

IN the January and February numbers of the *Contemporary Review* of this year have appeared two remarkable articles from the pen of Rev. H. R. Haweis, on the Mormons, in which an old subject is invested with new interest. The writer is a well-known contributor to English periodical literature, and being an Episcopalian clergyman, cannot be suspected of any desire to win followers by special pleading. While seeing much in the system to reject and emphatically condemn, he has, on the other hand, found a great deal to admire, and has showed these much abused people in a far more favorable light than "Gentile" writers are wont to do. In his description of the circumstances attending the death of Smith at Nauvoo, and the ruthless expulsion of his followers in mid-winter, he has reminded us that there are here materials out of which some ardent Mormon Parkman may one day construct a picture of American fanaticism and injustice which will effectually eclipse the blackest tales ever told of the Acadian expatriation. One fact, however, is made clear from these articles; the Mormons were far from being the immoral, bloodstained people their relentless enemies have seen fit to represent them. On the contrary, before the forced entrance of the Gentiles, and the beginning of the war upon polygamy, there were in Utah no gambling dens, no gin or rum palaces, no houses of ill-fame, no election machinery for the systematic debauchery of voters, none of these degrading institutions which hold undisputed sway in all large American cities of the East and West. "None of these inseparable adjuncts of American nineteenth society were tolerated or even called for under the despotic and licentious rule of Brigham Young." Now all are there in a flourishing condition, and an army of policemen likewise, to look after the criminal classes which such iniquities always produce, and on which they feed and fatten. It was proper enough that polygamy should be condemned, and that the people of Utah should be compelled to submit to American law in this respect. It is a thousand pities, however, that law and order, acting in the name of outraged virtue, could not clean out one form of vice without bringing in others equally as obnoxious. The Mormons were compelled to open up to the free entrance of the Gentiles a land of peace and prosperity which they had, out of absolutely nothing, except a bare foundation, created for themselves at the cost of untold privation and suffering, a land wholly of their own making, where, barring the one plague spot of polygamy, the Mormon solution of certain social problems, they had for years lived in comparative innocence and prosperity. What followed is scarcely flattering to the cause of American Christianity and morality. The government, in the name of Christian morals and social purity, forced the law upon the people of Utah and suppressed polygamy, but we need not blame the Mormons if they regard the remedy as worse than the disease. The whole tide of modern society abominations have been let in upon them, and dens of infamy now pollute their land, which Mr. Haweis assures us, had never been tolerated or even called for under their own so styled obnoxious system.