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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE subjoined correspondence is a portion of the report, to the Cincinnati *Commercial*, of an "interview" of the correspondent with Mayor D. H. Wells, of this City, the interrogatory paragraphs by the correspondent—

"It is no fault of the United States government that we are not now peacefully possessing the titles to the ground we have redeemed, and which Congress wishes us to retain. It is the fault of the unrelenting land register here, Maxwell, who has entertained and abetted every petty and malicious claim contesting our right to the site, and who hinders the entry of our city, apparently with the object of being bought off or of discouraging us, or even of robbing us of it."

"How much do you claim as the proper area of Salt Lake City, General Wells?"

"About five thousand seven hundred acres, sufficient to give us water front on the Jordan and control of the irrigating reservoirs. We had laid out the city with an eye to coolness, breathing valves, wide streets and plats for recreations. The law is general upon the subject of municipal sites. It gives three hundred and twenty acres to every one hundred people in a town, a town of five thousand people receives four sections of the public lands. Salt Lake had grown so far beyond all precedents that we had to get a special relief bill passed, applying to our city, and we took a census for the purpose. The land office at Washington recommended and Congress promptly passed the special bill, under the terms of which we added to our original chart other essential bits of ground."

"What I wish to make plain to you is this: the nasty pretexts on which we are retarded in the matter of our entry?"

"Give me the names of all the claims which Maxwell has entertained against the city."

"Well there are the Robinson, Slosson, Williamson and Orr cases. Robinson was a retired surgeon of the army, who kept a billiard saloon, and was a sporting man here. He jumped the Warm Springs property, our public bath-house on the outskirts of the town, with eighty acres of environing land, although we had walled up the spot, dammed the warm stream, fenced the inclosure and used it so long under municipal regulations that the pump-cylinder with which we tubed the spring had rotted away. Robinson put a tent and a guard by the spring, and built a fence within our fence—a most impudent attempt to jump our property. We removed his obstructions, and he embarrassed us at law until his death, when his widow continued the suit, and the land agent actually permitted her to make a cash entry of the place. Very differently did the Washington authorities behave. The commissioner of the land office decided without hesitation in our favor, and the secretary of the interior confirmed it."

"What was the Slosson claim?"

"Slosson was a fellow who first rented a quarter section of ground from the city, on the road leading to Camp Douglas, and when he undertook to keep a rum-shop on it, in violation of law, we ejected him. He was then abetted by this Maxwell, in a barefaced attempt to claim it and enter it; but Maxwell's decision was reversed by the heads of department at Washington."

"The other two claims are even more preposterous, yet they are received and considered, and instead of disposing of them, Maxwell spends his time acting as volunteer counsel against us in criminal cases before the United States Court. Williamson 'jumped' a bit of ground claiming the pre-emption laws, and put a shanty upon it. It was a spot we had long previously reserved for a parade ground. J. M. Orr, a lawyer here, filed also Chippewa scrip for

eighty acres between Ensign Peak and Arsenal hill, half a mile from the heart of the city. Now scrip can only take up land for agricultural purposes, and this claim is impudent beyond degree; but this Land Register entertains it, refuses to decide it, and so keeps back our entry. We are nearly, or quite twenty thousand people; our city is as old as many great towns in the Mississippi Valley; but here men are allowed to pre-empt farms right in the midst of us as if they meant to plow us under."

"What should I suggest, General Wells?"

"Why; the General Land Office ought to instruct this devilish Maxwell not to entertain these paltry claims, each of which is a paltry reproduction of claims already thrown out. The Government means to encourage the formation and building of towns, but this agent vetoes the law in the case of the largest town ever established on the public lands."

[Here General Wells left me and went over to the City Hall, returning in a few minutes with copies of the Land Office decisions in the two cases decided, signed by Willis Drummond and affirmed by the Secretary of the Interior. These decisions state that "parties taking up land in the environs of town sites like Salt Lake City must take the risk of the lands falling within the town site," and that "where churches, school-houses, public buildings and places of trade and commerce are established in the form of a town, the land is already selected and held in reserve under the act and can not be infringed upon."]

Said General Wells: "We have no complaint to make of Congress or the Land Office in respect to our rights under the act. They have treated us well."

"As Mayor of the city, General Wells, do you meet with similar troubles in your municipal relations with the Federal Courts?"

"Yes. In the estimation of the Chief Justice of that Court there is but one crime in the world, and that is polygamy. There is but one set of criminals, and they are Mormons. He has mustered around him all the other vices, and adopted them as allies to move upon our one offense. Rum, prostitution, rapacity, incivility—these are the adherents of the Supreme Court of Utah in its holy war upon our marriage relation. The Court entertains every complaint made against us. It gives Godbe an injunction forbidding us to sue him as a corporation and a score of unlicensed liquor dealers seem emboldened to defy us. The liquor-sellers have now, I am told, by the advice of the satellites of the Court, raised a fund to sue the city when we interfere with them. The prostitutes newly landed among us, rise up in that Court to assail our ordinances. The Court entertains every complaint, and those too preposterous to treat with seriousness it puts in its pocket and staves off, while crime takes advantage of the interregnum. Our Alderman's courts have been delegatized, and we are told by McKean that a Legislature has no right to bestow discretionary powers on a jury or a civic corporation. In short, Mr. Correspondent, there is an end in Utah to any equity before the law. The end of the law is to reach polygamy. All are hailed as friends of the government, however notorious, who will leave the great and decent body of the Gentiles and persecute us. Our Probate Courts are declared to have no power to grant divorces, and yet Mr. Baskins, the United States Prosecuting Attorney, is married to a woman divorced by a Probate Court. But, then, we are Mormons! Finally, professional murderers like Bill Hickman are permitted to give themselves up by collusion with the courts, and affect to turn State's evidence against us to prejudice us in the eyes of civilization."

WHAT WILL THE MORMONS DO?

Editorial Correspondence of the Indianapolis Journal.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 17, 1871.

What will the Mormons do if Brigham is convicted, and sentence of imprisonment is passed upon him? This question has been asked a thousand times in Salt Lake within the past fortnight, and has been answered in many ways. We put it to the Mormon rulers and bishops, and they expressed the belief that, in some miraculous way, God would provide for such an emergency. Bishop [Elder] Cannon said: "We are situated as the Jews [Hebrews] were at the Red Sea; our enemies are pressing us; we are encompassed by moun-

tains on either hand, and the deep sea is before us; none but God can save us, and we have strong faith that He will make bare His arm in our behalf." Mayor Wells, one of Brigham's chief counselors; Bishop Sharp [Elder Pratt?], who discussed polygamy with Dr. Newman; and Mr. Hooper, the Mormon delegate to Congress, expressed themselves in a similar way. I do not believe that the Mormons will stand still and await the salvation of the Lord when the crisis comes. In my opinion there is no prison in Utah strong enough to hold Brigham Young one hour, and to attempt to imprison him while the military force of the United States at Salt Lake numbers less than five thousand armed men would be a piece of extreme folly. * * *

A collision now, between the Mormon and Federal authorities would result in a temporary Mormon victory that would set the whole Territory in a blaze of excitement and enthusiasm. I have met scores of gentlemen in Salt Lake and here, who have studied the Mormon character for years, and they all believe that a mob and rescue is sure to follow Young's incarceration, unless an army of United States troops are on the ground at the time. Is there not a cheaper, a more Christian, a better way of disposing of this vexed question? One of the most deplorable results of the course of the Federal officers of the Territory, if it is pursued, would be the degradation of the women and children of the Mormon households. To punish and imprison Mormons for polygamous marriages, long since contracted, would drive thousands of women to prostitution, and bastardize thousands of innocent children who have lived in the belief that they are the lawful issue of honorable marriages. * * *

The proceedings in Judge McKean's court are calculated to increase the difficulties of the problem, without advancing one step in the direction of its correct solution.

There are various rumors afloat as to what the Mormons may do in case a conflict is brought about. It is a well known fact that they have always lived on friendly terms with the Indian tribes, and it is asserted that they have formed alliances with the Indians, and that civil strife in Utah would kindle the flames of a frontier war throughout the Indian country. Gentlemen who are thoroughly familiar with the topography of Utah, and have been engaged in surveying and building the overland telegraph and railroad, are of the opinion that the Mormons could hold their Territory—destroying railroad communication between the Atlantic and Pacific—for an indefinite period, and that it would require the raising of a large army to subjugate them, if they could be subjugated at all. Others say that when the war begins the Mormons will gather their hosts and go south into Mexico, leaving the Salt Lake valley just as they found it, when, twenty-five years ago, they pitched their tents there after their toilsome march across the plains. Some shortsighted individuals fondly hope that the Saints will fold their tents and steal silently away, leaving their towns, cities, and improved farms to be peaceably occupied by the interloping Gentiles, who have recently swarmed into the valley and are waiting for something to turn up. There are other sharp-set fellows who are conveniently near with their "pockets full of rocks," expecting to make handsome speculations in Mormon real estate, mining interests and merchandise, when Judge McKean and his deputy prosecutors get Brigham in limbo. So it is quite plain that the Mormon question is a many sided one, presenting different aspects to the various classes directly interested in it. Let us hope the exorcism of polygamy may be removed in some way that will preserve the material prosperity of the territory and bring its busy, thrifty population into harmonious and fraternal relations with the great body of our people. To accomplish this will require the exercise of great wisdom and forbearance by all who bear a part in the work, and no bunglers, working in the interests of a blind bigotry or unscrupulous avarice, should be allowed to direct or control the course to be pursued.

THE GREAT CRUSADE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, dilating upon the present crusade against the "Mormons," thus describes what he calls the "ring"—

1. Chief justice of Utah, J. B. McKean, of New York State; an officer of the volunteer army during the war, and a prominent Methodist, formerly, it is

said, a preacher. McKean came here upon a crusade against polygamy, and his fair abilities and great vanity have carried him through it thus far with about equal flourish and fearlessness. He is a wiry, medium-sized man, with a tall, baldish head, gray side-locks, and very black, sallow eyes, at times resinous in color, like tar water.

He looks, however, to be in the prime of strength and will; has never communicated with Brigham Young personally since he arrived, and is absorbed in the purpose of intimidating the Mormon church or breaking it up. His behavior on the bench has been despotic and extra-judicial to the last degree, and he has also been unfortunate enough to compromise his reputation by mining speculations which have come before his court, and received influential consideration there.

2. R. N. Baskin, the author of what is called in Congress the "Cullom Bill," and at present temporary prosecuting attorney before McKean's court, a lean, lank, rather dirty and frowy, red-headed young man, but a lawyer of shrewdness and coolness, and inflamed against Mormonism. He said in a speech before McKean last Friday, that if Joseph Smith had been a eunuch he would never have received the revelation on polygamy. To this the Mormons retort that Baskin is married to a woman for whom he procured a divorce from a former husband, etc.

3. George R. Maxwell, an ex-officer from Michigan, with a game leg, a strong, dissipated face, and Register of the land office here; an indomitable man, but accused of corruption, and a chronic runner for Congress against delegate W. H. Hooper; thinks Congress is a vile body because it will not put Hooper out of Congress for his creed, as promptly as Judge McKean would put him off a jury.

4. J. H. Taggart, United States Assessor; a person who was bitten by a dog some time ago and charged the bite to Mormon assassins. Imperfect, indeed doubtful record in the army as surgeon, and chiefly potential as a gadder and street gossip against the Saints.

5. O. J. Hollister, United States Collector; uninteresting man who married the half-sister of the Vice-President, and although a determined anti-Mormon, does not agree with several of the ring; the same is the case with several others, all want to be boss. Hollister deluges the eastern press from Chicago to New York, with letters of locums picked up at hearsay, and hardly reliable enough for a comic paper.

6. Dennis J. Toohy, editor and late partner with Hollister in the *Corinne Reporter*; an Irishman, witty and abusive, and incapable of working in harness. The ring tactics have generally been to combine the Godbeites and the Gentiles in a "liberal" or anti-Brigham party, but at a meeting of the two sets some time ago Toohy denounced polygamy so violently that Godbe and Eli B. Kelsey, apostates but polygamists, rose up and resented it.

7. Frank Kenyon, proprietor of the *Review*, a paper which has superseded the *Salt Lake Tribune* in irritating the Mormons; a Montana man, and with so little fortitude that when the indictment of Brigham was proposed, he sent his domestic treasures to San Francisco.

8. C. M. Hawley, associate justice with McKean, but not servile like O. F. Strickland, the other judge. Hawley bores people on the streets by reading his long opinions to them. He nearly made O. P. Morton a polygamist lately by reading to him opinions the other way.

9. C. M. Hawley, jr., son of the aforesaid, a weakish, top-whiskered, insubstantial young man, who stood challenger at the polls in Salt Lake recently, with too many horns "into" him, and was arrested by the city police and confined two hours; he now has a suit against the corporation for twenty-five thousand dollars damage, and one of the usual — juries may award it.

9. George A. Black, Secretary of the Territory, author of the proclamation against the Fourth of July here.

10. Geo. L. Woods, of Oregon, the governor; a gristly, large man, of little metal "heft." Woods refused to let the Mormon militia celebrate the Fourth of July last year, and ordered, through Black, general DeTrobriand to turn out his regular army garrison and fire on the Nauvoo Legion if they disobeyed. DeTrobriand, who has a contempt for the Gentile ring, like all the regular army officers, answered:

"If I do this thing there is to be no confusion nor debate about it upon the actual field. I shall parade my troops