

general, that is to say, by characterless and conscienceless vagabonds who had cast covetous eyes upon the Mormon possessions and marked them for their own. Some of the laws that Congress has been induced to pass at the instance of these politicians come altogether too near to ruthless confiscation to be agreeable reading for disinterested and patriotic American citizens. The persecution thus begun was certain not merely to continue but to increase as the Gentile population of the Territory increased, and with it the hostility of which polygamy was either the cause or the pretext. The Mormon leaders have shown more worldly good sense and prudence in deciding to surrender the bone of contention."

The New York *Herald* of the 7th inst. discusses the matter editorially, briefly outlines the action of the Government against polygamy, and concludes that

"The official action taken by the Mormon Church yesterday, prohibiting marriage in violation of the law of the land, is an event of paramount importance to Utah and of exceptional interest to the nation.

"It is an unconditional surrender to the power of the United States and marks the end of a contest that has been long and determined on both sides."

After explaining the provisions of the anti-"Mormon" laws of Congress, the *Herald* adds:

"The constitutionality of these drastic measures was contested in the courts as determinedly as their enactment had been opposed in Congress and with as little success. The Supreme Court of the United States sustained the power of the Government, which left the Mormon Church no recourse but to submit.

"This it has at last done. It retains its peculiar faith, but it denounces plural marriage. It thereby purges itself of criminality and puts itself in line with the law and popular sentiment.

"This is practically the end of polygamy, and paves the way for the admission of Utah as a State."

The New York *World* comments in this wise on the Articles of Faith re-adopted at the Conference:

"The Elders of the Mormon Church have formulated and proclaimed a new creed. It is rather hazy on the question of plural marriages, but takes a decided new departure in the right direction by recognizing the supremacy of civil rulers in public affairs and declaring in favor of 'obeying, honoring and sustaining the laws of the land.'"

Other journals fall into the same error as the *World* has done. The Articles of Faith are no new creed. They have been held by the Church for about half a century and were re-confirmed at the recent General Conference. The Philadelphia *Telegraph* publishes the Articles in full, and says:

"Article 12 is a complete change from the old faith and shows that they have adapted themselves to circumstances. The political effect of this in Idaho will be great. There are 11,000 Mormons in that State, and the Republicans have been arresting them as they came up to register, on the test oath of those who teach and practice polygamy. According to the new declaration of faith they can all now vote, and it is alleged that the vote will be solidly democratic."

All of this shows that the *Telegraph* is not burdened with information about the "Mormons," whether in Utah or in Idaho.

The Milwaukee *Wisconsin* has a better understanding than the more metropolitan journal in Pennsylvania. It tells clearly what was done at Conference, and says;

"The President's authority was sustained, and it was agreed that the Manifesto should be accepted as authoritative and binding. The original articles of faith of the Mormon Church were readopted by the conference, among them the following:

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, and in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.

Well may the dispatch from Salt Lake City conveying the intelligence of this action pronounce it 'the most important step taken by the Mormon Church for more than a quarter of a century.' If it has been taken in good faith, as it appears to be, and the reform which it embodies is faithfully lived up to, the vexed 'Mormon problem' will be at an end."

"The great body of the American people will have no fault to find with Mormonism when Mormonism obeys the laws of the land and conforms its marriage system to the requirements of morality and modern civilization. The clashing of Gentile and Mormon interests in the past will soon be forgotten; Mormon thrift and sobriety will be recognized as the virtues which they are; and Utah the teeming Territory which has so long by her own social perverseness stood outside the pale, will be joyfully welcomed into the sisterhood of States."

The Rochester, N. Y., *Herald*, after speaking of the Declaration, says:

"The aged chief of the Mormon Church spoke with great apparent sincerity as well as earnestness. But it is pointed out in the Salt Lake *Tribune* that he spoke as an individual, and not officially as the holder of the keys of divine revelation. To be binding on the Mormon people Woodruff's declaration would have to be signed by him and his counselors, as a new dispensation of the Church.

"This is the opinion of Governor Thomas, of Utah, who, in an interview published in the San Francisco *Chronicle*, declared that the language of the Woodruff dispatch was indefinite, and that 'it does not come through the usual channel.'"

The *Herald* ought to know by this time that the paper it names never speaks the truth, if it can help it, on anything that relates to the "Mormons." Also that Governor Thomas and the *Tribune* are twins, in this respect at least. President Woodruff did not speak as an individual but "as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," and the *Tribune* knew it was lying when it said to the contrary. As to Governor Thomas we will let the Washington *Post* attend to him. On the 6th inst. the *Post*, which has been pronounced in its sentiments against polygamy and the "Mormons," said of Governor Thomas:

"He asserts in a general way that official Mormonism on this question 'deals in evasion, meaningless words, or words of double meaning,' and in false assertions, so that 'its attitude respecting polygamy is delusive in the last degree.' He adds that, 'even admitting their statements to be true, it does not prove that the Church is loyal to the law.' If by 'loyalty to the law' is meant the abandonment of the belief that polygamy is right, then it may be answered that it is not within the prerogative of the civil power to enquire into the question of beliefs, and that in regard to Mormonism the simple duty of the authorities in Utah is to suppress the practice of plural marriages by all legal means.

"So far as the statements go, President Woodruff's words are explicit enough. When he declares his intentions to submit to the laws, and to use all his influence with the members of his Church to do likewise, there is nothing equivocal in the declaration. To make a false declaration to this effect would be a confession of weakness, cowardice and deceit which, whatever temporary end might be served, could not fail to react disastrously. Such an act, as all intelligent Mormons must know, would be quite as much a folly as a crime."

On the 8th inst the *Post* recurred

to this matter, and we extract the following from its editorial:

"Says Governor Thomas: 'There is no reason to believe that any earthly power can exact from the church any declaration opposed to polygamy.'"

"Yet on Sunday last, at the general conference in Salt Lake City, not less than 10,000 persons being present, including Apostles, Elders, and Bishops, the late manifesto of President Woodruff, inhibiting hereafter all marriages in violation of the polygamy law, was unanimously approved and accepted as authoritative and binding.

"It would seem from this that if anybody's statements are not to be relied on they are those of Governor Thomas. The ink is hardly dried upon his message before the church adopts exactly what he informs us there was no reason to believe that any earthly power could exact from it."

"The least the governor can do now by way of making amends for the misinformation he has so laboriously disseminated, is to give his official sanction to the declaration of the conference and thus kindly permit the utter and permanent extinguishment of an institution on which the Federal officials in Utah have long thriven and luxuriated as their principal stock in trade.

"There's nothing more left' in the Territory in the way of Church property or funds for the government to confiscate, and with polygamy at an end, it is to be hoped that one of the most orderly and industrious communities in the United States will be given a little rest from Congressional interference and a fair chance to swing into the column of free and independent Statehood."

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* has this to say on the questions voicing the ideas of some other papers and persons:

"So far as the reports of the proceedings of the Conference may be trusted, they do not show the Mormons have renounced their belief in the divine origin and utility of polygamy. They simply put on record a promise to obey the laws of the United States which now govern them in the Territory of Utah and one of those laws forbids plural marriages."

Quite a number of journals meet this un-American objection, but we have not space for their remarks today. However the annexed, which appeared in the San Francisco *Examiner* on the 13th inst. from the slashing pen of Ambrose Bierce, sufficiently answers the purpose and with it we will close the subject for today:

"It would be interesting to know what would satisfy the devout and holy men who run our newspapers in the interest of the angels. In as many, straightforward and definitive a way as it could have been done, the Mormons have abjured polygamy and promised to obey the law; yet the reverend gentlemen mentioned find in this action provocation for new calumny and fresh insult. It is clear that nothing will ever sate the bovine rage of these orthodoxen but the driving forth of this harmless people into the desert again, the shooting of their leaders, and the flogging of their women. If history ever become anything but a hardy and soulless liar, the cheeks of posterity will yet hold high holiday in that 'light of other days' the red radiance of incendiary torches which our fathers brandished at Nauvoo."

THE TERRITORIAL FAIR.

October 9th the fine art committee made the following report:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
October 8, 1890.

H. M. Wells, Esq., Supervisor Class J,
Fine Arts, Utah Exposition:

Dear Sir—The undersigned committee on awards in the above named department, reports the following distribution of prizes: