

# **"SEALED," BUT NOT WEDDED.**

**Mormon Ceremony Was Only Intended to Enhance Miss Armitage's Happiness in the Hereafter.**

SALT LAKE, Utah, July 11.—Judge Hall of the district court to-day rendered his decision in the Hilton-Park case, the court holding that the ceremony of "sealing" performed in 1878 was purely a religious ceremony affecting the lives of Mrs. Hilton and Dr. Park only in the hereafter and was not a marriage ceremony known to or recognized by the laws of Utah. Mrs. Hilton, alleging that by this ceremony she became a wife and subsequently a widow of Dr. Park, had sued for part of the estate.

In 1872 Miss Armitage, afterwards Mrs. Hilton, was believed to be dying, and in order to add to her happiness in the hereafter Dr. John R. Park, a friend, was called to the apparently dying woman's bedside and the ceremony of "Sealing" for eternity was pronounced over them by President Wells. It was stated in the certificate issued by President Wells that Miss Armitage was supposed to be on her deathbed.

The court holds therefore that as the ceremony was performed only to provide for the woman's spiritual welfare in the next world Miss Armitage and Dr. Park were never man and wife.

**The New York Times**

Published: July 12, 1901

Copyright © The New York Times