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The Morning Star.
BY WILLIAM H. BERNARD.
WILMINGTON, N. C.
FRIDAY MORNING, April 1, 1881.
SUGGESTIONS OF A CURE OF POLYGAMY.

We are satisfied that the Mormon question must become, sooner or later, one of the most important—possibly the most important that the United States Government will have to deal with. It is simply impossible that Mormonism can be ignored much longer. It will not agree to be ignored, because it is aggressive, self-willed and wicked. President Garfield, in his inaugural, took ground that justifies the confident expectation that he will tackle the monstrous stigma and blight. He gave out that it was his determination to exert the power of the Government for its suppression.

It is not denied that the difficulties in the way of its suppression are peculiar and formidable. Probably no living statesman is equal to the task of furnishing the right solution. Whilst it is admitted on all sides that the great evil ought to be extirpated, and many suggestions have been made, after all the difficulties appear to remain and the solution unsolved. We have before pointed to some of the proposed remedies and the difficulties attending them. It is held generally by those who have investigated the matter that there can be no cure as long as the present jury system exists in Utah. As Mormons compose always a majority of juries in all cases in which Mormons are concerned is but little better, if any, than a farce. It is proposed, in view of this fact, to wipe out Utah from the map and let it be absorbed in adjoining Territories or States. In this way it would be possible for cases to be tried at Salt Lake City to be removed to other places and the peculiar complexion of juries could be changed. This is one of the suggested remedies.

There is to be another plan proposed. It is believed when the next Congress is organized that a bill will be introduced to change the form of government. The purpose is to get rid of Governor and Judges and to place the entire government of the Territory in the hands of a Commission to be composed of seven persons to be named by the President. There could be many objections urged to this plan. It is novel, untried, contrary to usage, and subversive of the ancient order of things. Governing States and Territories by a sort of Star Chamber would not be agreeable to the free people of America, it strikes us. Thus again it gives the President additional power, a thing not to be desiderated just at this time, if ever. The bill to be proposed contemplates farther disfranchising all polygamists, men and women also, as the latter are allowed to vote in Utah.

Another plan still is to retain the present government of Utah, but so changing the law as to juries as to allow them to be selected by men who are faithful to the laws of the United States, and who will select no men who regard their oaths to the Church as paramount to their oaths of allegiance to the United States. No man who lives in polygamy is to be chosen, the burden of proof of innocence to rest upon the accused. The ballot is to be opened to all men. This last suggestion is that favored by the Philadelphia American, Rep., which says of the Utah jury as now organized: "As regards jury in Utah, the law now requires that the jurors shall be drawn in equal proportions from the Mormon and the Gentile element. The former, of course, object to any change. But has a lawyer the right to demand the position of a juror, or can he give no reasonable explanation of how he came by them, the Court presume that he is guilty of perjury. It can work no greater hardship to enquire that when a man is found with two or three wives in his keeping, the Court shall presume that he is guilty of polygamy."

The Congress must deal with the matter. Surely there is enough of combined wisdom and statesmanship in the land to devise some method or enact some law by which a shameful blot and sore upon the body politic can be eradicated.

Blackwood's Magazine is without an equal. The April number, like the last two, is of unusual excellence. The contents are: Ireland Under Oath; Among the Albanians of Southern Epirus; On Some of Shakespeare's Female Characters—III.—Deceitfulness; Mr. Cox's Protegés.