly respectable gentleman residing near the Mormon city [Nauvoo]," and reads thus: "Some months since the title being then unsettled, Joe Smith received a revelation from God to the effect, that the Latter-Day Saints should go in and possess this fair land and enjoy the fruits thereof, &c.—about 2000 of these people residing on said lands, who claim by the highest possible title—a title direct from the Creator; and they seem determined to set all human decrees at defiance, &c." It will be observed that the above quoted remark is in reference to the lands upon which the Mormons settled about two years since, in Lee County, Iowa Territory, and it is impossible that any individual who has even taken a passing notice of the affairs of that people within that period of their history, should be unacquainted with the circumstances connected with their expulsion

from Missouri, and settlement in Iowa and Illinois. It will be recollected by all who have given the most superficial attention to the subject, either through sympathy for their sufferings, or hatred of their religion, that their settlement upon the lands where they now reside in Iowa was never predicated upon a revelation from God, but by the ordinary tenure of human title—neither was their location upon these lands made in haste or with precipitancy, as the following letter from His Excellency Robert Lucas, Governor of Iowa, to your correspondent, will sufficiently shew.

“EXECUTIVE OFFICE, IOWA,
“*Burlington, March, 18, 1839.*

“DEAR SIR,

“On my return to this city after a few weeks absence in the interior of the Territory, I received your letter of the 25th ult., in which you give a short account of the sufferings of *the people called Mormons*, and ask ‘whether they could be permitted to purchase lands and settle upon them in the Territory of Iowa, and there *worship Almighty God* according to the dictates of their own consciences, secure from oppression,’ &c.

“In answer to your inquiry I would say that I know of no authority that can constitutionally deprive them of this right. They are citizens of the United States, and are entitled to all the rights and privileges of other citizens. The 2nd section of the 4th article of the Constitution of the United States, (which all are solemnly bound to support) declares that ‘the citizens of each state shall be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States.’ This privilege extends in full force to the Territories of the United States. The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, declares that, ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of Religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.’

“The Ordinance of Congress of the 13th of July, 1787, for the government of the Territory North West of the river Ohio, secures to the citizens of said Territory and the citizens of the States thereafter to be formed therein, certain privileges which were by the late act of Congress organizing the Territory of Iowa, extended to the citizens of this Territory. The first fundamental article in that ordinance, which is declared to be forever unalterable, except by common consent, reads as follows, to wit—‘No person demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments in the said Territory.’

“These principles I trust will ever be adhered to in the Territory of Iowa. They make no distinction between religious sects. They extend equal privileges and protection to all, each must rest upon its own merits, and will prosper in proportion to the purity of its principles and the fruit of holiness and ~~vital~~ piety produced thereby.

“With regard to the peculiar people mentioned in your letter I know

but little. They had a community in the northern part of Ohio for several years,* and I have no recollection of ever having heard in that State of any complaint against them for violating the laws of the Country. Their religious opinions I conceive have nothing to do with our political transactions. They are citizens of the United States and are entitled to the same political rights and legal protection that other citizens are entitled to.

“The foregoing are briefly my views on the subject of your inquiries.

“With sincere respect,

“I am your obedient servant,

“ROBERT LUCAS.

“ISAAC GALLAND, ESQ.,

“Commerce, Illinois.”

Having thus secured the friendly assurances of executive protection against lawless outrage, the writer sold to the people called Mormons, a part of the city plot of Nauvoo, (then called Commerce) in Illinois, as also the lands before alluded to, in Iowa Territory—these contracts were concluded in the months of May and June in 1839, and all the circumstances in connection with these events, together with the above letter from Governor Lucas were published in the public prints of the Western country about the time of their occurrence. The Mormons therefore set up no other title to their lands than that which has been obtained from the writer by purchase, and he has no claims to have any higher pretensions to title than that derived by purchase from the original reservees, their heirs, and assigns, to whom the Congress of the United States relinquished said land and vested the fee simple by a special enactment approved June 30, 1834. And now we ask, what but “the entire absence of all moral and religious principle that” could induce a “*a highly respectable gentleman*” even in a “private letter” to assert a base falsehood, and to expose himself to be exhibited before the world as a malignant lying “gentile” without excuse or disguise? The concealment of the name of this “*highly respectable gentleman*” has not entirely answered his purpose, as his Shibboleth has already betrayed him. We give the initials of his name as follows: D. W. K. If we are correct in our suspicion, we will merely quote the concluding sentence of his own letter, “May justice be meted out to him for his villainy.”

If we should however be mistaken in the individual, we are still correct in the estimate which we have made of the character of the writer of the letter under consideration. Again it is said in the same article, that “the scenes which a few months since were enacted in Missouri, are in danger of being repeated in Iowa.” What were the scenes enacted a few months since in Missouri? The public newspapers throughout the Union generally have answered this question, by detailing the

* Governor Lucas was Governor of the State of Ohio during the above time.

history of many of the cruel butcheries, villanous robberies, felonious pillagings, and brutal violences, committed on these people by the murderers, robbers, thieves and brigands of Missouri, ordered out under the *misnomer* of militia, by Lilbourn W. Boggs, late Governor of that state, and commanded by General Clark. Are we to understand that such scenes as these are likely to be repeated in Iowa, we repel the slanderous imputation, we know the character of the people of Iowa too well to give countenance to such a suspicion for a moment. Not however because the Missourians have relaxed in the least in their efforts to pursue these people with their infernal vengeance; and sensible of the disgrace to which the turpitude of their own conduct has subjected them as a state, in the estimation of the whole civilized world, they have not been wanting in their exertions to excite, if possible, a course of conduct in others, which would go far to wipe away their own disgrace by involving another community in a participation of their guilt. As was the case a few years since in that most graceless outrage, and horrid murder committed in the city of St. Louis on the person of a coloured man named McIntosh, who was taken by a drunken and infuriated mob—chained to a tree and burned to death by a slow fire. The Missourians feeling the disgrace which this tragedy had brought upon their city, resolved on involving the city of Alton, in Illinois, in a scene of similar ignominy. As the victim of their hellish vengeance, they selected the pious and lamented Elijah P. Lovejoy, and with deadly aim pursued their object to the accomplishment of their infernal purpose. But the people of Iowa cannot be so easily gulled by the Missourians, having recently experienced some samples of their prowess and chivalry on the disputed territory in the boundary war. Much has been said about the late arrest of Joseph Smith; as though some new thing had transpired; it has been publicly known for about one year past that Governors Boggs of Missouri, and Carlan of Illinois, have been conducting a constitutional farce,—Gov. Carlan, first demanded of Gov. Boggs, certain Missourians charged with kidnaping citizens of Illinois—whereupon Gov. Boggs complying with this demand, made his requisition upon Gov. Carlan for the surrender of Joseph Smith and others, to the authorities of Missouri, charged with treason, &c., &c. We have made these remarks that the enemies of Joseph Smith may not rejoice, neither his friends mourn, if they should hear this story repeated monthly. The murder of Martin Harris has happily blown over.

The silly letter writer from La Harpe, Hancock County, Ill., published in the Northampton (Mass.) Courier and copied in the "North American," June 21st ult., of this city, says :

From the Northampton (Mass.) Courier.

THE MORMONS.—The following letter received by a gentleman of this town from La Harpe, Hancock Co. Ill., under date of May 16, 1841, gives an account of the progress of Mormonism in that part of

the country, with some of their foolish notions in respect to religion :

“The Mormons are getting into this country most too plenty. The people at the east have no idea to what lengths they go in crowding into places where they can get any foothold to make proselytes. There has fifty or more joined them at La Harpe. All they require of their converts is to be immersed, and then they are prepared for the *celestial* heaven. They believe in three heavens, in seeing angels, talking in an unknown tongue, prophesying, and in talking and eating with God. They believe that no people are right but themselves. One of their preachers said last Sabbath, that the Supreme Being had parts as we have, and that he had seen him and felt his bones ; also that he had teeth. O what blasphemy in the highest degree. They hold to the laying on of hands and receiving the holy Ghost after they have been baptized ; to baptizing for the dead ; some in this place have been baptized for their parents years ago ; they also hold to visions and revelations. We believe them to be a dreadful set. They are now preparing for war with the Missionaries, forming independent companies, and have procured cannon, muskets, spears, slings, &c. They are building what they call a temple, at Commerce, but, it is generally supposed that it is to be a fort. There are 5 or 6000 Mormons in this county, who do not mind laying their hands on any thing they want, such as cattle, horses, hogs, corn, oats, &c.”

We should not have thought it necessary to notice this lying simpleton, did he not hail from Hancock county, Ill., but communications coming from the immediate location of these people, and asserted for facts within the personal knowledge of the writer as in the present case, would seem to be entitled to credit. What this creature means by saying that the Mormons, “are preparing for war with the Missionaries” I am at a loss to determine ; perhaps it should be “Missourians,” but in either case it is equally a foolish falsehood. His remark about the meeting-house or temple, evinces his want of common sense as clearly, as his concluding observation proves him to be a base lying poltroon. Admitting the Mormons to be a very bad people, has not this contemptible creature exceeded the wishes of his master, the father of liars, by attempting to make the people of Massachusetts believe that there are from 5 to 6000 Mormon thieves in Hancock county, Ill. If they can believe this, they may all soon become Mormons, as they are certainly not slow to believe.

As to what this wonderful letter writer has said about the military organization of the citizens of Commerce [Nauvoo] forming independent companies, &c. If he knows any thing more than the lying gossip of his associates, he should know that all this, about which he feels so much alarm is a strict compliance with the provisions of the charter of the city of Nauvoo, regulating the organization and discipline of the Nauvoo Legion. We are not at all surprised to hear the complaints, and witness the panic which is produced among the thieves, robbers

and murderers of Missouri, and those of the same character in other places, on seeing the Mormons prepared to resist these villainous assaults. May the terror of Mormon slings at Nauvoo keep the La Harpe liar at home.

There are many matters which I have seen in print in this city during my stay here, which might seem to demand a passing notice, but I have confined my remarks to subjects within my own knowledge, and for the statements herein made I hold myself personally responsible, unlike the lying assassins with whom I am compelled to contend, who coward-like conceal themselves in the obscurity of anonymous letter writers. Other communications which I have seen are in some instances too vulgar or too contemptible to deserve notice. Of the latter description is a pamphlet which I have seen hawked through the streets of this city a few weeks since (bearing the title of "*Mormonism or Knavery Exposed, by E. G. Lee.*") It shall be sufficient here to say that all the vulgar abuse and blackguard epithets which that pimp of polite literature, and Knight of the green bag, has vainly attempted to apply to others are much more applicable to himself; we therefore return the gentleman his own jewels—with the hope that (as we have heard that he is a young man,) when he next ransacks Walker, Webster, Johnson, &c., &c., for sublimities that he may be more happy in his selection.

In reference to the faith and doctrine of the Mormons, we court investigation,—the many tenets or points of doctrine mooted by different sects or communions of professing christians, should be at all times open to cool dispassionate and charitable investigation. If in the triumph of Popery investigation could have been stifled, there would have been no protestants. And if a free searching of the scriptures could have been suppressed among the protestants there would have been no dissenters. It is therefore to search and investigation under the providence of God, that we are indebted for most if not all the improvements in our condition both temporal and spiritual. And the slothful servant who will not use his talent to advantage, may expect to have it taken from him.

If the doctrines held and believed by the Mormons are so palpably absurd, as some would fain represent them, the task will be so much the easier for the learned clergy to expose their fallacy.

It is perfectly useless to affect a contempt any longer of these doctrines, or the men who publish them, because it can no longer be disguised that some of the most incongruous materials any where to be found in the sectarian world, have been made to work in perfect harmony against Mormonism. The religious newspapers of the present time, are on all other subjects opposed to publishing slander or retailing falsehood, but if Mormonism is now the subject of attack, the basest falsehoods, and the most malicious slanders, can find a hearty welcome in their most conspicuous columns. Would it not be better to attack a supposed imposture, a delusion, or a false doctrine on more rational

fairly, reason conclusively, listen patiently, answer bravely, and embrace wisely. If this work is of God it cannot be destroyed. If it is of the Devil it cannot prosper long, neither can any means be used to hinder the work, which are constantly used by all those who so far have opposed it. We do believe in the remission of sins—"in laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost"—and so did the Apostles. And all who deny this are still in their sins and do but hypocritically assume the name of a Christian. We also believe in a God who has both body and parts, "for ye see me have", says the Saviour. The Holy Ghost was also seen in the *bodily shape* of a dove. We do not therefore worship the ordinance of this generation, [a God without body or parts.] We are informed in the word of truth that "there is a *spiritual body*," and if there is a *spiritual body*, of course there are also *spiritual parts* of that body. "This is eternal life to *know* God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent." Now all those who have *known* God in the past ages of the world, have described him as possessing a body and parts—and Moses declares that *man* was made in his *likeness* and *image*. Can it be possible that the present teachers of divinity know the same God, and still describe him so essentially different from the God of Moses, of the patriarchs and prophets? I fear that they do not *know* him, because he has not changed, and they vainly endeavour to erase the very image of God from the human intellect, and substitute for God, an imaginary phantom of which they can form no conception. It is not sufficient that we believe that God is, for even the devils do that much, but eternal life is, to know God.

We believe that God is a God of order, and that the order of his house, or kingdom on this earth, has never been confided to Satan. Hence, at the great apostacy of the Apostolic Church, anti-christs prevailed, the rulers of God's house were murdered, and its inmates driven to seek shelter in the caves of the mountains—a complete disorganization of his kingdom on earth occurred, and has continued from that time until the present generation, during this period, all the officers of the Priesthood have been suspended, the ordinances of his house, abolished and his holy gospel perverted. But during this calamitous state of the scattered members of the body of Christ, usurpers have affected a human organization and have surreptitiously exercised the functions of those sacred offices, to which God has not called them; and "no man taketh this honour to himself except he be called as Aaron was." But it is impossible to discuss these subjects in a brief article like this. We shall therefore conclude these remarks, by inviting all men who are not afraid of truth, to investigate these things—and more especially do we invite the clergy, to meet in public discussion and debate these supposed fanatics, and expose "their foolish notions about religion."

I am very respectfully.

ISAAC GALLAND.

Philadelphia, July 13th, 1841.

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