

"The end of polygamy may, perhaps, have come, but the Mormon Church remains as a vast and powerful influence upon the future civilization of Utah and contiguous States and Territories."

From the *Boston Transcript* we clip a couple of paragraphs:

"The recent manifesto of the President of the Church of Latter-day Saints has been followed by a formal surrender to the United States law and the promise is made that hereafter polygamy will not be encouraged or even permitted by the Mormon Church or its ruler. That is to say, there will be no more marriages of men already married. The disposition of the unfortunate women who are already numbered among the wives of 'plurally married' Mormons is still a problem."

"There have not been wanting the over-zealous with their cries of 'Extermination,' forgetting that the experiment of extermination has never been successful when attempted against a people who believed they were defending a faith. The history of the Mormons shows that their numbers have grown with each successive effort at obliteration and it is not unlikely that had the crusade which was so fiercely called for when attempted, the experience would have been repeated."

The *New York Independent* has published the Declaration, the Articles of Faith, dispatches from President Woodruff, Governor Thomas and others, and has commented editorially on the matter. We only have space for a paragraph or two. It says:

"We have no national war on anything in the Mormon Church but polygamy. \* \* \* The ecclesiastical machine is bad enough and should be reformed, and will be by its own people. But it has the same rights, within the State, as the Presbyterian or Methodist or Roman Catholic ecclesiastical system, whose edicts can bring no physical force to execute them. Time and education must end that evil. The laws were concerned only with polygamy; public sentiment, the public sentiment of the third and fourth generation, will do the rest."

"Now is the time to bring all the forces of public opinion on Utah to bear, by all the means the Church can use, or the public press supply. But this is no longer the duty of the Nation. It belongs to the domain of private rights and good reason. The first thing to be considered is that now the Mormon will be, and ought to be, a voter, in Utah or Idaho or Montana or Arizona."

The *New York Illustrated American* remarks:

"Apart from their religious beliefs, nobody of the American people deserves all the rights and benefits that a republic can confer on them more than do the Mormons. They are temperate, industrious, intelligent. Their communities are models of order, and have the air of general prosperity that is given by the universal exercise of diligence. Their charity is of that most practical kind, which does not seek to relieve merely, but aims at making the needy independent. Newcomers among them have an acknowledged

claim upon their neighbors for assistance in establishing themselves. In short, the Mormon social system is far more wise and helpful than the methods prevailing among most of the Christian bodies of the nation, if we may trust the general testimony of those who have studied the followers of Joseph Smith and Brigham Young."

The *Troy, N. Y., Times* copies from the *Helena Journal* with comments:

"Since the Mormon Church renounced polygamy there has not unnaturally arisen much doubt as to the sincerity of that action. The *Times*, however, readily gives space to this paragraph from the *Helena Journal*:

"A good many newspapers all over the country affect to believe that the Mormons are insincere in their promises to abandon polygamy. This is a great mistake. The action of the Church is simply a victory for the younger generation, who have never been earnest believers in the ancient practice. It would benefit no one for the old men to abandon their families, but it is absolutely certain that the rising generation have no use for polygamy, and that it was more the pressure from them than that of the government which brought forth the renunciation, which is absolutely sincere, and which, the country may depend, will be rigidly adhered to."

These extracts are all we have space to print today. We may give our readers a few more at some other time.

#### WHO WILL BEAR THE BLAME?

THERE are few more mercenary and truculent writers in the country than the foxy editor of the *Washington, D. C., Republic*. He wields his pen for pelf and holds his columns open to the highest bidder. He has recently had some hard things to say about the "Mormons," which are all the more vicious because he knows better than to tell the stories that he utters. In reference to polygamy he says:

"This was the corner stone of their so-called religion, the depraved indulgence in which tempted so many to their ranks. It was taught as the only means of salvation to the majority of women who now, it seems, are to be given over to perdition, according to Mormon tenets, because the United States Government commanded it."

The writer of this rubbish understands that "Mormonism" existed and flourished long before plural marriage was received as a doctrine of the Church. Also that it was more of a stumbling block in the way of conversions than a "temptation" to any one to "enter the ranks." But it suits his present purpose to say this, and so he scatters his falsehoods about without compunction of conscience.

"Mormonism" does not hold out either polygamy or monogamy as

"the only means of salvation." Nor does it teach that marriage is more of a necessity to the exaltation of woman than of man. It explains that to enter a perfect sphere individuals must become perfect, and that neither sex is perfect alone. Therefore it is written that, "The man is not without the woman, nor the woman without the man, in the Lord."

The command of the Government would have no effect upon woman's "perdition" any more than it would upon her salvation. And it is not proposed to turn any woman over to perdition, by yielding to a law of Congress which the Supreme Court of the United States says is binding. If any blame attaches to this, it lies with the country, and not with those who have been implored, and urged, and commanded by editors, preachers and statesmen to do the very thing that some of them are now either cursing or deriding.

If there is any "perdition" hanging, as a consequence of the course recently taken by the "Mormons" on this question, it will not fall upon those who have been hindered and prevented from carrying out what they believed to be right and pleasing to Deity, and who have "gone to with their might" to perform that which they believed to be the Divine will. And it will be found that with the so-called "corner-stone" removed, the "Mormon" structure will remain as firm a religious system as ever, and be able to withstand the rude attacks of its opponents and the hurrowing of the little foxes that may spoil the vines, but cannot undermine the Church of the living God nor weaken it in any way whatever.

#### DISPOSED TO BE FAIR.

WHEN the news of the declaration and its endorsement by the General Conference reached Chicago it occasioned similar comments to those in other places. An ex-"Mormon" named Edholm, who is not unknown to the people of Morgan County, expressed himself in terms that were truly "Liberal" in their bitterness. His remarks were published as though they were of some consequence because he had lived in Utah. Recently, Mr. George Harlow of Ogden, was in Chicago and his attention was called to these utterances which charged fraud, deceit and other evil things upon President Woodruff and the Church generally. The