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## a MORMON DEFENSE.

The revelations in the Smoot investivation hav put the Mormon hierarehy on the defensive. Inside the church there was developed a spirit of revolt on the part of the young men and women that wa slarming to the leaders, says the Call. This re volt was in the form of opposition to the polyga mous teachings of the church and the polygamou practice of President Smith and some of the apos thes The defense runs, therefore, to an appeal to these uneasy members of the church, which is indi reetly a defense of polygamy, by declaring that the opposition to it in the gentile world is produced by immoral practiees among Gentiles.
If the church can demonstrate to its faithful members that polygamy is moral because thos who oppose it are guilty of immoral practices,
may check the spirit of sehism in its own rank The fact that the defense is of this character evidence of the strait in which the leaders fin Washington and was met by his five wives and thirty-two of his forty-two children, there was public acknowledgement following the admission While the enthusiosm of his fellow rulers of the Mormon world was unabated and they hailed him as a religious hero, a considerable part of the mem bership did not share in these ascriptions to the leader. These look upon polygamy as an unnatura Gentile population makes them ashamed of it. It becomes neeessary then to impress them that the worthy of their respect and that they should not permit their conduct to be influenced by their opin
ions. If this plan suceed into the churb sulan sueed they are driven back into the church and all that it teaches, and to a
firm support of the leaders and all that they prac tice.
Taken this work and carries it on by what we be lieve to be a thorough misrepresentation of Gentile sentiment. In its discussion the News says: ${ }^{\prime}$ 'Re
fned society was much more shocked at the number of President Smith's children than even over wedded previous to the issuance of the 'manifes to.' So with the course of other 'Mormons' in the same status. The objectionable thing is that child this incrase is the demand of modern moralists of the school of suppression.
Smith's children have an equal nurs of President ren it would be but little over eight to each. Fam ilies of eight children in the Gentio 1 are com in "refined society," or out of it, a cause of crit cism or offense. The President of the United
States has a family of six children, and if thi Mormon defense is true society should be shocked ator Hale of Maine and the large families of othe senators and representatives, in some cases number ing more than the children of President Smith individual wives, shock no one and cause no other
feeling of admiration that such men find their official duties consistent with the proper care of many ehildren. Indeed, among the gentiles, husbands an wives who have no children are much more the ob jects of pity than those who have are the objects o aversion.
The objection to President Smith is not that h has forty-two children, but runs to the number his wives. The results of such a system of plura marriage are well known in Utah. The nurture an ean not be given by him to such groups of families During his testimony he was obliged to ask for time to refer to memorandum in answer to either ho of their birth. It is certain that these children ar without the joint care which those receive who are reared in a home daily and continually President Smith's five wives live in
general reception, he paid visits of courtesy to each of these five hoints of his forty-two children. It the Deseret News thinks that "refined or any othe it is mistaken. If the young Mormons will choos
in to think he will learn that that which in the Gen tile world is regarded as viee is taught by the church to be heaven inspired virtue. Non-Mormon society is by no means free of offenses and vices but its conscience stamps them as such. The Mor mon conseience, on the other hand, is taught to re gard those very offenses as moral and elevating fed by the are enjoined

DISCOURAGED POETS. Mr. William Watson, who is a poet, and Mr. fred Austin, who is only a poet laureate-quite an erary outlook in England, says the P.-I. Mr. Aus in's protest against "the growing dislike for th higher kinds of poetry," has already been the sub ject of many a jest from the paragraph makers, for
whatever may be Mr. Austin's own opinions, the consensus of the competent has decided that the ift for producing "the higher kinds of poetry" not his.
William Watson is entitled to be heard with of for he is a true poet, who falls not few among English readers of indifference to the reat traditions of English literature and of igno rance of its glories. Of Shakespeare they know mething, of Milton they have heard, but beyond this they hardly go. Mr. Austin avers that men and siezed upon new poems with avidity, cherished them learned them by heart, quoted them, but that their haps true that cultivated tastes are no longer much taken for granted as the accomplishments
money and a certain amount of social influence a they were two generations ago, but it is also quite tivation of the first half of the ninteenth century The truth is that it is the clever people, the cultivat The truth is that it is the clever people, the cultivat people among our ancestors who chienly survi "comfortably-fixed" or the poor and uneultivated comfortably-fixed" or the poor and uncuitivater are not the ones whom their descentants remember talk or write about. Three distinguished great great grand parents are a large portion to adorn
anybody's family tree; but for the three of dis anybody's family tree; but for the three of dis
tinction there are always thirteen others of more or less mediocrity. We should be thankful if we know them as fairly honest, God-fearing folk
hing even, if they eseaped hanging.
However it may be in England, in America people still discuss poems and learn them by heart. It is true Mr. Austin's are not treated in this fashion, but Mr. Watson has not entirely escaped such marks of affection, nor has Mr. Steven Phillips,
while Kipling at one period was loaded with them. It is always the few whe do these things, however.
It always has been, it always will be the few. Mr. Watson admits that there are English readers, that has breeding and pedigree," and he knows imself to be approved by them. In addition, howtimulating sensation of fame."
The gentleman asks too much. Caviare will never have the vogue of wienerwursts, and it would be
trange if Bach were preferred to Sousa. Exquisite work, like virtue, is its own only reward. To be discouraged over literary conditions that are in time, and the time of a true poet should be to
 children have for a varied diet swallowed a nail The family doctor, however, had an attraction of down the infantile throat on a wire and removed he lunch.
More and more we are led to think that the Port rthur brand of mine is not a good thing to take long with you on a pienic.
Mayor Snyder of Los Angeles is another victim who camped in
Examiner upas.

We would respectfully suggest to Pluvius that he winter is over and gone, and more rain entirely saperfluous.
New Jersey is considering the advisability importing a few mines to try on the mosquito.

Got a cold Why, certainly. Y
The Russians would do well to


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