

AN
EPISTLE
OF
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY,

TO THE
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,
in General Conference Assembled.

READ APRIL 6th, 1886,
AT THE
FIFTY-SIXTH GENERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
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honorable men who had the courage of their convictions, and for whom "God is not ashamed to be called their God, FOR HE HAS PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY."

And what of his handmaids; will they be there? Yes: where there is so much beauty and glory and so many of his servants the women are sure not to be absent. Besides are they not one? Has not "God joined them together?" It would not be a heaven without them; they have entered into covenants with the men for time and eternity in the Lord; "They twain are one flesh." "The man is not without the woman nor the woman without the man;" but the corrupt have no place therein. For without are dogs and sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers and idolators and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Speaking of the sexes, the same God who created Adam, created Eve, "male and female created He them; and blessed them and called their name Adam." Who are women? The mothers of the whole human family. They were all born of women, who were created and prepared as companions and helpmeets for man. To Eve God gave another seed in the place of Abel. "For God said, He hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel whom Cain slew." Who made this appointment? God. From whom came kings, emperors, prophets, seers and revelators? They came through women who were often Prophets themselves, and who were frequently ministered to by angels. Jesus was born of a woman; they were His companions on earth, were with Him at His death, and were first at His sepulchre, and will be His and His saints' companions in heaven.

Polygamy is not understood nor our relations thereto. There is nothing secret about it. When it was first proclaimed in Salt Lake City, in 1852, Elder Orson Pratt went shortly after to the city of Washington and published it to the world in a paper called *The Seer*; after that, President Brigham

Young, who was a known polygamist, was reappointed, by the President, Governor of the Territory of Utah.

It is alleged that we are in danger of perverting the nation's morals. But how much danger there is of this may be judged by the morality of those in our midst who endeavor to make us believe they represent the government and nation, as exhibited in the following:

CRIMINAL STATISTICS OF SALT LAKE CITY
FOR THE YEAR 1885:

Total estimated population, . . .	26,000
Mormons,	20,800
Non-Mormons,	5,200
	26,000

Or 5 Mormons to 1 non-Mormon.

There were during the year, 1,276 arrests.	
Adult males,	1,126
" females,	134
Boys under 10 years old,	16
	1,276

The 20,800 Mormons produce arrests, . . .	96
The 5,200 non-Mormons, " "	1,180
	or 1 to 12%.

There are now in the city some 6 Brothels, 40 Tap Rooms, a number of Gambling Houses, Pool Tables and other disreputable concerns, all run by non-Mormons.

But for the presence of those who are constantly making war upon us our city would be free from the contaminating influences of houses of prostitution, gambling houses, dram shops and other such death-dealing concerns, and the taxes would be greatly reduced. But, as it is, the "Mormons" are forced to pay a liberal tax in support of the laws against the lawlessness of their non-tax paying enemies. Every other town, city and county in the Territory, and all the jails and the Utah penitentiary, show even a much cleaner record in favor of the "Mormons" than the foregoing exhibit portrays.

If it should be said that these con-