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A MORMON DEFENSE.

The revelations in the Smoot investigation have put the Mormon hierarchy on the defensive. Inside the church there was developed a spirit of revolt on the part of the young men and women that was alarming to the leaders, says the Call.

If the church can demonstrate to its faithful members that polygamy is moral because those who oppose it are guilty of immoral practices, it may check the spirit of schism in its own ranks.

While the enthusiasm of his fellow rulers of the Mormon world was unabated and they hailed him as a religious hero, a considerable part of the membership did not share in these ascriptions to the leader.

The Deseret News, the church organ, has undertaken this work and carries it on by what we believe to be a thorough misrepresentation of Gentile sentiment.

This is not true. If the mothers of President Smith's children have an equal number of children it would be but little over eight to each.

The objection to President Smith is not that he has forty-two children, but runs to the number of his wives. The results of such a system of plural marriage are well known in Utah.

President Smith's five wives live in five separate

houses. On his return from Washington, after his general reception, he paid visits of courtesy to each of these five homes of his forty-two children.

DISCOURAGED POETS.

Mr. William Watson, who is a poet, and Mr. Alfred Austin, who is only a poet laureate—quite another profession—are both despondent over the literary outlook in England, says the P.-I.

William Watson is entitled to be heard with all seriousness, for he is a true poet, who falls not far short of greatness. He accuses all save the elect few among English readers of indifference to the great traditions of English literature and of ignorance of its glories.

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.

The gentleman asks too much. Caviare will never have the vogue of wienervursts, and it would be strange if Baeh were preferred to Sousa.

A Salt Lake baby possessing the usual attraction children have for a varied diet swallowed a nail. The family doctor, however, had an attraction of his own in the shape of a magnet, which he let down the infantile throat on a wire and removed the lunch.

More and more we are led to think that the Port Arthur brand of mine is not a good thing to take along with you on a picnic.

Mayor Snyder of Los Angeles is another victim who camped in the blasting shade of the deadly Examiner upas.

We would respectfully suggest to Pluvius that the winter is over and gone, and more rain entirely superfluous.

New Jersey is considering the advisability of importing a few mines to try on the mosquito.

Got a cold? Why, certainly. You couldn't be out of the fashion, would you?

The Russians would do well to sell their battle-ships and buy a cyclone cellar.

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