

pace. Let any intelligent person purchase a number and peruse it, and he will at once understand why this is so. The issue for the present month contains a number of extracts from his journal relative to the present status of the European Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the *Advocate* indulges in his comment:

"Our readers will recall our repeated assertions of the decline of Mormon proselytism in Europe. The facts show that whenever the different governments have adopted a stringent prohibitory policy, the Mormons have been unable to prosecute their schemes, or so-called missions, successfully. On the contrary, where they have been left free, they have gained a large following. We sincerely believe that if all nations would follow the example of Switzerland and Germany they would soon extirpate the evil. At present their most prosperous field is in the Scandinavian countries, especially Denmark. Our efforts for the salvation of Utah would be greatly lessened if the annual importation of 5,000 Mormons could be cut off; and this could be largely brought about by sending missionaries to these countries to counteract the influences of Mormon emissaries."

This is an admission that in order to compete with the indefatigable "Mormon" missionaries and a live religion such as they proclaim, the sectarian preachers who make theology a trade have to be aided by the repressive power of tyrannical governments in their favor. That they may have the ghost of a chance in the competition religious toleration toward "Mormons" must be abolished while the powerless Methodist or other sectarian must, in the contest breathe the free air of religious liberty. If the hands of the "Mormon" are securely tied behind him, the militant sectarian armed with a ponderous club will stand some chance in a contest with him. Consequently it is very necessary in the sectarian mind that the other nations of Europe should follow the contracted and illiberal examples of Germany and Switzerland in their treatment of "Mormon" Elders.

The swelling of the ranks of the Latter-day Saints by the flowing hitherward of the fruits of the labors of the bravest, most intrepid and successful class of proselyters the world ever saw, greatly disturbs certain pious souls. Their "Efforts for the salvation of Utah (Heaven save the mark) are hindered by this annual influx. But the suggestion of sending "Missionaries to those countries to counteract the influence of 'Mormon' emissaries" is good. Let it be followed up, and let the proclamation be sent abroad after the language of the Methodist Conference resolutions formulated at Ogden—that "Mormonism should not be reasoned with but stamped out." And by the way should the idea be practically adopted, the missionaries sent on that special errand will have to get up early in the morning, and keep in active service in order to follow up the industrious and indefatigable "Mormon" Elders.

Won't some power stop the "Mormon" immigration that these holy men may proceed with the herculean task before them—the "salvation of Utah"? Be these the saviors who have come to Zion? Certainly, for have they not lifted up their voices that her people might be brought into temporal bondage, that when they are bowed low in the dust of political serfdom they may be brought to a condition of preparation to have sectarian spiritual illumination poured into their souls.

WAR VESSELS.

ONE of the strongest indications that war between the great powers of the earth is both certain and near at hand is the preparations that are being made in the building and purchasing of war vessels. The recent announcement in our dispatches that the British government had been purchasing a number of vessels lately, notably the *Oregon* and *America*, the two fastest steamers afloat, with a view to fitting them up for war vessels or for the transportation of war supplies, is a pretty fair indication of the spirit of the times so far as that nation is concerned. Rumors have been frequent too of late in regard to the doings and intentions of Russia in that line. It would seem though that she is more subtle in her movements and endeavors to avoid creating suspicion in what she does. Men who have been presumed to be her agents have been in England and various American ports, trying to privately negotiate for vessels, and, according to a Philadelphia dispatch, an order has been received by a ship-building firm of that city for six fast-going iron cruisers of the *Esmeralda* pattern in the same way. The dispatch says:

"These vessels were nominally ordered by private gentlemen, just as they might order steam yachts, but they will be for sale when completed, and the offers of only one European government will be entertained, and it is thought that that government will be Russia. Three paramount features will be insisted on—19 knots speed, a coal-carrying capacity for twenty-five days' steaming and buoyancy for three steel-ripped cannon of large caliber."

The *Esmeralda*, the vessel after which these are to be patterned, was built on

the Tyne by the firm of Sir W. G. Armstrong & Co., for the Chilean government, and made her trial trip in July last, at which time the mean speed developed by her was 18½ knots per hour. From this it will be seen that she is an exceedingly fast boat, and in point of construction and armament is one of the most formidable vessels afloat. She is the first example of the protected cruiser class that has been built, and has attracted great attention among ship-builders and navies.

She is a three-decked steel-plated vessel, with twin-screw propellers, driven by two independent sets of machinery and is of 4,000 tons burden. She is so constructed, with watertight compartments, cellular cofferdams, etc., that though riddled with shot she can still be kept afloat, and extra protection from fire is afforded to the vital parts of the ship, containing the magazines, shell-rooms, engines, boilers, etc. She carries 600 tons of coal, which, unlike the arrangement in most other vessels, is stowed away in bunkers between the main and lower decks.

In dimensions this vessel is 270 by 42 feet with a draught of water when fully laden of 18½ feet. She carries two 25-ton ten-inch breech-loading guns; six 4-ton six-inch breech-loaders and two rapid firing six pounders, as well as a number of machine guns. The construction of the *Esmeralda* marked a new era in naval warfare and the ordering of six more of the same pattern, presumably for the Russian Government, is an indication that she is making preparations for an active and bloody contest of power with the "mistress of the sea."

ANTI-"MORMON" DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH.

In this issue is a communication bearing somewhat upon the situation in Idaho. Chief Justice J. T. Morgan has, in effect, as we understand it, ruled that the acts of the last Legislature of that Territory which define the qualifications of officers, jurors and electors are valid. Should his action be sustained by even one of his Associate Justices in the event of a test case, being carried to the Supreme Court of the Territory, the effect will be revolutionary. The laws referred to exclude all members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the privilege of sitting as jurors, holding any office in any county or precinct or voting at any election.

As a refresher to the memories of our readers we here reproduce the test oath incorporated in the election law, and as the one which forms a part of the law in relation to the qualification of officers and jurors is similar in character, it will be seen how sweeping and tyrannical the measures are. The oath forms a portion of Sec. 16 of the act:

"You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you are a male citizen of the United States over the age of twenty-one years. That you have actually resided in this Territory for four months last past, and in this county thirty days. That you are not a bigamist or polygamist. That you are not a member of any order, organization or association which teaches, advises, counsels or encourages its members, devotees or any other persons to commit the crime of bigamy or polygamy or any other crime defined by law as a duty arising or resulting from membership in such order, organization or association, or which practices bigamy or polygamy, or plural or celestial marriage, as a doctrinal rite of such organization. That you do not either publicly or privately, or in any manner whatever, teach, advise, counsel or encourage any person to commit the crime of bigamy or polygamy or any other crime defined by law, either as a religious duty or otherwise. That you regard the Constitution of the United States and the laws thereof and of this Territory as interpreted by the courts as the supreme law of the land, the teachings of any order, organization or association to the contrary notwithstanding; and that you have not previously voted at this election. So help you God."

The penalties for violations of the law are defined in the following sections:

"SEC. 44. If any person offering to vote at any election in this Territory shall wilfully, corruptly, and falsely swear, or affirm, touching his qualifications as a voter, he shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the Territorial prison for a term not less than three nor more than ten years.

"SEC. 45. If any person, not a legal voter, and possessing all the qualifications prescribed for voters in this act, or who is laboring under any of the disabilities mentioned in Section 2 of this act, shall vote at any election in this Territory, or shall hold or exercise any office, or position of public trust, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or both so fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court."

In the event of the monstrous enactments being finally upheld by the courts, in accordance with the initiatory proceedings of Chief Justice Mor-

gan, it is not difficult to picture the condition that would ensue, in the present state of feeling against the Saints. They will, in that case, be at the mercy of a host of conspirators of the most unscrupulous kind. They would be under the heel of a lot of conscienceless "traders in public office," as they have been defined by an Idaho official who has had ample opportunity to weigh them in the balance. The better part of the population—the "Mormons"—who are admitted to be ahead of all others in business and official integrity and all the virtues, will be subject to every species of indignity from those who are inferior to them in every substantial quality. They will be subject to be robbed, plundered and abused, without any means of redress, by the villainous class of the population, as they are already robbed of their rights as citizens.

The judicial districts of Idaho each comprise several counties. The sessions of the court are held in the several counties by turns. In that of Bear Lake, where the population are almost exclusively "Mormons," a jury could not be found within its limits, unless resort was had perhaps to semi-transient residents along the Oregon Short Line Railroad.

And for what reason has this gloomy prospect been shaped for the Saints of our sister Territory? Not for any overt acts that they have committed or intend to perpetrate. The infamous outrage is framed and applied solely on account of their religious belief. Only that and nothing more. For any man to attempt to claim that they are left unmolested in their religious belief now would be a parody on common sense and an egregious departure from truth. They are disfranchised, robbed of their rights, precious to every properly constituted man, and laid liable to be the hapless victims of a crowd of the blackest villains that ever walked the earth, for the terrible crime of believing something. They are thus trampled under foot of the mean and mercenary on account of something over which they have no control. Belief is the result of evidence. No matter how unsubstantial that evidence may be esteemed by others, to them it is sufficient upon which to base their hopes in relation to the future life, or any other subject; they have an inalienable right to retain it, and in fact cannot rid themselves of it if they would, except by the presentation of contra-evidence to them stronger than that which induces them to assume their present position.

Belief being a matter beyond the control of the persons in whose minds it exists; laws which rob them of rights and privileges because of it, are both senseless and tyrannical. It would be equally consistent to pass enactments making a specified color of the hair, the stature or rotundity of the physique, or the tone of the voice a qualification for holding office, sitting on juries or voting at elections.

There is a point that can be reached when human endurance is liable to fly the track. It is to be hoped that the present attack will not stretch so far as that, because of the consequences that would ensue from such a climax.

The spectacle presented by this crusade is a sad one. It is a damaging commentary upon this great nation. On the one hand is an upright and conscientious people ground down and oppressed, and on the other a host of soulless tyrants filling up their cup of iniquity.

THE "MORMON" PROBLEM.

WE are not at war with the government of the United States, nor do we propose to be placed, in reality or by misrepresentation, in a position of antagonism to the nation of which we form a part. We reverence the Constitution, which we believe was inspired of God; we cherish the memory of the patriots who framed it; we accept their enunciation of the inalienable rights of man, and, in common with all freemen who love this glorious land and desire to see its noble institutions perpetuated, we claim the right to life, the right to liberty and the right to pursue happiness, as our own consciences dictate, so long as we do not infringe upon the rights of others.

Ours is a history replete with strange events. Born and nurtured in the belief, as most of us were, that these blessings were ours by a dual birthright—first from Him who created all men equal, finally from sires and matrons who shed their blood and sacrificed their all, to preserve inviolate and bequeath them as a sacred heritage to posterity—we have seen with sorrow a disposition manifested by some to deny and even deprive us of those rights to which our claim is equal with and our title no less valid than their own.

What is there, we ask, in our religious belief, strange and peculiar though it may seem, or in its free and peaceable exercise under the Constitution, to provoke or justify the wide-spread feeling of enmity and distrust, of which advantage has been taken by some of its chief authors and promoters in our midst—adventurers, having nothing to lose but everything to gain from the fruition of their fell designs—to have inaugurated the reign of terror now prevailing within our once peaceful and happy borders?

We believe that, in fulfillment of prophecy, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, the God of heaven, in pursuance of His design to redeem the earth and regenerate the human race, has restored in the nineteenth century

the fulness of the Everlasting Gospel, hitherto absent for ages on account of transgression and apostasy.

We believe in immediate revelation from heaven, whereby the Creator and Ruler of the universe makes known His will to his creatures upon the earth, in accordance with the numerous needs and ever-varying circumstances of mortal life.

We believe in the administration of living prophets and apostles, inspired men; in the spiritual gifts and graces of the Gospel; in the power and authority of the Holy Priesthood; and in every doctrine and ordinance enunciated by authority from God, whether revealed through living oracles or inculcated by the Christian Bible, a record confirming in every respect the tenets, rites and doctrines of this Church, as made known and commanded by modern revelation.

Among the principles thus newly revealed is the revelation on the eternity of the marriage covenant, including plurality of wives, wherein it is shown that men of blameless life, of unimpeachable virtue and integrity, may espouse, under sacred regulations and by their mutual consent, more than one wife; covenanting to support, care for, protect, acknowledge and maintain them and their children, in holy matrimonial and paternal relationships; that the husband and father, taking upon himself these added responsibilities, with wives and mothers willing to share his lot, by laboring and sacrificing for his family on earth, may possess them eternally in heaven, wherein, it is held, is the assurance of celestial exaltation.

To confirm his belief in this sacred principle, and, justify to others his acceptance of it as a direct, divine injunction, the "Mormon" polygamist points to the practice of the self-same doctrine in the days of the ancient patriarchs and prophets. Says he:

"Our faith and practice for which we are sought to be condemned and punished, is the faith and practice of the best and holiest of God's children. If we are sinners in this respect, then Abraham who is distinguished by the Lord Himself as the friend of God, was a sinner. If we are sinners, then Jacob and Moses and Elkanah, Solomon and David, and a host of others too numerous to mention, were also sinners. Even Jesus Himself, the Being whom we adore as our Redeemer and the Author of our salvation, called the Eternal Father whom He worshipped, and whom we are commanded to worship, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, showing that the God of heaven himself attached no condemnation to these men for their practice of patriarchal marriage; but in many instances commanded it, provided laws for its arrangement, and called those who practiced it His friends and men after His own heart. And, what is still more worthy of remark, that in choosing a lineage from which His beloved Son Jesus should descend, He chose a lineage distinguished in the earth among all nations, as polygamic. The most renowned ancestors of the Savior of the world, and to whom He most frequently alluded, were polygamists."

In reply to the oft-repeated assertion from unfriendly sources, that "polygamy" is no part of the "Mormon" religion, we need only present the following, which ought to satisfy the most incredulous. It is an excerpt from the report of the Utah (anti-"Mormon") Commission, to the Secretary of the Interior, November, 1884:

"This article of their faith (polygamy) is as much an essential and substantial part of their creed as their belief in baptism, repentance for the forgiveness of sins and the like. * * * All orthodox Mormons believe polygamy to be right, and that it is an essential part of their creed."

This, is the head and front of our offending. For the sake of these views, we have borne, without retaliation, wrongs that would "stir a fever in the blood of age, and make the infant's sinews strong as steel." The cries of "treason," "rebellion," "immorality," "priestly despotism" and other infamous falsehoods flung broadcast in relation to the "Mormon" people, all take their rise in these and causes equally innocent of any such intention or effect. Our "treason," is the treason of the Bible, which predicts the coming of the King of kings, to reign on earth a thousand years, and establish a Sabbath era of universal peace and righteousness. Our "rebellion" is of that character which dares to think and protest against the unjust acts of a horde of petty tyrants, who are seeking to deprive us of the commonest rights of men, and hang upon the limbs of freedom and American citizenship the clanking chains of an absolute despotism; "rebellion"—save the mark!—which has ever preferred to suffer wrong rather than do wrong; which has patiently endured for fifty years the unprovoked violence of mobs, the destruction of property, the shedding of blood, the infliction of outrages compared with which death were mercy, repeated expulsion from homes thrice earned and established, and the culminating horror of a compelled exodus, in dead of winter, of an entire community, men, women and little children, across frozen rivers and barren plains into the heart of a then sterile and forbidding wilderness; "rebellion" which, while fleeing barefooted and bleeding over the snows and prairies of an untrodden waste, sent five hundred soldiers at their country's call to fight its battles in Mexico, and one of whose earliest acts on reaching the Rocky Mountains, then alien territory, was to

raise the starry banner, take possession of the soil in the name of the United States, and has ever since been knocking for the admission of the State of Deseret into the sovereign sisterhood by the American Union.

So much for "Mormon rebellion," during the first twenty years of its existence—a fair sample of all subsequent insurrections of this "dangerous and disloyal people."

As for "Mormon immorality," it is of that kind which encourages men to marry, and makes it possible for all women to do likewise; which would give every helpless, unprotected female, desiring it, a husband and a home, thus enabling both sexes to honorably fulfill the measure of their creation; keeping pure the springs of life, forbidding and punishing fornication, seduction, adultery and infanticide, stamping out prostitution, and making the shield of matrimony broad enough to shelter under itsegis all redundancy of womankind, and redner spinsterhood and monogamy matters of choice and volition, and not as now, in thousands of instances, a cruel necessity enforced by law.

Such in brief is the "Mormon Problem," which, correctly interpreted, means simply this: What shall be done with a little handful of peaceable, honest, industrious, loyal, God-fearing American citizens, who, driven repeatedly from their homes by religious bigotry and sectional intolerance, sought out a refuge in the savage desert, built up and beautified an Eden in the midst of its barrenness, where they had hoped to remain unmolested by further acts of oppression and be permitted to worship God and practice the teachings of the Christian Bible, according to the dictates of their consciences and the revelations of the Divine will?

THE PRIVILEGE OF LEGAL WIVES.

WE have heard of legal wives having been subpoenaed recently to appear before the Grand Jury, presumably for the object of obtaining testimony to convict their husbands of having or cohabiting with other wives. We would again remind all such that they cannot be compelled to answer a single question propounded to them by that body or by the Prosecuting Attorney in attendance. When such a wife is brought before the Grand Jury, or before the Court, it will be quite proper for her to ask before submitting to the catechising process if the object is to criminate her husband, in which case she can refuse to reply to any of their interrogatories, whether relevant or not, and she will be sustained in so doing, and paid the usual witness fee the same as if she had testified. We have good reason to believe that advantage has been taken in some instances heretofore of the ignorance of wives in regard to their privileges in this respect, and we hope for the future that they will not only understand but firmly claim their rights under the law.

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