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LIFE'S OCEAN.

Over the billows the proud ship sailed,
With her sails to the wind set free,
Only a ship among countless ships,
A speck on the fathomless sea.
A storm arose, the sea ope'd its arms,
She sank with a crash and a roar:
The waves closed o'er her, no trace was left,
And the waters moved on as before.

Ah! so 'tis with us on life's ocean,
As over its billows we ride,
Only a life amid countless lives,
Only a speck on time's vast tide.
Today o'er its breakers we breast the foam,
Tomorrow we sink in its roar,
The waves close o'er us, no trace is left,
And the world moves on as before.

Omaha World-Herald.

ANTI-MORMON LAWS VS. THE BIBLE.

To the Editor:

Permit me, if you please, to use your column for the presentation of some thoughts on Mormon disfranchisement and the law thereof which, in my opinion, are worthy of careful consideration and wide diffusion. I am, as you are aware, a rationalist standing outside of all churches, but with charity for all and malice towards none. I stand as an American asking only fair play, a clear field and no favors to any sectarianism of any name or age. I am not an enemy of any church, but am well aware that the Catholic and Evangelical churches would disfranchise me for my heresy as quickly as they would Mormons for their polygamy, if they should succeed in their efforts to get control of the government. I am not an enemy of the Bible, although I know it has been the bulwark of wrongs and crimes against humanity. I simply wish to point out the truth and induce men to think; to warn them of the weakness, folly and fraud of this anti-Mormon legislation, and show the remedy. I shall take Idaho law as my "text."

Article vi, section 3, of the Idaho constitution, says:

"No person is permitted to vote, serve as a juror or hold any civil office. . . . who in any manner teaches, advises, counsels, aids or encourages any person to enter into bigamy, polygamy, or plural or celestial marriage . . . or who is a member of or contributes to the support, aid or encour-

agement of any order, organization, association, corporation or society which teaches, advises, counsels or aids any person to enter into bigamy, polygamy, or such plural marriage."

This law is intended only for Mormons, but as it does not declare that fact it is proper to execute it upon Christians and others if they come within its scope.

The Mormons, it is admitted, do now believe that polygamy is a social and marriage relation ordained by God for the increase and improvement of the human race. It is admitted that they have so taught. The recent statement of the President of the Mormon Church is in evidence that they do not now teach polygamy or permit their people to enter into it. If language may be taken as of any value, the whole anti-Mormon agitation is undermined and destroyed by this declaration of President Woodruff. But the Idaho law remains and will be executed to the exclusion of Mormons from the jury box, from office and from the polls. If possible the same law will be enacted for Utah. While anti-Mormon agitation ought to stop, it will not. Hence it becomes necessary to criticise the law.

What, then, does the law mean by "teaching, aiding, counseling or advising any person to go into polygamy?" It does not specify, and we must answer that question.

It would appear that the framers of the law had in mind personal aid in the act of marriage and verbal counsel leading thereto, but they did not say so. Now, the Mormons find authority for their belief in and practice of polygamy in the Bible, which they accept as the word of God. That the Bible teaches, aids and encourages polygamy and bigamy, there is no room to doubt. That people can accept the Bible as the infallible word and will of God without accepting polygamy and bigamy as a part of that will, there is no room to doubt. They may not practice those relations, but they must accept them as the will of God. If they do not, they destroy the infallibility of the Bible. All Christians, except the Unitarians, accept the Bible as the infallible word and will of God. Therefore all Christians accept polygamy and bigamy as the will of God. In refusing to practice polygamy and bigamy they are

infidel to their own Bible, their own rule of faith and practice, their accepted will of God. It is true that the civilization of today refuses to recognize polygamy and bigamy, but that is not the overthrow of the will of God. If the Bible really is infallible revelation, civilization must be wrong in its attitude towards these *tabu* relations. To my mind there is no difficulty here, because I do not accept the Bible as the word and will of God. But to the Mormon and the other Christians there is a dilemma. They must either admit that the Bible is not the infallible will of God, or that civilization is wrong in this matter. Which do they do? The Mormons say the Bible is right, but that they will and do recognize the claims and laws of civilization and will give up, have given up, their practice of this part of God's will. But that fact does not weaken the other fact that the Bible still continues to teach, aid and encourage polygamy and bigamy. In continuing to accept the Bible as the word and will of God the Mormons are still being encouraged, aided and counseled by God to believe in and practice polygamy. God becomes the chief violator of the Idaho law and the anti-Mormons should punish him. But the anti-Mormons are either Christians who accept the Bible as the infallible word and will of God, or they are quasi Christians who support the churches, priests and preachers who accept the Bible, teach it, preach it and hold it up as the will of God. They have thus barred themselves against punishing God as the aider of polygamy among the Mormons. The moment they should move in the matter God would arraign them for infidelity and they would discover that they were "condemned already." God would say to them:

"In accepting the Bible as my will; in holding it up as the only rule of faith and practice; in sending it to the heathen, you are aiding the belief in polygamy. All that prevents the practice of it is your fear of public opinion. You are cowards and hypocrites and deserve the damnation you shall receive."

The fact is, the acceptance of the Bible as the infallible word and will of God is giving encouragement to polygamy and bigamy. Such being