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THE REAL OBJECT IN VIEW.

The Report of the Utah Commission continues to provoke comments from the press. We clip the annexed from the *Alta California*:

"More trouble for the Mormons. One of the Utah commissioners has discovered that they regard a revelation from on high as higher than the law of the State. Without discussing whether revelations wash or not, we may be permitted to remark that all religions hold to that same doctrine, but the people who profess them don't live up to it. If every man cut out his tongue, or amputated an arm or leg, under the injunctions of the New Testament we would have a tongueless, handless and footless population that would excite the wonder of the heathen. The probability is that the Mormon is just fool enough to live up to the metaphors of his creed, and if he try it, he is good for a life term in the penitentiary."

The foregoing is not remarkable for its reverence, but it hits the Commissioner's "higher law" nail squarely on the head and sends it through the board. The *St. Paul Globe* has the following on the immigration subject, under the head of "Religious Intolerance:"

"The commission that is looking after Mormon matters is expected to recommend congress to prohibit the immigration of foreign converts to Utah. If the pilgrims from other lands are to be sized up on their religion as they put foot on the shores of the land consecrated to freedom of conscience, what will become of the glowing rhetoric of the orators and stumpers? The Fourth of July soarers and the eulogists of the aggravated company who are pictured in the New England school books as using Plymouth rock for the first wharf, will be as badly cramped as some of them were in flying the eagle in slavery times. Even if it were justifiable to exclude immigrants on account of their religion, it would be found more ineffective than the effort to keep out the Chinese. Their conversion might be deferred till they reach Utah, or their immediate destination changed."

The *Minneapolis Tribune*, after giving the salient points of the report, says:

"When polygamists, actual or theoretical, are effectively disfran-

chised, and the missionary-led immigration of Mormons prohibited, Utah can be safely admitted into the Union. The practical difficulty however, of enforcing federal laws that limit the rights and privileges of Mormons in Utah is at the present moment the most serious of all the problems that pertain to the subject of Mormonism."

The way to disfranchise "theoretical" polygamists is not pointed out by the sage editor who sees in such a political expedient a way to the safe admission of Utah into the Union. There still remains in this country considerable of that respect for constitutional liberty which some radical papers call "old-fashioned." There are too many believers in freedom of opinion, so we think, to render probable any Congressional statute disfranchising citizens for any kind of theoretical belief. And beyond and above even the Congress, is the Supreme Court of the United States, which has rendered decrees supporting that freedom of faith and of speech which is one of the rights of man, and announcing that it is time enough for legislation when opinions break out into overt acts against peace and good order.

We are aware that there is an intention on the part of certain renegade Americans here who call themselves "Liberals," to endeavor to procure laws which would rob citizens of the elective franchise because of their belief. But the right to think and speak one's thoughts freely, is too highly regarded in this republic to warrant the idea that they will be successful in their efforts with the National Legislature. But there is another way by which they hope to win, and that is hinted at if not actually recommended by the Commissioners, and is thus commented on by the *Washington correspondent of the Omaha Bee*:

"A demand will be made for a legislative commission. It is believed that a commission of this kind will break the last section of backbone in Mormon crime. The Utah Commission as it has existed under the Edmunds law, has done a great deal of good, but since it cannot go outside of the strict letter of the law it now amounts to nothing more than a watch or guard upon the rights of law-abiding citizens.

A legislative commission would be invested with authority to frame such rules—which would be laws—as would be necessary to meet emergencies."

The purpose in view of the movers for this commission is very clearly exposed in this statement. The Utah Commissioners are bound by the law. A legislative commission

such as is proposed, would be a law unto itself. It could make "rules" having the effect of laws, by which "emergencies" could be met, such as the promoters of the scheme would concoct, and thus the protection which the law throws around accused persons in the interests of justice and equity might be torn away, leaving the victims of the plot exposed to the vengeance of their enemies.

The whole movement against the "Mormons," starting in this Territory, is political in its character. All the pleas that have been made in the pretended interests of morality, religion and the national welfare are the sheerest humbug and hypocrisy. The object in view is the political control of this Territory, the handling of its finances, and the ultimate establishment of a State in the interests of the Republican party.

Preachers and editors at a distance have been deceived by the hue-and-cry that has been raised and is still kept up on the "polygamy question." It is and has been a sham. The real purpose is the disfranchisement of the "Mormon" people, the very large majority of whom have never been in the practice of polygamy. It is the subjugation of the many to the control of the few. It is the destruction of the principle of local majority rule, for the benefit of the plotters who have come into these valleys to reap the fruits of "Mormon" planting.

The people here must see to it that these plots are not permitted to succeed. Union, determination, vigilance and untiring activity in every needed direction must prevail and be maintained, and no advantage must be yielded to the foe. This is a matter that concerns every citizen of Utah, and it should be kept in mind in this city at this most important juncture in its history.

THE RIGHT OF OPINION.

The *Philadelphia American*, in briefly reviewing the Report of the Utah Commission, remarks:

"Mormons, like other people, can believe what they please. This is a free country, and every one has the right to his or her opinions. Let the Mormons continue if they wish to regard themselves as martyrs because the law allows them only one wife at a time. So long as they conform their conduct to the requirements of the statute the country will be content."

This does not agree with the recommendations of the Commission, but we believe it represents the