

nizing no law except those which they personally make or dictate. The Mormon problem will never be solved, it is safe to say, so long as they are permitted to exercise such sway over their followers. They are men of extraordinary ability in their way, thoroughly acquainted with the weaknesses of human nature, and quick to seize every advantage that may be presented. If these adroit and unscrupulous individuals could be deprived of their power for mischief the whole matter would soon adjust itself in a sound and wholesome manner. They are the principal stumbling-blocks, and no legislation can prove satisfactory that leaves them in possession of such authority as they now have. How to dislodge them is a difficult question, but it is nevertheless the vital question, and Congress can not afford to evade or postpone it."

These remarks were prompted by the dispatches which have been sent from this city giving garbled extracts from the report of the Utah Commission for 1890. The urging of more legislation to solve the "Mormon" problem, is the annual effort of that body in the interest of the "Liberal" faction in this Territory. Its object is to deprive that part of the "Mormon" people who have not broken the law, of every political right and privilege. This is what they mean by "solving the Mormon problem."

The *Globe Democrat*, in common with the greater part of the American press, evidently regards polygamy as "Mormonism" and "Mormonism" as polygamy. The Utah Commission know better than that. They understand that all the legislation necessary, and a great deal more, to handle the polygamy question has been enacted. And further, that the doctrine of plural marriage, even when it was openly advocated and practiced, was but one out of a very large number of tenets that made up the creed of "Mormonism." Also that plural marriage apart, the religion of the Latter-day Saints is as much above the reach of law as the religion of any body of worshippers in the land.

Does the *Globe Democrat* seriously claim that Congress has of right any authority or power to interfere with such a religion? If not, why should accessions to the "Mormon" Church trouble the editors of that paper or anybody else? Or do they mean to say that the "practically unlimited power of the government" extends to the regulation of religious belief?

They may answer that all they mean by that power is the authority to suppress practices that are declared to be criminal. If that is the case, we unhesitatingly affirm that laws to that effect are in force in Utah more potently and effectually

than in any other part of the United States. Moreover, there have been less convictions for polygamy for two or three years past than there have been for bigamy in other parts of this great and moral country. The records of courts will demonstrate the truth of this statement.

If it be urged that the report of the Utah Commission alleges to the contrary, we answer, we do not believe it. The concocter of false dispatches in this city may have stated that the Commissioners have so declared, but that is another thing. We are of the opinion that the report when published will disprove his assertion. But whether they have stated or not that eighty or forty or twenty polygamous marriages have been solemnized in Utah during the last few months or the last year, that is something that neither they nor any other body or person can prove, and it has been made with malicious intent, that is, to injure the law-obeying "Mormon" people and deceive the American press and public.

The statement that the leaders of the Church "rule as so many autocrats" and that "they recognize no law except those which they personally make or dictate" is grossly untrue and absurd, and can only be excused by the evident ignorance of the writer. Such a rule, if it existed, would be the very antipodes of "Mormonism." It would be destructive of the system. The "edicts of the priesthood have no existence" except in the imagination of persons who are too prejudiced to look into the facts, and the "Mormon" leaders are today more strictly observant of every law of the land than ninety-nine hundredths of their accusers.

That oft predicted "revolt against ecclesiastical tyranny" of which there are "no signs," has never come because there is no such tyranny to revolt from. All things in the "Mormon" Church are and must be done "by common consent." The "Priesthood" is composed of nearly all the adult male members. Women as well as men vote on all Church questions and officers, and the "occupation of the priesthood" is beyond the legitimate reach of any secular power.

Of course in the attempt to solve "the Mormon perplexity" there is "something lacking," and there always will be. What is it? It is a failure to get at the truth. Its opponents are figuring, and thrusting, and plunging in the dark. They do not know what they are fight-

ing. It is not these formidable leaders that stand in the way, as supposed. If the vindictive beings who desire their extinction could kill every one of these leaders or immure them for life in dungeons, the "perplexity" would remain and the "problem would remain unsolved."

The abatement of the evil, the *Globe Democrat* says, in the opinion of the Commission depends upon the "renunciation" of a certain part of the Mormon creed." And does any one who is sane believe that can be accomplished by "more stringent legislation." Does not the *Globe Democrat* understand that drastic laws against a belief are more likely to confirm than destroy that belief? And if the belief of the Latter-day Saints is the real root of the trouble, why not try to reach it by reason instead of seeking to crush it out by force?

We submit for the consideration of the reflecting that a more rational and Christian method of combating "Mormonism," would be first to find out what it is, and to overcome the power of its Priesthood, to ascertain in what it consists. Then instead of misrepresenting and abusing and maltreating the "Mormons," show them "a more excellent way." They are a good, honest, industrious, temperate and cheerful people, able to comprehend an argument and highly appreciative of kindness. They have convictions which are personal, and for these they have suffered much. They will never be coerced into renunciation of their belief, and while falsehood and force continue to be the means employed, the "Mormon" perplexity will remain to vex sectarians and puzzle politicians.

THE STRIKE PRACTICALLY BROKEN

It is now beyond the region of reasonable doubt that the strike of the street car men has collapsed. While the strikers were being encouraged, by those who pretended to be their friends, to hold out and success would be achieved, we have stated the other view. To us the step was an ill-advised one, because the conditions rendered defeat inevitable. We are satisfied that some of those who were the loudest in their exhortations to the men to come out and hold out had no more idea that the effort would be successful than we had. What the agitators wanted was for the men to remain out until their places were filled. This advice has been taken,