

The closing sentence of the remarks we have quoted, contains two positive falsehoods, from the obloquy of uttering which we challenge Col. Robertson to free himself. If there are any plural marriages of recent date of which he is cognizant, let him furnish the evidence. Marshals, grand juries, prosecuting attorneys and district courts are watching and waiting for such information. If defiances of the Government are being hurled, at conferences, they can be quoted and thus proof can be produced. If he does not bring forward some cases of polygamy, and some citations of defiance of the Government, he will stand accused of wilful falsehood. We charge him with it, here and now. We say nothing of his motives. We merely deny his words and demand that he produce his proofs.

It is by just such means as this "interview" that the country is deceived in regard to the "Mormon" question. There are no words too strong that can be uttered in condemnation of such a course. Only politicians, using the term in its lowest signification, hirelings of the pulpit and harpies of the press would be guilty of such proceedings. When the tone of society is raised they will very soon disappear or be utterly condemned.

Against the interested utterances of the Utah Commissioner we append the following. This is from the *Sacramento Record Union*:

"President Woodruff of the Mormon Church has issued an address in which he advises the Church membership to obey the law and cease from plural marriage. He denies warmly that since the affirmation of the constitutionality of the anti-polygamy law by the Supreme Court he and his church have advocated plural marriage, or defiance of the law. We believe Woodruff to be sincere in the advice he gives his followers. He is wise enough to understand that it is useless to attempt to defy the United States of America, and that submission only is left to the Mormons. He prefers that it come with peace rather than with force and arms."

And this from the *Denver News*:

"President Woodruff in the most solemn manner declares that the charges of the Utah Commission that forty plural marriages have been contracted since June last, and that in public discourse the leaders of the Church have taught, encouraged and urged the continuance of polygamy, is false. 'We are not teaching polygamy or plural marriage,' he says, 'nor permitting any person to enter into its practice.' If they were, and if such marriages were solemnized, the law makes it the duty of the officers of the United States to arrest and bring such parties to trial, and if found guilty to punish them. A declaration of innocence on the part of the President of the Church is sufficient until the contrary is established. The burden of proof is on the government. If the latter cannot establish its charges they must fall to the ground. No party can be adjudged guilty until after a fair and impartial trial."

### IT CRAZES THEM.

IT SEEMS as though the "Mormon" question turns the brain of two-thirds of the editors in these United States. More nonsense is published editorially on this subject than on any other topic of public interest. Not only is the most astounding ignorance exhibited concerning this people and their doctrines and doings, but the most absurd conclusions are reached in reasoning on the matters involved therein.

Here is the *St. Paul Globe*, a paper of prominence, commenting on the alleged Republican success in Wyoming because "The Mormon men and all the Mormon women voted solidly the Republican ticket." And the conclusion it reaches is this:

"They control the member of Congress, and will evidently have a mortgage on the coming Senators. Under these circumstances, anti-Mormon measures in Congress will not greatly distress the Saints. There may be a good deal of thunder in it, but little rude and destructive lightning."

Now the truth is, nobody knows, as yet, how many "Mormons" in Wyoming voted at all; nor how many cast their ballots for the Republicans and how many for the Democrats; and it is certain that "all the Mormon women" did not vote for anybody, as there are quite a number who are not voting citizens, and others who take no interest in politics. And, further, all the speculations on this matter indulged in by the press is founded on rumor and guess-work.

But suppose the facts are as surmised, and that two Republican Senators and one Republican Representative are sent to the United States Congress through the majority secured by "Mormon" votes. What then? Does it follow that anybody will have a "mortgage" on the gentlemen who may be elected to these positions? Is not this an exceedingly rash and "previous" implication against them, whoever they may be?

And should they prove to be men who are "mortgaged" to any person or party, will one man in the House and two men in the Senate render abortive the efforts of the great masses of members in both bodies? Will they turn into mere thunder all the darts of lightning from the hundreds of electric statesmen, anxious to strike the "Mormons" and secure public approval?

The *Globe* must be daft. The common craze which afflicts the editorial fraternity when they touch

the "Mormon" question has evidently seized the *Globe* writer, and must have inspired the nonsense that dropped from his pencil on the 24th of September.

### BOTH DEFINITE AND AUTHORITY.

FOR a long time the press of the country and many influential persons have repeatedly stated, that if in some authoritative way it should be announced that the solemnization of plural marriages by the "Mormon" Church should be discontinued, there would be no further issue between the Government and the Latter-day Saints. In this announcement the "Liberal" organ in this city has been the most prominent and pronounced, repeating the statement over and over again for years.

Compliance with the laws was said to be the object to be effected. Federal officials, great and small, echoed this cry, and while many of them showed but little reverence for such laws as came in contact with their appetites or ambitions, they strutted as the champions and embodiment of national authority, and—in word, were the most devout adorers of the letter of United States statutes. They placed this above the commands of Deity and maintained that the edicts of the Government were superior to the fiat of the Most High.

But their desire for this demanded submission has been, all along, a deception and a pretence. What has been sought for is the complete destruction of the "Mormon" Church and the entire disfranchisement of the "Mormon" people so that this Territory might be controlled by persons of their own kind.

The declaration made by President Woodruff has proven this beyond question. They never wanted any such announcement as he has made, and all their pretended pleas for its publication were made for show and were mere sham. Nothing could be more direct and unambiguous than the language of President Woodruff, nor could anything be more authoritative. But it does not satisfy those who have been the loudest to clamor for it. They now say it is "indefinite," but cannot show in it a single indefinite sentence. They object that it does not come in the usual manner, but fail to explain wherein it is unusual.

We have commented upon the shifting and paltry objections made by Governor Thomas and the sophistical and untruthful carplings of