

A friend, who is a very prominent man in public life, remarked to me the other day that one of the great questions which was forcing itself upon the attention of thinking men concerning the future of the Republic, is the conflict of races. In the South the white and colored elements are brought in close proximity to each other, and with bad results. In the Northern States, he said, there was a great influx of low foreign element which was having a bad effect upon the character of the population, and was likely to contribute to the degradation of the Caucasian type. He deplored the tendency there was in many quarters to look with toleration, and in some instances with encouragement, upon miscegenation. He had heard a prominent religious man advocate this plan of bringing about unity of the races, and he had been inspired with horror at the thought. The rapidity of increase of the lower races he viewed as something to be dreaded. In the South the colored people were increasing very rapidly, and the admixture of the white blood with them was hybridizing the race and gradually destroying the higher type.

His remarks suggested many reflections, and I could not refrain from contrasting our situation in Utah with the situation of many of the other communities to which he alluded. The people of Utah are to be congratulated upon their position. The purity of the Caucasian race is more likely to be preserved in our Territory than in many other portions of the United States. In the first place there is a well-founded dislike to inter-marriage or intimate association with inferior races. The Jews were not more particular in regard to keeping their descent pure than the people of Utah ought to be. The experience of our missionaries has taught us that there is a great difference in blood and in races. This has been proved by long years of experience.

There is no disputing the fact that there is a greater susceptibility to the truth among some races and families, than there is among others. In old times there was a chosen race. For reasons which space will not permit to be enlarged upon here, that race had greater promises made to it than were given to others. And its members were careful to marry among themselves. Numerous instances might be cited from the Bible to prove this. Through Moses, strict commands were given by the Lord to His people forbidding the contracting of marriage with certain nations. The great King Solomon, whose reign commenced so auspiciously, brought woes upon himself, his house and his people and embittered the closing years of his life by violating these injunctions and marrying "strange women."

But long before the days of Moses, "the father of the faithful," as Abraham is called, exhibited the importance which he attached to the forming of a correct marriage relation. The greatest hopes which he entertained for the future prominence and glory of his posterity centered in Isaac. It would be a misfortune, then, for Isaac to marry into

an inferior family or race. To prevent this, and to secure a wife worthy to be the mother of a posterity such as Abraham had reason to believe the Lord intended to give him, he sent his steward on a journey of hundreds of miles to select a wife for his son. No doubt there were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young women among the peoples surrounding Abraham from among whom he might have made a choice of a wife for Isaac; but he had higher views than that. He looked to the future, and desired his son to ally himself as a husband with a woman of the pure blood. This care resulted happily. Rebekah proved herself to be a jewel of a woman.

The principle of which I speak was well illustrated in the lives of Isaac and Rebekah's twin sons—Esau and Jacob. Esau, disregarding the family tradition and the wishes of his parents, took as wives women of influential families of the immediate neighborhood. But they were of a lower race. The effect upon his posterity was marked. His descendants were numerous, and they formed a strong, warlike nation; but they were far inferior to the nation which sprang from his brother, who had made a long and tedious journey back to his mother's kindred to form his alliances in marriage.

In our day there is a disposition among many young people to resent any interference on the part of parents with the selection of husbands and wives for them. They think it is their business and their business alone to choose their own partners for life. While I believe that much unhappiness has resulted in some instances from the unwise matchmaking of parents and friends, and in other instances from interfering with and thwarting affection, there have been very many marriages which have been followed by misery and the worst of consequences because the advice of parents and friends had not been sought and followed. Young men and young women can not lose anything by conferring with their parents upon this important subject. The parents have had experience in life, and in the most of instances they have profited by this experience. If they are faithful Latter-day Saints they have a deep interest in the alliances which their children make, for upon these depends the future of their own posterity. A young person, therefore, who imagines that a father or mother has no right to a voice in such an important matter as marriage makes a great blunder. A reflecting, far-seeing father and mother must perceive and feel that in the interests of the future of their posterity it is of equally as great importance that their sons and daughters should marry members of good families and good blood as that they themselves should do so. Looking to the future, as the faithful members of our Church must do, they hope their names will be honorably perpetuated through their lineage; and how can this be possibly done if the children enter into marriage contracts, perhaps attracted by a face or some sudden fancy, utterly indifferent as to the cold qualities or real worth of the parties with whom they link

themselves, or the character of the family to which they belong?

Under the teachings and institutions of our Church the tendency will be to pay more and more attention to this subject. Greater care will naturally be taken to form correct marriages, and certainly this is much needed; for at the present time in the world the proper mating of the sexes is almost entirely neglected. Owners of fine stock—horses, cattle, sheep and poultry—spare no pains to improve their qualities; they are watchful of their pedigrees, they see that they are mated so as to produce the best results, and if they can obtain a strain of animals that will excel others, they think themselves amply repaid for all the trouble and money it has cost them.

As a people the Latter-day Saints have the greatest interest in developing the breed of man, in bringing into action his highest qualities and powers. This is one of the missions assigned to us, and we cannot overestimate its importance.

In Utah we have a good foundation to start on. Our people are not of mongrel breeds. We have in our Territory today more New England people and their descendants than can be found in any other community of our number outside of New England itself. Those who have come from other parts of the United States are their congeners.

Under these circumstances the people of Utah are warranted in taking the most hopeful view of their future. With the facilities now possessed, and the temperate and virtuous habits of the people, crowned with the blessing of the Lord, there is no reason why there should not be a very superior race brought up here—strong, stalwart and healthy physically, and intellectually bright and progressive mentally. From Europe, those who have been gathered are principally from England, Scotland, Wales, the North of Ireland, Germany and Switzerland, and from the three Scandinavian nations. There are no better elements to be found anywhere out of which to form a great people. School teachers who have taught schools in the states east and west of us have freely said that they never in all their experience found children who were brighter or more apt to learn than their pupils were in Utah. Our young men who have gone east to college have carried off the first honors of their classes in most instances, and this has been so marked that some of the authorities of the different colleges have supposed that these students were picked out because of their aptitude at learning, and have been surprised to learn that they were only an average of the young men of the Territory.

The facilities for education which are now being multiplied in Utah and which are being made use of to the best advantage, will in the course of a few years produce a very marked effect upon the rising generation.

The last census shows there was a small per cent of illiteracy among the people, and that there are more aliens who speak the English language in our Territory than in thirty-two of the states and two of the territories. There are comparatively few of what are

known as the inferior races in Utah—a smaller proportion than in any other of the Pacific states and territories, for, all told, even if we include civilized Indians, they only number 2006.

GEORGE Q. CANNON.