

The fact that plural marriage, or rather misinformation, exaggeration and wilful falsehood concerning it, have been the chief topic of that unprincipled sheet for years, and its unfailing resort when hard up for a subject; and now that is taken away. The fact that polygamy has been the pretence under which that organ of libel has clamored for legislation that would turn over this Territory to the minority, and now that specious plea is removed.

These and a dozen more reasons are ground for thinking that the manifesto is a source of chagrin and vexation to the hounds of the press who have been yelping "polygamy" for years, and who have fed and fattened on it until now.

Their insincerity is patent from the fact that while canting about morality, they have encouraged those forms of vice which have crept into Utah society and, have expressed joy when Young Utah has dipped into those sloughs of evil.

After rushing around the subject and pretending to reason upon it without touching it, the same writer, in his accustomed dodging and dishonest style, shifts the onus of the question from the anti-"Mormon" press to the broad shoulders of "the American people." He says:

"The American people hesitate more than any other people on earth in attacking religious beliefs. They do not care what form of worship any man or any class of men adopt, so long as they keep their hands out of what concerns immediately the personal or social or political affairs of their neighbors."

We laid no charge at the door of "the American people." It was the local double-tongued "Mormon"-eating press that we spoke of. And all the roundabout talk concerning "the American people" is wide of the mark, as he well understands. It is all of a piece with charging "disloyalty to the government," when we expose the ambitious schemes and lying reports of some Federal official, who tries to make capital out of the "Mormon" question. No "servant of the people" is the Federal Government, no miserable writer of falsehood is the American people.

We do not believe that the scribe who has abused the living, defamed the dead, vilified everybody, who has asked for fair play for the "Mormons," and even now wants to rob the majority in this Territory of every political right because they will not vote as he wishes, desires peace in this Territory, nor the harmony which is likely to be estab-

lished between them and the nation, if it shall be of any benefit to the "Mormon" people. And ever since the declaration was promulgated, he has endeavored with all his little might to ridicule it, misinterpret it, and explain its force away. These are grounds enough for one day.

MORE COMMENTS OF THE PRESS.

FOLLOWING are a few more clippings from the prominent papers of the country on the subject of the Declaration of President Woodruff and its endorsement by the General Conference.

The *Boston Traveller* has been a very spiteful assailant of the Latter-day Saints, apparently unable to see any truth in "Mormonism," or to believe that any good could come out of Utah. But on the 7th inst. the following appeared in the *Traveller* in an editorial:

"The most important step taken by the Mormon Church in recent years is that involved in the official declaration made yesterday at the general conference of that organization, forbidding in the future any marriage which is in violation of the laws of the land, a declaration which was unanimously accepted by the conference as authoritative and binding. This action settles the fate of polygamy in Utah."

The *Boston Herald* puts these pertinent queries:

"Who tells the truth about the practice of polygamy in Utah? Governor Thomas asserts that the conflict today with Mormonism is as clearly defined as ever, and that, whatever the Mormon authorities may have to say, no earthly power can exact from the Church any declarations opposed to polygamy. On the other hand, President Woodruff has announced that he intends to submit to the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, which forbids plural marriages, and to use all his influence with the members of the Church over which he presides to induce them to do likewise. Today the contention is transferred from the Gentile to the Mormon community. It is the question of obedience to law. In the original plan of the Mormon Church polygamy was not regarded as a necessity, and it can be set aside whenever the Mormon leaders say so, without interfering with their ecclesiastical system. While the people may look with favor upon plural marriages, it would seem as if the leaders had already decided to yield to the government and to abandon polygamy."

The *Boston Post* devotes considerable space to the subject. We can give only a few extracts from an able article:

"When President Woodruff, the head of the Mormon Church of Latter-day Saints, proclaimed his revelation against the further practice of polygamy, two weeks ago, the announcement was received with incredulity."

"The action of the conference of the Mormon Church at Salt Lake City on Monday, however, sets at rest any

doubt which has existed as to the formal surrender on this long-contested point."

"It is impossible to question the sincerity of an act which is thus sustained by the authority of every form known to the organization from which it proceeds; at least, until conduct shall be observed proving its insincerity. As it now stands, polygamy is at an end and the Mormon Church itself will be required to deal with the perplexing question yet remaining as to the status of the plural wives of unions contracted under the former 'revelations.'"

"What remains to be done for the regeneration of this community may be left to be accomplished by the ordinary forces of civilization—schools and commerce and the increasing intercourse with the rest of the world."

The *Boston Globe* treats the matter in this way:

"The Mormon Church has formally forbidden polygamy in future, at least while the laws of the land are what they are. The president of the Church has issued this decree by and with the advice and consent of the Elders.

It will be noticed that polygamy is not condemned on moral or religious, but only on political grounds. The constitution of the Church enjoins upon all Mormons to be good citizens and obey the laws. On this ground only is polygamy forbidden.

Nevertheless the decree is the most radical change that has ever been made in the Mormon Church. If it is observed in good faith it will not be long before the wealthy and populous Territory of Utah must be admitted as a State."

The annexed is from the *New Haven Register*, also a strong opponent of the "Mormons":

"The Mormon conference voted unanimously to sustain President Woodruff in his action in abolishing polygamy. The articles of faith adopted contain nothing that can be construed as supporting hostility to the laws of the country, and the attitude of the leaders is one of submission. As Mr. Cannon remarked, 'there is no use kicking against sixty millions of people.' We are glad that the church has taken this important step and see no reason to doubt that polygamy is about at an end. The power of the church is sufficient to compel all believers to abide by the decision of the conference."

The *Syracuse, New York, Journal* says:

"The most important step taken by the Mormon Church in recent years is that involved in the official declaration at the general conference of that organization, forbidding in the future any marriage which is in violation of the laws of the land, a declaration which was unanimously accepted by the conference as authoritative and binding. This action settles the fate of polygamy in Utah, which has had the support of the Mormon Church until it became evident that both Mormonism and its polygamous practices would together have to go."

The *New Haven (Conn.) Register* has a two-column editorial on the "Mormons," in which it treats the subject exhaustively. We make a few extracts. After giving the history of the polygamy question, the views of its opponents and the decla-