

ly given in the attempts of others who laid claim to be his successors to continue its practice in their organizations. The quotations we have republished indicate the bitterness in the hearts of the founders of the Reorganized church toward the Prophet Joseph; they also establish that those same founders and leaders knew of the revelation on plural marriage, notwithstanding subsequent denials by others on their behalf.

As before stated, we refer to this matter merely to make a record at this time of an established historical fact, and to note some of the testimony from "the other side" to the existence of plurality of wives in the Church during the Presidency and by the instruction of the Prophet Joseph Smith, as directed in a revelation from the Lord, which appears as section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

DANGER AHEAD!

When the Constitutional Convention placed in the State charter an article providing that "all State, district, city, county, town and school officers, excepting notaries public, boards of arbitration, court commissioners, justices of the peace and constables, shall be paid fixed and definite salaries," it was with a view to prevent abuses by which private as well as public treasures have been virtually looted by greedy office holders, in the way of fees, etc. The salary-grabbing business had not reached to all parts of the Territory, but was spreading, and in some parts had attained such alarming proportions that the system under which it was being operated was regarded as a menace to the new State; hence the Constitutional provision seeking to abolish it and substituting one more directly within immediate control of the Legislature.

Under the new condition a serious danger now presents itself. There have been but few indications of its presence—an almost sphinx-like silence having been preserved—but those few are significant. Officials who have been well fed at the public crib, and those elected with a vision of fattening in their mind's eye, do not relish the economical policy outlined and made possible by the Constitution, hence they are moving to secure such legislative enactments as will gratify their desires at the public expense. In furtherance of this, there are schemes to be worked through the Legislature which are backed by powerful political influences not wholly outside of legislators themselves, and which, if not circumvented, will deeply involve the financial welfare of the State. This planning with respect to official emoluments is over and above what may be termed efforts for a reasonable salary, against which no man should raise his voice; for the capable employe of State, county or city is entitled to fair remuneration, and those who seek only that are not included in the reference here made to schemers.

One result of the success of the salary-schemes and others in process of incubation will be to materially increase taxation in the State—a procedure which is wholly unnecessary and

for which legislators who engage in it will be held to severe account. Taxes were sufficiently burdensome in the Territory, and with a wise manipulation of the lands that come to the State, and other revenues, there is no occasion for heavier taxation. There is grave danger, however, of a pronounced increase, unless the wiser and more conservative legislators block the way, and these in turn are backed and supported by the heavy property holders upon whom much of the financial burden will fall.

Among the worst calamities that could befall the State would be a rise in taxation; while, on the other hand, a policy that would be fraught with great good would be to keep taxes down to the Territorial limit at least. What Utah now needs is a good record to start out with in respect to property taxation. If her business were to be conducted without an increased demand upon the people in this regard, four or five years would establish the reputation of the State as a conservator of the interests of its landholders so firmly that this would be an attractive place for outside investors; while the people themselves would not be anxious to dispose of their land because of its being too expensive to hold—they could afford to keep and utilize it.

The danger now ahead is that an economical policy in the State with respect to taxation will be rendered impossible by the work of schemers. The situation is so threatening that heavy property owners ought to make their influence felt for their own safety and the safety of those whose smaller holdings do not give them such power. Those legislators who desire to be conservative in this regard should be given strong moral support in striking an effective blow at the impending evil. The people do not want any doubling up of taxes in the State. The load is sufficiently heavy now for the next few years at least.

SULTAN AND RED CROSS.

The dispatches have given the declaration of the Sultan of Turkey that he would not tolerate the ministrations of the Red Cross society among the Armenians, and the statement of Miss Clara Barton, head of the society, that the appeal for assistance came from the missionary boards in Constantinople. As the matter stands now, the society will not be permitted to assist the suffering Christians in Turkey, the government there claiming that it will give all the relief necessary.

The way in which the Red Cross society would aid the Armenians may be suggested by brief reference to its work and that of its famous president. Miss Barton is a Massachusetts woman, 57 years of age. She started as a school teacher, and in 1861 was engaged as a clerk in the patent office at Washington. The breaking out of the war gave her the great opportunity of her life, which she embraced by resigning her clerkship and devoting herself to hospital work among the wounded soldiers of both Union and Confederate armies. She was present at the battlefields of Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg,

Falmouth, the siege of Charleston, and other scenes of carnage, where the prompt ministrations of herself and her band of trained nurses saved many lives. Later, her noble services were continued in the Franco-Prussian war, and the society of which she is the head did beneficent work in such calamities as the Ohio floods, the Michigan fire, the Charlestown earthquake, and the Johnstown flood.

Similar ministrations of love and kindness were intended for the Armenians. That they will not go on, and that nothing of similar character will take their place, may now be accepted as an assured fact. The government which has allowed the Armenian outrages could consistently refuse to permit the Red Cross society to give that sorely afflicted people any relief; but to expect that the Turkish government will do anything itself in the way of alleviating Armenian sufferings is to look for something so inharmonious with Turkish policy as to be out of the question. Evidently the Sultan's ultimatum to the Armenians is Islamism or death; and if Russia does not interfere in their behalf, it does not seem likely that any other nation will dare do so.

TURKS IN JERUSALEM.

The question of the advisability of opening lands in the United States for Armenian settlers, as a happy solution of the oriental difficulty, is variously considered. Some regard the idea as the best so far suggested, while others believe that the Armenians would not make a desirable class of citizens. It is but justice to the people to say that as a rule they are intelligent, industrious and progressive, wherever circumstances allow this latter quality to assert itself. They are different from the Mongolians in the latter respect, and it would take but a short time for them to become acclimatized and at home in the free atmosphere of the United States. It is true, they have for centuries suffered under indescribable tyranny; but like another people under nearly similar circumstances—the Russian Jews—they have in their traditions, language and religion had a safeguard against utter degradation, and with some training they would be better capable of enjoying the blessings of liberty than one judging only from present appearances would suppose.

But the question of an Armenian emigration en masse is of but little importance, because even if it could be accomplished, it would not settle the eastern problem. Reliable news from Turkey beyond the sea coast cities is scarce, owing to the censorship that extends even to private letters and dispatches; but from all that can be gathered, there seems to be a most remarkable "revival" of Mohammedanism, as if a final effort were to be made to finish the struggle commenced by the immediate successors of Mohammed. If this conjecture is correct, the world is not confronted by an Armenian question particularly, but a question of another onslaught by the crescent on the cross. The recent political complications among the Christian powers can but have served to encourage the Mohammedans in their possible plans