

years ago. Its objects are the collection and diffusion of information between the countries represented at the conference, and also the enlightenment of American merchants and tourists regarding our sister republics south of us. It is supported by subscription from the South American countries according to population, and by the United States. It is to be continued ten years and if found useful thereafter indefinitely. The Director is under the supervision of the United States Secretary of State.

The Director is Mr. W. E. Curtis, a well-known journalist. He has traveled extensively in nearly all the South American countries. Under his direction a vast amount of literature pertaining to these countries has been most effectively circulated in the United States.

The annual report recently issued shows that the Bureau is meeting the purpose for which it was intended. Commercial intercourse and letter mails have increased twenty-five per cent. within the last year, between the United States and the Latin American countries. The exchange of printed matter has increased fifty per cent, and newspapers give more attention to the affairs of their respective countries than formerly.

### LUTHERANS IN THE UNITED STATES

ACCORDING to the figures of the recent census the total number of Lutheran communicants in the United States is very close on 1,200,000, connected with 8427 organizations, with church property valued at \$34,218,000. Pennsylvania stands first with 219,000, Wisconsin next with 149,000, and Minnesota third with 143,000. All the States and Territories have communicants except Nevada, the Indian Territory and Oklahoma.

Arranged according to language 454,000 members belong to synods wholly German, 233,000 to synods partly English and partly German, 199,000 to synods using wholly the English language, 190,000 Norwegian, 89,000 Swedish, 14,000 Danish, 2000 Icelandic and 1385 Finnish.

The earliest Lutherans in America came from Holland to Manhattan Island in 1623 with the first Dutch colony. They were subjected for some time to disabilities because the Public Reformed religion was that established in the colony. It was not until the English took possession of New York that the Lutherans were allowed full liberty of worship.

The Swedes established Lutheranism on the banks of the Delaware in 1638. The first Synod there was organized in

1748 by Henry Muhlenburg, and in 1786, the second synod, the ministerium of New York was formed.

The system of faith held by all Lutherans is set forth in the Augsburg Confession, Luther's Catechisms, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Formula of Concord. The cardinal doctrine of the system is that of justification by faith alone. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are held to be not mere signs or memorials, but channels of grace. Lutherans believe that "in the Holy Supper there are present with the elements and are received sacramentally and supernaturally the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ," but transubstantiation as held by the Roman Catholic Church is rejected, as is also consubstantiation as held by the Anglican Church.

The entire Lutheran Communion in the United States includes the General Synod, the United Synod in the South, the General Council, the Synodical Conference, twelve independent synods, and several independent congregations. The total number of communicants is 1,199,514, in round numbers 1,200,000.

### UTAH POLYGAMY AND THE TELLER BILL.

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* has the following editorial on the Utah question:

"The whole population of Utah is estimated at upwards of 210,000, and on this basis the people of that Territory are again claiming the right of admission to the Union. They argue that they are not only stronger numerically than were Montana, Idaho, Washington and other recently-formed States at the time of their admission, but that they have in a large degree the resources and social conditions of an established and well-ordered commonwealth. This is probably true, as the Mormons, who comprise one-half of the population, have always been distinguished, as a rule, for their thrift and prosperity. There can be no doubt that the Territory is fully equal in all the ordinary qualifications required for entrance into the Union to any State that has been admitted in the past forty years.

"Attempts have been made in recent years to admit Utah to the Union, and the Democrats in Congress have generally been disposed to sustain them without regard to the effect which such action might have on the perpetuation of polygamy. This, like slavery in the old days, the Democratic leaders apparently regarded as a local institution which the people there should be permitted to regulate in their own way. The Republicans on the other hand have uniformly opposed the admission of Utah, except on the renunciation of polygamy.

"But within the past few years there has been a marked change in the situation. The severity of the enforcement of the Federal laws has made the practice of plural marriages dangerous. It has led the Mormon Church to disavow polygamy and to put on record a solemn promise to 'obey the Federal law

in this matter as well as in all others. How far this disavowal and promise have been observed cannot yet be clearly ascertained. The general drift of opinion, however, among well-informed observers in Utah is that the Mormons as a body are sincere, and that polygamy generally is on the point of ultimate extinction. Governor Thomas, who represents the Federal authority and who, we believe, has no prepossessions in their favor, has reported that he can thus far see no reason for believing that they are not sincere. Nevertheless, there are some suspicious Gentiles who do not hesitate to declare that the apparent attitude of having abandoned polygamy is only a trick, and that if Utah were to become a State, the Mormons, who, being a majority, would rule the State as they pleased, would be at liberty to revive their marital practices and manage the new commonwealth in the interest of their Church and polity.

"This view is probably not shared by Senator Teller, of the adjacent State of Colorado, who has introduced a bill into the Senate providing for the admission of Utah as a State without restriction. It is not to be conceived that Senator Teller, who is a good and intelligent Republican in all things except the question of free silver, would make himself responsible for this measure if he were not satisfied that polygamy cannot be revived. With that odious feature of his character removed, there is nothing in the average Mormon which makes him objectionable or indeed different from other enterprising and industrious Westerners, unless it be that his enterprise and industry are even more effective in the accumulation of wealth and material comforts. With the complete renunciation of polygamy with the gradual decline of the tremendous influence which the great personality of Brigham Young left behind him over his followers, with the appearance of a new generation that sees polygamy under the ban of the law and a thing of danger to the man who touches it, and with the steady infusion of Gentile immigration, it is not difficult to foresee the day when the Mormon Church will become powerless for mischief and when it will be compelled to accept the new order of things, if it has not already done so, or, as in 1848, when Young led it from Nauvoo in order to escape the encroachments of the growing population of Illinois, to abandon Salt Lake City and seek a new haven of refuge.

"Senator Teller in speaking of his bill says:

"There is no danger of Mormon rule in Utah, even if she be admitted as a State. I do not see why she is not fully qualified to enter the Union. She has more than the entire population of Wyoming and Idaho together, and more than three times that of Wyoming alone. Polygamy is dead. The young men do not practice it, and do not believe in it, and the people are dividing on party lines instead of the old lines of Mormon and Gentile."

"If it can be shown by Senator Teller and others who want to bring Utah into the Union without disfranchising the Mormons that the Mormons have actually and in good faith given up polygamy as a practice, the one vital objection to clothing the Territory with Statehood will be removed. There is nothing else in the Mormon creed, we believe, which is offensive to the moral instincts of the American people. In all other respects it may be tolerated without danger to our social and political institutions as freely as we tolerate the great variety of religions, eccentric or grotesque, that flourish among us. Indeed we are not certain whether the admission of Utah into the Union, with the wonderfully quickening effect which that privilege always exercises on the industry and