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## THE MORMON PEOPLE.

The following statement from the Utah Delegate to Congress appeared in the Pittsburg, Pa., *Dispatch* June 12th:

"From the first the Mormons have contended that they were not understood by the world, that neither their religion nor their conduct was investigated by those not of them, but that judgment was passed and execution issued upon an ex parte statement of the case.

"It was known that Mormons believed in and practiced polygamy, and as the Christianity and the civilization of the age were both opposed to plural marriage, what we term enlightened mankind turned against the Mormons without taking the trouble to inquire as to the extent of the so-called evil or to ask what manner of people these Mormons were outside of their marital practices. It was assumed that all Mormons were polygamists, that the women were of the offensive class, that the Oriental harem was the prototype of our homes, that immorality was prevalent and sanctified by religion, and that the cornerstone of our faith was lost.

Yet, as a matter of fact, polygamy was practiced by such a small percentage of the people as to make it little more than an incident in a great community numbering 200,000 souls. The Mormon homes are and always have been as pure as the homes of other people; Mormon wives are as virtuous and modest and Mormon men as regardful of the marital vows and obligations as the wives and husbands in any other Christian society.

### THE PUBLIC NOT INFORMED.

Proof that the American people are deplorably and inexcusably ignorant concerning our community is furnished in the recent savage assault upon President Eliot, of Harvard University. Dr. Eliot did not applaud or justify polygamy; he did not even speak tolerantly of it. On the contrary, his address was in the nature of a congratulation to the country and to the Mormons themselves that polygamy had been discontinued. He did, however, say a good word to and for the Mormons, not on account of their polygamy—which no sane man should charge him with approving—but because of those spiritual and material virtues of the Mormons of which ordi-

nary people have so persistently refused to learn.

### HOW PRESIDENT ELIOT REASONED.

The doctor saw in Utah pretty and prosperous cities and thriving towns; he saw stately business blocks and magnificent residences; he met men and women who were in no respect inferior to the educated and cultured people with whom he is in the habit of associating elsewhere; in short, he saw that a vigorous young American commonwealth had sprung up in the wilderness of a few years ago, and he very naturally concluded that what he saw could not have been achieved by a depraved and immoral people. It takes earnestness and integrity, honesty and devotion, brains and brawn and withal a sincerity of purpose to accomplish what a generation has brought forth in Utah. President Eliot knew this and he is broad enough to recognize these virtues, courageous enough to acknowledge them and manly enough to commend and applaud them.

It has been asserted among other things that the Mormons are largely foreign born and are alien in sentiment. It is sufficient answer to this that the founders of the Church were New Englanders, most of the early leaders being of Puritan stock. The successive census reports prove that the percentage of foreign born population is lower in Utah than in many of the older States. The community is essentially American in birth and none the less so in sentiment, training and education.

### MORMON PATRIOTISM.

Within a few hours of the arrival of the pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley, Brigham Young and a few of his handful of followers climbed a lofty mountain overlooking the site of the present Salt Lake City and erecting a flagstaff thereon, swung to the breeze the Stars and Stripes. That mountain has since been known as Ensign Peak. The flag of the Mormons always has been the flag of the American Union. It has waved continuously over all that broad land since the July day in 1847 when it was taken from the box in which it had been carefully transported over a thousand miles of trackless wilderness and raised in an enemy's country. The national holidays and events inspiring enthusiasm in American breasts have been celebrated in Utah as elsewhere throughout the land, the commemor-

ative bonfires burning as brightly, the cannon roaring as merrily, the addresses breathing as deep patriotism and the masses "enthusing" and applauding as heartily and sincerely as in Massachusetts or Virginia.

All this talk which has been dinned into the ears of the American people for the third of a century to the effect that the Mormons are aliens and wanting in patriotism is malicious slander, which has been disproven every day, though the evidence has been rejected by many professing patriots.

### THEIR BELIEF IN THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of the United States has been the boast of Mormons always, and you will hear from the pulpits and in the lowliest cottage the confident expression of belief that the greatest of human enactments is an instrument inspired by the Almighty. Indeed, it is the patriotic belief religiously held that it is a part of the mission of the Saints to preserve inviolate that sacred instrument and protect it, by force of arms, if need be, against desecration.

Brigham Young was an American through and through. His ambition was to build a commonwealth which would excite the admiration and command the respect of the nation. He laid the foundation in Americanism, and built thereon to the time of his death. The structure, so cleverly designed and with which he made such remarkable progress, has been carried forward upon the original plan largely under the inspiration of the founder. The Utah commonwealth, which is no longer a Mormon commonwealth, as some still insist is the case, is destined to become the foremost, the grandest and altogether the best in the great interior West. And this will be so because of the honesty, the devotion, the religious sincerity and the broad Americanism in which the foundation was laid and on which the edifice is being erected. Recent events will accelerate the growth and development, and in my opinion strengthen and improve the structure.

### POLYGAMY HAS GONE.

The Mormons, having withstood for half a century an almost universally antagonistic sentiment, have seen the unwisdom of longer continuing the contest and have gracefully yielded. They have forbidden plural marriages and given obedience to laws which they thought were unconstitutional, but which they now respect, since the