

The Truth About the "Mormons"

THE Latter-day Saints, or "Mormons," have one simple, complete, conclusive answer to all of the slander that has been published and spoken against them. Their religion has produced the purest and finest civilization known to modern man. Every word of this statement can be proven by the testimony of the most trustworthy witnesses. The Latter-day Saints possess, in the highest degree, the five fundamental characteristics of a truly great people—good health, industry, education, prosperity, and morality.

GOOD HEALTH

The Latter-day Saints are the healthiest people in the world. The United States official census figures show that only 64 babies out of a thousand born alive in the state of Utah, die before they become one year of age, as compared with 101 infant deaths out of a thousand, in the United States at large. According to these same official figures, the annual death rate of all classes in Utah is only 8.2 persons per thousand population, as compared with 16.5 persons per thousand population in the United States at large. Dr. W. A. Evans, of Chicago, a noted hygienist, in an article published in the Chicago Tribune, October, 1920, said: "Of all the States, Utah has the highest birth rate, the lowest death rate and the least sickness among babies."

INDUSTRY

They are known everywhere for their industry and frugality. Hon. Franklin K. Lane, who was a member of the cabinet of President Woodrow Wilson, in an article published in the National Geographical Magazine, June, 1920, page 496, says: "Never speak disrespectfully of the Mormon Church. It has as law abiding, hard working, kindly group of people in Utah as will be found anywhere this wide globe over."

EDUCATION

They lead in education. The Literary Digest for June 5, 1920, page 44, says: "The West has been coming up educationally during the last thirty years the report shows, while the East has been going down. Utah has made the greatest gain."

Dr. A. E. Winship is quoted in the Toronto Evening Telegram, July 23, 1920, page 11, as saying: "Utah is the only state that has attempted to eliminate idleness from twelve to eighteen through the public school system. No other state is within hailing distance of Utah in an efficient attempt to solve the civic, industrial and educational problems of the youth from twelve to eighteen."

In 1920 only 1.9 persons out of a hundred in Utah were illiterate, while in the United States at large the same year, seven persons out of a hundred could not read or write.

PROSPERITY

They have the highest percentage of home owners of any people in the world. The Country Gentleman for January 29, 1921, page 12, says,

"Utah should be called the home owner state. Out of 25,662 farms in Utah, seven-eighths of them are operated by the owners."

Dr. Thomas Nixon Carver, Ph. D., of Harvard University, in a short address delivered at Salt Lake City, April 6, 1922, said: "I have been in this community (Utah) a number of times, and I have frequently thought that here was the best place in the world to study the science and art of nation building in the field."

MORALITY

Their standard of morality is the highest. Henry Ward Beecher, one of the greatest preachers of his time, is quoted by George H. Ham, in his "reminiscence of a Raconteur," page 156, as saying, "The Mormon young men and young women lead beautiful and wholesome lives." The testimony of Theodore Roosevelt, one of the greatest statesmen of all time, is even more emphatic. In his letter published in Collier's Magazine, April 27, 1911, page 28, he wrote: "Indeed among these Mormons the standard of sexual morality was unusually high."—"They were free from that vice, more destructive to civilization than any other can possibly be, the artificial restriction of families." The official figures of the Census Bureau of the United States show that in Utah there are only 8.5 illegitimate births a year, per thousand population, as compared with 16.8 such births, a year, per thousand population in the United States at large!

Dr. James L. Hughes, LL.D., of Toronto, Canada, in an article published in the Canadian Magazine, May, 1904, page 11, said: "I asked Apostle Smoot about the education of the girls and found that the Mormons are more keenly alive to the importance of highly cultured, well developed, properly trained motherhood than any other people I have met."

The Mormons have only six divorces a year per ten thousand population as compared with 11.2 divorces a year per ten thousand population in the United States at large!

CONCLUSION

The National Magazine for January, 1922, page 401, says: "Remains, however, the shining fact that out of the influence of the Mormon Church and through the wisdom and foresight of the Mormon leaders, there has been brought to pass the most illuminating example of co-operative enterprise and community well-being in human history."

"By their fruits ye shall know them." This is the only just standard of judgment. Judged by the Divine standard, the Latter-day Saints, according to the testimony of scholars, moralists, and statesmen of international note, are a healthy, industrious, intelligent, prosperous and virtuous people.

That religion is best which produces the best people.