

"Everybody who knows anything about the Mormons knows that the very keystone of their system is the confidence they place in the heads of the Church as religious guides. If this statement were untrue every Mormon would know it and it would be a severer blow to their faith than anything their enemies have done. Polygamy is today as much under control among the Mormons as other crimes are in the States, and the only way to revive it would be disfranchise the Mormons. Now they have their ballot to keep, which they know is their only protection, and they will not endanger this by breaking the truce by which they hold it."

The Butte, Montana, *Miner* is much surprised at the manifesto, but no more surprised than we are to find in so pronounced an anti-"Mormon" paper these fair remarks:

"His manifesto is wise, conservative and well considered. It commands for him the respect of the people of the entire United States, and if he succeeds in bringing to an end the polygamous curse, he will win an enviable place in the history of the country. The *Miner* joins with the press and people of Montana in applauding the action of Mr. Woodruff, and bidding God-speed to the reformation that appears to have taken root in the land of the misguided Saints."

The Dubuque, Iowa, *Times* calls the act of the Conference "A New Departure," and concludes its comments in this way:

"By the abandonment of this peculiar doctrine, they place themselves in line with other religious denominations, and they will be guaranteed equal protection. Like the government of ancient Rome this government admits all religions and impartially permits all forms of worship. The Indian can hold powwows in honor of the Great Spirit; the Mohammedan can sound from his minaret the praises of Allah; the Chinaman can erect his Joss house; the Fire Worshiper can look to the sun as the supreme lord of life; the Hindoo can appeal to Vishnu; and the infidel can scornfully reject all and every form of religious belief, and all will be protected so long as each and all conform to the law of the land. If the Mormons are sincere in this new stand taken by them they have disarmed both the law and public opinion."

The Savannah (Georgia) *News* states:

There is, of course, no desire to interfere with the Mormon religion if polygamy is not a part of it. The Mormons are welcome to profess any religion they please so long as they do not violate the laws. They must, however, respect the laws, and as long as they do so that they will not be interfered with.

The Washington correspondent of the Columbus, Ohio State, *Journal* treats the subject as it will probably affect the Utah Commission, and we will close the clippings for today with his pungent sayings, which furnish some reasons why some members of that body affect to treat lightly the important announcement; they do not relish it or its probable consequences to them:

"The declaration of the Mormon Church on the subject of plural marriages will likely have the effect of throwing the members of the Utah Commission out of nice soft berths. The members of this commission each draw a salary of \$5000 and traveling expenses. The position is much better from a financial standpoint than that of a United States Senator or member of Congress, for the reason that there is but little time devoted to the duties of the office. The governor and other officers of the Territory practically prepare all the reports, and all the Commissioners have to

do is to take a jaunt out there once every year and, after looking about and having a good time, affix their signatures to the official document, which is submitted to Congress. The official action of the Mormon Church in agreeing to abandon plural marriages and submit to the laws of the United States renders this Commission useless and the members will soon find their occupations gone."

FACTS AND FICTION ABOUT "MORMON" IMMIGRATION.

THE landing of a company of "Mormon" immigrants in New York, a short time ago, was made the occasion of a great deal of useless trouble and a vast amount of baseless indignation. The juvenile reporters for the daily papers, whose bread and butter depends upon getting news, whose great delight is a "sensation," and whose highest horror is a "scoop," found an ample field for fertile imagination, and with a few facts for a basis, built up many columns of sheer fiction, which they adorned with those cheap and delusive woodcuts that have become common to a certain class of journalism.

The story has been circulated throughout the country that this company was composed of about two hundred young girls, imported for "Mormon" harems. The comments on this falsehood have been numerous and more or less forcible, and the number of the alleged "female converts" has varied all the way from the figure named down to twenty. The *New York World* devoted nearly four columns to this matter, giving pretended portraits of all the girls in the company. From these it appears that the actual number of unmarried females in the company, all told, was thirty-eight, that their ages varied all the way from four years up to forty-five, and that in nearly every instance they were parts of families in the company.

The Brooklyn, N. Y., *Standard Union*, referring to this, said:

"When a New York paper prints a cartoon representing a Mormon Saint leading a string of buxom young women by a tape line down a gang-plank, with the legend underneath: 'The saintly dealer in white slaves flourishes under the kindly protection of the Stars and Stripes,' it is simply buncombe."

It is a good deal worse than "buncombe," it is libel against the "Mormons" and the Gulton Company, and a gross deception of the public.

The company was detained until it could be thoroughly examined and, if possible, some pretext be invented for their detention which would hold legal water. But every effort failed. There was not the

slightest reason for detaining them and this was officially decided.

Commenting on this the Albany, New York, *Times* makes the following remarks:

"We approve of all religious ceremonies at proper times and places, but there are public times and places when they cannot be indulged in by one set of believers without offending others. For instance, at the United States immigration bureau in New York the other day, almost a pitched battle took place between the chaplains of various denominations, on the one hand, and a half dozen Mormon Elders on the other. The latter were in charge of a couple of hundred immigrants from Sweden, en route for Utah. The bureau officials seem to have first set about converting these misguided Mormons on their own account. But the latter proving obdurate, they were penned up and the chaplains of all sects called in and let loose upon them. It would seem that in the wordy encounters that ensued some of the Mormon women held their own in repartee, and proved themselves as apt in biblical texts as the would-be proselyters were. Anyhow the affair, which lasted several hours, ended without any conversions being made, and the Mormons, male and female, went on their way to their promised land."

The Chicago *News*, taking its "information" from some of the New York dailies, made the following editorial comments:

"A steamship recently landed in New York nearly two hundred women who were on their way from various points in Europe to Utah, whither they were going as converts to the Mormon Church. An effort was made by the officials to dissuade them from going, which was unavailing. The officers claimed they had no authority to prevent their departure for Utah."

"It is not easy to see why these deluded women could not be restrained under the law excluding contract laborers, for clearly they fall under some of the restrictions of that enactment. Nearly all the Mormon immigrants have their passage paid by the Church, and there is a promise that they shall repay the Church for such advances after they have earned the money in this country. Not only so, but Mormon immigrants all come here pledged to a service of that Church that is not measured by money or labor, but by both, and not for a period but for life."

"If ever there was a contract laborer imported into the United States every Mormon immigrant is such a one. The specious professions of loyalty of that Church recently made in Salt Lake ought to deceive no one. The Church hates the government with an inveterate hatred, and only makes these professions to hide its real designs."

"If the government excludes a Christian minister who comes here in response to the call of a Christian church to become its pastor—as it has done because he was a 'contract laborer'—by how much more should it exclude a Mormon proselyte who comes here under a pledge of lifelong service to that Church."

It will be seen that our Chicago contemporary is mistaken throughout. There were not "two hundred women" in the company. They