

to give to them when we came, for we were almost destitute of even the barest necessities for our own existence. Our wagons did not contain food enough to last till another harvest; but scanty as our provisions were, we shared them with our red neighbors. This has been the policy steadfastly pursued wherever we have gone.

For years after reaching their new-found home, the people, though suffering many privations and encountering many hardships, enjoyed a peace which had never been known by them as Mormons. Those who have not had the experience can scarcely imagine how much the life of the first few years of our settlement in these valleys was enjoyed. No necessity for standing guard over the houses of prominent men to protect them from violence. No necessity of fortifying against the attacks of murderous foes! The very doors of the houses were not fastened at night; and men, women and children retired to rest without a shadow of fear or the least apprehension that their sleep would be disturbed from any cause such as had filled their lives for many years with uneasiness, if not with terror. They were the old settlers, and there was some comfort in this reflection; for one of the objections brought against them in Hancock County, Illinois, was that they were new settlers, and were intruders. They could not be accused of stealing negroes or anything else, nor of interfering with or molesting their neighbors, for there was nothing to steal, and the nearest neighbors they had were from eight to twelve hundred miles distant. The gold hunters who passed through found them accommodating and generous. They had accomplished a miracle in the desert, and were comfortable, contented and happy. All strangers who came into their midst received kind and hospitable treatment at their hands. Even men who were known to have been engaged in robbing and driving them from their possessions have received the same treatment from some of the victims of their rage. In fact, we made these mountain valleys from the earliest time, and up to recently, as secure for the traveler as the streets of many cities. Unprotected women could travel throughout our entire land, up to a recent period, safe from insult in word or deed. They would neither hear a disrespectful remark nor see an improper gesture. No people have been more basely slandered in regard to their treatment of women. No people have ever been truer

friends of the sex. In fact, they injured no one, and they only asked to be left to enjoy the rights belonging to a free people.

But the peace which they enjoyed through their seclusion, and while it was a question whether they would die with famine or be extirpated by the Indians, was soon to be terminated. A false and corrupt official—one of the first and worst of those the Territory has since had to support—saw an opportunity to make notoriety for himself by spreading villainous lies about them. Rebellion was now the crime with which the Mormons stood accused before the bar of the nation. They had burned the records of the court, declared the infamous Judge Drummond and his fellow-conspirators, and resisted the authority of the government. Ostensibly to put down alleged rebellion in one quarter, but, as the sequel proved, really to assist rebellion in another, an army was sent against them. The gigantic blunder proved not only a farce, but a costly crime. In Congress, about fourteen years ago, the writer's attention was called by members of the committee on appropriations of the House of Representatives, to an appropriation of several millions to cover some of the expenses of that senseless and unjustifiable expedition. It was then well known by all well-informed people that Drummond had proved himself to be a scoundrel, and that he had helped, by his lies, to dupe the country into believing the absurd expedition of 1857-8 against the people of Utah to be an absolute necessity; and that prominent officials in the government, with the view of furthering their own plans, in the event of the next national election making a change in the administration, had seized the opportunity to send a part of the army to the distant west. Investigation proved Drummond's charges to be utterly baseless. The records were found intact, and the presumed insurgents were discovered to be peaceable, well-disposed, and, as usual, minding their own business. When Col. Albert Sidney Johnston and the army under his command entered Salt Lake Valley, the folly of the whole undertaking had been clearly made manifest.

We pass on swiftly to the days of legislation depriving certain citizens of the right to vote or hold office. Polygamy had become the battle-cry. Many times have I been told by leading men of both parties, "If you will stop the further practice of plural marriage in your territory, present relations will be permitted to stand

and your families as at present established will be recognized by law." "Only promise that future marriages shall cease," said others more friendly, "and the question will be settled, the present status will be maintained—because you have married in good faith and the government has, to a certain extent, countenanced the practice in the past." "Recede from polygamy," speciously and clamorously demanded many whom we knew to be our traducers, "and nothing can be urged against you. You have made out of a wilderness a fair and productive garden. Your habits of industry win praises from every observer. Your cities and valleys are a delight to the lovers of good order. The more widely you are known the better you will be appreciated as substantial and valuable citizens of the republic." How hollow and mocking these phrases, from the mouths of this latter class, sounded to a people who had passed through every form of tribulation before polygamy was known! We saw the old spirit of mobocracy which had driven us out from civilization in a new garb, to fit the changed circumstances of the case. Every previous charge had fallen to the ground after having subserved the purpose which called it forth. This, we were sure, would soon go, also, the way of the others.

And now, all too quickly, the world may see the accuracy of our forecast. Polygamy has been legislated out of the question; those who practice it have been denied the suffrage; they have been prohibited from holding office; they have been haled to prison and made to pay fines. Surely, this practically removed and killed the issue, for as the laws were still in force and the machinery in the hands of our opponents, it could not be revived unless they grew slothful in their fiery zeal. Five years of the most active prosecution, to call it by their own name, have brought us to the present. And how is it today?

With plural marriage in the background along with all the other causes that have sufficed to justify attacks upon us in the past, the conspirators of the present day lay treason at our doors. All of us are branded as traitors, bearing allegiance to another power than that of the federal government; adhering to an *imperium in imperio*; recognizing another system of civil government as superior to that under which we live; sworn enemies to the Constitution; private avengers of public crimes; usurpers and recalcitrants who are a law unto ourselves; blood-thirsty and double-faced villains; biding our time until