

It is said that many people are joining the "Anticipators" and that they claim theirs will be the universal religion, which all people will join who wish to save their souls. Prayer and good works are the chief tenets of their faith.

It is probable that Myers saw the cloud and heard the voice. There will be many such warnings given and premonitions uttered. They may come from a heavenly source. But the revelation of the fact that the grand consummation is approaching, that the end of the reign of evils is nigh and that the great change predicted by all the holy prophets will soon take place, gives no divine authority to build up a new sect or to organize for any special purpose.

There will be false Christs and false prophets and men will assume authority to which they are not entitled because they are warned as to coming events; for these are among the signs of the latter days and tokens of the coming of the Son of Man. Prayer and good works are commendable everywhere, but deceptions will be so great that they will deceive "if possible the very elect."

#### THE FATHER OF MODERN BANKING

THE "Father" of modern banking was one Francis Child, who became Lord Mayor of London in 1698. Child was an apprentice to a goldsmith and pawnbroker named Wheeler. He married the granddaughter of his employer, and finally succeeded to the head of the business. About 1690 Francis Child established a system of money-dealing what proved to be the basis of modern banking. He died in 1721. His second son, Francis Child, succeeded him as head of the firm. In 1729 he introduced a form of promissory note, probably the first form of printed bank note known.

The head of the firm in 1782 was Robert Child, the last of the family. His only daughter eloped with the tenth Earl of Westmoreland.

The ledgers of Child's Bank show accounts with King William and Mary his Queen, with Barbara Villiers the Duchess of Cleveland, and with Mme. Eleanor Gwynne. This latter lady, known as Nell, could not write. Her mark appears frequently. The doctor's receipt for attendance during her last illness is still in existence. The money, £109, equal to \$500, was paid by Child's Bank.

SCRANTON, Pa., May 2.—The barns of the Scranton Electric Street railway burned this morning. Over thirty cars were damaged. The total loss will be over \$100,000. Insurance not known.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT BOLIVIA.

JOSE P. MACHECA, the alleged head of the Mafia, and one of the men lynched in New Orleans, was, it is said, at the time of his death the recognized consul of Bolivia. His name so stands on the records of the State Department. He was a wealthy merchant, and head of the firm of Macheca Brothers.

Bolivia has no diplomatic representative in the United States. Its most prominent agent is Consul-General Obarrio of New York. He has not, however, taken any interest in the fate of his brother-consul. It was expected that Bolivia would make some movement in the matter, but so far nothing has been said.

This little incident brings into notice one of the most interesting, and perhaps, remarkable of the South American republics. It derives its name from Simon Bolivar, the famous liberator of the Latin-Americas. Formerly it was known as Upper Peru, but in honor of the statesman and soldier it was changed to Bolivia.

It proclaimed its independence of Spain in 1825, and established a republic somewhat modeled after that of the United States. The executive power is vested in the President, who is elected quadriennially by universal suffrage. Two Vice-Presidents are elected with him. He is assisted by a Council of Ministers representing Foreign Affairs, Colonization, Finance, War, Justice and the Interior. Congress has two chambers, the Senate and House of Representatives, also elected by universal suffrage. It is stated, however, that the Constitution is not adhered to in the form of elections. There is a good deal of irregularity, and the party in power always sees defects in the Constitution of Bolivia.

In the matter of education the country boasts of four universities, though it is said that not more than six per cent of the children attend elementary schools. There is one good feature about it, and that is, in religious toleration it is the most liberal of all the South American countries. The Roman Catholic religion is that mostly observed by the masses, but the prerogatives of the church are well defined. Jesuits are not permitted to live in the country. They were all expelled years ago.

Bolivia has an area of about 700,000 square miles, and its population is nearly 2,000,000. There are 250,000 of absolutely wild aborigines in the country. About 500,000 of the people are Quichua Indians, descendants of the Incas. The Aymara Indians number about 200,000, and the remainder

are composed of whites, half-breeds and light Mestizos. The Indians are industrious and in many respects progressive. The women perform most of the labor of the country.

The highest mountains on the American continent are in the western part of Bolivia. The Sorata peak is 24,800 feet high, and the Illimani peak in the same chain is 21,300 feet. The altitude of the snow line in the high lands varies from 16,000 to 18,000 feet. Volcanoes are frequent in the Andes and coast ranges, and five of them are constantly smoking.

The elevated plains or basins of the plateau enclose a continental water system, from which there is no outlet to the ocean, the rivers emptying into lakes or into vast dried up salt fields. There is one basin, that of Lake Titicaca, 13,000 feet above sea level, which is the most elevated table land in the world except that of Tibet. The latter, however, is only fit for sheep and goat pastures, but the Bolivia table land supports owns and populous cities, and affords food for immense herds of cattle, llamas, guanacos and sheep, and is covered with harvests of cereals at an elevation which has nothing to equal it in the world. A stranger, on first reaching these high plains, finds difficulty in breathing, and suffers from dysentery, but these troubles soon disappear.

This basin is 500 to 600 miles in length and from 60 to 150 in width. On its southern edge is situated the city of Potosi, the highest in the world. This town has a remarkable history. Its silver mines alone have produced, from 1545 up to 1890, the enormous sum of \$1,700,000,000. In 1611 it had a population of 170,000, but in 1865 it had only 25,000. The location of the mines is 15,000 feet high, and there are 5,000 mines in the mountain. About \$2,000,000 annually is still turned out by the Potosi mint.

The agricultural and mineral resources of this country are incalculable, but little is being done to develop them. There are a few railroads very imperfectly operated. The last war with Chili cut off all sea communication. Bolivia had one sea coast province, but Chili took it.

The country abounds in cocoa, india-rubber, coffee, and other products. Its capacity for cereals is immense. Its total of imports for 1889 was about \$7,000,000, and its exports nearly \$10,000,000. Bolivia's trade with the United States until last year was practically nothing, when it took \$11,000 worth of our products.

Great things are predicted as the result of the Blaine reciprocity scheme when carried into effect with that country.