

## The Deseret Weekly,

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CHARLES W. PENROSS, . . . EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . October 4, 1890.

## OFFICIAL DECLARATION.

*To Whom it May Concern:*

PRESS dispatches having been sent for political purposes, from Salt Lake City, which have been widely published, to the effect that the Utah Commission, in their recent report to the Secretary of the Interior, allege that plural marriages are still being solemnized and that forty or more such marriages have been contracted in Utah since last June or during the past year; also that in public discourses the leaders of the Church have taught, encouraged and urged the continuance of the practice of polygamy;

I, therefore, as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, do hereby, in the most solemn manner, declare that these charges are false. We are not teaching polygamy, or plural marriage, nor permitting any person to enter into its practice, and I deny that either forty or any other number of plural marriages have during that period been solemnized in our temples or in any other place in the Territory.

One case has been reported, in which the parties alleged that the marriage was performed in the Endowment House, in Salt Lake City, in the spring of 1889, but I have not been able to learn who performed the ceremony; whatever was done in this matter was without my knowledge. In consequence of this alleged occurrence the Endowment House was, by my instructions, taken down without delay.

Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been

pronounced constitutional by the court of last resort, I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise.

There is nothing in my teachings to the Church or in those of my associates, during the time specified, which can reasonably be construed to inculcate or encourage polygamy, and when any Elder of the Church has used language which appeared to convey such teaching he has been promptly reproved. And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,  
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The foregoing was sent to the Associated Press for publication, but has only appeared here in a condensed form, which poorly conveys the sentiments of the writer. This is the full document as prepared and signed officially by President Wilford Woodruff.

## THE DISPATCH FIEND AT WORK.

THE Salt Lake dispatch fiend is again at work. Garbled accounts of an alleged report of the Utah Commission to the Secretary of the Interior have been sent over the wires, and the evident effort of the fiend is to stir up anew the periodical excitement about "Mormonism" and "polygamy."

It might appear rather strange that the dispatches should be dated "Salt Lake City." It would be naturally supposed that they would emanate from Washington, if the Commission had made its annual report and filed it in the usual way. But to persons who understand how these anti-"Mormon" furores are worked up, the matter is easy enough. They all start from the same lying centre and are sent out with the same nefarious object. It is another "Liberal" political plot. What is wanted is the disfranchisement of all the "Mormons," that the minority may rule Utah and gain control of the treasury.

It is asserted in these dispatches

that "The Commission believes that more than eighty plural marriages have been contracted since June 1890 and that only a small proportion have been reported."

We do not believe the Commission has said anything of the kind. If this statement has been made it has been uttered without foundation and for a malicious purpose. The courts have no such information, and it is only gossip at the utmost. We can scarcely credit the assertion that the Commission have said this. We believe it is an invention of the dispatch fiend's and one of his old tricks for which neither the Associated Press, nor the Commission, nor the public who desire authentic news, will thank him.

When the Commission's report is filed and published, we will refer to this matter again. The alleged reports, circulated either by telegraph or in any other way before the official report is filed, and from a source outside of the Commission, are burdened with suspicion and not to be relied upon.

## POINTS WORTH CONSIDERING.

DURING the last few days the air has been filled with rumors of strikes, most of them unfounded. This perturbed condition has existed since the action of the street car men. One newspaper has been specially busy in circulating reports of the character referred to. This morning it publishes the following disclaimer, which, because of the reasonable spirit it breathes, we deem worthy a place in our columns.

"I notice an item in this morning's issue of your paper that it is asserted on good authority that the carpenters and bricklayers will go on a strike this morning. In justice to the public and to ourselves I hasten to correct the report. As regards the bricklayers, we do not intend to strike on Monday, Tuesday or any other day that I am aware of. We are not a striking organization; we arbitrate our differences, and we always succeed in fixing matters satisfactorily. We have never had a strike. When we asked for a reduction of hours of labor we gave contractors six months' notice, and will give the same time in case of other demands, and shall endeavor to keep the good will of the public, and the record we have made of being the most conservative union in the city, adhering strictly to the principles of justice and equality between employer and employe. We believe that in union there is strength, and that self-preservation is the first law of nature. We hold the justice and truth of the principle 'merit makes the man,' and we firmly believe that industry, sobriety and a proper regard for the welfare of our fellow man form a basis upon which the principle rests. We recognize no rule of action or principle