

fair will agree is parallel with law, with good common sense, and with sound political economy.

"The law of the land requires that a man shall be of good moral character and attached to the principles of the Constitution. The fact of a man's religious belief or that he is a member of the Church in good standing is not a ground for exclusion."

Judge Anderson, in reply to some foolish questions and objections by a "Liberal" hireling, whose impudence is out of all proportions with his intellect, referred to the prohibition law of Iowa, which he, with many others, believed to be wrong, and said he had worked with them for its repeal. But he had never heard of a proposition to exclude a man from any political right or privilege because he was opposed to the law, so long as he did not violate it. The Judge also showed that a man might be a member of a Church and yet not conform to all of its teachings.

These are fair and common sense propositions. And the point reached by their judicial enunciation is this: The bare belief of any alien who is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should cut no figure in admitting him to citizenship, no matter what may be the doctrine of that Church in reference to the polygamy question. If the man is of good moral character and attached to the principles of the Constitution and has complied with the laws relating to naturalization, he should be admitted to citizenship.

A practical polygamist would not be admitted, because under the rulings of the Courts here, he would not be considered a man of good moral character. Courts may be justified in this view of the case, under the circumstances. As Judge Anderson remarked: "The Court is not here to say what the law should be but what it is." And if a man should declare in Court that he considered it right and proper to violate the laws of Congress in any particular, very few persons would blame the Court for considering that attitude, in using the discretion which he is authorized to exercise in cases of naturalization. But a man's abstract belief, or his mere membership in a Church, whatever may be its tenets, ought not to enter into the question of his moral character or his admission to citizenship. The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that actions, not beliefs, are proper subjects of legislation.

A man may believe that a law of the United States or of a State or Territory is wrong or impolitic, and he has a perfect right to his opinion and to the expression thereof. He is also at liberty to strive in all lawful ways for its repeal, and to obtain judicial decisions as to its validity. But if he breaks the law he is liable to its penalties. This is as true in regard to laws in relation to polygamy as to those in regard to prohibition. There is no law of the United States which makes it criminal to believe in plural marriage or in celibacy. He may believe either to be right and the other wrong and may advocate his views by tongue and pen, and there is nothing in the spirit or the letter of the law to forbid this freedom of faith and of speech.

The "Liberal" quibbler referred to had the impertinence to inform the Court that the heads of the Church ought to be summoned, and be required to testify as to the requirements for admission to Church membership and as to whether polygamy was compulsory or not. The courts have nothing to do with the mere tenets of a church or its conditions of membership. Ignorance and impudence generally go together, and the latter is often the sure sign of the former.

For the information of persons not of our faith, we take the opportunity of stating that the conditions of admission into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are: Faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance of sins. Persons who truly believe and repent are baptized for the remission of sins and confirmed members of the Church by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. The fact of submission to these ordinances in itself a recognition of the claims of the officiating minister to Divine authority, which has been received by modern revelation, and of the position of the Church to which he belongs as the true Church of Christ. But no other requirement is made of the candidate. Repentance, however, includes a godly life for the future as well as regret for and forsaking the wrong-doings of the past.

Members of the Church are free as to their opinions. There is no bondage in its creed or discipline. The Church has the right under the institutions of this land of liberty to promulgate doctrines and defend principles pertaining to religious faith, no matter how unorthodox they may be or how erroneous they

may appear to other persons. Courts have nothing to do with creeds. Congress has no control over religion. Acts in violation of statutes are within the purview of the civil power, but tenets, principles, opinions and organizations for their lawful promulgation are protected by the Supreme Law of the land in full and perfect liberty.

It is the policy of this country, everywhere else but in Utah, to encourage aliens in their efforts to become citizens of the United States. Nowhere else are obstructions placed in their way in any respect like those interposed in this Territory. We admit that Courts are, perhaps, justified in making special interrogations here in view of the situation and the past prevalence of a practice made an offense by law. But there should be a limit to this, and that limit should, in our opinion, be the private belief of an applicant, which God and the Constitution have made free. With that neither courts, nor lawyers, nor bystanders have any right to interfere or to call in question.

A man's character is exhibited by his acts. If his deeds are immoral his character is immoral. And it should be remembered that the law which makes it criminal for a man to cohabit with more than one woman, by later additions which should be construed with the original statute, reaches out and covers several immoral acts and is not confined to polygamious associations. Yet the courts do not seem to be anxious to learn of the moral or immoral character or doings of any applicants for naturalization but "Mormons," and most notoriously immoral persons have been admitted to citizenship quite recently, without a gulp from a judge or an objection from pretended champions of a pure morality.

We hope the courts at least will keep clear from party bias. It would be a disgrace to the ermine if the stamp of the "Liberal" party were affixed to it and exhibited in judicial discrimination. When every People's Party applicant is obstructed, and the path of every "Liberal" applicant is smoothed, and the difference is so obvious and marked, people with eyes and brains cannot refrain from opinions, which will some time be expressed, and perhaps in a way and in places where they will receive due and effective consideration.

We feel pleased to be able to commend Judge Anderson's ruling on