

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

REV. SIDNEY ALLEN, STAND UP!

A little more than four months ago, a gentleman in South Carolina, desiring some information about the Mormon people, wrote a letter, of which the following is a copy, to Rev. Sidney Allen, at Franklin, Idaho, who poses as a Presbyterian preacher, and an exponent and exemplar of the Christian religion:

Rev. Dr. Allen, Franklin, Idaho.

Dear Bro. Allen—I take the liberty to write you concerning a people you, no doubt, are familiar with. I have been informed by a friend and a brother too, where you are and that you are among the Mormons; and as there is two of their ministers in our county preaching their doctrine and causing much disturbance in our churches, my desire is to know who and what they are. As the people here say they do not give correct statements of their people, neither of their country, and as you are among them, you know what they are, and would do me great honor and service by answering the following questions:

Are they law-abiding? How are they in education? How are they in morals? Do they practice polygamy? Do they preach from the Bible or Book of Mormon? Do they worship Joe Smith? What respect do they have for the female sex? Are their ministers paid salaries?

Please give me a general outline of this sect and oblige

Yours fraternally,

In due course of mail the following answer from the salutary Dr. Allen was received by his correspondent in South Carolina:

FRANKLIN, Idaho,
December 5th, 1893.

Dear Brother—Yours of the 29th just received. In reply I will say, first, that you can form no idea of what Mormonism really is from the statements of their missionaries. I will answer your queries seriatim:

First—They are law abiding so far as a people can be who are under the iron rule of a despotic and irresponsible priesthood.

Second—They have schools in which they are taught first of all to obey the Priesthood. Since the different churches have established mission schools they have in self-defense built up schools of better grade.

Third—As to morals, profane, obscene, Sabbath breaking and falsehood are the rule. A leader in our town in a sermon said lately, as they could no longer keep Gentiles out, they must deceive them to the eye and the ear. Many ignorant people among them were raised under Christian influence, yet have some regard for decency and morality, but the more intelligent ones are Mormons from love of power, lust and gain. These hold the others under a grinding tyranny.

Fourth—The "Manifesto" only "suspended" the taking of plural wives for the "present distress," that is, till Utah can secure statehood. They do not take more wives openly, but continue to live secretly with those they had before. We live two miles from the Utah line. There are many polygamous wives living here whose men are prominent Saints in "Zion" and who visit them regularly. And what they call "underground kids" abound. Polygamy is a matter of revelation, a "glorious principle of their religion," and cannot be abandoned.

Fifth—Their missionaries have a little

book of New Testament subjects, which with catches, quirks and perversions constitute their stock in trade. At home they make very little use of the Bible, more of the Book of Mormon and more still of the Doctrine and Covenants. They say the Bible is reliable so far as correctly translated, but in error when it condemns their tenets and practices.

Sixth—Joe Smith is the greatest of the Prophets but Adam is God with the body passions of man—and in natural human form—by ordinary procreation became the father of Jesus, who in turn was a polygamist. Those women who followed him from Gallilee with Martha and Mary of Bethany comprised his harem.

Seventh—Woman is only the slave of man's lust and convenience here and to be raised from the dead only on the call of her husband, and with her children to form a part of his retinue—every "Saint" is to be a "God," and the more wives and children he has the higher his rank. A Bishop here said a woman was like a hen, valuable only so long as she can raise progeny.

Eighth—As to salaries, the people pay a tenth of income—butter, chickens, eggs, sheep, cattle, horses and money to the local Bishop, who accounts to the First Presidency at Salt Lake. The leaders become rich from this fund. To support the missionaries each ward (Bishop's jurisdiction) holds a dance in the tabernacle, open with prayer, sell tickets and pay the proceeds to missionaries. The officials are paid out of the titling fund by the Presidency and the people do not know how much the priests receive.

This is in some respects a good country, but a hard country to make a living in, and many of our people are very poor, and those who are deluded by missionaries into coming here will find themselves in abject slavery.

To go back a little—the Mormons of low grade are kind and friendly and restive under the galling yoke, but cannot escape.

I have tried to answer your questions and will only add that I run a risk in writing and would request you not to publish my name as I could not live here if it were known I had written this. But I felt it a duty to do all in my power to expose this monstrous fraud.

To sum up then, these men yield to law when they must, but hate intensely the government and people of the United States. They are ignorant, morally debased, polygamists, caricature the Bible, honor Joe Smith more than Christ, and enslave their women. God save the people of your grand old state from this fearful delusion. I have been laboring among this people four years. Most of our converts are boycotted in business and ostracised socially until they leave.

Yours for God and truth,

SIDNEY ALLEN.

P. S.—A president's counselor preaching here said, "The Bible was all right for the time it was written but now we have 'the everlasting gospel.'" President George Q. Cannon also said: "Be faithful, pay your tithes and sustain the Priesthood, and the people of the states will soon come howling down to you for favors."

Naturally the receipt of this letter stirred up things in South Carolina in the vicinity where its addressee lived, and the two Mormon Elders, whose labors had been the cause of the beginning of the correspondence, were promptly confronted with the clerical

reply. But the gentleman who wrote the first letter was fair-minded enough to say he did not believe all of Allen's statements, and he suggested, inasmuch as one of the Elders—G. L. Braley of Franklin—knew Mr. Allen personally, that copies of both letters be taken and the veracity of the answers which had been given him be inquired into; he himself being very anxious to know the result. A copy of the first letter was accordingly taken, the original of the second was kindly loaned for the purposes of the investigation, and the two, with the necessary explanations, were sent by Elder Braley and his traveling companion, Elder Cowley, of Utah, to the proper authorities in Franklin.

There it was at first decided to take the statements of a number of non-Mormons in refutation of Allen's slanders, and at least one such affidavit, by a prominent and thoroughly responsible non-Mormon resident, was freely given. With this, and others like it, it was determined to face Mr. Allen, and give him an opportunity either to repudiate his own statements, or to place himself on record at home as he had already done abroad, through refusing to sign a similar declaration. Finally it was decided to ask him for a statement on his own part, without intimation that his previous falsehoods were known, or reference to the statements from other non-Mormons; and after some little hesitation—until he could consult with his wife about it—he consented to do whatever he could in this way to remove prejudice against the Mormons. On the evening of the 7th of January, he accordingly called at the residence of Mr. George C. Parkinson, a notary public, and there voluntarily subscribed to the following.

To Whom it May Concern:

Being solicited by a friend to give a statement of my experience while among the Mormon people, I cheerfully do so.

I located in Franklin, Idaho, in the year 1890, and have been constantly engaged in the ministry as a missionary of the Presbyterian church in this settlement and surrounding neighborhood ever since, and I here take pleasure in certifying that I have found the Mormon people to be honest, frugal and industrious.

They are strictly temperate and moral and stand abreast intellectually with most progressive class of citizens of the Union, manifesting every evidence of patriotism and loyalty to the institutions of our great government.

They regard the marriage covenant as an eternal compact and show the highest regard and tenderest feelings for their wives and children.

As a rule they own their own homes and seem to be free, prosperous and independent.

They have great regard for the sacredness of the Bible and make constant use of it as a text book from which their Elders preach.

Personally, I have been treated with the greatest courtesy and hospitality while among the Mormon people and have experienced no undue opposition or influence against my efforts to promulgate the tenets of my faith.

SIDNEY ALLEN.

Subscribed to before me, George C. Parkinson, a notary public in and for Oneida County, State of Idaho, this 7th day of January, 1894.

[SEAL.]

GEORGE C. PARKINSON,
Notary Public.

My commission expires Feb. 5, 1896.

For the completion of the chain of