Talk with a Mormon Delegate-Patriotism of the Saints-Curious Inside Glimpses - The Future of Polygamy.

MORMONISM.

Mr. George A. Townsend furnishes the Chicago Tribune a letter from which we extract the following: -

"Did you take slaves to Utah, Mr. Hooper?"
"Yes; I was allowed to hold two there. They had been left to me and were auxious to have me keep them. Most of the leading Mormons were New England and New York men, opposed to slavery; but I was allowed to

hold those negroes temporarily."
"Have the Mormons any patriotism, Mr.
Hooper? Do they feel loyally towards the United States?"

"Why, sir! we claim to be the most Ameri-

can of all the American people. "The Book of Mormon is a native American Bible. The Mormon's Land of Causan was Mexico; what we call the Lamanites are the American Indians; our Jerusalem is not in Asia, but to be set up in the United States. We have no flag but the American flag; we have marched under it—five hundred Mormons-to fight in the Mexican war. Why, sir! just as we were driven from our pleasant homes in Illinois, and were wander-ing about Council Bluffs in search of some den or cleft to give us refuge, Captain James Allen, of the United States army, demanded five hundred men to fight for the flag that could not protect us. President Young's reply was:-"You shall have your battalion if we have to take our elders to make it up. And, sir, the Mormon battalion marched to Santa Fe, to San Diego, and to Los Angelos, where it served a year, receiving the praise of such distinguised men as Stoneman, Philip St. George Cooke, and A. J. Smith. Some of these men re-enlisted for the whole Mexican war; but while the men were gone, sir, to fight for the country, the sick, the infirm, and the helpless were driven to the prairies of

"Loyal to the flag? Why, sir! almost every leading man in the Church was born under it. Some of the greatest events in the history of the country are associated with the enterprise of the Mormons: the discovery of gold, the first settlement of the great belt of cities, such as Omaha, Leavenworth, and Salt Lake; which were first staked out by Mormon wagoners. The Stars and Stripes went up over the first camp ever seen in the Valley of Salt Lake. All that is needed to make the Mormon people the most obedient and the most patriotic Americans is to deal with them gently.

"Suppose the General Government were to pass the Cullom bill, and President Grant were to enforce it, would the Mormons abandon Utah rather than give up their peculiar institution?'

That is a hard question. If I were compelled to answer it, I would say that they would leave their all, submit to exile, to imprisonment, yea, to death, rather than break up the homes that they have made and give up their religion. My impression is that they would permit the law to be enforced upon them; that they would go to jail as firmly as they have taken to the desert, and trust to the sympathy they would arouse amongst the American people for their deliverance.

(Here spoke up the Gentile bystander:-"I reckon, Captain Hooper, that they would cut that railroad first about two hundred miles each way.

The captain made an indescribable wink and grimace of a very suggestive sort. "That is what you reckon," he said, "I reckon nothing."

nothing.")
"Then do you think that if the Govern-ment should abstain from interfering with polygamy it would perish of itself?"
"That I am not intelligent enough to reply

to. Sometimes I think it would. I should say that if it was of God that it would not perish, if of man, that it would die." "Captain, if the Mormons believe that their

faith is never to perish, and if they are also loyal to the Government of the United States. what is the logical conclusion?"

"The reply to that leading question, my friend, is this:—The Mormons expect to convert the whole population of the United States, and then patriotism and Mormonism will be the same. Why, sir, there never was a religious denomination with the proselyting energy of the Saints; they have not only preached and been imprisoned in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Scandinavia, Chili, West Indies, Australia, but they have visited Palestine, the Society Islands, Gibraltar, Hindostan, Guiana, Ceylon, Siam, Malta, the Sandwich Islands, and Africa, and they expect to convert mankind."
"Why have you never taken more than

one wife, Mr. Hooper?" "Well, sir, that is between me and my God. I suppose that I am net as good as I should be. People often say to me, 'If you believe in polygamy, why don't you practise it?' That is my business.

"Have you any children, Mr. Hooper?" "Five, sir. I have had two wives, but not at the same time."
"You are said to be the most prosperous

man in the Territory, Mr. Hooper? "Oh no, sir; not at all."

Mr. Hooper seemed to think that the crossexamination had become too close at this point, and he turned me over to Colonel Head, who, he said, was a much more impartial witness about affairs in Salt Lake than

One of the first requests I made of Colonel Head was that he point out to me in the Appendix to the Book of Mormon, which lay near by, the particular paragraph in Joe Smith's revelation which authorized poly-

gamy.

The Colonel at once indicated it, as follows:-

"If any man espouse a virgin, and desire to espouse another, and the first give her consent, and if he espouse the second, and they are virgins, and have vowed to no other man, then is he justified; he cannot commit adultery, for they are given unto him; for he cannot commit adultery with that that belongeth unto him and to no one else; and if he have ten virgins given unto him by this law, he cannot commit adultery, for they belong to hhm, and they are given unto him, therefore is he justified. But if one or either of the ten virgins, after she is espoused, shall be with another man, she has committed adultery, and shall be destroyed; for they are given unto him to multiply and replenish the earth, according to my commandment, and to fulfil the promise which was given by my Father before the foundation of the world; and for their exaltation in the external worlds, that they may bear the souls of men; for herein is the work of my Father continued,

that He may be glorified."

O Who stands first among the Mormons? A. Brigham Young; but he is not regarded with the reverence paid to the memory of Joseph Smith. The people all look upon Smith as a prophet, while Young is regarded as a greater administrative man, but not as

possessing the gifts of Smith. Q. Who stands second among the Mormons? A. George A. Smith, the Church historian,

and a native of Ogdensburg, N. Y. He is 65 years old, very fat, and is a cousin of Joe ith. He was a man of sandy complexion, but is now reduced to a wig. Smith is the successor of Heber Kimball in the important office of Mormon antiquarian. In other words, he is the Mormon Historical Society. He has gathered together a great library of scarce books, showing the origin, services, and history of every Mormon family. We have not probably in any part of the United States so thorough a family record as the Mormons have kept. Had the Pilgrim Fathers followed such a system, we should have known at the present time the name, origin, and circumstances of every man, mother, dog, and baby that came in the Mayflower. Smith is an amiable man, who cares nothing for money, and being one of the original Smiths, he has in some sort a sacerdotal character.

Q. Who is the third Mormon of consequence?

A. Daniel A. Wells, a native of Oneida county, N. Y. He is not wealthy, like Young, and he commands the Mormon militia. He is a tall, spare, sandy-complexioned man, sixty years old, and was not a Mormon until the gathering of the mob at Nauvoo. Wells endeavored at Nauvoo to maintain the peace between the Mormons and the mob, but the mob broke the compromise he made, and Wells, in a passion, said that the rabble was worse than the Mormons. Wells resembles Judge Davis, of the Supreme Court, in his big horse sense. He stuck to the Mormons out of sympathy, and was finally baptized and admitted into the fold. He is a great admirer of Brigham Young.

Q. Who is the fourth Mormon in influence?

A. Orson Hyde. He is, like the majority of the Mermons, a sandy-haired man, weigh ing two hundred pounds, a good preacher on practical topics, and about fifty-five years old. He has been over the world, like all the Mormons ereept Young, and can talk as familiarly about Pa. is and Edinburgh as about Omaha and SanF acisco.

Q. What Mormon is the fifth in influ-A. George Q. Cannon, a native of Liver-pool, in England, forty-three years old, the editor of the Deseret News, a fine preacher. and a man of more education than almost any other Latter Day Saint. He is a Mor-

his religion from his parents, who were Manxmen from the Isle of Man. Q. Is there opposition to Young among the

mon of the second generation, having learned

Mormons? A. Yes, there is always more or less oppo sition. Sidney Rigdon, who was one of the earliest converts of Joe Smith, fully expected to have succeeded Smith as the Mormon President. He was an ambitious man, restless of holding a second place, who finally left the Church and is still said to be alive in the State of New York. He retains no practical status among the Mormons,

Q. Is there any other Mormons of consequence?

A. Yes, Orson Pratt, fifty-five years old, is the finest preacher in the Church, very earnest, and tolerably popular. Hooper, the present delegate, stands about seventh among the Mormon people, and he is also popular with the Gentiles. He was never a polygamist, thinks much of his wife, who was a Mormon when he first became acquainted with her, and is one of the largest business men in the Territory, with not less than \$300,000.

Q. Which Mormons are most married? A. Heber Kimball had the most wives twenty-two in number. Brigham Young has but fifteen wives, though the contrary is often published. He probably has scores of spiritual wives, who are to be with him in the next world, but who scarcely ever see him in this. The Mormon women are frequently SENT. united to dead men by spiritual marriage. Joe Smith is married every day to some one or two women because they reverence him and wish to be at his side in the other world. Polygamists give no support to their spiritual

Q. Do they think that polygamy is on the decline at Salt Lake?

A. Undoubtedly nine-tenths at the present time are not polygamists. The temple is not opened by Brigham Young to the dissentient Mormons, who are led by David Smith, but the enemies of polygamy preach all through the Territory, and make strength daily. David Smith is, as you know, the son of Joe Smith, born of one of his first wives (Emma), after the murder of his father.

Q. Have the Mormons any curiosity about the Oneida Community, and other schools of polygamy and socialism throughout the

A. Not a bit. I have heard them denounce the Oneida Community as a godless association of sensualists, without any faith. They object to being connected in the books with the various communistic isms which have settled in the Mississippi valley.

—A Pawtucket man, while riding in a crowded horse ear, put his elbow through the window. He told the conductor that he would pay for the glass, but had not the money with him. The conductor said "all right," and allowed him to go without even leaving his name. After reaching home, he sent the President of the company \$1.50 to pay for a new pane of glass. The uprightness and rareness of the act pleased the latter so much that he sent him some \$2.50 worth of tickets in return. The honesty of the Pawiucket man is not so wonderful, but the liberality of the President is what perplexes us.

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