

Utah, and prosecute and punish all polygamists, male and female, to be found in the Territory. Others seem to imagine that all the offices here are vacated; and that the commissioners are to fill them by appointment. Others again appear to think that these gentlemen are to do all the work of election and registration officers, and various extraordinary powers are claimed for them which have no existence.

Even our esteemed contemporary the Ogden Herald has stretched their powers beyond the letter of the law creating them. It says the Edmunds bill "provided for a new registration, excluding all polygamist from the polls," and that this registration "is to take place under the direction and supervision of officers appointed by the Utah Commission."

Now the powers conferred upon the Commissioners by the act of Congress which created their office are very simple and clearly defined. They are merely to fill by appointment the registration and election offices which are made vacant by the same law, and to give certificates to the persons who appear to have been elected to the first Legislative Assembly after the passage of the bill. But it is provided that no person shall be excluded from voting on account of belief in polygamy. There is nothing in the law about "a new registration."

The Commissioners are to act under the laws of this Territory and of Congress. A new registration is not provided for in any law of Utah or of the United States. When the Commissioners arrive and make their appointments, the registration officers whom they may appoint can only act as directed in the Utah registration law, which provides for a revision of the lists in a manner specified, but not for a new registration.

It is quite advisable that the duties and powers of the Commissioners and of their appointees be understood by the people of Utah at least, that no exaggerated ideas, expectations or forebodings may prevail. And it would be just as well if writers for the press of this great country would examine the law before they comment upon it and build great expectations about what the Commissioners will do in "solving the Mormon problem."

We think that the gentlemen appointed to attend to the duties required by the Edmunds law will endeavor to fulfill them as therein defined, and not attempt to undertake any of the difficult tasks which are set for them by the newspaper and other fanatics, and which are not only entirely outside of their authority and powers, but are also both absurd and impossible.

MISINFORMED.

THE Cleveland Herald is vexed because the DESERET NEWS says it does not understand the Mormon question. The truth is sometimes vexations, particularly if it implies ignorance on the part of the person to whom it applies. We have not accused the talented Cleveland paper of any greater lack of information on this question than the majority of its eastern contemporaries. But the proof of its want of understanding is contained in the very paragraph in which it complains of our statement. It speaks of "Mormon bosses" and of their declaring "all laws of the United States inconvenient to them unconstitutional, and to be violated or evaded, etc." Now there are no "Mormon bosses," and the statement about "all laws of the United States," etc., is simply nonsense.

And here is another piece of evidence that the Herald does not understand the "Mormon" question. We clip from its editorial columns:

"The Mormons have resorted to their usual cunning and trickery to evade the provisions of the Edmunds act against polygamy. All the polygamists among them have apparently separated from their wives and are living openly with only one. All those in office who had more than one wife have resigned and been succeeded by equally strong Mormons who happen to be monogamists, and they intend that when the Commissioners under the act come to Utah, there will be nothing for them to do. At the same time they breathe hostility to the law, and their determination to

test its constitutionality in the Supreme Court."

We beg to inform our Cleveland friend that it has been deceived again; and all the comments which follow the above extract from its article are based upon incorrect premises. The Herald derives its information (?) from an unreliable source and hence its numerous mistakes when touching on "Mormon" affairs. The DESERET NEWS sets forth the facts. If any of the exchanges do not choose to accept them but prefer to swallow the rubbish manufactured intentionally to deceive, they will remain in ignorance of the subject and open to the charge that they treat upon questions which they know nothing about.

SECRETARY'S FEES.

In the Senate of the United States August 2nd, the following occurred during the consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill, in Committee of the Whole:

Mr. Lapham. I offer the following amendment, to come in after line 756:

Out of which the secretary of the Territory of Utah shall be paid a reasonable sum, to be certified by the president of the commission for his services as secretary of the commission, as provided by law.

The act of March last creating the commission in regard to Utah provides in the sixth section that "the Secretary of the Territory shall be the secretary of the said board and keep the journal of its proceedings and attest the action of said board under this section." There is no provision whatever for any compensation to him for that service, and this clause of the bill which appropriates the sum of \$15,000 for printing, stationery, clerk hire and rent, I propose to amend by adding a provision that the president of the commission may allow to the secretary of the Territory for this service such sum as he shall judge proper. I cannot fix a definite sum because it is entirely uncertain what amount of time he will spend or what service he will render.

Mr. Allison. I think we had better wait until we see what service he does render. I make the point of order on it.

Mr. Lapham. I do not think it is subject to a point of order.

The Presiding Officer. Was the amendment offered in the Senate and referred to the committee on appropriations?

Mr. Lapham. It was not; but the bill itself makes an appropriation of this sum.

Mr. Allison. But there is an existing law which prohibits a man from receiving two salaries.

The Presiding Officer. The amendment is ruled out.

The Secretary of the Commission ought certainly to be paid for his services. But Mr. Lapham, it seems to us, was rather premature. Until the nature and extent of the services are ascertained it is appropriating in the dark to vote a compensation. We understand that the Secretary had no hand whatever in this unsuccessful effort to fix the salary for his commission work.

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