

of the Mormon Church still practice it? Why do the papers not declare against it? Why does not the state legislature pass laws against it?"

In an earlier part of the report the preacher is quoted as saying polygamy is still practised "by the leaders of the Mormon Church."

It is hard to decide whom to pity most in a case of this kind: the college which is handicapped by a "financial agent" so imbecile, the said agent himself for the density of his ignorance, or the editor of a paper which can be deluded into publishing stuff the falsity of which is evident upon its face. As a college representative from Salt Lake City, Rev. Mr. Bliss cannot perhaps be expected to know that no Mr. Partridge is or ever was President of the Mormon Church, whose headquarters are here; but the New York Voice ought to know it, or forever cease to claim intelligence enough to attempt the instruction of other people. As truthfully might the remarks of Labouchere be attributed to the queen of England; as well might Ignatius Donnelly be called the Mikado of Japan, or Cardinal Manning be designated the Pope of Rome, as that an undefined "Mr. Partridge" be styled the President of the Mormon Church!

But, waiving the point of personality here raised, and which, of itself is enough to brand all the rest of the report, we defy Bliss to find in the "Church organ, printed in Salt Lake City," any such allusions or advice or inferences as he assumes. Moreover, we challenge him to prove—and we know he will never venture to undertake it—that polygamy is still practised by the leaders of the Mormon Church. "The papers" have "declared against it." "The State legislature," and not only that, but the State Constitution also, have made all the prohibitions against it that any sensible man, and that almost any fool, can ask for. What more would this reverend "financial agent" like?

It is said that excess of joy and rapture sometimes drives to insanity. This Bliss must be something after that sort.

#### THE SABBATH QUESTION.

Columbus, Ohio, has a legal controversy concerning the Sunday laws, which, according to the intention of the interested parties, will be carried to the Supreme court. The right of the city authorities to enforce enactments against amusements on the first day of the week is involved.

A few days ago the case of the city against the keeper of a bowling alley was decided against the city. The defendant was charged with permitting a game of ten-pins in his place on Sunday. He admitted the charge but claimed that the city ordinance under which he had been arrested was unconstitutional. The judge held this view to be correct. In a lengthy review of decisions and authorities the court ruled that the city council has no right to prohibit amusements on the first day of the week, which are not morally wrong and not prohibited on other days. "The laws of the state," he said, "founded on the constitution, make a distinct line of severance between church and state. Any amusement which is not offensive on a week day does not become offensive on Sunday."

The decision seems to be based on the presumption that Sunday ordinances are purely in the interest of the churches and in no wise concern the state. If this reasoning is further carried out, the conclusion would be that nothing which is not unlawful on the other days of the week can be pro-

hibited on Sundays, and that holiday would be completely obliterated. People would be justified in opening their stores, laboring in their fields and so on, as well as frequenting theaters and halls of amusement.

The fact, however, as to a weekly holiday is this, that the state is just as much interested in its recognition as is the church. Which day of the week is to be set apart for rest may be purely an ecclesiastical problem, but not so the question of having one day for that purpose. The state cannot afford to lose the Sabbath. It has been proven that even animals that are given a weekly day of rest perform more labor during the year than those continually worked. It has been abundantly shown that no human being can stand the strain of continual exertion, physical or mental, without breaking down, and that the diversion afforded by a conscientious observance of a Sabbath is conducive to health and longevity. When the Jewish state was formed the law-giver placed the Sabbath ordinance in the moral and criminal code of the nation, as one of the safeguards of the people. It was a question of policy as well as of religion. It has often been claimed that the agitation for the observance of Sunday is only the clamor of church people for state aid for ecclesiastical purposes. This is not so. True patriotism demands a day of rest for all who are engaged in useful labor, no matter what their view is as regards their religious duties.

#### CALIFORNIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.

The 50th anniversary of the discovery of gold in California will be celebrated in that state next month, the 24th of January, 1898. The jubilee, which is to be very grand, is being organized by the society of California pioneers, the California miners' association, the merchants' association of San Francisco, and the kindred associations of the native daughters and the native sons of the golden west. California ought to do all this in honor of the great event; for she still leads all the states in gold production, and even increases her output every year. Her story is that of an empire grown within half a century and whose importance to the Union has been incalculable.

Among those who will be present, or who ought to be, Utah is able to name the most prominent persons of all. One of these is Henry W. Bigler of St. George, who is not only one of the survivors of the original party which discovered the first gold, but is himself the first and original chronicler of the great event. His diary, under date of Monday, January 24th, 1848, contains this note: "This day some kind of metal was found in the tail-race that looks like gold." And six days later, on Sunday, the 30th, he writes: "Our metal has been tried and proves to be gold. It is thought to be rich. We have picked up more than a hundred dollars' worth last week." He was one of a party of ten, the majority of them being Mormons and late members of the Mormon Battalion, who, in the employ of Captain Sutter, and accompanied by James Marshall, Sutter's partner, and since generally honored and commemorated in statue and story as the discoverer of gold, went up into Coloma county to build a mill. The allusion to the "tail-race" will thus be understood. At last reports there were only four survivors of this original party. Bigler was one, James S. Brown, of Salt Lake City was another, Azariah Smith, of Mantle, Utah, was a third, and Peter Wimmer, of San Diego, Cal., was the fourth. It

has been stated that the latter is now dead. Messrs. Bigler, Brown and Smith are still in mortality, and it ought to be safe to say that California will not be neglectful of the honors and hospitality due these aged veterans and living witnesses of an event which was fraught with such incalculable results to the Golden State, the Pacific Coast, the Great West, the mighty Republic and the whole world.

#### THE PREACHING OF JESUS.

A profitable study, particularly to missionaries in the field, will be found in the sermons of our Savior and His first followers, with regard to the form in which their discourses were delivered. Never was there any more successful preaching on earth, and yet it was attended by no ostentatious display. There were no explosions of bombshells—figuratively speaking—in the midst of the audience, accompanied, in the confusion, by a call of sinners to the mourners' bench to find salvation. There were no blasts of trumpets nor booms of drums in the streets where Jesus of Nazareth passed by. A frail boat by the sea shore was a suitable pulpit—so quiet and unassuming were His gestures; a green spot on the mountain side, where calmly He could sit down and teach the multitudes was His favorite platform. And yet there was the power of eloquence as never felt before. There was masterly simplicity, the most captivating ornamentation, in all His discourses.

The work of Jesus as a Teacher was largely one of gathering in the honest in heart and giving to them the keys of the new dispensation, a work similar to that devolving upon His messengers in this age. At the end of every dispensation, such a gathering has taken place. That is the time when "His sheep" hear His voice and follow Him. But it is the voice of the gentle shepherd, not of the bombastic orator, that will gather the Lord's flock. Undoubtedly the whirlwind that rends the rocks and the thunder that causes the earth to tremble make a grand display; but it is the gentle zephyr that bears on its wing the presence of the Lord to the broken-hearted wanderer in the desert. The sermons of Jesus should furnish the Christian world a great lesson.

#### AMERICA NOT TO BLAME.

Paris newspapers express the view that the United States is to blame for the barbarous war in Cuba. It is all due, they say, to the ambition of politicians and the selfish aims of speculators. The Soleil believes that it would not be a bad idea for Europe to assist Spain "against this thieving policy."

It would be a decidedly bad idea, even admitting, for the sake of the argument, the truth of the charge made, because it would be exactly the case of the physician with a beam in his eye trying to remove the mote from the eye of the patient. Whenever Europe feels called upon to rise in virtuous indignation against the "thieving policy" of any country, she has a much more fruitful field of labor at home, and the occupation of Madagascar by France would be a proper subject of investigation to commence with. Then the amiable neighbor of France, Germany, has lately engaged in a piece of policy for which the adjective "thieving" is hardly adequate. Highway robbery would better describe it. It is now clear that the German government seized Chinese territory without the slightest provocation, and also