

## AN ENCOURAGING CHANGE.

WE ARE surprised, to see in the New York *Independent* any words of toleration and sentiments of justice toward the Latter-day Saints. That religious journal has been bitter and bigoted in its utterances on "Mormon" affairs, exhibiting gross ignorance as to facts, as well as extreme hostility to the Church whose principles it has never fairly represented. But in the *Independent* of August 14th we find a summary of the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States on the confiscation of the "Mormon" Church property, with the annexed comments:

"The decision of the Supreme Court, of course, settles the question of law; and yet, as it seems to us, the argument is carried to its extreme length, and comes very near the confines of injustice, if it does not actually involve this result. The taking of private property from its owners without just compensation, as is done in an act of confiscation, is, except in very extraordinary circumstances, usually regarded as an act of robbery. Mormon polygamy we abominate, and earnestly favor every just measure for its suppression; but we would not at the same time forget that Mormons are human beings, and the most of them citizens of the United States, and that, as such, they have civil rights which ought to be respected. Just and righteous ends sought always to be sought by just and righteous means."

When so pronounced an anti-"Mormon" paper as the *Independent* regards the act of escheating the property of the "Mormon" Church as unjust and unrighteous, it cannot be reasonably claimed that the "Mormons" are "factious," or "rebellious," or "seditionary" for viewing it in the same light. If the whole country could only be brought to understand the truth of the matter, and the motives that lie hidden behind the confiscation movement, there would be such a storm of indignation aroused, that it would shake the Capitol to its very foundations and stir up both judges and legislators to at least a little equity and fairness in regard to the "Mormon" question.

We hope the New York *Independent* will investigate a little further and, the polygamy bugbear apart, become a little more reasonable on the subject of "Mormonism" and the believers in Christ who have adopted the principles of that system of faith and practice.

## THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

ONLY a few months ago, the statesmen of Europe looked with anxiety to the doings of the young ruler of the Germans. When he

allowed the "iron-chancellor" to retire and nominated an old soldier, comparatively unknown in diplomatic circles, to the first office in the empire, this was thought to indicate that a departure was to be made from the peaceful policy of Bismarck, and also that the young Emperor wanted to hold the reins of the realm in his own hands. It was feared that the inexperience of the Emperor would precipitate serious troubles on the European continent. And the speeches which the Emperor delivered on various occasions were not calculated to inspire much hope for the preservation of the peace.

So far, those fears have proved to be without foundation. The Emperor in placing himself at the head of the government has gradually gained the confidence of his subjects, and the foreign powers commence to look upon him as a politically intelligent, farseeing man. His extensive travels which have already earned for him the cognomen of "The Traveling Emperor" have had a tendency to strengthen his friendly relations with the great powers that hold the fate of Europe in their hands.

Although his endeavors to identify himself with the cause of the workingmen led to no results of practical value, yet his intentions were no doubt good, and his efforts gained him many friends. On the whole, the statesmen of Europe are gradually coming to the conclusion that Germany's present ruler has inherited the spirit of his grandfather.

One thing Germany at present needs more than anything else: an alleviation of her many military burdens. In the military districts it is no uncommon thing to see women and children and aged men working in the field, as best they can, while the young and able men are parading the streets as soldiers. This is a curse that, like consumption, wastes away the life of the body of the State. But it is to be feared that, at present, no remedy against this evil is to be found. The present Emperor, at all events, is not likely to take any steps towards the abolishment of this, one of the greatest evils of modern times, the vast standing armies of Europe.

## POINTS FOR POLICEMEN.

SOME members of the police force are, in the language of "the boys," a little too "fresh." Some men cannot bear "a little brief authority"

and keep their heads level. They swell with a consciousness of importance not warranted by the possession of a suit of blue, a star and a club. They need to be lectured on this subject.

When gentlemen stop for a few moments on the street to converse, without making the slightest disturbance, they do not relish the intrusion of a high-and-mighty policeman with peremptory mien and harsh voice ordering them to "move on." This sort of thing is likely to create a breach of the peace rather than to prevent it.

When young men—or older men, pass along the streets at night feeling so good natured that they want to indulge in song or to warble a few notes by the whistling process, if they disturb the stilly night or the repose of the public, there is a more proper method of quieting the noise than by rushing upon the jovial persons, revolver or billy in hand, calling them vile names and ordering them to "shut up" and "come to the City Hall."

If a poor woman turns a cow from its shed to get water, or a boy lets a horse go to a spill for a drink, there is no good purpose served by swooping down upon the animal that is doing no damage to anybody, and driving it to the stray pound in spite of the owner's protest and explanations.

There should be reason in all things. The ordinances of the city must be maintained. The public peace must be preserved. The streets must not be used for pasture grounds. Any reasonable effort to enforce good regulations is to be commended. But the outrageous and offensive acts of self-important and inflated servants of the public, who act as if they were the masters, are not to be passed by without censure.

All that we have set forth, in a mild and general way, in this article is loudly complained of by good citizens who have no desire to break the law. And we think some pointed instructions from the Chief of Police to his men would be likely to prevent considerable trouble. If the men do not heed such hints, they should be promptly removed. A policeman can be both an officer and a gentleman. And, as recent experiences show, he can be both a ruffian and a cad.

We do not wish at present to be personal. But if occasions like those we have named are repeated, it may become necessary to be more specific and emphatic. Let us have order and let it be maintained in the spirit of order, and not in the manner of assumption, blackguardism and overweening self-conceit.