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## A SONG AND A LESSON.

A LITTLE wildwood yellow bird,  
A wondrous pretty thing,  
Sits perched upon the lilac bough,  
And plumes his golden wing;  
Not that the sunlight lingers, red,  
In beauty on his breast,  
For see—the dusky tempest-clouds  
Hang heavy in the west.

Fair habitation thine, and frail,  
O gentle summer bird;  
Now that by rain and stormy wind  
The forest-heart is stirred,  
Thy little home, so lithe and sweet,  
Like dew-born lilies, shakes,  
And o'er thy head, with jar and crash,  
The stormy thunder breaks.

He opens his bill, his woodland song—  
How rich and soft and mild!—  
Comes gushing from his silvery throat,  
As if the sunshine smiled;  
Though with each vibrant melody  
The storm-blast bends the tree,  
He ceases not, but still, dear God,  
His song soars up to Thee.

O yellow bird, O happy bird!  
What lessons dost thou give!  
The Christian 'neath the wildest skies  
Still hopefully shall live—  
While his fair tree of earthly joy  
Bends, breaking to the sod,  
In the fierce tempest's sharpest throes  
His song goes up to God.

Mary A. Denison.

## THE POLYGAMY QUESTION.

[From the Cleveland Leader of October 5.]

Washington, September 29 —Yesterday I received from Hon. John T. Caine, the Delegate in Congress from Utah, a copy of a letter recently sent out by Wilford Woodruff, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on the subject of polygamy. Woodruff is the successor of John Taylor, who followed Brigham Young as the head of the Mormon Church. In the letter referred to explicit denial is made of published statements to the effect that plural marriages are still being solemnized in Utah and that forty or more such marriages have been contracted during the past year. President Woodruff says:

"We are not teaching polygamy or plural marriage, nor permitting any person to enter into its practice. One case has been reported in which the parties alleged that the marriage

was performed in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City in the spring of 1889, but I have not been able to learn who performed the ceremony. Whatever was done in this matter was done without my knowledge. In consequence of this alleged occurrence the Endowment House was, by my instructions, taken down without delay.

"Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, which laws have been pronounced constitutional by the court of last resort, I do hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use all my influence with the members of the Church over which I preside to have them do likewise. There is nothing in my teachings to the Church, or in those of my associates, during the time specified which can reasonably be construed to inculcate or encourage polygamy, and when any Elder of the Church has used language which appeared to convey such teaching he has been promptly reproofed; and I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the laws of the land."

### WHAT DELEGATE CAINE SAYS.

This morning I called upon Mr. Caine and had an interesting conversation with him. Among other questions suggested by the latter I asked him if it was true that the Congressional enactments prohibiting polygamy were being accepted and obeyed by the Mormons in good faith.

"Absolutely so," said Mr. Caine. "The practice of polygamy has entirely ceased in Utah, and I believe it is safe to say that it will never be revived. I do not personally know of a single case in which a man is now living with more than one wife. I have no doubt that it will take a long time to make the people of the country believe this. We all know that there is an almost universal and deep-seated feeling against the Mormons, which to my mind is largely prejudice. We feel that it is unjust, but we recognize the fact that it must take years to overcome it. All the prosecutions now being had are for polygamists living with and supporting plural wives married years ago, before the passage of the Edmunds law."

"Let me say to you that our 'Book of Mormon' does not take the place of the Protestant Bible. We use the standard King James' translation, just as do all Protestant denominations. The 'Book of Mormon' is only supplementary to it.

"The impression is very general that the Mormon religion not only authorized but enjoined plural marriage. This is a mistake. Polygamy was simply permitted under certain conditions and restrictions. No man was allowed to contract a plural marriage unless he had a high religious character and had the ability to support two or more wives and the children that might be born to them. Unless these requirements were fulfilled plural marriages were absolutely forbidden and were under no circumstances solemnized.

"What proportion of the Mormons have, in years past, practiced polygamy?"

"A very much less number, probably, than you imagine. It did not exceed two per cent—twenty persons in every one thousand of the Mormon population. The population of the Territory, according to the new census, is about 206,000, of which about 140,000 are Mormons. The number of males living in polygamous marriage did not, at the time the Edmunds law was passed, exceed 2500. It is true that there were some 10,000 persons disfranchised under that law on account of polygamous practices, but this number included all the plural wives—for women voted—widows, and all who had ever lived in polygamy. I remember one case of a man who in early life lived in plural marriage, but has not done so for more than thirty years. Under a strict construction of the law he was held to be disqualified for citizenship, and was refused registration. You will see that monogamy has always been the rule among our people, and polygamy the exception. Now, as I have told you, polygamous marriages have been entirely discontinued."

"What is the condition now existing between those who formerly held a polygamous relation—that is, between a man and the women who were his wives?"

"Just such as you might suppose. A man must live with his legal