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## THE "MORMON" CHURCH AND THE REPUBLIC.

"NEITHER the *Herald* nor the *News* pretends that the Mormon's first allegiance is to the Government of the United States. Neither of them deny that the whole teaching of the Mormon Church in Utah for forty years has been that it is the mission of the Church to eventually overthrow the Republic of the United States, and on its ruins to establish an absolute theocracy. Neither of them deny that if it had the power the Mormon kingdom would make it impossible for any man to vote or hold office who did not subscribe to all the tenets of the Mormon faith, and yet they both declare that it would be unconstitutional and ungenerous to take from men, so tainted and so enthralled, the one safeguard that the fathers of this Republic placed in the hands of the American people, through which they might preserve their Government—the American ballot."

The foregoing is, of course, from the "Liberal" organ in this city, and is a repetition of falsehoods upon which it has harped for months. The "polygamy" cry is nearly played out. For many years it served the purpose of the plotters who desired to gain control of this Territory and its treasury. Whenever it is possible to put it to use in the same direction it is revived. But as a rule it is abandoned for the later hubbub.

We do not speak for the *Herald*; that paper is able to speak for itself. Neither do we "pretend" anything in our own behalf. What we put on record is the truth, without any pretense, or evasion or avoidance of the issue. We state emphatically that "the Mormon's first allegiance," in matters that pertain to civil and political affairs, is "to the Government of the United States." In ecclesiastical affairs, those that relate to religion, it is to the Church of which he is a member. He must "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."

We do "deny" that "the whole teaching of the Mormon Church for forty years has been that its mission is to eventually overthrow the Republic of the United States." This Church does not either teach

that this is its mission or make any attempt in that direction. On the contrary, so far as it has any right or power to do so, it has sustained and will sustain the Government of the United States in every constitutional exercise of its authority, which is and must be supreme in national affairs.

We are aware that the reply will be made that the Church claims to decide for itself what is and what is not constitutional authority. But this is just as false as the other things alleged against it. The Church has never done anything of the kind. Individual members have expressed their opinions. We have given our views on this question, as it might bear on some public issue. But the Church does not attempt to decide on such matters, and all the assertions by the "Liberal" organ that it has done so are entirely without foundation or excuse.

We also deny that "if it had the power the Mormon kingdom would make it impossible for any man to vote or hold office who did not subscribe to all the tenets of the Mormon faith." We aver that the "Mormon" Church teaches and urges the doctrine that the political rights of any citizen should never be affected by his religious opinions or the lack of them. The "Mormon" Church has never interfered with the rights of any non-"Mormon" or anti-"Mormon" to vote or to hold office under the laws of the land. It has been part of the "Mormon" creed from the beginning, and is embodied in the revelations which it holds to be divine, that every human being should be perfectly free as to faith and worship and the exercise of political choice and opinion. If it had the power it would so influence the people that full and complete opportunity would be afforded to every citizen to vote without restraint and to hold any office to which he might be legally elected, and that every class and party, irrespective of creed, would have its due representation.

We can prove from the standards of Church doctrine that what we have here set forth is genuine "Mormonism," and that anything to the contrary, whether stated by friend or foe, is not "Mormon" principle or what the Church authoritatively enunciates.

The same organ of misrepresentation says:

"Any one who will read in the *Journal of Discourses* the sermons deliv-

ered by Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Jedediah Grant and the rest, between the years 1860 and 1880, yes, down to 1880 or 1885, will see that the same kind of abuse, couched in much the same language, was hurled at every Federal official in Utah who was true to his office and his oath."

Well, we have "read in the *Journal of Discourses* sermons delivered" by those departed veterans in the cause of humanity while they were alive, but not any delivered by them "down to 1880 or 1885," as reports of discourses do not come to us from the spirit world. And we know that while they used some very strong language occasionally in regard to Federal officials in Utah, that this did not relate to or affect in any way the principles of liberty which they were ready to defend, nor their respect for the Government which those Federal officials disgraced by their infamous conduct.

But the paragraph last quoted shows what the organ in which it appears regards as "rebellion," and "treason," and "sedition" against this Republic. It is the denunciation of certain individuals who held authority under the Government. According to its view of the subject, no "Mormon" has any right to expose the wrong-doing of any Federal official; and if he ventures to do so, that is an endeavor to "overthrow the Republic." This to us is the veriest trash and the baldest kind of babyism.

We confess to our utter contempt for some of the representatives of the Government, who have been foisted upon suffering Utah and have served out their brief terms of pompous authority and then gone down into their natural obscurity. We are sure that a similar fate awaits all of their kind who take the same course, and who try to use their official opportunities for personal ambition or individual aggrandizement. But this does not lessen in the smallest degree our admiration of the principles and system of this great government nor our respect for its lawfully exercised authority.

We have no worship of men in our creed or our constitution. We do not think that allegiance to this Republic requires it. We know that the men whom the "Liberal" organ delights in defaming were the friends of the nation and fired with the loftiest patriotism. But they despised time-seekers, demagogues and blatherskites, and so do we. And among the persons sent here—political garbage dumped upon Utah—have been some of the poorest specimens of official humanity ever shipped to distant points to get rid