

young people into plural marriage. When there was no money in Utah, when the Mormons were all poor, when there was no class distinction among them, it was about as easy to raise five families as one. But today the young Mormon men are as keenly alive to the acquirement of wealth as any other Christian. The cost of living has increased five fold, and it is more expensive to raise one family in Salt Lake now than it was to raise several, thirty years ago. The existence or disappearance of polygamy is a question of political economy. The Indians as savages are polygamists. The Indians as farmers are monogamists. Besides, the Mormon men in polygamy were never more than a fractional part of the whole number. No, the Mormons will never attempt to revive polygamy in the United States.

MORMON EDUCATION.

"It is the general opinion that the Mormons have been opposed to education. That is a very unjust opinion. From the first the Mormons have been educators. That was one of the causes of the opposition to them in Missouri. One of the first provisions made by them in Utah was that for education. Before Congress organized the Territory of Utah the Mormons had incorporated a university. As fast as they became able to support schools the public school system was spread through the Territory. In 1888 the government school commission reported 406 public schools in the Territory, all under control of Mormon superintendents and all open to the whole people. Today there are many non-Mormon teachers employed in public schools under control of Mormon superintendents. Today there are non-Mormon children attending the Brigham Young academy in Provo, Utah, because it is the best school in the Territory. Today the Mormon Church is working to establish a church university in Salt Lake, and Captain Willard Young, Brigham's son, is at the head of the movement.

"Mormonism will be largely modified as its young people grow under the encouragement of better and better educational facilities, and I predict that Mormonism will give to the world many very bright men and women. In time the old prejudices will die out, not in the anti-Mormon churches, but among the vast unchurched portion of the American people, and it will be admitted that the Mormons have the same right to make a religion as any other people, and that they are entitled to the same protection given to other sects, as long as they obey the laws and give allegiance to the government."

"You seem to be an earnest friend of the Mormons. Have you ever been employed by them?"

NOT A HIRED MORMON LIAR.

"That is rather an impudent question, eh? But I am glad you asked it, because I have been accused by the anti-Mormons of Salt Lake of being a 'hired Mormon liar.' I can answer your question with a clear conscience, and say that I have never been employed by the Mormons or any part of them for an hour. Indeed, I have worked in their behalf at no inconsiderable loss to myself."

STATEHOOD.

"The men who went to Washington last autumn and started the home rule and statehood agitation have done Utah much harm. Things were working excellently, and if those fellows had stayed at home the chances for statehood today would have been good. There are too many men in Utah who want office. If the Territory could take an emetic and get rid of a number of politicians it would be a good thing. But Utah is a grand country, and in spite of all unrest it will get its proper place in the Union before long, and then Colorado will find by her side a powerful ally in all matters concerning the welfare of 'silver' States."

THE CITY OF MEXICO.

After a few days' sojourn in this city, prolific in history, I have become so interested personally, that I fully believe some of your readers will except this feeble communication as a means of entertaining them for a few moments.

I have had Mexico in view in the course of my rambles for many years. While penning these few lines in one of the rooms of the Hotel Del Jardin, I look out and see the tropical palm waving its long fanlike leaves, nodding a welcome to the American visitor; the fig tree laden with luscious fruit, (but only small yet,) and pomegranat with its crimson bloom intermingled with green foliage; these, with the numerous shrubs, trees and flowers in the Plaza in front of our rooms form a picture which leaves its impress on the mind, never to be obliterated.

It is a custom in Mexico to build houses in a square block, leaving an open court where quite often flowers and shrubs are tastefully cultivated as at our hotel. The entrance is guarded by a large double and very heavy gate or doorway, with a smaller door for convenience, for at night the hotel gateway is closed after 9 or 10 o'clock. At the hotel, at which I stayed in Chihuahua, a man slept every night in reach of a smaller gateway, which was fastened within. This (so unlike the American) savors something of a city of bars, gates and walls. This, with the narrow streets, so often paved with cobble rock, even right here in Mexico City, is not entirely without exception, but I will say that modern invention is remedying this awful rumbling over the cobble rocks, and the horse is pleased when occasionally he steps on the blocks of wood as pavement.

It must be understood that the City of Mexico is situated in a great basin and millions of money and sacrifice of human lives have been expended to effect a sewerage system, without entire satisfaction. Hence my objection to that city, despite its excellent climate. The altitude of the city is 7350, and its population 380,000. Last night I was glad to roll up in my blanket in the midst of my snow-white sheets. In the country or suburbs it is to my mind much more healthy, and if my stay-over was to be of long standing, I should prefer sleeping out and visiting within the city during the day.

One of the first attractions is the Cathedral, the Holy Metropolitan Church of Mexico. The first church

on this spot was finished in 1523. It is the site of the Aztec Teocalli, or temple. This grand edifice, of the sixteenth century, was constructed at a cost of over two million dollars. The interior is imposing, with rich carvings of ancient style, magnificent altars set with gold, silver and precious stones, and images in variety. Altars and tombs of the great are conspicuous. There are rich paintings here and there, and it takes a long time to go through the large structure. It is customary to pass and repass during services, as some go to the dipping stone, dip their fingers in holy waters, cross themselves, kneel and bow towards one or other of the various altars; and it is observable that the right knee comes down first. After reading a prayer from their prayer book, counting beads or offering an oral prayer, the supplicant takes his or her departure, while others remain on their knees for an hour or even longer. Others under penance hold up their arms until nearly exhausted, while others kneel at the confessional where the priest sits to hear the confessions of sins committed. But the rich and the "cultivated" do not so often comply with this rule, for confession to God is becoming more popular nowadays. Those whom I saw at the confessional were mostly females.

I have seen some bow down and even kiss the floor of the Holy Church, in order to show their contrition. Some of our younger Utonians may think strangely of these things, while to the older ones this is nothing new. Strict, old-fashioned Catholicism is fast giving way in Mexico and liberality religiously and politically is increasing. I was never better treated in any place in all my travels, but care and wisdom are required in all Catholic countries.

The dimensions of this cathedral are 387 feet by 177; height 179 feet. The towers are 203 ft. in all and are built of stone. The roof is of brick tiles. More than \$2,225,000 have been expended on the structure. A grand view is obtained from the towers. The largest bell is called "Santa Maria de Guadalupe," is 19 feet high and cost \$10,000. It is said to be the largest bell on the continent. There are so many sights to be seen that it would be difficult in this brief communication to more than refer to the floating gardens, the old Guadalupe church six miles north, the tree of Noche Triste where Cortez sat down and wept on the "dismal night" of July 1, 1520, at the sad defeat and route by the natives, called to this day, the "dark night." Many of these points and others of interest I will pass for the present.

On the 21st April, 1519, the brave and daring Cortez, with less than one thousand men and only twelve small cannon, burned his ships behind him at the place where now stands Vera Cruz, and began his march of invasion and conquest. On November 8th, 1519, he came to Tenochtitlan, now this great City of Mexico. Only yesterday I was looking while in the art gallery at a very striking painting of Montezuma, the chief of the Aztecs, followed by his thousand plumed and feathered warriors to welcome this handful of adventurous men who, as far as numbers was concerned, could have wiped them from the face of the earth. But fate ordered it otherwise. Massacres and imprison-