

FACTS FOR THINKERS.

By Elder Joseph A. McRae.

These items were written for people who think. Those who allow others to think for them are respectfully requested not to read any further.

If you believe all the reports you read in the newspapers you will constantly be changing your mind regarding any question of the day.

"Does error ever propagate a condition of things by the operations of which the remotest wilds are penetrated, subdued, and brought within the pale of civilization?"

Where there is a reliable source of information, intelligent people turn to that source.

Americans are too broad-minded to condemn five hundred thousand of their fellow citizens without a proper understanding of all the evidence. Even the worst criminal is given a chance to defend himself before execution.

We have been subjected to the light of investigation for many years, and the charges against us have never been sustained.

The man who is afraid to have the sunlight of investigation thrown upon his religious convictions is a coward, untrue to his pretended position.

We court inquiry and ask for an expose of all the doctrines we teach.

We occasionally hear of a few demagogues who are uttering bitter invectives and circulating untruths among unsuspecting listeners about our people, whom they know they are defaming. These for the most part are disappointed politicians and their henchmen. They sometimes pose as meek and lowly representatives of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but their utterances are none the less false.

This sect, against which so much has been spoken and written, has been in existence for seventy-eight years, and during all those years, though fierce the opposition, it has made a continuous growth.

"When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them. Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space; and said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up one Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered and brought to naught. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught; But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:33-39.

We have extended the hand of charity to the needy; we have taken thousands from the sweatshops of Europe and America and have taught them the art of husbandry and home building, and have made of them honest, upright citizens of the community, capable of helping themselves and others.

Before the influx of adventurers and sensation-mongers there were no saloons within the confines of Utah.

There can be found nowhere a cleaner, brighter army of young men and women than in the Mormon church.

The perfectness of its organization has been compared with that of the German army by one of the prominent ministers of the United States. Its potential possibilities are unequalled.

Our educational status surpasses that of many of the states of the Union twice our age. Indeed we stand well to the front.

All we ask is for a fair chance and a proper hearing.

Yes, we are not only believers, but ardent worshippers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In fact, the first of the articles of our faith says: "We believe in God the Eternal Father, and in His Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost"; hence without Him we have no foundation.

No, we haven't been disloyal to our country, although the newspaper reports make it appear so. Those who are acquainted with the history never make the accusation.

There are more and greater truths in this philosophy than you have ever dreamed of.

It is a cowardly act to wait for public opinion before making up your mind. Too many times men are swerved from the path of right and their honest convictions because they have not the courage to stand alone. Anyone can fight in a crowd, with public clamor urging him on, but to combat error single-handed requires fortitude not often found.

"Mormonism cannot compromise with any religion on earth, nor with any other system at variance with its principles; for Mormonism does not bring into the world the peace of a pusillanimous surrender. It brings the sword of God's own truth. Let the apologist, the time-server and the coward take warning, therefore, and desert to the other side. There is no place in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the half-hearted or white-livered."

"Our warfare is against error and injustice, wheresoever, whensoever and howsoever entrenched. Nor can wrongs escape us by being dubbed social, educational, scientific, secular, political, economic, or otherwise; for truth recognizes no such artificial distinctions. * * * Mormonism can contemplate nothing short of the social regeneration of the world."

"Men oftentimes cannonade, then canonize."

Christ was ridiculed and slain by a few hundred religious bigots, but is today worshiped by hundreds of millions of devotees.

The Mormons teach the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

They believe in a conscious individual existence after death.

Mormonism is the only religion being taught today that harmonizes demonstrated scientific truths with the Bible.

"The cause of human liberty is the cause of God."

"The Saints can testify whether I am willing to lay down my life for my brethren. If it has been demonstrated that I have been willing to die for a Mormon, I am bold to declare before Heaven that I am just as ready to die in defending the rights of a Presbyterian, a Baptist, or a good

man of any other denomination; for the same principle which would trample upon the rights of the Latter-day Saints would trample upon the rights of the Roman Catholics, or any other denomination who may be unpopular and too weak to defend themselves."—Joseph Smith.

"We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law."

We believe the family to be the unit of all governments, and, as we are looking for an ideal government, we realize that it must be the outgrowth of a community of ideal families. So he who commits an act to destroy this unit aims a blow at the entire nation, as much as he who surrenders his country into the hands of a foreign foe. Therefore the destroyer of a home is to be execrated, for he has aimed a blow at the defenseless, and, like the moth that deposits its eggs in the blossom, does not reveal itself until the ripening of the fruit.

"We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul: We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things."

No people can be evil-minded while they teach such doctrine as that, and no children can grow to be bad men and women while such ennobling thoughts are part of their regular training.

We are broad-minded enough to allow others to think as they please. Indeed, "We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege—let them worship how, where or what they may."

Joseph Smith defends his position with reference to the Book of Mormon in the following language:

"By the power of God I translated the Book of Mormon from hieroglyphics, the knowledge of which was lost to the world. I stood alone, an unlearned youth, to combat the wordly wisdom and multiplied ignorance of eighteen centuries, with a new revelation, which, if received, would open the eyes of millions of people and make 'plain the old paths,' wherein if a man walk in all the ordinances of God blameless, he shall inherit eternal life."

(The above statement should be compared with Apostle Paul's defense before King Agrippa.)

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