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Editorial Thoughts

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Abstract: All churches except the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are part of the great and abominable church that was prophesied by Nephi. They will fight against the true church and will fall into the pit that they prepared for the people of the Lord.

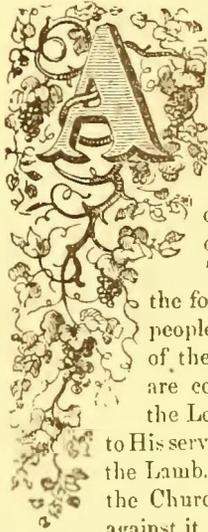
The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

EDITOR.

SALT LAKE CITY, APRIL 1, 1882.

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS.



AFTER the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized, there were only two churches upon the earth. They were known respectively as the Church of the Lamb of God and Babylon. The various organizations which are called churches throughout Christendom, though differing in their creeds and organizations, have one common origin. They all belong to Babylon. God is not the founder of them, yet there are many sincere people who belong to them. These the Elders of the Church are commanded to warn, and they are commanded to gather out. The Spirit of the Lord moves upon the people who will listen to His servants to leave Babylon and join the Church of the Lamb. In the early days of the organization of the Church of the Lamb, the hatred of Babylon against it was confined to a small circle; the Church of Christ had not attracted much attention. But as it has increased in numbers it has aroused more and more animosity, until now Babylon in the United States is thoroughly angered. Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and all other denominations unite together to persecute the few followers of Jesus, who are organized in His Church.

Now, this condition of things was plainly foretold thousands of years ago. The Prophet Nephi, who lived about six hundred years before the Savior, saw and described the events which are now taking place. He left them on record. They were translated by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and were published in the Book of Mormon, before the organization of this Church. He described the desires of that great and abominable church to be gold, silver, silks, scarlets, fine-twined linen, precious clothing, and harlots. He said that for the praise of the world it would destroy the saints of God and bring them into captivity. He called that church, "the whore of all the earth," and said she sat upon many waters and had dominion over all the earth, among all nations, kindreds, tongues and people. In this respect the testimony agrees with the testimony of John, the beloved disciple; but there are many things which do not appear in King James' translation of the record of John, that Nephi makes plain. There is one remarkable statement that he makes concerning these two churches, that, "Whoso belongeth not to the Church of the Lamb of God, belongeth to the other, the mother of abominations and the whore of all the earth."

Latter-day Saints, by their experience, are finding this out. John declared that because of the wickedness and abominations of this vile church, the people who belonged to the Church of the Lamb would be few and their dominions upon the face of the earth would be small. Yet, notwithstanding this was the condition of the Church of the Lamb, the

mother of abominations would not be satisfied. She would want the Church of the Lamb destroyed, and would gather together multitudes of all the nations of the Gentiles to fight against it.

Now, remember, these predictions were made thousands of years ago, and were published in this nation before the Church of the Lamb was organized. Yet fifty-two years afterwards we see them being literally fulfilled. Catholics and Protestants who have been divided and have feelings of deadly hatred against each other, have united together to petition Congress to fight against the Church of the Lamb and to destroy it. Only think of it! Here is a nation of fifty millions of people, possessing great wealth, having thousands of newspapers, and printing offices where books of every kind are manufactured, with thousands and thousands of preachers, and yet they seem to be afraid of two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints in the mountains. They say we are poor; we are ignorant; we are deluded; we do not know anything about liberty; that we are a very wicked people. They say that the women are in bondage, living lives of wretchedness, and describe us as being everything that is low and degraded, and yet they want the government to step in and put us down. If there are two hundred thousand Latter-day Saints, there are two hundred and fifty people in the United States for every one of them, and yet we are talked about as though we were more numerous than they, and they have petitioned Congress to come to their aid and take the government away from us and give it to others. This shows how greatly they fear us; it shows that Satan knows his kingdom must fall. It trembles already before the advance of truth and righteousness.

Men hate the plural marriage of the Latter-day Saints. The spirit of the world is opposed to this, for, as Nephi says, the desires of that great and abominable Church are for harlots, therefore they hate marriage. Another thing, Satan knows very well that by marriage the Saints increase. He wants to stop that increase. You will remember how alarmed Pharaoh, king of Egypt, became at the increase of the Hebrews in the land of Egypt, and he, also, tried to stop the birth of children. It is the same spirit over again.

But the words of Nephi come filled with consolation and encouragement to us. He beheld the power of the Lamb of God upon the Saints. He saw that they were armed with righteousness and great glory. He also saw that the wrath of God was poured out upon the mother of harlots, and that wars and rumors of wars should be among all the nations and kindreds of the earth. He predicted that those who belonged to the great and abominable church should war among themselves, and the sword of their own hand should fall upon their own heads. He also predicted that every nation which should war against the house of Israel should be turned one against another, and that they should fall into the pit which they had dug to ensnare the people of the Lord; for he positively asserts that the time will surely come that all they who fight against Zion should be cut off, and all the churches which belong to the "whore of all the earth" had need to fear and tremble and quake, for they would be brought low in the dust and be consumed as stubble.

It is at times like these, when great anger has been aroused against the Saints of God, that the precious promises made in the Book of Mormon and other records are of the greatest worth to Latter-day Saints. The Book of Mormon plainly tells us that, "He that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female shall perish."