

## THE MORMONS AND THEIR TERRITORY.

Utah is the next prosperous and populous of our Territories. The number of inhabitants is estimated by the Mormons to be 150,000, and Salt Lake City is credited with 20,000. Gentiles who have visited Salt Lake think the estimates not far wrong. A State would have been organized ten years ago if Congress had not feared that the result would be the legalization of polygamy and the introduction with it of troubles that might not be cured for many decades. Several States are now represented in the United States Senate with a smaller population than that of Utah.

A Church with devoted adherents was needed to tie the people down to the basin of Salt Lake. The landscape was bare, timber remote, water scanty, the climate severely cold in winter, and all access to navigable tide water, and to the main centres of population and trade, very costly. Brigham Young selected this unpromising place for the seat of his new Zion, and for a quarter of a century he and his people have been faithful to each other and to the desert valley, which they have filled with thrift and prosperity. Some travelers have said that the Mormon capital is the prettiest town in the United States; and all admit that it does great credit to the people who have built it.

The Mormon community is filled with the spirit of confidence and co-operation. If a neighbor needs help he has no difficulty in getting it. If the public interest requires that anything should be done, and there is a delay about beginning the work, the church authorities select men to begin it, and they obey orders. Settlements are established and abandoned, roads are opened, factories are built, and trading expeditions sent out by the direction of Bishops, Elders and other ecclesiastical functionaries. There is a mutual helpfulness that is not found in any other community of equal size.

It has been part of Brigham's policy, from the first, to make his community as independent, industrially, of the Gentiles, as possible; and for that purpose he has encouraged home manufactures, and discouraged the importation of costly and useless luxuries. The women have been accustomed to dress in plain cottons and woollens, plainly made, and though they have evidently not heard from Paris for years, their gowns are quite as comfortable as those worn by the most obsequious imitators of Eugene. One of the first productions of Salt Lake Valley was leather, and its title of "Valley Tan," given to every thing else of home production, was sufficient to command the favor of every Mormon. We say every Mormon, for although there were malcontents among them, yet, taking them as a class, they were harmonious in their government and business beyond all example. Frequently, they moved, as though their temporal welfare and eternal salvation depended upon implicit obedience to their ecclesiastical authorities, and those, again, acted with a similar unanimity. Churches, families, social clubs, old and life-long friends separated on account of slavery, secession, and minor points of politics, and questions of personal gain or advancement, but the Mormon leaders were of one mind. If they have any wire-pulling and quarrelling, they keep them secret.

The Mormons include a great number of skillful mechanics. They have cotton and woolen factories, and saw, planing, and grist mills, and they can now produce nearly everything that can be made in any part of the United States. The construction of the railroad has reduced the price of many of the articles with which they supplied the miners of Idaho and Montana two years ago, and they are compelled to seek for new industries. One of these is silk, and they have so far succeeded very well in cultivating the mulberry and rearing the silk worm. They will have about 2,000,000 cocoons this year, and the main object of John W. Young's late trip to our State was to visit our cocooneries, and see what information he could get that would be of value to the silk-growers of Salt Lake. With such an industrial spirit as the Mormons have, they must prosper.

The future of Utah depends, to some extent, upon polygamy. The Mormons should pass a bill through their Territorial Legislature forbidding polygamous marriages, for the future, and they should get a new revelation, or at least a rule of the Church that the time has come when all marriages must be monogamous. It is far better that they should do this than that somebody should do it for them. If they do it, they can use the form that suits them best; if they refuse, the form may be the one that will suit them least. By prohibiting polygamy for the future they will disarm their most dangerous enemies, and probably put an end to an agitation that would otherwise continue for a long time, and often cause alarm. As for past polygamous marriages, it is probable that more harm than good would come from disturbing them. So long as the social evil prevails extensively in Washington, it would be unbecoming in Government to make war on the Mormons for polygamous marriages contracted in the past, many of them at a time when there was no law to prohibit them.

The entire Pacific slope is interested in the peace and prosperity of the Mormons, in the removal of all causes of quarrel between them and the Christians of the Nation, and in the admission of their Territory as a State of the Union, upon terms that will secure the preservation of good feeling, protect the principles of our most enlightened society, and foster the development of the resources of the Western slope of our continent.—*Los Angeles California.*

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