

with it, and that, when Mr. Edwin Mitton and his son, Jno. W., signed the affidavit, no other person was present except myself and Mr. Iversen, the notary.

A. M. BUCHANAN.

It is the custom with the unscrupulous persons who libel respectable citizens in the sheet above mentioned, when exposed in one falsehood to utter another equally atrocious, turning the question entirely with the hope that it will not be followed further. The falsehood against the Messrs. Mitton was aggravated by the attack on Mr. Buchanan, but it has failed to divert attention from the main issue, which was that the Mittons were lied about. And the tissue of falsehoods about Mr. Buchanan does not alter that fact, nor if the statements were true would it justify the original lie.

Enough has now been said to demonstrate how utterly unreliable and indecent the "Liberal" organ is, and we have every reason to believe that its course in this regard is as disgusting to respectable and conservative people of its own party as it is to the individuals chiefly concerned.

LEGISLATION AGAINST BELIEF.

The people of the United States have been greatly agitated over the imagined horrors of polygamy in Utah, and special legislation has been obtained looking to its suppression. The Utah Commission report that it is not now openly practiced, and that they do not know of any new cases of polygamy themselves; however they give publicity to rumors of which they admit they have no proofs, but these amount to very little even if they are true, which we do not admit.

So much for the practice which the people of the United States seem so anxious to destroy. The Commission are not satisfied with this, nor with the eradication of the custom of plural marriage. They want people who are members of a Church which the Commission claims still teaches this form of marriage, to be pursued by the law and deprived of the right of suffrage simply because they belong to that Church. This is carrying animosity against the "Mormons" a little too far for reasonable people, and we do not believe it will have the desired effect.

We have quoted remarks from several leading papers on this subject. We now take the following from the San Francisco *Examiner*, a

paper that has never been favorable to the "Mormon" Church or its tenets:

"The members of the Utah Commission have kept their eyes fixed on the Mormon problem until they are unable to see anything else. In their just published report they say:

"While we forbid immigration of the non-proselyting, peace-loving, docile Chinaman because we fear the future danger of his coming * * * there is far greater reason for closing our doors as a nation and forbidding citizenship to hordes who are brought here to swell the ranks of an organized body which teaches them in advance to hate our government, denominates its executive, lawmakers, judges and prosecutors as persecutors, and instils into every mind the constant teaching that their pretended revelations are more binding than the highest and best laws of the land, and that resistance to such laws is a virtue and the rendering of obedience to God."

That is the sort of caricature of the truth that we used to see while we were discussing the first Restriction Act. The Mormons are bad enough, but it is simply extravagance to say that they are worse than the Chinese. The "non-proselyting Chinaman" is not, to be sure, a drummer for religious novelties. But he is a missionary of vice and counts his converts by the thousands in the human driftwood of our streets—the wreckage of once promising lives.

The "peace-loving Chinaman" is at this moment beginning an internecine war in which the Wongs and Lees will slaughter each other, men, women and children, because they could not agree about some burying grounds. He rose in Bangkok the other day in a quarrel between two high-binder societies, and 5000 coolies fought with spears and tridents, impaling their enemies and carrying their bodies on the points of their weapons. He fought pitched battles in the streets of Eureka until the people put him out and kept him out. He maintains standing armies of professional assassins in San Francisco, open to engagement for any undertaking of riot or murder on a fixed scale of fees.

The 'docile Chinaman' is the most unruly and impudent worker in the world. He is the terror of the kitchen, and when he works in a factory he demands and obtains privileges which the white operatives beside him go without. He has reduced the boycott to an exact science, and an employer or landlord who is dependent upon him must humor his caprices or go into bankruptcy.

There are two objections to the Mormons—they believe in polygamy and they have a government within a government. That is sufficient to justify our opposition to their increase, but the Chinese have both these faults and innumerable others. The Mormons have taken the dregs of Europe and turned them into what

would be, but for its religious drawbacks, a comparatively desirable population. Their towns are neat, temperate and moral. To say that such immigrants are worse than the Chinese is to discredit the whole argument in which the opinion appears."

The foregoing is addressed chiefly to the proposal of the Commission—not an original one by the by—to prevent people who belong to the "Mormon" Church, from landing on our shores. The annexed is clipped from the New York *World*, a paper that has been very pronounced against "Mormonism," sometimes being very unfair in its criticisms, but it cannot endorse this proposition to legislate against belief. Under the heading of "Mormons and the Law," it says:

"It appears from the report of the Utah Commissioners that under the stringent laws now in existence for the suppression of polygamy, the practice of that crime has almost entirely ceased, but that, as the commissioners believe, the Mormon Church still secretly teaches the doctrine that polygamy is a 'saving grace,' wherefore they recommend some additional legislation.

We have no particle of sympathy with Mormon ideas, and only loathing for polygamy, as a practice or as an institution, and we have steadfastly urged not only the enactment but the relentless enforcement of stringent laws for the punishment and suppression of the system. But we may be permitted to suggest to the commissioners that it is none of their business what doctrines of "saving grace" the Mormon or any other church teaches. With that the law in this free country has nothing whatever to do, its function being to deal with the punishment of criminal conduct and not with the suppression of unsound, speculative doctrines.

Polygamy as a practice is now in effect suppressed. The laws against it are rigorously enforced, and in aid of the laws changed circumstances have rendered the system practically impossible. Mr. Hepworth Dixon, when he saw *Harper's Bazar* for sale on Salt Lake newsstands, declared that polygamy was doomed. Whatever might have been possible in an isolated community where women dressed in calico and sun-bonnets, plural marriage could not exist in company with fashion journals which set wives dressing against each other.

If there is any point in which the laws for the punishment of bigamy in Utah can be strengthened, by all means let them be amended and enforced until the stain shall be utterly wiped out; but there could be no more serious mistake than for the government to assume an attitude of surveillance and dictation in the matter of doctrinal teaching. That way danger lies."

No matter how much the intent may be disguised by words, it stands out clear and distinct as advice for