

facts that disprove it beyond any reasonable dispute.

"Can you imagine these young and middle-aged men who have never been in polygamous relations deliberately entering into a stupendous folly, stultifying themselves, and bringing sure destruction upon their families and homes at the instance of this menage few that are left over from former years? It is inconceivable, except to a disturbed, distorted, long-brooding imagination. What evidence have you in the past conduct of these people to lead you to the conclusion that they cannot be trusted to carry out in good faith this compact?"

"Look into their laws and you cannot find it there. You do not find oppressive taxation. You do not find it in mismanagement of public affairs. You do not find any public debt, or any lack of provision for good order—any lack of intelligence. You will search in vain for anything in that direction to satisfy you that they are not as high in the scale of honor as any other people. Nor can you find anything in their present condition as to polygamous relations from which you could draw unfavorable conclusions in this regard."

He then argued that if such a compact could be made, and that was certain, Congress had the right to enforce the compact. This was implied by the right to make it. "If the Mormons, after Utah has been made a State, should attempt to set up polygamy as an institution by repealing this constitution, or in any other way, Congress could declare, what all parties agree to, that it is anti-republican, and at once proceed to create a republican form of government as commanded by the Constitution.

"So you see that if this objection is not imaginary, as I insist it is; if it is real, as I insist it is not; if it should in the future transpire that this is a deep-laid scheme, of which there is not the slightest evidence, and the allegation that there is is preposterous and absurd to the last degree; if all this be true, Congress has the amplest power under the Constitution to interfere and strike it down, just as complete power as it would have if in some State the attempt should be made to make the executive office hereditary, or set up a monarchy, however limited.

"Suppose you should say in an act admitting Utah that if that provision is destroyed then Utah is to become a Territory again, and suppose Utah agrees to that by an ordinance. Do you think that Utah would ever fly in the face of such an agreement? Do you think that her people would venture upon such an experiment? And if they did, do you think that the Congress of the United States would find no remedy.

"Congress could reach such a case and not put a tithing of the strain on the Constitution that it was subjected to when the act was passed authorizing the attachment and arrest of a witness who had not been subpoenaed, and forfeiting the property of this Church and commanding the courts what kind of a judgment to render. After these

Congress cannot doubt its ability to devise means to meet emergencies or its courage to grapple with troublesome questions."

Judge Wilson entered further into this matter, but this and other points having been set forth in the synopsis published in the *New York World*, which the *DESERET WEEKLY* has no doubt copied, they need not be amplified here. The speaker then gave some attention to Governor West's proposition for a legislative commission with himself at the head, and, as the Judge suggested, retaining the absolute veto power as at present. He punctured it, and flattened it, and characterized it as "an indirect way to make the minority rule in local affairs." He said:

"All this from the Governor of that Territory, sent there by the government as the chief executive. Now I have simply to say that anything more anti-republican than this, more out of harmony with the long-established methods of this government as to the Territories, cannot be conceived."

The Judge then closed his long and able address, which occupied in all three hours and a half, as follows, after summing up the chief claims of Utah to admission:

"In the vigor, zeal and enthusiasm of early manhood there is a pleasure even in the strifes and struggles of life, but advancing years give us pause. We come to understand after a while that men may honestly differ, and that seemingly irreconcilable differences, by the exercise of a little Christian charity, may be reconciled without any compromise of principle; that it often happens that men differ because they do not understand each other; that sometimes they are enemies when there is no reason why they should not be friends. When I look over the condition of affairs in Utah and see a population of 210,000 people of intelligence, composed of adherents of every Christian denomination, surrounded by wealth, luxury and every other incident of civilization, which by their own energy and thrift they have created, occupying a Territory unsurpassed in beauty, salubrity of climate, and resources, it is to me amazing that they do not come together with a request to Congress to give to them what of right belongs to them, the dignity of a State, a voice in national affairs, and the control of such as are local to themselves. But it is not so, and that it is not so is no fault of the proponents of this Constitution.

"In the very near past I have witnessed death 'with his sickle keen gather the bearded grain at a breath, and the flowers that grow between.' Thus additionally admonished, I have tried to perform my duty as an advocate in this matter, prompted, restrained, and guided, I trust, in what I have said by the dictates of conscientious conviction.

"And you, having in your keeping the honor and the future of the nation, and the welfare of the people of Utah, conscious that the act you do or omit will stand of

record to be judged as to its wisdom, need no admonition from me.

"I can only hope that what has been said in this discussion will aid you in reaching a just conclusion, and I shall never cease to regret it if I have said anything inconsistent with truth and fair argument or unworthy the subject and this presence."

Some time before the end was approached the "agitators" were subdued into silence and the questionings of the committee ceased, and at the close Judge Wilson was surrounded by members who congratulated him on his effort, and thanked him for his help to them in summing up the evidences adduced. A visibly favorable impression was made, and it was plain that much prejudice and many false impressions were obliterated.

No report has yet been reached, as the absence of some members has prevented the necessary quorum to do business. Although there is no likelihood of Utah being admitted this session, the hearing which the advents of the ringites precipitated has been a very fortunate thing for the cause of Statehood, as the future will certainly demonstrate. X.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 31, 1889.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Released From Prison.

Brother Wm. Beeston, of Fillmore, Millard County, was released from the penitentiary Feb. 8, having served his term of four months for unlawful cohabitation. He underwent further incarceration for a period of thirty days for non-payment of a fine of \$200. Brother Beeston states that all the brethren now in the "Pen" are enjoying good health, and quite cheerful.

C. M. Nokes, of Salt Lake County, was released from the penitentiary Feb. 9, having served 115 days for unlawful cohabitation; 85 days was the sentence, and the remaining 30 days were for the fine imposed.

Edmunds Law Prosecutions.

Before Judge Sandford on Feb. 6, the following business was transacted:

United States vs. Peter Barton; unlawful cohabitation; plea of guilty; defendant said he was ready for sentence; which was suspended, owing to the defendant having pleaded guilty to adultery, by living with his plural wife. He was sentenced to fifteen months in the penitentiary.

United States vs. Mary Beesley, plural wife of Peter Barton; fornication; district attorney moved for a dismissal of the case; taken under advisement.

On Feb. 7, before Judge Sandford, the following business was transacted:

United States vs. David Saunders; unlawful cohabitation; defendant arraigned and pleaded guilty; sentence set for Feb. 23.