

## MORMON SINCERITY

The hypothesis of hypocrisy appears still more untenable to me when I consider what the Mormons have done and suffered for their ideas. Hypocrisy, it seems to me, could not have come for a haven into the most inaccessible wilderness of the world; and abandoning the fertile slopes where vice may revel in prosperity on the mere condition of cloaking itself in unobtrusive forms, wring from the unwilling breast of a parched desert at once subsistence and the freedom to incorporate immortality into a creed. See by how slight a compromise with conventional decency—by merely keeping their vice secret and abstaining from the promulgation in theory of the evil which they practice in life, and men enjoy in the very heart of civilization immunity for a crime virtually identical with that which has made Mormonism a stench in Christendom. But the Mormons have fled to a desert where life itself would be a burden to most of us; by incredible labor have replaced the sage brush and alkali plains with smiling gardens, green meadows, luxuriant orchards and golden harvest fields; have never ceased to wage battle with hostile nature, knowing that armistice means defeat to them of the sorest kind, and that one year's neglect of their laborious system of artificial irrigation would blot out the triumphs of the past painful years; they stand thus, holding the desert from their doors by main force—and all, that they may do as religion what other men practice as crime. If this be hypocrisy it bears most anomalous fruits.

But it is nothing of the kind. The whole secret of their fanaticism is intelligible the moment that you understand one fact—they are saturated through and through with a love of the Old Testament civilization as understood by

them. You cannot talk with one of their strongest men, like Young or Kimball, for an hour without seeing that their national model is the Jewish people. Like the Jews, they are grossly sensuous and physical in all their ideas of religion and a future state. Like them they have no notion of the pure conjugal relation and consider Polygamy its highest form. Like them, they believe themselves the constituted rulers of the Gentiles and will “compass heaven and earth to make a proselyte.” Like them, they think themselves doing God service by assassinating such as have made defection from their creed; and murder the enemies of their faith with as little compunction as the old Israelitish barbarians were wont to slay the Canaanites. Like them, they extort involuntary contributions for the support of their ecclesiastical organization, and exact the same blind obedience to a privileged priesthood, under pain of death paid to the Levitical behests. But I might run the parallel interminably. It only remains necessary for me to add that in spite of their being like the Jews, shameless polygamists, assassins, bigots, inquisitors, delighters in massacre, extortioners and zealots, they claim to do all these things under the sanction and by the order of God Almighty—in fact to be “His chosen people.” They are an attempt to revive the Israelitish Civilization in the 19th Century.

#### GENERAL CONNOR

I have dwelt so long upon the subject because I am sure that the prevailing belief in Mormon hypocrisy is a dangerous mistake. The hypocrite will not fight to death—the fanatic will. Secure in the confidence that the Mormons were not heartily committed to their ideas, our people have

always made inadequate preparations for the treatment of their case. We have now sent out for the protection of our national officers the noble Conner and a little handful of men who are still further weakened by the necessity of sprinkling them all along the Overland Road for three hundred miles, at the rate of four or five in each station house, these stations being fifteen miles apart. It is well enough known in Utah who has compelled this still further enfeeblement of an adequate force; that the Mormon himself has stirred up the savage to massacre and arson, for the very purpose of breaking Conner's band to atoms. The few hundred who are still left in Camp upon that hill commanding the town occupy the place by the sufferance of Brigham Young. They have a few field-pieces and howitzers, to be sure; and if need be they might burn the town or batter down the President's Houses; but if Brigham said the word there are enough of fanatics in Utah to walk up Conner's hill in the face of his fire, and climbing over the dead bodies of their comrades, slaughter his men at the doors of their tents. Hypocrites are never desperate while they have the alternative of recantation. Fanatics are always desperate. They are men to be feared. And till the Mormons are feared as such, the Laws of the Nation will be as much a dead letter in Utah as they are in South Carolina.

California is represented in Utah by one of the truest and most fearless men who ever lived. He deserves not only the admiration which he gets but the reinforcement that he does not get. He should be at the head of at least four regiments to-day. I knew him and learned to love and respect him while in Utah. And I wish I could appeal to all America as I now appeal to California, not to let him perish with his

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dauntless little band, at the hands of fanatics and savages who may some day catch fire at a word.



BRIGHAM YOUNG (1801-1877).