

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

WHAT IS MORMONISM?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ as received by the Latter-day Saints has several distinct features. These when first presented to the world were considered startling in the extreme by all who for various reasons were unable to grasp the fundamental principles on which the truth is based. Misrepresentation, ridicule and vilification followed.

In this respect Mormonism passed through an experience the exact counterpart of that of early Christianity when first proclaimed to the Moslems and Pagan nations. The teachings of our Lord's messengers about the spirituality of the Godhead; a life after this, atonement through the death of Jesus of Nazareth—a supposed malefactor; the efficacy of faith and similar doctrines were to the Jews "a stumbling block and unto Gentiles foolishness." Yet, as time went on, the light of truth gradually dispersed the dark prejudices and what was at first regarded as "foolishness" became known as Divine wisdom. The most profound nihilosophers of the early ages humbly bowed in adoration before the cross of Calvary, acknowledging themselves the disciples of Him who there gave His life, and ever afterwards the wisest and best men of every age have followed their example, according to the light they had.

Looking at the subject a little closer, it is easy to perceive that Christianity was essentially the further development of Judaism. It was the restoration of the teachings conveyed to our progenitors who "walked with God" and who were favored with revelations both of the past and future. It marked the termination of that intermediate state of education necessary on account of transgression and inability to stand in the presence or the majesty of the Almighty, and promoted the advance of mankind toward a higher grade of schooling. All its teachings were given with reference to the attainment of this object.

The ancient Jews failed because they accepted the Moslem institutions and teachings as the limits of truth, beyond which all is error. True, they expected a Messiah, but considered him in the light of a Pharisaic ritualist and political deliverer. Christians of today are much in the same predicament. Generally they consider the truths revealed in the beginning of our era as closing the direct communication of knowledge of things Divine to mankind, and while some look for a millennium as a further stage of progress, they have so confused and indistinct ideas of this promised re-adjustment of the affairs of the earth as to render it of but little value to them. Should it come speedily, they would no more recognize it than the Jews in Jesus could see their promised Messiah.

Mormonism, in the light of these facts, has claim to the serious attention of the world. The Christian nations are passing through a religious crisis.

Reformers first tried the effects of religion without direct revelations, but the result was that the nations were unable to free themselves from the evils that consume their vital powers. Reform without the aid of religion was the next experiment. But the result has been so unsatisfactory that today the tendency is clearly visible on the part of some of those on whom the fate of nations partly depends, to return to the old regime. If therefore the time should come that leaders of men find themselves constrained to confess their own inability to create desirable conditions either with or without the aid of a morality void of a religious sentiment, they need not give up hope. For in the Gospel truths taught through Joseph the Prophet in this age is that contained which, if accepted and carried out in practice, will effect a regeneration of the world more complete than that resulting from the proclamation of the Gospel by the first Apostles.

Mormonism is primitive Christianity restored. It is a further development of the truths previously revealed, and its distinctive features are but what mankind at this time specially needs. It sets forth the true relationship between God and man, explains the mission of man on earth and offers a solution of all problems with which the world now is grappling. Mormonism is nothing but the eternal truth and as such is indestructible. It was, moreover, given at this time with special regard to the helpless condition of mankind. It is the great and marvelous work by which the children of men will be redeemed and God glorified.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CANVASS.

The NEWS has made reference heretofore to the canvassing of the returns for delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and to some unpleasant features developed in connection therewith. These references have been brief, but plain and to the point, and were made from a sense of duty in maintaining and advocating the rights of the people, without regard to political affiliations. Then the matter was allowed to rest, more extended notice not being given it for the reason that we were not worried by a fear that any attempt at fraud would be permitted to triumph. We were confident that through the noise and din of contests in which politicians often seem to delight, official integrity would come safely on the side of the right.

In this anticipation we have not been disappointed. The action taken in court in the Sappete prohibition proceedings, by the Utah Commission, through its counsel, requires that the NEWS add a few more words to what has been said. It should be understood that in this position the three Democratic members forming a majority of the Commission were the parties most directly interested, and their vote controlled that body. The Republican minority did not act with them, hav-

ing taken an opposite view of the case from that held by the majority, therefore the statement made in court did not emanate from the minority. In that statement the Commission admits that it is convinced the Sappete returns have been tampered with, and that there is evidence indicating that the ballot boxes were not given the protection they should have received before they were forwarded to the Commission; but it disclaims all knowledge or suspicion that such had been the case until later developments brought the information.

We believe that every fairminded person in the community will give this statement full credence. It was the frank and manly course to pursue under the circumstances, and should strengthen the confidence of the public in the personal and official integrity of the members of the Commission, and in their desire to be fair and just, notwithstanding the machinations of designing persons to entrap them. It is not always easy for men to proceed contrary to those methods which may give their political party an advantage, even of a temporary character, and it is only when they are highminded and honorable that they will do so. That the members of the Commission are in this class is shown in their proceeding.

There have been many harsh expressions called forth regarding the Commission and its employees. It is to be hoped that as these are not shown to be justifiable they will cease; and that invidious inferences and unsupported accusations will not be accorded an importance of which they are unworthy. Further proceedings in the canvass are now in the way of regular official progress, and their close may be looked for in due time. Meanwhile, the taint of fraud which has attached to those conditions that have caused all this trouble and dispute, or any which may be developed hereafter, should receive vigorous attention from the proper officials.

FOR HOME INDUSTRY.

The movement in favor of home industry, mentioned by the Logan correspondent in his letter of January 10, is an excellent one. When the consumers unanimously agree to support their own manufacturers, they virtually place themselves in a position to reap the benefit from the money they pay out, because as long as it is kept at home, it will circulate and return again and again to the hands that started it rolling, and as long as it is kept in circulation business will be nourished and built up.

The Utah sugar factory deserves patronage from the people, and it would seem but natural that no other sugar should find a market in this Territory as long as the supply of that institution lasts. And there are other articles of which the same can be said. The farmers of Utah, one would think, should be able to supply the people with all the flour needed for bread. Yet it is a fact that flour is imported from eastern states under the pretense that it is of so much superior quality to the Utah article as to warrant the in-