

This system is not what it was in its first decade. Once it was aggressive—now it is on the defensive—then it was violent, now it is politic. The thousand mile wall of space uninhabited, hems it in and renders it harmless. The industry of its supporters makes it useful to the country. They are more than an army against the Indians on the west. The weary traveller to the land of Ophir shares in their hospitality.

Mormonism could not exist as a concrete system among other sects—it must rule or it must die. A fair field to test its virtues and its faults before us. Its votaries are now to ascertain its claims to truth by prophecy. If, in a few short years, they see the great city of New York, its people, its temples, and its wealth, go down into the opening earth and the sea sing a requiem over the grave—if they see the Protestant world become only known in the records of the past—if a guard of angels in glittering armor descend and guide them back in military array across the desert plains—if they hear the groans of the Asiatic nations lying in frantic battle, in myriads, on the plains of Palestine; then they will know that the testimony of Joseph was of "the spirit of prophecy."

This new creed arose out of the strife of conflicting human opinions and is one of the great exponents of the age, in which individualism is struggling to throw off the fetters of superstition—and in the rebellion of unbridled private judgment here is added one more instance of exalted genius enlisted on the side of priestly tyranny, and sacrificed on the altar of ambition—carrying hecatombs to an "auto da fe." Its foundations will survive in history. He is embalmed in the affectionate memory of thousands; and as time lends a halo of enchantment to encircle his name, hymns of praise and legends of his holy deeds will be sung and cherished by those who believe that the prophet saint of earth is to reign over a brilliant world of his own creation, surrounded by harp-queens and carolling children, through his own blessed eternity. When the "knowledge of the Lord" covers the earth as the waters cover the sea, then will this new church, the handy-work of man, fade away and be forgotten. For its virtuous industry we praise, for its brotherly union we admire—and for its induction into the one Catholic Church we offer our sincere prayers.

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