

hence from a worldly standpoint the true Christian is generally regarded as a fool.

The real followers of Christ have the same self-sacrificing spirit which He had, and unless they have, their profession of being His followers is a hollow mockery. The care and solicitation of our Redeemer was not for Himself, but for mankind, so much so that He lost sight of His own individuality and, with His boundless love, grasped eternity. He said, after He had risen, all power was given unto Him. He had sought to preserve that which will finally be entrusted to Him as an everlasting inheritance. He thus showed His capability for being the Redeemer and head of this creation. He was the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world, and to the Father and to Him and the Holy Ghost be honor and glory forever. We glorify Him not only for redemption, but also for that which made redemption necessary, the fall, whereby we have been placed in a condition to gain experience which will fit us for a greater and more exalting weight of glory.

The Holy Spirit is the medium of revelation through which the disciple can found his faith on the "Rock of Ages." The gospel is a system embodying glorious promises, one of which is that whosoever shall do the will of God shall know whether the doctrine is of Him or not. Where, then, is any room for doubt? There can be no deception on the subject when we know how to obtain a satisfactory witness. Those professing to be dispensers of the gospel and cannot make this promise are not called of God. Here is a test open to everybody. We, as Elders of what we claim to be the true Church, say that those who take the course I have endeavored to portray can know that God has spoken to this generation and raised up Apostles and Prophets to bear the message of the fulness of the Gospel in these days. This is the testimony of the Saints. Many of us have borne it to the world, surrounded by howling mobs and sneering cynics. The truth makes some people angry, but now as anciently the sheep know the voice of the good Shepherd and follow Him while they know not the voice of a stranger. This is manifested everywhere in the administrations of the servants of the Lord. They deliver their message in meekness by the power of the Spirit, and the sheep of the flock, who have the Spirit of truth in their hearts, feel its promptings and rejoice; thus the Gospel catches one of a family, and two of a city. I have this testimony and bear it humbly. It has been manifested to me that God has spoken to man in this age, and this has been given to me not by the testimony of man, but by the witness of the Spirit of God. May God bless the righteous everywhere. Amen.

The choir sang the anthem: "Praise ye the Lord," preceded by the solo entitled: "The Gate of Heaven."

Benediction was pronounced by Bishop Orson F. Whitney.

## CLIPPINGS ON THE "DECLARATION."

WE SUPPOSE the comments of the American press on the subject of the "Mormon" action concerning plural marriage are interesting to our readers, so we select a few more out of the many which have come to us containing some approach to a rational view of the question.

The New York *Herald* of the 8th inst. had an editorial which has been widely copied, in which the bearing of the action upon Statehood is discussed. The *Herald* thus concludes the editorial:

"The Territory may be safely admitted when it appears that a majority of its people are, and are likely to continue to be, opposed to polygamy and in favor of making it a crime.

"An additional and sufficiently secure safeguard would be a provision in the constitution prohibiting polygamy and another forbidding the repeal of this clause except by a very large majority—say four-fifths—of the voters of the State."

The Brooklyn *Citizen* closes a long article on the subject with these words:

"The action taken forms an epoch in the Mormon Church. The cause of contention is settled, and it only remains for the schools and missionaries to transform into useful citizens an element that has hitherto defied our laws and threatened the peace of the Union."

The New York *World* under the head "The Problem Solved" discusses on the abandonment of polygamy, and finishes as follows:

"Now that it is abandoned and with it the criminal practice of polygamy the Mormon problem is solved. With what remains of it, the Church as a Church, we have no National concern. It may teach and believe what doctrines it pleases and worship the Great Panjandrum himself if it sees fit, without let or hindrance."

The New York *Tribune* has a long editorial, from which we clip these two paragraphs:

"The new edict applies only to future marriages in Utah, and leaves the state of thousands of women already polygamously married undetermined. But the natural effect of the action of the Mormon leaders will be to discredit existing plural marriages and to involve gradual separations and the discontinuance of former relations. Polygamy, abandoned as a religious canon, will speedily cease to exist in the Mormon paradise.

"Polygamy is the first sacrifice that is made to the progress of Western settlement in the Territory. It will be followed speedily by encroachments upon the temporal power of the Mormon Church, and ultimately by the effacement of the religious denomination."

In a later editorial the New York *Tribune* says:

"It is the opinion of the best informed Gentile observers that this acceptance of the decree will be general and permanent throughout all Mormondom, and that it, therefore, marks the end of polygamy."

The Chicago *Mail* contrasts "Mormon" polygamy with some things that are tolerated in the United States, and we take these few sentences from its article:

"But while the subject of polygamy as practiced by a comparative handful of Mormons has for years been ridiculed by hot shot from the press and the pulpit and had been torn to tatters by legislative action, nothing very important has been accomplished in purifying the subject of marriage and divorce elsewhere. While the government has been busy in throttling polygamy in Utah (and rightly so), what must be said of a state of society which produces such a case as that of the Wilkesbarre (Pa.) wife who has eight living husbands, and as far as can be learned is now looking for more worlds to conquer?"

The Troy, New York, *Budget* thus treats the matter:

"This action must be accepted as a settlement of the vexed question. If the Mormons violate the law in the future, the law stands to punish them. Until it is violated full faith should be accorded the declaration. Utah has a population of over 200,000 now, and a great current of Gentile population is beginning to pour into the territory under the belief that it will soon become a State, which it will if polygamy is no longer practiced there.

This is from the Scranton, Pennsylvania, *Republican*.

"The proclamation of President Woodruff of the Mormon Church, abolishing polygamy, has a ring of truthfulness about it that ought to commend it to fair public consideration. The Mormon president says that as laws have been enacted by Congress and pronounced valid by the Supreme Court forbidding polygamy, he will himself submit to those laws, and use his influence with Mormons to induce them to do likewise. He closes the proclamation by exhorting Latter-day Saints to contract no marriage by law forbidden. A motion to regard the proclamation binding and as authoritative was carried without a dissenting vote among the ten thousand people present. The public is bound to accept the act as of good faith."

The State *Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, argues:

"If this change of front is made in good faith, and time will try its genuineness, the church of the Latter-day Saints has placed itself on the plane of law-abiding ecclesiastical organizations, and will be respected accordingly."

"The faith of the Mormons is, polygamy aside, entitled to the same protection that is accorded every other mode or form of religion in the United States."

Taking up the statement of the Salt Lake *Tribune* that the action was a trick, the State *Journal* in another article says:

"On the whole the situation bears evidence that the leaders of the Saints are honest and sincere in their declaration. If they are, the long fight against Mormonism in the United States is virtually over."

The Woman's *Tribune* takes up the President's declaration and says:

"The *Tribune* gladly gives space for this official declaration, which should settle the matter."