

"Polygamy seems to me to be one of those evils that are to be overcome by processes apparently slow, and by means that will gather into the opposition to it all that portion of the Mormon people—and it is considerable—who do not believe in the plural-marriage business. I have good reason to believe, that, since the passage of the last act, polygamous marriages have almost entirely ceased there, and that, with firm and capable administration of the law, they will not be revived. The difficulty with the proposition to put the government of the Territory into the hands of a commission is:—

"*First*, That I believe it to be entirely unconstitutional, if the commission is to be given any law-making power; and, I fear,

"*Second*, Quite impracticable unless a local law-making power shall be lodged somewhere.

"*Third*, It is revolutionary, and deprives the innocent as well as the guilty of all voice in public affairs. Nothing but the direst need could justify such a step.

"*Fourth*, It is quite clear to my mind, that the suppression of polygamy will be just as far off with the government of the Territory in the hands of a commission as it is now, if not farther; for it will solidify and intensify a class feeling of the Mormons, and tend to draw to the support of the hierarchy and polygamists the whole body of the Mormon people."

The practice of polygamy is not general among the Mormons, nor is it likely to increase in the ratio of population. Since Solomon,