

at any moment. A few more suggestions in other directions, and the Chinese viceroy will be in a position to resume his work in the "celestial kingdom" on the European plan.

#### A GLUT OF GOLD.

There has been a great deal said about an alleged over-production of silver, to which some people attribute the decline in the price of the white metal, and upon which they base their predictions of disaster in case of the adoption of free coinage. Now we are having such an eminent authority as Percy F. Marke, one of the editors and proprietors of the London Financial News, prophesying that the world is going to experience a glut of the gold market. He has just arrived in this country from the antipodes, where he has been studying the gold production of Australia and New Zealand, and he says there soon will be a very remarkable increase in the supply of the yellow metal from that part of the world, so much as to seriously affect the gold market. He intends to be at Cripple Creek in a few days, to investigate the gold prospect there, and when he learns the facts as they are generally understood in the West, and hears incidentally of the gold production of Mercur and other Utah districts, he probably will be able to figure out a companion "glut of gold" from this part of the world to keep pace with the locality he has recently visited.

It will be understood that Mr. Marke is not in favor of the free coinage of silver by the United States, independent of European remonetization. The silver men, therefore, can gain all the more comfort from his gold predictions because of that fact. If there is going to be the great increase of gold prophesied of by Mr. Marke—and the probability is that he is quite accurate on that point—then all argument against free coinage of silver because of the alleged relatively larger production of the latter must fall. The gentleman's prognostications coming at this time certainly make it appear that even the elements are combining to favor the silver cause.

#### MORMONS IN MONTANA.

Some of the Montana papers appear to be finding out a few things they never knew before concerning the Mormons; and the interesting feature of their experience is that on this occasion they are learning facts that everybody in the land should be acquainted with. Recently Elders Edward Stevenson and Matthias F. Cowley were called on a mission to Montana, and several of the Idaho brethren accompanied them to some of the meetings in Butte and other places. The presence of the Elders attracted attention, and several newspapers sent representatives to ascertain, for publication, what occurred at the meetings. Generally, fair reports were published. Among the papers which gave such attention was the Anaconda Standard, which devotes more than a column space to one of its reports, in which appear a synopsis of the remarks made, and also the articles

of faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Standard incidentally remarks that it is believed there are between one and two thousand members of the Church scattered throughout Montana. Of the meetings held by the missionaries referred to, the Standard says there were in the audience "a few persons of Mormon faith and a larger number who had been drawn by curiosity and desire to hear and see a Mormon service. On the stage, besides the missionaries, were Ben E. Rich of Fremont county, Idaho, editor of the Silver Hammer, and one of the bolsters of the St. Louis Republican convention, and a quartet of singers from the same place, Messrs. Adams, French, Durraon and Elliott." The Standard says of the musical part of the exercises that "the quartet was the finest ever heard in Butte, and Joseph Adams is possessed of a voice so sweet that it involuntarily brought tears to the eyes of most of those in the audience." It may be added here that the piece sung by Elder Adams was "O, my Father," which the Standard says was "an exquisite solo."

In the synopsis given of Elder Stevenson's remarks at one meeting, our cotemporary notes this feature:

The Elder said he had left his family and his secular affairs, old as he was, without hire, to preach the Gospel through Montana, because he loved his fellow beings and wanted them to know the truth. He was 77 years old and had been 63 years a Latter-day Saint. Tolerating, he said, at the very edge of the grave, he declared his unflinching belief that God lives and that Jesus Christ, the Mediator, lives, and he knew this through the inspiration of God.

Notwithstanding the fact that what Elder Stevenson stated concerning his going without hire and through love for his fellow beings, to preach the Gospel, is a type of what the Mormon missionaries have been doing for more than thirteen years, the understanding thereof did not seem to be in possession of the people there; but through this statement and its publication there cannot fail to be a much better comprehension than formerly among the people of that vicinity concerning the truly divine love which inspires the Latter-day Saint missionaries and is characteristic of the testimony they bear.

Elder Cowley's discourse on the first principles of the Gospel, at the same meeting, is presented in synopsized form, with the remark that "the speaker showed by several passages of scripture that the Bible teaches clearly baptism by immersion;" and it is stated:

The speaker told the audience to reject him if he could not show that his authority comes from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It makes no difference what theological seminary a preacher may come out of, God must appoint him, or his mission is invalid.

This was another point that did not seem to have been understood by the people previously, but upon which they have received information. The Elders not only go out in the spirit of divine love, of which the manner of their going gives incontrovertible proof, but clothed with divine authority, the test of which leaves no possibility of doubt. They prove the source of their authority

by the infallible rule that those who do the will of the Father, as the Elders proclaim it in relation to the first principles of the Gospel, shall receive knowledge of the doctrine from the divine Head, and have no need to rely on the words of men; and the Elders have no fears of the result of the test.

The conditions attending missionary labor in Montana, as elsewhere in the United States, present the greatest opportunity yet afforded to disseminate accurate information concerning the true aims and efforts of the Latter-day Saints; and although the "harvest is ripe" for the receipt of such knowledge, and the laborers to bear the good news are comparatively few, the medium of a fair-minded press is a valuable agent in carrying on the great work.

#### THE BETTER FEELING.

The generally increasing sentiment in the United States to deal fairly with the Mormon people receives frequent special attention from the Elders who are set out on missions, and who are accorded much better treatment than formerly by the well-to-do classes. These are acquiring more accurate information concerning the real aims and condition of the Latter-day Saints, and the earnest solicitude of the latter for the temporal and spiritual welfare of mankind. The result of this spread of accurate information is most gratifying to the Saints, who see it in a fulfillment of prophecy, made and oft repeated in the presence of tens of thousands, by President Woodruff, at a time when the promise of fulfillment, naturally speaking, was very far from bright. But God "moves in a mysterious way" to accomplish His purposes, and did so to fulfill the words of His Prophet.

Among the indications of the better feeling toward the Saints may be noted not only the kinder treatment accorded the missionaries in the families of strangers whom they visit, in a city, and in official circles throughout the country, but that given by newspapers in whom the people have confidence. The editors of this class among the molders of public opinion now receive the Elders with almost uniform courtesy, and generally report interviews with them in a manner which reveals a desire to be fair and truthful. This feature is particularly impressed by the appearance in a late issue of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, News, of an interview with Elder J. W. Musser, son of A. M. Musser, Esq., of this city, which is all that could be desired. The clear and concise statement of the Elder is published with a generous omission of anything of a prejudiced or unpleasant character, such as formerly was injected by newspaper reporters whenever a Mormon was referred to.

In the increase of the good sentiment referred to may be discerned the attitude and desires of honorable men of the earth, who have been "blinded by the craftiness of men," but are now learning the truth. They are people whose friendliness is valuable because it is steadfast. At the same time it is not anticipated that opposition to the Mormons in their religious capacity will cease;