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ELLIS ON THE "MORMONS."

We clip the following, entire, from the *Denver News*:

Stopping at the American is the man who started the wedge that split old conditions in Utah. He is Mr. Charles Ellis of Salt Lake. Mr. Ellis is an old newspaper man, and his name is familiar to readers of leading dailies all over the East. Three years and a half ago he went to Salt Lake to write up the place and people and found the Mormons so much above what he had expected that he began an investigation that led him to take the platform in behalf of fair play for them. His claim, as stated to a reporter for the *News*, was that since the Mormons stand on the Bible they are entitled to all the rights, privileges accorded to all other sects having the same foundation. Mr. Ellis has written largely on Utah questions for eastern papers and has lectured through Utah. He has done much to make the people better acquainted with the national government. His course of thirteen Sunday evening lectures in Salt Lake Theater last winter was said to have been the most popular ever given in the city and drew crowds of church people, notwithstanding Mr. Ellis was known to be an "infidel," so-called. The gentleman is here visiting a sick friend.

Knowing of Mr. Ellis's acquaintance with Utah conditions a *News* representative sought him yesterday.

The reporter quietly opened the way for a conversation by inquiring if Mr. Ellis had ever been in Denver prior to this visit.

IN DENVER BEFORE.

"Yes," said he, "I spent some time here in 1873, and boarded in the same house where I now get my Quaker oats. It was then the largest and best hotel in Colorado. You need not ask if I realize the change that has come while nineteen years have been going. The change is admitted. It is almost marvelous. I have already made up my mind that the inevitable for your city is a great future."

"Cannot you tell me something interesting about Utah and her irrepressible conflict?"

"Yes, much. In fact, I like nothing better than to tell what I know about Utah and her peculiar people, the Mormons. The Mormon or People's party is dead, and the anti-Mormon or 'Liberal' party is dead outside of Salt Lake,

but the political situation is more complicated today than ever. A year ago a portion of the Democrats, who had been in the Liberal party, withdrew from that body and joined with a portion of the Mormons of the defunct People's party, forming the Democratic party of the Territory. A few weeks later a portion of the Republicans in the Liberal party withdrew and joined with Mormons who had been in the People's party, forming the Republican party of the Territory.

Committees regularly appointed by these two bodies made application to the national committee of the two great parties for recognition. The application was granted. Both of these parties in Utah have recently held their conventions and appointed their delegates to Chicago and Minneapolis. But some of the leaders of the old Liberal party, fearing that such a recognition of new Utah would lay them on the shelf, have organized Democratic and Republican parties in the Territory, claiming to be the only genuine Democracy and Republicanism to be found in those 'vales of Deseret.' Each has held its convention and appointed its delegates to Chicago and Minneapolis. The Democrats met only yesterday for this purpose.

FOUR DELEGATIONS.

"Consequently there will be four delegations from Utah. The unrecognized will go for the purpose of damaging the claims of the recognized parties. The result will be great harm to Utah, for, whichever of the parties are recognized, the old prejudice against the Mormons will be revived and the settlement of the Utah unrest be pushed far away."

"What is the object of the anti-Mormons in thus trying to force their delegates into the national conventions?"

"I cannot answer that question without seeming to cast some reflections upon the men. I believe their real object is to keep Utah in the Territorial condition. You know it is a very rich pasture for a great many political office holders, few of whom would ever be heard of if Utah were a State. But while this is in my opinion the real object, the alleged one is to kill polygamy and compel the Mormons to become loyal. That is, the old Mormon haters of Utah pretend to believe that polygamy is not dead, and that the Mormons hate and would destroy the nation."

THINK THE GOVERNMENT UNFAIR.

"I have had as good opportunity as non-Mormon ever had to know what the Mormon people are. There has been a feeling among them for years that the government has been very unfair in its treatment of their church; while they recognize and concede now the right of the government to insist upon obedience to the laws, they feel that the confiscation of their Church property was a great injustice. But the Mormons as a whole are an honest, law-abiding people. There are 'black sheep' among them, as in all sects and out of all sects, but taking them as a people I believe they are more thoroughly American than are many of those who oppose and condemn them. For instance, the American government is purely secular. It is pledged to non-interference with the right of worship. The Mormon Church, while very rigid in its requirements upon its own people, maintains that all people are free to worship as they choose. I have heard many Mormon sermons, but have never heard a word against the right of any sect to perfect freedom of worship. Thus, while many sectarians condemn the Mormons, the latter defend the former in their religious liberties."

"Do you think the Mormons have any intention of reviving the practice of polygamy?"

NO MORE POLYGAMY.

"No. There are a few old men still alive who went into that relation before the law of 1862 was enacted. The mistake made was in putting the Bible, which teaches polygamy and their new revelation which re-established it above the government. Their mistake was natural inasmuch as religious people had for ages been placing the word of God above that of man. They did not realize that the American government does not recognize the word of God. Having established their marriage at the command of God, as they believed, they felt themselves bound to stand by it, and so tested it in court. They were thrown. Some of those men may continue to violate the law, but will be precisely as some non-Mormons violate their marriage vows. That is, it will be the crime of adultery. But in the nature of things there can be little of that."

"Soon the polygamists will all be in their graves. If there were no law against polygamy I believe it would be impossible to coax or drive the