

plain as Pennsylvania Avenue is from the Capitol to the White House.

Mr. McBride wanted to know why it was the Mormon people had to leave Missouri and other places before they left Illinois, if there was not something wrong about them. He said they were charged with the greatest of crimes. There must be something essentially wrong in their system. They went to Utah for isolation and in ten years were in rebellion against the government. An army was sent against them and the Mormons burned the trains of supplies. From the beginning they commenced legislation, parcelling out the land as though they were the owners of the soil, and made grants to Brigham Young and others. This he claimed was "primary disposal of the soil," forbidden in the Organic Act. He said further that now the Bishops "parcellled out the land;" but on being interrogated as to this by Mr. Richards, he made a very poor showing in support of his extraordinary assertion that "the common people in Utah understood the titles to land came from the Church and not from the United States." This statement was denied by Mr. Richards.

Mr. McBride then said the raising of the United States flag by the Mormons when they arrived was consistent. It was Mexican soil, and as they were always in rebellion as they rebelled against Mexico. They believed all man-made governments were illegal. When God reveals anything, it is the duty of people to obey and accept what comes from their leaders. Mr. McBride then gave a version of the framing of the Utah State constitution, and said the people in voting for it simply accepted the orders of the Church, as a soldier accepted the orders of his commander. The Gentiles universally repudiated it, both Democrats and Republicans, who each had a sort of skeleton organization with a view to sending delegates to national conventions every four years.

The anti-polygamy provisions in the Utah constitution, he said, were intended to punish Gentiles and not Mormons, as the latter did not believe plural marriage was polygamy, and the Mormon courts would so construe it. But he would not lay much stress on polygamy. That was but a symptom of the disease. The Mormon system was founded in treason to all government.

Being questioned on this he floundered a good deal, and explaining that the Mormons believed gov-

ernment must have the sanction of God, he was asked to show where this differed from the Catholic or Jewish belief. He said it was a matter he cared very little about, but shifting his ground, read from a protest in which he said Mr. Richards participated, which declared that the doctrine of plural marriage was a vital part of the Mormon religion.

Mr. Richards here stated that the language of the protest was against interfering with the rights of conscience, but it did not justify the claim of Mr. McBride that it advised the violation of acts of Congress. This elicited much questioning of Mr. Richards by members of the committee, during which he explained that while the "Mormons" believed that under certain circumstances it would not be morally wrong for a man to have more wives than one, and that they had a constitutional right to that belief, he did not admit that "Mormonism" could not exist without polygamy, for it existed before that principle was adopted, and therefore could exist if it were eliminated.

Mr. McBride then resumed and maintained that while the "Mormons" believed in the rightfulness of polygamy, they would not punish it, and were therefore not fit to be entrusted with statehood. He was questioned by the committee about the number of convictions and the resistance to arrest, by which it was shown that the polygamy cases he referred to were not for polygamy, but for unlawful cohabitation. He said the submission to the law was but a shallow pretense.

He next tried to make it appear that Gentiles who had tried to preempt land had been resisted and driven away, and on being questioned he could not deny that such persons were trying to "jump" the claims of others. He also had to admit that as far as assaults and batteries were concerned, the "Mormons" were as peaceful as any other community and compared favorably. He thought the people were well-governed—the Bishops took good care of that, but on being pressed as to their authority said he was not up in theology. While stating that if a Gentile took up land his water would be cut off, Judge Wilson asked him what use the water would be in a country where the grass grew so high that the dew on it wet his moccasins while riding through it! This nettled him and he lost his

temper for the first time during the hearing. The colloquy that ensued was amusing to everybody, McBride's confusion being marked.

Being questioned as to his objections to the Utah Constitution, he said: "I do not care what kind of a constitution they make, I would oppose it, I do not care how perfectly formed it might be." He then referred to the act of incorporation of the Church to show its extraordinary powers, but, being pressed by Mr. Richards to do so, read the proviso which limits those powers by the Constitution of the United States, and anything beyond morality and the religious duties of man to his Maker. He tried to make it appear that this was "an establishment of religion." Being requested to formulate, in a few words, his objection to the admission of Utah, he answered:

"Because I believe a majority of the people of Utah are theocrats, who believe in a government through a priesthood, and who do not believe in another system of government. That is my objection. I believe, with other gentlemen, that polygamy must, by pressure from the outside world, cease to exist in time."

An adjournment was then taken to Wednesday morning. Judge McBride's effort was pronounced astonishingly thin, and beneficial rather than damaging to the supporters of the statehood movement. Governor West appears to be greatly worked up over this hearing and is very nervous and uneasy.

On Wednesday morning delegate Caine had the floor and was listened to by the committee with respectful attention. He was much interrupted by the other side, particularly by Governor West, who finally had to be called to order by the chairman. Mr. Caine was fully equal to the occasion. He punctured Judge McBride's air-bubbles and showed the Governor's press interview and official report to be full of gross misrepresentation. The interruptions were so many that after speaking an hour and a half an adjournment was had before he had concluded his speech.

This morning Mr. Caine announced that as he wished to make some remarks about the Governor's course in this matter, and the gentleman was not present, he preferred to wait until he put in an appearance, as what he had to say he desired to utter in the gentleman's presence. The otherside were then invited to speak and Delegate