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CRUSHING "MORMONISM."

THE subject of "Mormonism" is once more a prominent topic of the times. Every newspaper of importance in the United States has something to say about it, and most of them exhibit the most lamentable ignorance of its principles and of the people who have embraced them. We regard the Cincinnati Times as one of our best exchanges, as it generally takes an intelligent view of public matters, and is a live, newsy journal. But the Times is in a fog on the Mormon question. Hear it:

"The Mormons, it is needless to say, are very bad persons. Even when they keep quiet and attend strictly to their own business, the Latter-day Saints are an unmitigated nuisance and a disgrace to modern civilization. A determined effort should be made at once to crush Mormonism. It is constantly spreading. Its vitality and power are daily increasing. Missionaries are industriously at work both in America and Europe proselyting the ignorant and vicious. The baneful 'religion' is taking deeper root."

Suppose the word Methodism were to be substituted for "Mormonism" in the above paragraph, what a sensation it would make! Yet for all the argument the Times offers as reason for its extermination, one title might just as well be used as the other. The reasons given for crushing "Mormonism" are chiefly its power and means of propagandism, which are described at some length. But Methodism also sends out missionaries and has a systematic plan of proselytism. True, its preachers make a trade of their profession and hire out at so much per annum, while "Mormon" missionaries travel without purse or scrip, frequently bearing their own expenses; but this difference is not mentioned in the charge against them. After dilating upon "Mormon" missionary work in Europe and other places, the Times says:

"The Government should put an end to this monstrous evil. It will take time, but it can be done. Utah is the hot-bed of Mormonism, and its seat of power. Crush the head of a serpent and it will die. Crush Mormonism in Utah and the sect cannot hold together."

Now, what nonsense this is! What has the Government to do with the preaching of "Mormonism" in any part of the globe? and how is "Mormonism" to be "crushed in Utah" or anywhere else? A great many sectarian preachers and newspaper writers are anxious for the "crush" but none of them give any plan by which the crushing is to be done. Neither do they appear to know anything about the system against which they can suggest nought but force. Even the Cincinnati Times could not give an intelligent answer to the question, What is "Mormonism?" Polygamy is what the Times means, no doubt, and this is what some folks are so desirous of crushing. But polygamy is not "Mormonism," any more than calibacism is Catholicism, or monogamy is Methodism.

If all the "Mormons" in Utah were crushed, it would not affect "Mormonism." The crushing policy was tried in Missouri, before ever polygamy was incorporated with "Mormonism." It did not succeed, because that which is popularly known as "Mormonism" is a living faith established in the heart, carrying with it a convincing testimony of its own truth. It cannot be crushed by any process known to mortal man, and Governments are just as powerless as individuals in relation to it. "Mormonism" is a creed embodying all the truths taught by all the prophets of God and the seers and sages of every age and race, and possessing the power of assimilating every truth in the universe. The truth revealed it adopts and promulgates; the truth to be revealed it will receive

and establish. Plural marriage is but one simple tenet of this comprehensive creed, which recognizes every correct principle in theology, science, philosophy, art, law, government and society on earth, in heaven or in hell.

If it is polygamy that writers mean when they advocate the "crushing of Mormonism," why do they not say so. If what we hold in regard to plural marriage is so very wrong, why do they not prove it wrong? And failing to convince us and falling back upon a law of Congress, why do they urge the execution of the law in a lawful manner, instead of trying to incite the Government to unlawful measures, the public to deeds of violence, and us to the resistance which they have falsely accused us of for so many years? And before they cry out "crush Mormonism" why do they not take the trouble to find out what it really is?

The Times speaks of the Latter-day Saints as a "nuisance," even when we "attend strictly to our own business." Really! How much of a nuisance is Salt Lake to Cincinnati? We are willing to compare notes with the Times on the general morality, order, and respectability of the two cities. The daily reports, published in the Times, which do not disclose the private and secret abominations practiced by those who do not come under cognizance of the law, unfold more social sin and deeds and doings that go to make any city a nuisance, than can be alleged against the city of Salt Lake, even counting in the practice of plural marriage as a crime. Why, the Times itself has borne witness to the industry, sobriety and peace of the people of Utah, and the remarks in which it now indulges, exhibits a weak pandering to popular prejudice that is shameful and unjust and entirely unworthy of its editors. Until they learn more they should talk less of "Mormonism" and the "Mormons."

SECRETARY EVARTS AND THE MORMONS.

THE New York Graphic takes a very sensible view of the absurd circular said to have been issued by Evarts. We clip the following from that paper of the 13th inst.:

"The more that Secretary Evarts' circular, respecting the discouragement of Mormon emigration into the United States is examined, the more clear does it appear that our original criticism of the document was well founded. There are two grave objections to the circular. One is that it instructs our representatives abroad to ask of the governments at whose courts they reside, or in whose shipping ports they discharge their functions, to do certain things which these governments neither can nor will undertake to do. The second objection is that the spirit which has inspired the circular is an un-American, and in one sense, Know Nothing one. The London Times yesterday, commenting upon the telegraphic summary of the circular letter which had been transmitted to London, remarks that while every European government would be glad to see the gross superstition which is connected with the Mormon religion dissipated, no government could see its way to direct interference in the sense asked for by Mr. Evarts. All that could be done, in the opinion of the Times, would be for emigration commissioners to distribute tracts at the outposts. 'If the United States,' it says, 'should determine to forbid the landing of Mormons, it would be necessary for them to declare the profession of Mormonism to be an offense in itself and to institute a kind of inquisition into the religious opinions of emigrants. It is scarcely conceivable that legislation should go this length, yet such measures alone would be efficacious. Whatever may be done in congress, the British parliament would never give the executive power to interfere with the Mormon emigrants.' Most probably Mr. Evarts' circular will either become a dead letter or will be withdrawn. It should not be forgotten that under the laws and Constitution of the United States an essential difference exists between the right of a citizen to entertain freely religious convictions of whatever character, and his right to carry out one or more of these convictions in a manner which involves a violation of any statute law. Mr. Evarts' assumption, that because a man professes the Mormon faith he therefore 'intends' upon his arrival in Utah to violate the laws of the United States, is one which cannot be sustained. No one can enter the arcana of a man's heart and determine what are his 'intentions.' It is with acts alone that a government can deal, and Mr. Evarts and the rest of us must wait until the Mormons who may now be coming from Europe to this country, or who may hereafter come, commit some crime against the laws ere we can punish them. The American principle is that this country extends an invitation to people of all other lands to come hither and enjoy the blessings of liberty and equality, and any diplomatic instructions in violation of this principle is un-American and in utter contradiction of our loudly proclaimed and proudly vaunted boasts.

On this subject the St. Louis Republican says:

"It is not likely that the Mormon question, which has once again risen into prominence, will ever receive any other solution than that of gradual extirpation through the influence of what in another question of public immorality is called moral suasion, and through the increase of Gentile emigration into Utah."

Commenting on the above paragraph the Omaha Herald of the 16th remarks:

"The Republican is right. But the Mormon question can be readily and swiftly settled by the Mormons themselves. The wild scheme of Secretary Evarts to invoke the co-operation of European governments to prevent the emigration of Mormons to the United States, will amount to nothing. It will be sure to swell the tide by surrounding the work of preaching and proselyting by Mormon missionaries in foreign countries with a new aid to its success. Nothing is more certain than that the astute men of Utah who direct it will turn all such expedients to good account in swelling the numbers of the faithful. If the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church, persecutions are a source of strength to the various sectarian branches into which it is divided, including that of the followers of Joseph Smith and the much greater man, Brigham Young. Nor can a mere local warfare, even though supported by the Federal courts and the imprisonment of such men as Reynolds and Mr. Cannon, whose real offense is that they are Mormons and polygamists, extinguish the influence, while it may harass those who refuse to surrender the odious doctrines of the Mormon Church. All these expedients will prove ineffectual to the wiping away of the obnoxious institution that is destroying the peace and impairing the general welfare of the people of Utah."

The Herald continues with some advice to the "Mormons" on the relinquishment of polygamy, which we do not wish to refer to at present. The Silver Reef Miner of the 13th, after speaking of the circular letter and the opinion of the London Times, says:

"There is a wide difference, however, between spinning a theory and putting a plan into execution. In this instance, the theory is at least a new one, and just about as impracticable as it is new."

"As our London cotemporary insinuates, the proposition looks well enough on paper, but it won't work in practice. It is a tenuous theorem, which no amount of reasoning will invest with the quality of practicability."

The "Mormons" ought to feel much obliged to Secretary Evarts, if he has published the circular letter which has excited to so much discussion, or to the New York Herald's Washington correspondent if he is the author of the sensation. It is an advertisement worth thousands of dollars. It will attract widespread attention and interest on "Mormon" affairs, and open the way for our missionaries in a great many fields which are now difficult of access. Keep it up, gentlemen! Preachers, editors, cabinet ministers and governments! Stir up the world to an investigation of the latter-day work. We court inquiry, we want that which you call "Mormonism" exposed, tested and held up to the gaze of the world, and we recognize the hand of Providence in every movement, be it hostile or other-

wise, which agitates mankind on the "Mormon" question. By this very means shall the wrath of man be made to praise God.

CABINET NONSENSE.

THE Sacramento Record-Union, speaking of the reported attempt of the Government to prevent "Mormon" immigration, shows the impracticability of the scheme, and the folly of assuming that people intend to become breakers of the law. It says:

"The English Government could not exercise any effective supervision in a case of this kind, because to do so would require a degree of espionage which the British public would not tolerate. The same objections of course apply with equal force to any measure which might be applied to prevent the landing of Mormon emigrants at our ports. It would be necessary in such a case to proscribe them for opinion's sake, for the theory that they could be excluded as inchoate lawbreakers is preposterous. Are we to have a set of officials at Castle Gardens, whose duty it shall be to interrogate every emigrant as to his or her religious belief, and is it to be held criminal for any one to say that he or she is a Mormon? That sort of measure may do to talk about vaguely, but the moment the details are inquired into its utter impracticability becomes apparent. It must be realized that to be a Mormon is by no means necessarily to be a bigamist or even a believer in polygamy. The majority of the Mormons in Utah are and always have been monogamists, and there has for several years been a branch of the Church whose members reject polygamy as a tenet altogether. To treat all Mormons as bigamists would therefore be impossible, for they could no doubt in the majority of cases easily disprove any charge of the kind. To refuse them permission to land on the ground that they would, could or should become bigamists after they got to Utah, would be equally out of the question. In fact it is clear that the proposition of the Government does not meet the exigency, and that it is too full of difficulty to warrant the expectation that anything will come of it."

THE SECRETARY'S "BROADSIDE."

THE New York Mail has had a great deal to say lately on the "Mormon" question. It is a Republican journal, and snuffs the breeze of the coming political campaign, which is to be stirred mightily with the sound of a new battle cry. "Death to the surviving twin relic," is to be the slogan of the Republicans. By a vigorous use of this taking sound, it is hoped that public attention will be diverted from the financial question, and other knotty problems that are troubling the waning party in power. Slavery and polygamy were linked together on its platform when it went into the war. Having disposed of the first, its leading spirits now desire the prestige of settling the second. It remains to be seen what the result will be. But it is not impossible that the party itself may, on this very question, go down to defeat and death.

The association of polygamy with slavery was an inconsistency. There is no necessary connection between them. Monogamy might just as well have been joined with slavery as polygamy. One is just as barbaric as the other. That is, both forms of marriage have existed from the earliest ages and have been practised by races that are now called barbarian. The slaveholders of the South were not polygamists, neither were all the abolitionists of the North monogamists, if that term is used in its strict interpretation, and from what we learn of social life at the present time, we fear that there are very few true monogamists among the active opponents of polygamy, whether they be Republicans or Democrats.

The Mail and some other republican organs are sounding the cry a little in advance, by way of a feeler, but we think the Mail is somewhat overdoing the thing, treating its

readers to a daily dose of "Mormonism," and interpreting among its editorials such notes as this:

"The breaking up of Mormonism would be glory enough for our administration."

To which we answer, the breaking up of any system of religion would be infamy enough to any Administration, especially in a country which boasts of its religious freedom.

Here is one of the Mail's paragraphs on this subject:

"The broadside against Mormonism which Secretary Evarts sent to all the European powers has already produced its important result. It is exciting discussion in every country where Mormon missionaries have been engaged in propagating their doctrines. Those who have inclined to yield to the sions of this corps of propagandists will learn that our government has decided to treat polygamy as a crime and to imprison all polygamists. This simple announcement will dry up most of the sources of supply that have been kept up by the 'institution' of Mormonism, in Utah."

We feel some diffidence in Secretary Evarts' side," as the Mail terms it, "we do not know yet what shot has been fired. The letter has not yet appeared that the papers have as a for their remarks, are communications of a Washington correspondent of the New Herald. They may turn baseless as the Herald's some time ago frightened York out of its wits, about wild beasts of a large menagerie being loose in the city; or the Lake sensation concerning wounded suspender buckle. However, we are inclined to the opinion that there is something in the circular letter report, though we not think that either Evarts or any of his colleagues is so silly as to tempt such a scheme as the Herald gives him credit for.

But if this "broadside" delivered, it will have no effect as the Mail anticipates. We are pleased to learn of "the sensation excited in every country where the 'Mormon' missionaries are engaged." That is what we have been trying to do for many years. The great difficulty in our way is unbelief and apathetic condemnation of cause without a hearing. "Broadside," whatever it may be, waking up the world to talk and investigate and discuss "Mormonism." Good enough. Lethargy comes again, fire and "broadside" and keep it up until nations are willing to listen to they oppose.

But it will be no news to the people who "yield to the pressure" of our missionaries that the law in this country against polygamy. That is very plainly our Elders. The subject has frequently discussed in the National Star, the Church organ of Liverpool. The "simple announcement" has been repeated for years. It is no secret. If the representatives of the Government abroad kindly assist our missionaries publicly explaining this matter will aid the latter materially their labors, will pave the way the promulgation of our principles and will not "dry up a source of supply," but to spread a knowledge of the truth and multiply "Mormon" emigration. And we remind the Mail that in the ruling of the Supreme Court, to which it has many times referred, the perfect right of all people to believe in polygamy is clearly sustained, as the offence against the law of '62 defined to be an overt act against peace and good order. "Mormonism" may therefore come as clouds from all nations to this free land, or as doves to their windows, and there is no rightful power in any government on earth to stop them.

The polygamy question, properly viewed, lies in a very narrow compass. Congress has passed a law declaring polygamy a crime, the Supreme Court has ruled that the law is valid; the Administration says it will execute the law, and the Mail adds "if it takes half the army to do it." Now there is neither any need nor any law for the use of the army in this case. It is purely a matter for the courts. There will be no trouble if the courts do as most of the jour-