

I am permitted to quote from a letter recently received by a distinguished member of this body from two prominent gentlemen, Gentiles so called, one of whom was formerly a member on this floor and who has lived in Utah over twenty years. The other went there some years ago as a federal judge, remained after his term expired, and has become a permanent resident of the Territory. Hear what they say:

"Six months after the issuance of the manifesto of the Mormon Church, abandoning the practice of polygamy, it became apparent to every fair-minded citizen that the Mormons were sincere in their abandonment of the practice, and were anxious to discontinue the unpleasant and unprofitable fight which had so long kept the Mormons and non-Mormons apart. Proposals were made by leading non-Mormons to prominent Mormons to come out from their political party (the People's party), dissolve it, and join with them in organizing the two great national parties—the Democratic and Republican—throughout the Territory, and thereafter conduct the politics of the Territory strictly on national party lines. This proposition was accepted by the Mormons, and their old party was formally dissolved and disbanded in every voting precinct in the Territory. Since then politics in Utah have taken a radical change. The old bitterness which existed between the two parties for so many years has been entirely obliterated, and Mormons and Gentiles are now pulling and fighting together as harmoniously as though no differences had ever kept them apart.

Democratic societies and Republican clubs have been organized in nearly every election precinct of the Territory; and the last Territorial election (August, 1891) was the liveliest and most interesting political struggle in the history of the people of Utah. Nothing but national issues were presented to the people, and the great bulk of them have already allied themselves with one or the other of the two great parties. It is true, however, that a portion of the old Liberal (Gentile) party is opposing the adoption of national politics in Utah, but their fight is limited; it is confined to but two or three counties, and there it is maintained under the leadership of the Salt Lake Tribune, the newspaper which has fought the Mormon people so unrelentingly for many years, and is still determined that they shall not be permitted to surrender, either conditionally or unconditionally, or to do anything else to close the war. Their idea, for reasons well understood here, is that the fight must be kept up and made as bitter as possible. But few, if any, of the Gentiles of Utah doubt the sincerity of the Mormon people. The great majority feel that days of peace have come to stay, and are anxious to meet the Mormons half way and do their part toward bringing to this mountain region a grand season of prosperity, which can only be secured by united and energetic action.

Speaking of the Utah Commission, the writers say:

This body of men have long since demonstrated that they have outlived their usefulness as an election board. From the day they first came to Utah they have insisted upon exercising legislative, judicial, and executive powers which it was plain to any reasonable and candid mind Congress never intended they should exercise. When the board was first created (by the act of March 22, 1882) Congress intended that it should remain in existence less than a year, but by the false and scandalous misrepresentations and personal lobbying of its members they have induced Congress (by act

of March 3, 1887) to fasten the Commission upon the Territory as a permanency or until abolished by Congress. They have persistently maligned the people of Utah without any cause therefor. They have refused to recognize the formation of the national parties here, and although the late dominant party (the People's party) had disbanded, they declined to appoint any judge or judges of election from either the Democratic or Republican party, after being requested by each of said parties so to do, thereby violating the plain spirit and letter of the election law of the Territory.

These commissioners annually send out, in their report to the Secretary of the Interior, and cause to be published, shameful and libelous attacks upon the people of the Territory, calculated to mislead the people of the States and Congress into the idea that the perpetuation of the Commission and the payment of their salaries (which alone insures their divine presence in Utah during the heated term when it is far pleasanter to spend a few days recreating in the tops of the mountains and at the shores of the famous lake so noted for its salt bathing than it is to swelter in the heated cities and plains of the East) is essential to keep the Mormon people from making some serious outbreak which would endanger the life of the nation. These heroic commissioners are still anxious to sacrifice themselves for the good of the nation, on the basis of making an annual three weeks' trip to the mountains for \$5,000 each and their expenses. We say of them that they now are and for many years have been doing their utmost to prevent a solution of the Mormon problem, to the end that they may be continued in office as long as possible. There is no need for them here. The people are competent to cast and count their own votes; and if Congress will only abolish the Commission it will soon be manifest that the only fears entertained are by these thrifty and anxious commissioners.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish it to be distinctly understood that these are the expressions not of Mormons but of reputable non-Mormon citizens of Utah, who know whereof they speak.

But it may be claimed that this statement emanated from a Democratic source.

Permit me to give a Republican view of the Utah Commission. I will read an extract from an editorial from the *Enquirer*, published at Provo, Utah. It is a Republican sheet.

(Mr. Caine read some extracts from that paper favoring the abolition of the Utah Commission.)

Mr. Henderson of Iowa—I would like to ask the gentleman if any bill has passed the Legislature of Utah providing for elections in that Territory and the discontinuance of the Commission which has been approved by the governor?

Mr. Caine.—No, sir. This board has been rather an expensive luxury to the country. The salaries of its members were fixed in the law at \$3000 each per annum, but it was feared that statesmen sufficiently patriotic enough could not be found to undertake for such a meagre salary the onerous duties of preventing the polygamous Mormons from voting, and so the salaries were increased to \$5000 a year on an appropriation bill, and have been continued at that rate ever since.

By a statement recently furnished by the Secretary of the Treasury to the chairman of the House committee on Territories, we learn that the cost of this board to the general government

from the time of its creation up to March 1, 1892, is as follows:

Salaries of Commission.....	\$241,063 91
Contingent expenses.....	105,184 82
Compensation and expenses of election officers.....	193,423 14
Total.....	\$539,670 87

Any further appropriation for this Commission is a needless and extravagant expense for the general government, and one that is not asked or desired by the people of Utah. There is not \$1,000 worth of work to be done by the entire Commission, and the whole service can be rendered under the Territorial law for not to exceed \$5,000 for the entire Territory.

Whatever necessity for this board existed at the time of its formation, it no longer exists. Polygamy has been abolished. The most pronounced opponents of the Mormon system have admitted that fact. It was admitted not long since by those who opposed the passage of what is known as the "home-rule" bill before the House committee on the Territories, "that polygamy in Utah was dead and could not be restored."

Further than this, the Governor and secretary of the Territory, the four federal judges, and the Utah Commission have all declared that polygamy is dead, and they have approved of the granting by the President of amnesty to the polygamists and the restoration of their civil rights.

Such being the case, and assuming that the Commission was appointed to aid in suppressing polygamy, can there be any further excuse for maintaining the Commission after the extinction of the practice of polygamy and the enfranchising of those who were disfranchised? Why, certainly not.

It is now proposed by the Senate amendment under consideration to reduce their salaries to \$2,000 per annum, and thus save \$15,000 a year of the public funds. But I contend, Mr. Speaker, that this is not merely a matter of the saving to the Government of a little money. It is all right to curtail extravagant salaries, but there is a principle behind this more precious than gold. The continuance of this commission, at ever so small a salary, deprives the people of Utah of the right of local self-government, a principle dear to every American citizen.

I therefore, in behalf of the people of Utah, ask this House to reject this report and its recommendation to recede from its former action in disagreeing to the Senate amendment, stand by the original proposition abolishing the Commission as provided in the bill as it passed the House, and so preserve inviolate one of the strongest bulwarks of American liberty—"home rule"—the right of the people to govern themselves. [Applause.]

The delegate was followed by Mr. Washington after a colloquy with several members.

Mr. Washington.—Mr. Speaker, It is always unpleasant not to be able to agree with a conference committee of which the majority is of your own party, but I feel that I will not discharge my duty to this Democratic House nor to the country if I allow this conference report to be adopted without giving some reasons why the House should insist that the conferees shall stand by the action of the com-