

NO. 24.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1889.

VOL. XXXIX.

HAPPINESS.

This perfect love can find no words to say. What words are left still sacred for our use,

That have not suffered the sad world's abuse.

And figure forth a gladness dimmed and grav?

Let us be silent still since words convey But shadowed images, wherein we lose The fulness of love's light; our lips refuse The fluent commonplace of yesterday.

Then shall we hear beneath the brooding wing

Of silence what abiding voices sleep. The primal notes of nature, that outring Man's little noises, warble he or weep, The song the morning stars together sing, The sound of deep that calleth unto deep. EDITH WAARTON.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF SPEAKS.

Following is the full text of the statements made by President Wil-ford Woodruff to an Associated Press reporter and as published in the eastern press:

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov. 22, 1889. President Wilford Woodruff, of the "Mormon" Church, in the course of an interview today, expressed the following views concerning the investigation now taking place in the Third District Court, arising from the application of a "Mormon" for naturalization.

President Wilford Woodruff said: You must understand that this is the periodical anti-"Mormon" sensation, which we are accustomed to expect in November. Congress meets in December and it is presumed that the usual efforts will be made to secure legislation against the "Mormons." Of course, this cannot be accomplished unless the public mind is first prepared for it. In addition to this, I might explain we are on the eve of an important municipal election here in which the anti-"Mormon" party by pre-venting the naturalization of "Mor-mons," and in other improper ways, hope to be successful.

Reporter-But, President Woodruff, what canyous ay as to the claim made before the court that membership in the "Mormon" Church is incompatible with good citizenship?

I can truthfully say there is absolutely nothing in the "Mormon" religion that is not consistent with the most patriotic devotion to the government of the United States. The revelations and commandments to the Church require that the Constitution and laws of the land shall be upheld. It is also a part of our belief that a time will come when this country will be distracted by departures from the spirit and letter of the Constitution, and when general lawlessness will prevail, and that when that condition shall arrive the "Mormon" people will step forward and take an active part in rescuing the nation from ruin. As a people the "Mormons" have the highest veneration for the institutions of the Republic. There are among our community quite a number of descendents of the revolutionary fathers who fought and bled to establish our popular governmeut.

Reporter—But, Mr. Woodruff, to be specific, what about the claim that the Priesthood or chiefauthorities of the Church assert or usurp the right to control the Mormon people in all their temporal (including political)

President Woodruff-I am the present head of the Church and do not make any such claim. would be impossible to exercise it if I did. The Mormon people would not tolerate any such absolutism. It is true the authorities of the Church have taken a great deal of interest in the temporal affairs of the people, and the results are apparent every-where. One is that the great ma-jority of the "Mormons" own their own homes. The leading men among them have been mostly men of experience, accustomed to wrestle the crude elements. advice and direction to the people in temporal affairs have therefore been of great value. About political matters, the charge of undue interference is absurd. Elections are conducted under strictly secret ballot system, so that no man knows how his neighbor votes. All the management of elections, down to the smallest details, is in the hands of the officers of the United States Government and their appointees. True, the "Mormons" are to a considerable degree united in their political affairs. This is largely due to their being constantly

and vindictively assailed by a small minority in Utah who have sought to wrest the control of public affairs from the hands of the majority. They have thus been driven together by a common interest and compelled to distinguish their compelled to distinguish friends from their enemies.

Reporter-One of the aims of the proceedings now going on in court is to prove that there is something antagonistic to the government in the "Mormon" Endowments. What

about that charge?
President Woodruff-I have already said that there is nothing of that kind in any part or phase of "Mormouism." I ought to know about that as I am one of the oldest members of the Church. A good deal is being made of a form of prayer based upon two verses in the sixth chapter of the Revelations of St. John, as contained in the New Testament. It relates to praying that God might avenge the blood of the prophets. An attempt has, I see, been made to connect this with avenging the death of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and to have reference to this nation. It can have no such application, as the Endowments were given long before the death of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and have not been changed. This nation or government has never been charged by the "Mormon" people with the assassination of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, as it is well known the murder was the act of a local mob dis-

Reporter-Then there is nothing in the cry about blood atmement?

President Woodruff: Well, there The foundation of our reliis this: gious faith is belief in the atoning blood of Christ, through which the resurrection will be brought about. We believe in the scriptural doctrine, whose sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed; but we also believe that all executions for murder should be under the law of the laud and by its officers only.

Reporter-What about the statements made by two or three apostate "Mormon" witnesses to the effect that the Endowment ceremonies involved the death penalty upon those who leave the Church and disobey the Priesthood?

President Woodruff-Well, there is no accounting for the bitterness