

tinued, as is claimed by some, is further proven by the number of convictions for sexual offenses against the laws of Congress in the District Courts of the United States for the Territory. The number of convictions for that class of offenses since September 1, 1888, is as follows:

COURT.	Polygamy or bigamy.	Adultery.	Fornication.	Unlawful cohabitation.	Total.
First Dist., Provo.....	2	42	10	131	185
First Dist., Ogden.....	4	1	1	102	108
B Second Dist., Beaver	3	1	1	19	24
Third Dist., Salt Lake	3	1	1	42	47
	6	46	11	294	357

Note A, 192.—This number includes convictions for adultery and fornication, not having been separated in the report to the Commission.

Note B.—The small number in the Beaver district may partially be accounted for by the fact that the court records were destroyed by fire early in the year, and consequently there have been fewer prosecutions.

A MARKED INFLUENCE.

In the opinion of the Commission, the influences brought to bear under the Act of Congress, creating it and those amendatory thereof, together with the vigorous administration of the criminal laws by the courts, have had a marked influence in restraint of polygamy. That which, a few years ago, was practiced openly, and flaunted in the face of the world as the boast and pride of this peculiar people has been driven to cover and the secrecy of other crimes. If plural marriages are now celebrated it is done in the secret chambers of the temples and endowment houses, where the light of the sun never enters, and no eyes but those of priests and neophytes are allowed to witness the ceremonies.

If polygamy is practiced, it is with the secrecy with which the burglar guards his housebreaking and the thief his larcenies. Few convictions are had for polygamy. Few polygamous marriages can be proven within three years, the period of limitation, but the trials and convictions for unlawful cohabitation and kindred offenses, a frequent incident to polygamy, and generally with indications that they are of a polygamous character, are, as will be seen by the statistics presented, quite numerous in each of the three District Courts of the Territory.

REGARDED AS MARTYRS.

Those who are convicted invariably regard themselves, and are regarded by the church, as martyrs. When one is convicted, the usual announcement in the organ of the church is that he has been convicted of "living with his wives," or of "living his religion." Those eminent in the church who have been convicted of sexual crimes, on emerging from the penitentiary, have in some instances been met at the prison doors by brass bands and a procession with banners, escorted to their homes to be toasted, extolled and feasted, as though it were the

conclusion of some brilliant and honorable achievement, rather than the expiration of a sentence and expiation for a crime committed against the laws of the country, and a disgraceful confinement within the walls of a penal institution.

It is not regarded as any disgrace by the Mormons of Utah to have served a term in the penitentiary for any of the sexual offenses inhibited by the laws of Congress. On the contrary, it is regarded as a badge of merit, and as entitling the persons so convicted to promotion in the church, as has been the case in some instances.

The law, as administered by the courts, mercifully keeps open the door to escape punishment for all convicted of polygamy by offering them a suspension of sentence and amnesty for the past, upon the sole condition that they make a promise in open court to obey and live within the laws, and keep the same, yet few accept the offer so graciously made, nearly all preferring the prison life and its privations to a renunciation of the article of their creed which puts them under the ban of the law, and at war, as it were, with the government which gives them protection.

Fear of punishment for their crimes, dread of further and more stringent legislation, and a policy dictated by the hope of Statehood at an early period, when they would be the State, and make and administer the laws in accord with their peculiar institutions and pretended revelations, are sufficient motives to account for the prudent submission that is shown at present.

WHAT WOULD RESULT.

In view of the late great effort made by them to bring about Statehood for Utah, this thought suggests the inquiry:—Suppose the Edmunds law of 1882, and the Edmunds-Tucker act of 1887, were repealed, and all things placed subject to the same control and conditions as prior to their enactment, how long would affairs remain even in their present condition? How long before the Presidents, Apostles, Elders and the Priesthood generally, would parade the streets at the head of their harems? How long would any Gentiles or non-Mormons be permitted to hold, or exercise the duties of any office or place of trust in the Territory? How long, indeed, until a system of boycotting—which the Priesthood knows only too well how to institute and make thoroughly efficient—would be brought into active working order, and the Gentile element, with its advanced civilization, its trade and its traffic, be driven from the Territory, and the Mormon theocracy be made supreme? Speculation upon the queries is profitless while the supposed condition of affairs is improbable, but their consideration may enable those who care to consider them to judge of the present outward marks of the seeming acceptance of the situation, and of the acquiescence in and obedience to the law by the Mormon people, while they insist through their newspapers and from their pulpits that these laws of Congress

are unconstitutional and void, and should neither be enforced nor obeyed, and who fail to draw any distinction between opinions upon the subject of religion and the commission of crimes against the highest law-making power of the nation, and the universal sentiment of the enlightened world.

ELECTIONS HELD.

Since September 17th, 1888, there have been held under the supervision of the Commission one general election, one election for Delegate in Congress, and twenty-three municipal elections, a total of twenty-five elections.

At these elections the following number of officers have been chosen:

Delegate in Congress.....	1
Territorial Officers.....	3
Members of the Territorial Legislature.....	36
County Officers.....	78
Municipal and Precinct Officers.....	244

Total.....	362
The Commission has appointed—	
Registration Officers.....	363
Judges of Election.....	1,284

Total..... 1,647

There were registered voters in Utah—
In 1887..... 19,720
In 1888..... 24,925
In 1889..... 31,201

The increased registration in 1888 over 1887 was 5,205, or 26 3/10 per cent.
1889 over 1888 was 6,276, or 25 2/10 per cent.
1889 over 1887 was 11,481, or 58 2/10 per cent.

The number of polygamous cases reported to the Commission by its registration officers since September 17th, 1888, was twenty-nine (29).

No registration officer belonging to the Mormon Church reported any such case from his precinct, although reports of such cases not infrequently came to the Commission unofficially.

In order to promote, as far as practicable, a fair and impartial election, the Commission, on the 31st of July, 1889, issued, and caused to be published in the newspapers throughout the Territory the following circular of advice and instruction.

OFFICE OF THE UTAH COMMISSION,
Salt Lake City, Utah,
July 31st, 1889.

To the Officers of Election and Voters of Utah Territory:

The Utah Commission, being charged with registration and elections in the Territory, after due consideration, have thought it advisable to make this public appeal to the registration officers, judges of election and voters at the election to be held on the 5th day of August next.

The Commission is desirous of having, and as far as it has authority of law, is determined to have a fair and impartial election; that everything like fraud shall be put down; that every lawfully registered voter in the Territory shall have the privilege of depositing his ballot freely as he wishes, and without intimidation, and that none who are not legally registered shall be permitted to vote, no matter what may be the circumstances.

The Commission suggests that judges of election in passing upon challenges at the polls shall do so impartially and fairly, rejecting none who are legally qualified, admitting none who are not, keeping in mind that the presumptions of law are in favor of the elector until the contrary appears.

Attention is respectfully called to the following section of the election law: "Any person who shall disturb