

As for the Spaulding manuscript story—that has long ago been relegated to the domain of myth.

A WEST VIRGINIA WAIL.

According to a Washington dispatch of Saturday last, Representative Dorr of West Virginia had the distinguished honor to present from about a couple of hundred of his constituents a petition calling upon Congress to provide for a Constitutional amendment declaring the practice of polygamy a felony, punishable by the laws of the United States. There were the usual number of "whereases" in the document and they have the old familiar fingle that has characterized every anti-Mormon resolution since the beginning. Naturally the first serious grievance is that Mormon missionaries are laboring with zeal and success; secondly, among the converts made by these missionaries are many families composed in part if not wholly of the gentler sex—a fact which the petitioners with startling and consummate logic cite as "prima facie evidence of their [the Mormons'] nefarious intention," etc.; and thirdly, there is the time-worn and driveling expression of dread concerning this "standing menace to the integrity of the Union," and all that sort of rubbish.

One does not need to know any of the signers or promoters of the petition to be able to discover in it the fine hand of our ever-active friend the sectarian preacher. Some of his ilk are stumping around the eastern and central parts of the Union working upon the sympathies and purses of the pious; others are writing stale tales to the newspapers in which there is a superabundance of mock heroics and uncouth energy; and it is very certain that there are always others who can find time to draft and circulate a petition against the Mormons by way of diversion or of "raising the wind."

Among sometime Utah friends belonging to one or another of these energetic types we note in a recent Cincinnati paper that Rev. J. Wesley Hill has had much to say to an audience of Methodist ministers about "the curse of Utah." This is the young man who came to Ogden about nine years ago breathing thunder from his nostrils on Sunday, while putting in the remainder of the week committing Talmage's discourses to memory. Convicted of sermon-stealing of the most bare-faced kind, and accused of other forms of hypocrisy which nobody seemed to care enough about him to investigate, he soon gathered up his effects, including sermons, and for Ogden's good, if not his own, went back to Ohio, where he came from. We have recently had occasion to pay our respects to Mr. Nutting, of the Congregational persuasion here, and to Miss Rose Glen Webster, of the Baptist persuasion in Provo; and still more recently it has been our joy to discover new luster in another choice jewel in the line of holiness, this time a Presbyterian we believe—the Rev. S. E. Wishard, whose soul was stirred within him by the news of a Mormon conference in Indiana, inasmuch that he did forthwith seat himself and pen a long letter to the editor of the Indianapolis Journal. Brother Wishard is the gentleman whom the "News" once before warned that he was in danger of spoiling his high silk Sunday hat by talking through it; perhaps his change of base from platform-speaking to letter-writing is out of deference to that warning and denotes a desire to take better care of his head-gear.

Returning from this digression it is a matter of sincere regret that the congressman from West Virginia should have felt compelled to advertise the bigotry as well as the idiocy of

those of his constituents who joined in this petition. Bless their dear souls and his, there is absolutely nothing dangerous about Mormonism! The more closely they study and scrutinize it in honesty of heart, the less they will see in it to be afraid of. They and all other timid ones are hereby cordially invited to put our statement to the test.

THE TROUBLE IN NORWAY.

A recent dispatch from Christiania to London seeks to convey the idea that the trouble between the two peoples occupying the Scandinavian peninsula is nearing a crisis. A former rumor to the effect that Sweden is looking for a casus belli and that Germany is backing the eventual enterprise against Norway is reiterated. That Swedish war rumors invariably should emanate from Christiania instead of Stockholm is rather strange.

In Norway at the recent elections the leftists gained a complete victory. That means that the Norwegian people have declared for the program formulated by Sverdrup years ago. An extension of the franchise and the regulation of the relations of the kingdom to the other kingdom of the union are the main points. The latter includes ostensibly only the separation of Norway's consular and diplomatic service from that of Sweden, and incidental arrangements as, for instance, the elimination of the union mark from the Norwegian marine flag. It is hard to see that in any of these demands can be found a cause for war.

There is, it is true, both in Norway and Sweden, a political party whose leaders have maintained that the effects of the reforms of the leftists would be the entire separation of the two brother-nations and the establishment of a republic on one side of the peninsula. But this has been denied by the leaders of the leftists, at least until quite recently. It is conceivable that an agitation for a change of the existing form of government would be watched with no feeling of approbation by the war lords of Europe, and a definite movement in the direction of a republic in Norway might be checked, possibly, by Germany; but until such time comes, there is no probability of bloodshed over this Norwegian reform movement. The movement has strong supporters in Sweden, and King Oscar has several times shown himself willing to yield to the just demands of the people. It is not reasonable to suppose that he, at his advanced age, would abandon his policy of peace for one of war, unless compelled to do so. In fact, Norway would have to be the aggressor, and no one acquainted with conditions in Scandinavia believes in such a step at present.

A DANGEROUS RESOLUTION.

A dispatch from Chicago states that the federated laborers unanimously have adopted a resolution prohibiting the members of that organization from joining the militia and requiring those now serving in the national guard to withdraw. The reason for this is that they could not consistently belong to a body which at any moment might be called upon to shoot down other members of the labor unions. In other words, loyalty to the federation was considered of greater importance than loyalty to the state. The dicta of labor leaders must be obeyed first; the call of the government not at all, whenever the interests of the two appeared to be conflicting. There was not a dissenting vote when this matter was decided.

To the impartial, patriotic observer of the trend of affairs in this country the occurrence cannot but be viewed with misgivings. Even when it is admitted that laborers have a perfect right to unite for the discussion of common interests and the protection of themselves and families against possible wrongs, it is clear that a combination with the apparent object in view of handicapping the government in its efforts to maintain order, prevent the destruction of property and the shedding of blood must expect no sympathy among the friends of the country. It has never been shown that the militia has been required to interfere with the efforts of laborers to adjust peacefully their grievances; only when acts of violence have been threatened or actually committed has the authority of the government asserted itself. The laborers themselves should be interested in upholding the arm of the law against that element that always resorts to violation of the law, whether that element manifests itself among the ranks of the workmen or other classes of people. If not, a situation may develop of the most grave nature.

Readers of the Book of Mormon are familiar with the history of the inhabitants of this continent as recorded in the Book of Ether. The results of combinations for the purpose of murder and plunder are there shown to be the final overthrow of the people, and it is further stated that "whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold they shall be destroyed." And again: "Whoso buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries."

Probably the parallel between the ancient organizations spoken of by the Prophet Moroni and the labor organizations of our day is not perfect; the latter do not contemplate murder and robbery; still, if they rise against the government of the country, seeking to prevent it from extending its protection to the life and property of its citizens, they are on dangerous ground, and their course, if pursued to its logical consequences, cannot but end in disaster to the nation. It is incipient anarchism and a direct assault on the institutions of the country.

IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION.

During the last four or five years immigration to this country has not been considerable, but lately, it is claimed, it has again commenced to increase. The fact adds interest to the restriction bill now before Congress.

In many quarters it has been felt for a long time that some measure is needed that will close our shores to some extent to the surplus population of the world. During the last session of Congress, the immigration law was one of the leading topics of discussion, and it was agreed that an educational test was needed; that people unable to read and write some language ought to be excluded from the United States. The measure stranded on the Corliss amendment, which contemplated the exclusion of Canadian laborers on the border from employment on the United States side of the line. An effort will now be made to pass the law with the educational test and without the Corliss amendment. Its effect will be chiefly to restrict immigration from the countries of southern Europe where, as is well known, the illiteracy of the people is greatest.

The increase of population in the United States has been enormous during the past fifty years. In 1847 the population was twenty-seven and a half millions and now it is nearly if not quite seventy millions. Yet this rapid growth need not cause any particular