

THE PRESS ON PROFESSOR ELIOT.

WE clip today a few more comments of the press on the agitation over Professor Eliot's speech in the "Mormon" Tabernacle:

We take these extracts from an editorial in the Washington, D. C., *Post*:

"President Eliot has explained that his purpose was simply to vindicate the principle of religious liberty, as being applicable to the belief of the Mormons quite as much as to any other phase or form of sectarian belief; but the storm that he raised about his ears will be slow to subside.

"He has come to the conclusion, however, and he abides by it with the steadfastness of a man who has the courage of his convictions, that 'polygamy is no more an issue in Utah today than is the bloody shirt in national politics,' in which opinion many eminent citizens will readily concur. He holds, therefore, that since the Mormons are no longer guilty of any violation of law, they are entitled to the same rights and the same consideration under the law as those who worship according to any other faith.

"There will always be grave doubts in some minds, even among those who hold polygamy in the utmost abhorrence, as to the justifiability of the means which the government has hitherto employed to break the Mormon power and dismantle, as it were, the hierarchy which it has built up. But this is a question of the past. The work has been done. Polygamy as a Church institution is practically extinct.

"Utah, therefore, in its relation to the United States stands upon the same footing as any other Territory, and should be accorded like cognizance. It is a prosperous and populous commonwealth, against whose admission to the Union, whatever other objections may be raised, the peculiar institution by which it was formerly characterized can no longer be urged with justice."

The Boston *Budget*, after investigating both sides, remarks:

"The full text of his address is before us. It fills more than two columns of fine print, and is, as is usual with Dr. Eliot's oratorical genius, one full of scholarly interest, even though its historical parallels may be of a slightly startling nature to the New England mind. The 'planting of this superb colony by a Christian Church,' as the President euphoniously termed the settlement of Brigham Young, reminded him 'of another planting 253 years ago by the Puritans of New England.' The cheering nature of religious liberty was touched in all its chords by this remarkable address, and although the Puritans did not enjoy the advantages of idealization by the speaker, they yet made a fairly good showing, even when compared with the enterprising and edifying Mormons."

The Troy N. Y. *Press* discusses the matter in a long editorial, and concludes thus:

"The genius of the address seems to be the uplifting of Massachusetts as a model for the emulation of his hearers. This certainly cannot be construed as an approval of Mormonism, and especially of the polygamous features of Mormonism. In truth no reference whatever was made to polygamy, which is now officially obsolete in the Mormon church. This dark feature is so closely associated with Mormonism in the eastern mind that it is hard to realize it as a thing of the past, and any compliments to Mormonism are yet interpreted as an approval of polygamy.

It would be an evil day for this country when a majority disagreed with the views of religious liberty so ably advanced by the distinguished speaker.

"The American people are fond of sensation, and if the Harvard president could be painted as a prophet of polygamy, or making a fool speech under the stimulus of wine, many would be rejoiced. But they will wait a long time before President Eliot gives them any such chance."

The following is from the St. Paul, Minn., *Pioneer Press*:

"To the great majority of, hastily informed people Mormonism means, first and last and always, polygamy. It has come to mean that to all outsiders, from the extreme hideousness of that aspect of the faith which has made it obnoxious to the world. But everybody who knows anything about the beginnings of Mormonism knows that there were earnest and devoted spirits in those bands of men and women who crossed the plains on foot, leaving behind, many of them, their family associations and their worldly possessions. Everybody who has read personal records of those early days knows that genuine religious heroism played an important part in the founding of the American home of Mormonism. Divested of its ugliest feature, Mormonism becomes a somewhat fantastic faith, with rather absurd rites and trivial ceremonies, but it still has its sincere believers to whom their faith is dear. Therefore we can but feel that whatever President Eliot's personal convictions on the subject of polygamy may be, he was not only amply justified in speaking a gentle word to the people of Salt Lake, but he is to be commended for entertaining, at this stage of wholesale reprobation of the Mormons, so clear an appreciation of the claims that they have, as a religious sect, upon the tolerance of others."

THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

THE question of immigration is of national importance. A few weeks ago it formed a subject for debate between representatives of the two great New England universities, Yale and Harvard. There is a measure pending in Congress relating to it. The Geary bill, which recently passed the House of Representatives, at Washington, refers exclusively to Chinese. Last summer a special commission from this country visited the various nations of Europe to study and investigate the problem at its source. This was done with a view of amending existing legislation on the matter, if needed.

One of the commissioners, the Hon. John B. Weber, who visited Europe, has an article on this question in the *North American Review* for April. That gentleman apprehends none of the serious troubles anticipated by others from immigration. He says that neither in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany nor Austria do the governments or societies help to transport paupers, criminals, or other defectives to this country. The vagabond of Europe does not emigrate as a rule. There are individual instances, but the slums are sluggish and seldom look beyond the seas.

It is admitted that large numbers of idle or unemployed persons are found in all our large cities, variously estimated at an aggregate of from one to two millions. Mr. Weber says that idle men have existed in large cities since the early days of the republic.

But the rush to the cities at present is from our own rural districts. The same condition prevails in Europe in regard to urban emigration. In fact the rush from country to city has been so alarming in Germany that legislation to protect it is already contemplated.

The cry that a large percentage of criminals and paupers are of the foreign birth or parentage that such is the case. It is simply because the foreigners represent the "poorer section" of society, and in our forms of civilization and sociology there must be a poorer section, and from this will come the criminals and paupers, no matter where born.

The "Know-nothing" party of fifty years ago contained many men who honestly believed that American interests were being jeopardized by the increasing arrival of foreigners. "The party did not succeed, however, but the republic still exists, and next year we expect to show to the world the marvellous progress of our country at an exposition held in a city, which at the time the Know-nothing party existed was but little more than a barren prairie, but now has a population of over a million people, while the party has perished, leaving nothing as a monument save the lesson of warning to posterity to avoid racial and religious bigotry in the formation and conduct of political parties."

Mr. Weber does not approve the contemplated consular inspection system at foreign ports, because he thinks it would not be as effective as the present method rigorously enforced, and with some small amendments to meet weak or defective links in the existing laws pertaining to immigration.

A WISE STEP.

THE World's Fair Commissioners, appointed by Governor Thomas under the act of 1890, are actively engaged in their duties. They have called to their aid many prominent citizens, have arranged with the banks to borrow the money necessary on guaranties from moneyed men, and have now secured the co-operation of an advisory committee, which will greatly facilitate the work and go a great way towards assuring the success of the movement. Very wisely, in our opinion, this committee is to be composed of the gentlemen named in the bill passed by the late Legislature, which is now before Congress. This will not only promote harmony but secure services that will be invaluable. And in the remote event of the passage of the bill by Congress, the work now commenced will go on without hindrance. We hope these gentlemen will receive the support of all people in the Territory who can furnish anything suitable for exhibition at the great gathering of the world's products. Utah must be presented in her best light and habiliments, and every friend to the Territory will do all that is possible in this laudable interest.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 19. — The fourth annual congress of the Scotch-Irish Society of America will convene in Atlanta on April 28th, and remain in session three days.