

a truly Christian community by seeking to promote each other's welfare and happiness regardless of race or creed.

For Heaven's sake, our own sakes and our children's sakes, "Let us have peace."

Respectfully,
W. H. SHEARMAN.

TALK WITH THE UTAH DELEGATE

The New York *World* of October 12th contains the following "interview" by the well known official correspondent of that paper, Frank G. Carpenter, with the Delegate from Utah,

HON. JOHN T. CAINE:

Washington, Oct. 11.—I met John T. Caine, the Territorial Delegate from Utah, last night, and had a talk with him regarding the condition of the Mormon Church. He referred to President Woodruff's pronouncement against plural marriage, and tells me that polygamy is dead in the Territory, that there have been no plural marriages to speak of for years, and that the Gentiles have always had an idea that there were more polygamists than there really were.

"There are now 150,000 Mormons in Utah," said he, "and there have never been more than 2,500 or 3,000 men who have had more than one wife. This is less than two per cent of the male population of Utah. The majority of the polygamists had only one extra wife, and it was only in exceptional cases that they married more than three. The young men among the Mormons have not gone into polygamy. They are the leading power in the Territory today, and they are, to a large extent, running the Church. The Mormon Church at their State convention in 1887, when they adopted a constitution and asked for admission into the Union, passed a resolution prohibiting polygamy, and the doctrine has not been taught in the Church since then. It was the young men who brought about this change. The leaders of the Church and the older men accepted the situation, and from now on every Mormon will have only one wife."

"Does the Church still believe in polygamy?" I asked.

"The people may believe in it, but they believe in obeying the laws of their country, and as these laws are against it they will not practice it. Many of the Mormons went into polygamy against their own wishes. Brigham Young once told me that the greatest trial of his life was the adoption of this principle, and that it was only because he thought it was his duty that he took more than one wife. He said this to me at the theatre one night, and I have no doubt of his sincerity. He considered it a cross, but he believed that polygamy came from God, and he accepted it."

"What kind of a man was Brigham Young?" I asked.

"He was a great man," replied Delegate Caine. "The work of Moses leading the children of Israel through the wilderness was nothing

to his taking that band of Mormons over the untrodden wilderness of the great American desert and of settling them in the heart of it. Moses only traveled a few hundred miles. Brigham's band traversed thousands. It took Brigham Young less than a year to find his land of Canaan, while Moses wandered around for fully forty. Brigham Young will have a great place in history, and the day will come when all Americans will be proud of him."

"Give me a description of his character," said I.

"Brigham Young," replied Delegate Caine, "was an all-around great man. He had an evenly balanced mind and wonderful executive ability. He was able to decide upon anything that came up the moment it was presented to him, and he always grasped things in their details as well as a whole. He had a wonderful amount of practical knowledge, and he built the Temple in Salt Lake City that cost a million dollars and more. He was a very industrious man, and he went to bed early, rose at daybreak, ate plainly and dressed simply. His soul was wrapped up in the Mormon Church, and he cared more for its interests than he did for his own."

"Still, he died rich," said I.

"Yes. His wives were all provided for out of his fortune, and the estate was left in the hands of trustees, so that all were fairly treated. He made the most of his fortune out of the Union Pacific Railroad. He built 100 miles of this road and one of his sons was one of the masters of construction for the Union Pacific. I don't think that Brigham Young cared anything for money as money. He valued it only as it enabled him to carry out his plans. He was a very valuable adviser to the Church, and it is largely due to him that our people are in so prosperous a condition as they are today."

"Does the Mormon Church own much property?" I asked.

"No," replied Delegate Caine, "it does not." The United States Congress passed an act taking our property from us, or rather stealing it. It was nothing more than a steal, and there are other churches in Utah today which own more property than the Mormons. When Speaker Reed was in Utah a year or so ago he said to me in that drawing tone of his: 'The Gentiles complain that you Mormons won't sell any of your property.' I showed him that a large proportion of Salt Lake City was owned by the Gentiles, the Hebrews, and others and asked him how this could be if the Mormons would not sell."

"Do your people hold their title in fee simple or does the greater part of the property in the Territory belong directly or indirectly to the Church?"

"In fee simple, of course," replied Mr. Caine. "The Church has nothing to say as to what I shall do with my house or my farm any more than the Presbyterian or Methodist has to say regarding the property of its members. I suppose

there is no part of the United States where so many people own their own homes as in Utah. Nine-tenths of the Mormons own their own homesteads, and the census of mortgages will show a smaller number among them than among any other class of people in the United States. When Brigham Young began to build up the Territory he urged the newcomers not to rent houses, and advised them to buy or enter a piece of land and put up a house on it.

"If you can't put up a house," said he, "put up a shanty. If you can't put up a shanty, build a dug-out, and in the meantime live in a tent." The people followed his advice, and the result is they are well-to-do. As to selling their property, the Mormons are good business men, at least as much so as the average members of other churches. They know the value of their property. They do not need to sell and they only do so when they get their price."

"Does not the Church eat up a great part of the substance of the people?" I asked.

"Not more so than other churches," was the reply. "We believe in giving one-tenth of our income to the Church, and we believe in supporting our Church ourselves. You never get a collection plate shoved under your nose when you go to listen to a Mormon sermon. The matter of giving is a matter of one's own conscience. No one investigates whether a man gives a full tenth of his income or not. If he can afford to cheat the Lord we think that the Church can stand it, and that the Lord will settle with him by and by."

"What is the Mormon idea of hell?" said I.

"Well, we don't believe in terrifying people into joining the Church by preaching brimstone damnation. We don't take a man by the nape of his neck and the seat of his breeches and hold him over the burning fires of hell and shake him back and forth and turn him over and over until he squirms and sizzles into repentance. We believe in a future state, but not in that kind of a future state. We think that the deeds of this life will be rewarded and punished in the next according as they are good or bad. We believe in the atonement, but we hardly think that the Lord will take the time hardened sinner who has committed all the crimes in the decalogue to heaven by telegraph, just because he repents with his dying breath. We believe in a future state of progression towards perfection, and we think that religion should be a matter of works as well as faith. Many of our Gentiles have a wrong idea of Mormonism. We are nearer the Bible today than nine-tenths of the churches, and I believe there is as much Simon-pure Christianity taught in Utah as there is in any other place of its population in the United States. The Book of Mormon is only a supplement to the Bible. It does not take the place of it. We believe in the ten commandments, and we know the Scriptures as well as the Gentiles,