

Mormondom had returned to its original wallow?

The statements that there was either "neglect or refusal of the Mormons to make polygamy punishable," and that "there is now no law against plural marriages in Utah," are distinctly, positively and willfully untrue, as established by the statute books of this State. The State Constitution provided that "polygamous or plural marriages are forever prohibited" in the State; it also went farther, and gave "the breath of life" to that provision, by declaring the act of the Legislature (the majority of the membership thereof being Mormon) punishing polygamy "to be in force in the State of Utah." So far as its directness and penalties are concerned, the law against polygamy in Utah probably is equal to anything California has on the subject; certainly the last named state is not a harder place for those who commit the offense than is Utah, judging by the news reports on this subject in the columns of our able cotemporary itself.

As to the existing law on the subject in Utah, which the Chronicle erroneously declares not to be, here it is as published in the officially printed statute book, and as it is now in force and has been ever since January, 1896, when Statehood was assumed:

Every person who has a husband or wife living, who hereafter marries another, whether married or single, and any man who hereafter, simultaneously, or on the same day, marries more than one woman, is guilty of polygamy, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars and by imprisonment for a term of not more than five years; but this section shall not extend to any person by reason of any former marriage where husband or wife by such marriage shall have been absent for five successive years, and is not known to such person to be living, and is believed by such person to be dead, nor to any person by reason of any former marriage which shall have been dissolved by a valid decree of a competent court, nor to any person by reason of any former marriage which shall have been pronounced void by a valid decree of a competent court, on the ground of nullity of the marriage contract.

The Chronicle promises to "cheerfully apologize" for its attack when corrected, or informed of legislation against polygamy which it asserted had not been made. Here is a chance for the fair-minded editor to get in his work.

### THE GOLD EXCITEMENT.

If half the truth is told in the dispatches today of the gold finds in the frozen north, the probability is that that region holds the greatest gold region yet encountered on the face of the earth. That the precious metal has been found in vast quantities, there is ample evidence in the cargo landed at Port Townsend; and in these days of money-needing it is no surprise that the people are going wild upon the matter.

But after all, even with the fulfillment of the most wonderful prophecies in that region, with many men mil-

lionaires, and many others making vast fortunes on the upper Yukon, it is not the only place on the continent for a good prospect. There are people susceptible to exciting influences who are much better off through suppressing the gold craze that thrills through the veins on reading such accounts as these. Rough, hardy physical natures may stand the strain of hardships in that section, for hardships there are. The new El Dorado is on British soil, in the Northwest Territory, just east of the eastern line of Alaska, a thousand miles from even a secondary base of supplies. Flour, and provisions of all kinds are scarce, so much so that flour is quoted at \$200 per hundred pounds, and other things in proportion. It is no paradise in that regard and offers no inducement for a rush.

Of course, with the gold there, the conveniences of the workers and the means of securing the precious metal will be added to speedily. In these days of quick transportation, that is not so difficult as formerly; but in the changed conditions, the new region is as far off as was California from the East fifty years ago. Hence those who get the gold fever should not forget that something more is necessary for success than rushing pell mell into that country, although there may be enough gold there to pave a city's streets.

### PIONEER MEMORIAL SERVICE.

As a fitting close to the semi-centennial celebration during next week. It has been decided by the First Presidency to hold memorial services in honor of the deceased Pioneers, in the Tabernacle in this city, on Sunday afternoon, July 25th, commencing at 2 o'clock. The public, irrespective of distinctions of creed or race, is invited to be present on that occasion. The great accomplishment of opening and settling these valleys to civilization has been brought about by the blessing of Divine Providence, and while giving praise to the Lord at all times for His mercies and guidance to the work, it is felt that it would be appropriate also to engage in special services on the Sunday at the close of the celebration week.

### A PERSECUTING SECT.

The "Mormon number," as it is called in a bold heading, of the Home Mission Monthly, reached our table today. It is the magazine issued by the women's executive committee of the Presbyterian church. As the heading referred to indicates, the chief attention is given to the Mormon. There are nineteen distinct articles on that subject, and a like number of notes. Most of the articles are unsigned, but a few have signatures appended, among which are those of Robert J. Caskey, principal of the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute, B. M. Bush and N. V. F. Of the articles which refer to the Mormons and their belief and practices, there is not one that does not contain gross falsehoods, most of which are uttered with a sanctimonious air that shows to a critical

mind the baseness of the hypocrisy that is behind them. Here are a few expressions that are sample:

America has yet much to fear at the hands of the Mormon Church.

A community constantly hostile to every effort put forth for Christian progress.

It is often as hard to get into houses in Utah as it is in China.

It was hard to live there when everyone quarreled so.

Early after the coming of Statehood, the authorities of the Church began to take back the pledges made.

In the years we have spent here we had never before met a Mormon who dared express any sentiment contrary to that of the Church leaders.

Polygamy is believed in and practiced in every town that we visit.

The Mormon Church confidently expects, within the next five years, to have in the United States Senate ten men who will do the bidding of the Church at the seat of government.

While no name is oftener quoted by the Mormons than God's, the degradation of His character in what is taught them about Him is almost beyond belief, for God is no more to them than a man, and a very sinful man at that.

So far Statehood has only served to make the Mormon Church bolder in flaunting its degrading, obnoxious doctrines and practices in our faces.

There is no law to prevent polygamy.

At the beginning of the year the people were notified from Mormon pulpits that patronage of the Presbyterian school would not be allowed and all who persisted in sending to us would be punished in this world and the next.

It is manifest, even to the casual observer, that the Mormon authorities made promises and surface showings to secure Statehood for Utah, with no thought of fulfilling them.

Mormon preachers who are sent to represent the faith of the Latter-day Saints do so in a manner calculated to deceive the unwary.

Mormons scorn the idea of redemption through Christ.

Ignorant, rude, untidy people, many of whom can neither read nor write, and whose children have never seen anything but the dirty "shackling" surroundings of the place which they call home. An engine would be as much of a curiosity to them as were the ships of Columbus to the native inhabitants of America.

Too illiterate to reason, they have been filled by the Priesthood with marvelous tales of revelation and miracles.

They are conceited, and have superficial and imperfect characters. They sneer at the idea of spending years in obtaining an education, or of devoting a lifetime to literary pursuits.

The general opinion among the Gentiles in this valley is that Statehood for Utah was a grave mistake.

Nearly all the offices are in the hands of Mormons; before Statehood many of the offices were held by Gentiles, because appointed by the government. The Legislature is almost altogether composed of Mormons.

Mormonism has never admitted that the territory colonized by the Latter-day Saints really belonged to the government of the United States.

These expressions are from school teachers, ministers and officials in the Presbyterian church in Utah. To the people here, and to all who know the facts, they establish one thing, viz.: that while the Presbyterian church may profess to regard the Bible as the unique, complete revelation of the word of God to man, the contingent of it that deals with