

they were ordered. Perhaps, after all, the reading of the sewer ordinance—which involves an enormous expenditure of public funds—was needless. This is a feature of the "Liberal" rule—all of that party voting as they are ordered—which must be dispensed with. It is a menace to the Republic and the American people do not propose to stand it. We say to them, unless you come out from under the rule and dictatorship of a gang of men whose conduct is inimical to the interests of this Government, your property rights will be jeopardized and the ballot will be stricken from your alien hands.

### MORE COMMENTS ON THE "DECLARATION."

THE press of the country still agitates the "Mormon" question and the effect upon it of the action of the Church in relation to further plural marriages. We have refrained for several days from reproducing more of these comments lest we should weary our readers. We will now publish a selection from a large mass of clippings in addition to those which have already appeared in these columns.

The *Californian*, published in San Francisco, says:

"The Mormon movement will henceforth get a more respectful study than it had while identified with polygamy. We say respectful attention, for considered in any aspect, a movement which has controlled the conscience and the conduct of hundreds of thousands of people, some of them of high intelligence, cannot be ignored by philosophers and students of psychology. Considering the difference in the age and circumstances, the Mormon movement made much more rapid progress than Mahometanism, and the inquiry into the cause of its growth will become of prime interest. This final step out of polygamy will raise some interesting legal questions and precipitate some political issues of great importance. Does it remove the bar to the admission of Utah into the Union? Is a Territory to be kept subordinate because a majority of its people belong to a certain Church?"

"The legal question relates to the status of Mormons in Idaho, who are now in outlawry by the hideous provisions of the State Constitution. When the Church publicly announces that it ceases to teach polygamy, does the test oath provided in that constitution cease to operate? Can the Idaho Mormons next year approach the ballot-box and be reinstated in their civil and political rights? The *Alta* sees no reason for refusing them their rights. But can they be regained without an appeal to the courts to make it a matter of proof that the Church has purged them?"

"The Mormon leaders deserve credit for voluntarily removing a reason which was being pleaded by politicians for legislation that was running away from the principles of free government. They have been wise in

this. Let us hope that these people will now feel more and more that they are Americans and have mutual part and lot in the future and the destiny of the Republic."

The *Cheyenne Sun* makes this brief enunciation:

"The formal renunciation of polygamy by the Mormon Church, on the ground that it is in conflict with the United States law, is causing much comment throughout the country. There is every reason to believe that the Latter-day Saints are in earnest."

The *Omaha Bee* has had considerable to say on the question, being at first rather skeptical, but finally in a long editorial it discusses the subject in a more rational manner and closes in this way:

"As to the motives that prompted this action of the Mormons it is not important to inquire. If they have honestly and sincerely renounced polygamy, that is enough, and we cannot see how there can longer be a reasonable doubt that such is the case. The laws, however, will be preserved, at least until the country shall become convinced that they can be of no further service. Meanwhile the action taken by the Mormon Church, in removing the chief if not the only ground of opposition to it, ought to have results beneficial to the material interests of Utah and to all classes of the people of that Territory."

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* concludes an article in these words:

"Although a practical surrender of Mormon principles, it is a master stroke of policy in that it will take Mormonism out of national, if not local politics, and will wipe out the ground which has existed for legislation against the Mormons. As long as this ruling prevails, the Mormons must be treated as a religious sect entitled to all the privileges of other religious organizations."

From the *Macon, Georgia, Telegraph* we make these extracts:

"There is conclusive evidence that only a small minority of the Mormons had a plurality of wives when Congress began to legislate against polygamy. Few of the present generation have practiced polygamy. It was maintained almost exclusively by the Elders of advanced years who represent the original Mormon ideas and practices. It is true some of the monogamists among the Mormons have been stout and uncompromising opponents of federal interference in the domestic affairs of the people of Utah."

"It is only fair that the Mormon general conference should have full credit for its declaration against the practice of polygamy. It has been supplemented by assurances from the highest officials of the Mormon Church that they mean to execute the decree of the conference as efficiently as they possibly can. Let us give the Mormons a chance and encourage every disposition on their part to reform."

The *Jefferson City, Va., Tribune* concludes a lengthy editorial with these remarks:

"The constitutionality of these drastic measures was contested in the courts as determinedly as their enactment had been opposed in Congress, and with as little success. The Supreme Court of the United States

sustained the power of the government, which left the Mormons no recourse but to submit.

"This it has at last done. It retains its peculiar faith, but it denounces plural marriage. It thereby purges itself of criminality, and puts itself in line with the law and popular sentiment."

"This is practically the end of polygamy and paves the way for the admission of Utah as a State."

This is the closing paragraph of an editorial in the *Galveston, Texas, News*:

"The latest news from Utah seems to be decisive of the Mormon trouble. The President of the Mormon Church in general conference has come out squarely forbidding polygamy and declaring for obedience to the law as a matter of principle, and he speaks for the Apostles, Bishops and Elders, who sustain him unanimously. It is to be hoped that this will terminate the very unpleasant political conditions in Utah. It was becoming a matter of concern to American democrats that a populous and wealthy Territory should exist without local self-government, and be a sphere for the exercise of such exceptional powers as have not been seen elsewhere in this country since the extremest phases of reconstruction."

The *Pittsburg, Va., Appeal* concludes:

"There is no reason to doubt, that these professions and declarations were made in good faith and that plural marriages in the Mormon Church are a thing of the past. Whatever the religious tenets of the Latter-day Saints may be concerning the propriety or permissibility of such marriages concerns no one but themselves. All that can be asked of them is that they respect the laws of the country of which they are citizens. Nor would it be right or humane to disturb the relations of those families that have been organized and have grown up under the old Mormon dispensation. The women and children ought to be protected, provided and cared for, for in no instance should the innocent be permitted to suffer."

The *Washington, D. C. Gazette* has the annexed editorial paragraph:

"It having become a fixed fact that the Mormons have abandoned polygamy as a practice in obedience to laws which have been decided to be constitutional, no way remains to keep 160,000 people under the dominion of a few well-salaried federal officials, and a sprinkling of Gentiles in Utah, except to pass the pending bill disfranchising alleged Mormons who may decline to swear that they do not believe in their Church tenets. Will the Republican Congress go that length in order to continue their hold on the spoils, and, it so, how many alleged Democrats will vote with them? A religious test oath is all that is needed to round out the anti-personal liberty record of the present Congress."

The *Baltimore, Md., Herald* finishes a comprehensive discussion of the question as follows:

"Mormonism finally brought to bay in the valleys and mountain fastnesses of the mighty West may be still only in its infancy. Adapted to changed conditions, it doubtless has the vitality and tenacity of other religious beliefs in other parts of the world."