

It must not be understood that the Latter-day Saints seek to establish or apologize for "concubinage" in these latter times. There is no such thing in the Church to which we belong. The plural marriage revealed to the Church does not include instructions concerning concubines, except to show that the Lord justified Abraham and others of His servants in their marital relations in this respect. There are no "inferior wives" known to our marriage regulations. Each wife is a wife, no less and no more; sealed by the same sacred ceremony, recognized in the full marital relation for this life and the life to come, for time and all eternity, world without end.

Hagar was a concubine; so was Zilpah, and so was Bilhah. They were, previous to their marriage, the handmaids or bondwomen of the women who gave them to their husbands to wife. Sarah owned Hagar. She gave the girl to Abraham, who married her as an inferior wife or concubine. There are no bondwomen in this Church, and therefore there are no concubines therein. We shall not here enter into any discussion of the reasons—which were then sufficient—why there were men and women in bondage to others in olden times; we merely mention the fact to show the status of these wives who were recognized as concubines. They were not "mistresses." God permitted no sin in those days any more than he permits it now.

Plural marriage, as practised by the patriarchs and as revealed to the Latter-day Saints, is without sin in the sight of God, when practised by His word and according to His law. Men may call it evil and legislate it into crime, but they cannot change its nature, its essence remains the same. And there is another thing that they cannot do, they cannot twist the scripture, which "Christians" profess to regard as final religious authority, into a condemnation of patriarchal marriage, no matter how much sophistry they may use nor how many rules and regulations they may establish. The author of "Hagar" has them strongly at a disadvantage.

STATES RIGHTS IN ELECTIONS.

ANOTHER judicial decision has recently been rendered in vindication of States rights which is worthy of mention in these times of centralization and dominance of Federal power. Laws of Congress are in force regulating elections for Representatives or Delegates to Congress. They provide against fraud, intimidation, unlawful obstruction of voter, etc. The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled on the validity of the laws wherein they affect the regulation of elections for Federal officers in any State of the Union.

But in many places elections for Representative to Congress and for State or other local officers occur on the same day. The question arising in Missouri whether the laws of Congress apply to both elections, it was decided in a case brought before the United States Court in that State, Judge Treat presiding. He held that at a mixed election—as above described—the Federal laws only apply to the election of Federal officers, while in the election for State and other local officers the State laws have application. An offender must be persecuted under the laws which he violates. If he interferes with a voter, for example, while exercising the right of suffrage, it depends upon whether the voter was casting his ballot for a local or Federal officer. In the latter case he would be amenable to Congressional law, in the other to the local law.

This looks like good common sense, and is in accordance with the principles of the Constitution, in which States rights are plainly enunciated and preserved from the encroachments of Federal authority.

"THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL EDMUNDS BILL."

THE New York World of August 9, contains a review of the work done by what it calls "The Rogues Congress," showing up its sins of omission and commission, and declaring that "profligacy has reigned, excessive, unconstitutional, wicked taxa-

tion and extravagant expenditures have free course, while the dignity and honor and duties of the republic are forgotten and the interests of the people are betrayed."

We copy the following paragraph in relation to the legislation on Utah. It has a sub-heading as above:

"As I have said, while nearly 8,000 bills have been introduced in Congress, and while 750 bills are on the calendars of the two houses ready for action, only nine of wide importance have been passed. First, there is the Apportionment bill, which of necessity must be passed and which should have been passed by the last Congress, and whose passage then was prevented by republican filibustering for the purpose of gaining partisan and even sectional advantages. No glory can be gathered for the dominant party from this bill. Then there is the Edmunds bill, which was labelled 'An Anti-Polygamy bill,' but which should have been labelled 'A bill for the disfranchisement of all voters in Utah Territory who decline to vote the republican ticket, and after this disfranchisement to admit Utah into the Union as a republican State.' This law is crowded with unconstitutional provisions and is a measure to establish a republican monarchy or oligarchy in Utah and to deprive, without conviction of crime, without trial, nine-tenths of the people of Utah of their civil rights. Surely no glory can be extracted for the controlling party from this bill."

There is no doubt that all that is here depicted was intended by the prime movers of the measure which the World correspondent condemns as "crowded with unconstitutional provisions." But therein lies its weakness and the defeat of the malignants and harpies who expected to reap a harvest of plunder from the anti-"Mormon" legislation of eighteen eighty-two. The object aimed at was one thing, that which will be accomplished is another thing. "Man proposes God disposes." The World editorially characterizes the closed session as the most disgraceful ever held of the Congress of the United States.

THE THREE DIS-GRACES.

THE New York Herald holds up to animadversion and rejection by their own party of three prominent public men, who have gained undeniable notoriety during the late session of Congress. It says:

"These three men are Mr. Robeson, of New Jersey, the leader, or as he is more commonly and, we believe, justly called, the 'boss' of the Republicans in the House; Mr. Frank Hiseock, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, whose glaring incapacity and meek subservency to Mr. Robeson's will have been conspicuous from the beginning of the session, and Speaker Kuffer, whose open partnership with Mr. Robeson led him to muddle the committees in such a way as to keep off the important ones the men familiar with their work and to make Mr. Robeson in fact master of all the really important business of the House."

Each of these notorious characters is a pronounced and rabid anti-"Mormon," and all helped to force through the House without debate, that legislation against Utah which, conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity, is now a thing of shame in the eyes of the nation, despised by its begetters and nurses and ridiculed by those who looked for it as a child of promise. The future of the three dis-graces, the question of whose re-nomination the Herald discusses with vigorous disapprobation, will be interesting for the people of Utah to watch.

"THE COMING GOVERNMENT OF UTAH."

THE Omaha Herald in an article with the above heading has this to say about Utah affairs:

"The coming government of the Territory through the Edmunds device will not abolish the polygamous institution; it will only embarrass and perplex those who will hold, as with the grip of death itself, to the practical recognition of the polygamous relation. Men who assume that the husbands of these Mormon wives, and the fathers of these Mormon children, are going to abandon the wives as so many women of the

town, and the children as bastards, will find in the end how little they have been allowed to know of the human nature of the men who made possible the great community of people who dwell and delve under the shadows of the Wasatch mountains. Disfranchise, imprison, persecute these people as men may, George Q. Cannon is right when he says that no power on earth can drive them to abandon their wives and families. Congressional laws looking to such a result will be either successfully resisted or evaded until such time as the twenty-five hundred men living in polygamy in Utah can hit upon ways and means to protect their wives and children from the moral blight and ruin which is sought to be visited upon them, and any man who would not do the same thing under the same circumstances is unfit to live a long life or die a natural death."

We endorse the vigorous words with which our esteemed Omaha contemporary expresses itself in regard to any professed "Mormon" who would take any other course than that which the hounds who have been yelping for special legislation are now barking about. The Herald follows with some well meant remarks about the abandonment of an ordinance which is part of our religious system. But while its advice is given, we feel assured, with the best of motives, a little unbiased reflection must show the editor that such a demand as he claims is made by civilization, is as impossible for sincere men to comply with as it is unreasonable and unconstitutional to require it of them.

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