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THE PROMISE OF SPRING.

Slow dies the wintry day, the winds of March
Break with their icy breath the evening hush,
And snow-clad hills reflect the sunset-flush
That paints with purple all Heaven's western arch;
But, from the laden branches of the larch,
Upon the frosty air a happy thrush
Pours floods of melody, and flings a gush
Of gladsome music to the winds of March.

Thus when our life's drear winter lingers long—
When with the eve there comes no vision sweet
To our sad eyes, and hope has taken wing—
Oh, may some distant strain of seraph-song
Burst forth, and tell us that our faltering feet
Stand on the threshold of a joyous spring!

—J. G. F. Nicholson.

THE ANTI-MORMON CRUSADE.

[National Democrat, Washington, D. C., Sept. 27.]

Sir—I have carefully read the communication of Judge Carlton to the *Democrat* of August 30, and fully endorse every word of it. If proof is needed of the veracity of his statements it is furnished by the *Salt Lake Tribune*, which, without undertaking to disprove them, attacks their author in the most venomous personal abuse which forms the staple argument of that newspaper when it has to deal with an opponent.

I have been intimately acquainted with the Mormon people for 17 years, have traveled through the length and breadth of their land before the railroads came there, and have had business relations with them in which I always found them trustworthy. Barring their practice of polygamy, now fallen into "innocuous desuetude," there is not such a law-abiding people within the limits of these United States. And yet these are the men who in Idaho, where I have resided for many summers and know them to be the most honest, conscientious, industrious and sober among the inhabitants of this new State—these are the men who are disfranchised, excluded from the jury box and

denied every political right excepting that of being taxed.

Judge Carlton says: "Of the whole Mormon population in Utah, only a very small per cent are in polygamy. Out of the adult males, from 85 to 95 per cent are not living in a polygamous relation."

In Idaho the proportion of polygamists is much less.

Of the disfranchised voters, there are not 200 who are amenable to punishment for transgressing the law. It is not pretended that there are more, but their crime is that they "belong to an organization that teaches polygamy," and it is made a condition of their voting in future that they shall produce satisfactory evidence that they have left the Mormon Church two years before asking for registration. It is in vain that they urge that the Mormon Church no longer teaches polygamy and that they produce the authoritative declaration of its president to the Associated Press that he has given "positive orders that no more plural marriages shall be solemnized." They are asked: "Do you believe that Joseph Smith was a prophet? Do you believe that he had a revelation instituting polygamy?"

It might as well be asked of the Presbyterian: "Do you believe that Jehovah was God, and that he 'gave wives' to David; that he sent down fire from heaven to destroy the prophets of Baal, and let loose the armies of Israel to murder the Canaanites and Philistines?" Of course the true Presbyterian believes all that, or at least he says that he does; but as he is not a polygamist, or a murderer himself, he is allowed to vote. Why, then, should the Presbyterian be ruled in and the Mormon ruled out in Idaho? The answer is ready. Presbyterians belong to both political parties. The Mormons are mostly democrats, and they are democrats not because they know or care much about the tariff, but because the infamous legislation against them has been enacted by a republican Congress that has sent corrupt governors and judges to oppress their co-religionists in Utah; that has taken advantage of an obsolete territorial law to rob them of their Church property, and has made a law of its own unparalleled in the meanness of

such sneak thievery, which confiscated the hard-earned savings contributed to the "emigration fund" for the purpose of bringing their converts away from their poverty in Europe to the enjoyments and the blessings of this free (?) and happy land.

The Mormons are accused of disloyalty. What wonder would it be if the charge were true? And yet, in spite of every device to bring them into rebellion, they remain quiet under the indignities heaped upon them, still adhering to the belief that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were inspired by the Almighty, who, in His own good time, will see that they obtain justice at the hands of their country.

The Mormons are by no means the ignorant people that those who are themselves as ignorant of them, of their habits and their religion, as Judge Carlton has amply proved that they are, suppose them to be. It is true they are not "up" in the classics or in the higher branches of literature, but common school education is as generally diffused as in most favored States of the Union. Comparatively uneducated men are annually sent to foreign lands as missionaries, but they are close observers of what they see abroad, and on their return, in the long winter evenings, they disseminate among their neighbors the intelligence they have acquired, so that the Mormons know vastly more of what is going on in the outside world than the world knows about them. Even in educated Boston it is common to hear that polygamy is the cornerstone of Mormonism, when it is only a stone that has now fallen from its superstructure, and to be told that the "Mormon Bible" has superseded the sacred scriptures, which are more firmly believed in by Mormons than by any Christian sect. The article of Judge Carlton is unanswerable. How comes it, then, that the other members of the Utah Commission, to which he tells your readers that he was attached for seven years, differ so materially from him?

In the first place this Utah Commission never had any *raison d'être*. It never had accomplished any work that could not have been done by the secretary of the Territory single-