

services, and was there always found at his post of duty. He was a rugged character whose integrity to his religious convictions could not be doubted. On October 2nd, 1885, he was sentenced, by Judge Zane, to a term of imprisonment for six months and to pay a fine of \$300 and costs—under the Edmunds law, for unlawful cohabitation.

The services over the remains of Elder Edward Brain were held at the Twenty-first Ward meeting-house yesterday (Sunday) morning. The hall was completely filled on the occasion. The opening prayer was offered by Bishop Romney. The speakers were Elders: George Dunford, J. Nicholson, B. H. Schettler, Joseph E. Taylor—of the presidency of the Stake—and Bishop W. L. N. Allen. The benediction was pronounced by Counselor H. J. Foulger. The singing exercises were rendered by the ward choir, led by Brother Thomas McIntyre.

#### Returned Elders.

Elder Ezra T. Stevenson, of this city, returned on May 19th, from a mission to New Zealand, on which he started May 28th, 1887. For the first nine months he labored in the Manawatu and Wairarapa districts; the remainder of the time he presided over the Waiapu district. Throughout he met with good success, and was everywhere treated with great kindness both by the Saints and those not connected with the Church. On one or two occasions the Elders met with some slight opposition, but their meetings were, as a rule, undisturbed. Elder Stevenson states that the work in New Zealand is satisfactorily progressing and there have of late been a great number of baptisms in the new districts.

Elder John A. Sutton, Jr., of Paris, Idaho, returned home in company with Elder Stevenson. He labored in the Hawkes Bay district from June, 1887, until September of the following year, when he was appointed to preside over the district. In August, 1889, he was called to the Wairarapa district, and there remained until his release for home. He speaks well of the treatment he has received, of the results attending his labors, and says he has enjoyed his mission greatly. He has made many new friends during his absence, and both he and Elder Stevenson come back to Utah in the best of health and spirits.

May 21st, we had the pleasure of meeting Elders Edward W. Hunter and Adolph Anderson, just returned from missions. Elder Hunter left his home at Morgan City, Morgan County, April 30, 1888, and returned May 10, 1890. He was assigned to the northern States, laboring for a time in Iowa. Then he was transferred to northern New York and Canada, where he remained about 15 months. The Elders found some kind friends there, but generally the people were indifferent and inhospitable. The government's action has aided in increasing anti-"Mormon" pre-

judice. During the last three months of his mission Elder Hunter visited and preached among his relatives in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois.

Elder Adolph Anderson left his home in Logan May 19, and Utah four days later, to go on a mission to Scandinavia. He labored eight months as a traveling Elder in the Stockholm conference, Sweden, and since then he has labored in the Copenhagen office. He had charge of the company of Scandinavian Saints, numbering 153 souls, including eight returning missionaries and Elder Anderson's family. The journey was a pleasant one, the only circumstances to seriously mar its peace being the death of a child while the company were stopping in Liverpool, and he holding in quarantine at New York of an English sister, who had two children, one of whom was attacked with scarlet fever just before the vessel reached New York.

The Scandinavian mission, as a whole, is in an excellent condition, an average of over 600 baptisms per annum having taken place there for some years.

Elder Anderson makes special mention of the kind treatment extended by the officials and employees of the Guion line of steamers, and of the Norfolk & Western, Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis, and Union Pacific railroads. On all these roads pains were taken to make the company comfortable. But the treatment extended to them by the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia railroads was the reverse. On this road the company were crowded into filthy cars, and were deprived of sufficient water, and what was furnished was unfit to drink. One car was without any light all night. The company were well treated on the Old Dominion steamer which conveyed them from New York to Norfolk, Va. Elder Anderson left for Logan yesterday.

#### The Decision.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The Supreme Court of the United States today rendered an opinion of vital interest to the Mormon Church in the suit of the Church of Latter-day Saints against the United States, which comes here on appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah in favor of the United States. This court affirms that judgment.

The case grows out of the Edmunds anti-polygamy law, which dissolved the "Mormon" Church corporation and escheated to the United States the real estate owned by the Church. The Mormons entered suit to have the law declared unconstitutional, on the grounds that Congress by the dissolution assumed judicial power, that the act of the legislative assembly of Utah incorporating the Church constituted a contract which could not be impaired by Congress, under the authority to repeal the Territorial enactments, and that the doctrine of escheat is alien to the spirit of free institutions.

On the part of the United States it was contended that Congress had the authority to repeal all territorial enactments; that the act incorporating the Church was invalid, as an attempt to establish a religion contrary to the provisions of the Constitution; that the charter should be annulled for the abuse of granted rights. When a church corporation was dissolved, there was no one to whom to turn over the property; it was property escheated to the United States.

In its opinion the court says the distinguishing features of Mormonism are well known to be polygamy and absolute ecclesiastical control over its church members. Notwithstanding all efforts to suppress the barbarous practice of polygamy, the sect perseveres in defiance of law in propagating and promoting this nefarious doctrine. The question, therefore is, whether the promotion of such unlawful system, repugnant to our laws, is to be allowed to continue, and whether the enormous funds which have been accumulated be wielded for the propagation of an obnoxious practice, and for the promotion of an organized rebellion against the laws of the United States.

The history of the government's dealings with the Mormons is one of patience on the part of the American government and resistance to law and pitiless atrocities on the part of the Mormons. The contention that polygamy is a part of the Mormons' religious belief is a sophistical plea. No doubt the thugs of India imagined their belief in assassination was a religious belief, but that did not make it so. Society has a perfect right to prohibit offenses against enlightened mankind.

After an elaborate historical review of the common law, the court says: "Congress had back of it a contumacious organization, wielding by its resources immense power in the Territory of Utah, and employing those resources in constantly attempting to oppose, subvert and thwart the legislation of Congress and the will of the government of the United States. Under such circumstances, we have no doubt of the right of Congress to do as it did. The decree of the lower court is confirmed."

Justice Bradley delivered the opinion. Chief Justice Fuller said that he and Justices Field and Lamar were constrained to dissent. Congress unquestionably has power to suppress polygamy and it is immaterial whether the crime was committed in the name of religion, but Congress has not the power to seize and confiscate the property of a corporation because its members may have been guilty of a crime.

The people are the roots of the state; if the roots are flourishing the state will endure.

When paths are constantly trodden they are kept clean, but when abandoned the weeds choke them up; so weeds choke the mind in the absence of employment.—*Chicago News.*