

Dec. 24

743

have received them in full."—(Ibid. p. 161.)

Also the Lord commanded, June 22, 1834:

"And let all my people who dwell in the regions round about be very faithful, and prayerful, and humble before me, and reveal not the things which I have revealed unto them, until it is wisdom in me that they should be revealed." (Ibid. p. 347. See also pp. 259, 270.)

It was not until 1852 that the revelation on Celestial Marriage was publicly announced to the world. Up to that time no missionary of the Church had the right to teach the doctrines it contained. They were held as among the "secret things" which belong to God. Jesus in his day was compelled to retain some principles which he had received from the Father, until after his resurrection, concealing them even from his Apostles. Said he, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (John xvi. 12). Paul, when "caught up into the third heaven," heard things that were "unlawful for man to utter," and John the Revelator in the vision on Patmos was commanded to "seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not," as Daniel the Prophet was enjoined concerning some of the things revealed to him.

It is stated that while Joseph was said to have been explaining privately the doctrine of celestial marriage, Elder H. P. Brown was cut off the Church for "preaching polygamy and other corrupt doctrines." This is quite correct. In the first place H. P. Brown, as we have shown, had no right or authority to preach such doctrines. And in the second place polygamy, taking that word in its general significance, was not then and is not now a part of the creed of this Church. Polygamy means many wives, or many husbands. We do not believe in the practice of many husbands for one woman; that is too much like the custom that prevails in the strongholds of Christendom. Neither do we believe in unrestricted polygyny, that which is called polygamy in some parts of the world. In a polygamic country any man can have as many wives as he can obtain or maintain. Celestial marriage is very different to polygamy as commonly practised. It is solemnized under an eternal covenant and the keys of the holy priesthood, with the sanction, and governed by the restriction of one who, by divine authority, holds the power to seal on earth and it is sealed in heaven. It is not for carnal gratification nor the enslavement or degradation of the weaker sex, but for their exaltation and blessing in time and eternity. It has been called "polygamy" by the world, as the Latter-day Saints have been called "Mormons." Either word is a misnomer, and has come into use among us because so frequently used by others.

Reference to the *Times and Seasons*, in which this subject was touched upon by Elders Hyrum Smith, John Taylor and others, will show that it was treated upon in a very guarded manner. The former, in vol. 5, p. 474, refers to a doctrine hinted at by some, that a man "may have as many wives as he pleases." This he calls "false doctrine," as it is, for the sin of David, Solomon and others is explained in the revelation on Celestial marriage to have been in taking wives "as they pleased," without regard to the divine law, the sanction of the Almighty under the keys and sealings of the everlasting covenant; and this was "an abomination before him" as declared in the Book of Mormon. Hyrum Smith, after speaking as quoted above, says:

"Therefore beware what you teach! for the mysteries of God are not given to all men; and unto those to whom they are given they are placed under restrictions to impart only such as God will command them and the residue is to be kept in a faithful breast, otherwise he will be brought under condemnation."

No letter, article or public speech can be quoted in which any of the Church authorities ever spoke against the doctrine of celestial marriage as laid down in the revelation. Their denunciation of "spiritual wifery" is cited in connection with this matter. But the infamous doings and teachings of John C. Bennett under this title were as far apart from the true doctrine of the Church as darkness

is from light. Under the specious title of the "spiritual wife" theory, Bennett secretly taught and practiced licentiousness that was akin to whoredom, and it was against this and similar abominations of those who had imbibed these views, that Joseph and Hyrum Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor and others proclaimed in Nauvoo; and now, their words, aimed at the villainy of the men we have named, are wrested and distorted and quoted to apply to a pure, holy and divine system of marriage, practised by the ancient prophets of God under his direction and revealed anew from heaven in these latter times.

The reply of Elder John Taylor at the discussion held by him with three "divines" in France, when licentiousness was charged against this Church, is also frequently referred to in this connection, and vile apostates, some of whom know very well that they are uttering falsehoods, attempt to make it appear that he told an untruth on that occasion. By reading the published account of the discussion, it will be found that his opponents read extracts from Bennett and Caswall, accusing Joseph Smith and others of gross immoralities. It was in refutation of this that Elder Taylor made the remarks referred to, and without affirming or denying anything in specific terms, he read from the Doctrine and Covenants the views of the Church in relation to marriage. The doctrines contained in the revelation had not then been adopted by the Church. He was not authorized to proclaim them. He contented himself with simple quotations from the then established formula of the Church on this subject, without committing himself on the marriage question either one way or the other. His answer was in rebuttal of the falsehoods of the adulterous Bennett, who accused the leaders of the Church of the sexual crimes of which he himself was guilty, and it was to show that the Church taught chastity and not seduction; marriage, not immorality; that Elder Taylor made those quotations. To say that he denied that which he believed to be true and repudiated that which he had accepted, is unjust to him and manifestly false and at variance with the facts as published.

Monogamy was at one time the rule of the Church. When the law of celestial marriage was revealed, permission and commandment were given therein, under certain prescribed rules and conditions for men in the Priesthood, to have more than one wife. While the former rule remained unmodified and unchanged, no one was authorized to teach anything further on the subject of marriage. This is the gist of the matter in brief. The question may be asked, Does the Almighty give a law at one time and another and different law at another time? To which we reply, he certainly does or the Bible and other sacred records are in error. To Israel under Moses he gave the law of retaliation; "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." To Israel, under Jesus, he gave the higher and different law of kindness for unkindness, of good in return for evil. At one time he laid down the law, "Thou shalt not kill." At another time, to the same people he gave the command to kill all the Amalekites and "blot out their remembrance from under heaven." Jesus required his Apostles at one time to go without "purse and scrip," and declared, "he that taketh up the sword shall perish by the sword," and subsequently told them to take both purse and scrip and said, "he that hath no sword let him sell his coat and buy one."

God himself is unchangeable, but he changes some of His laws to suit the difference of circumstances at different times and in various nations, as the sacred records of his dealings with mankind abundantly demonstrate. In respect to His laws on the marriage relation, there cannot be a plainer explanation than is given in the Book of Mormon, page 118, (N. E., p. 132). Here the Lord says to the Nephites through Jacob: "There shall not any man among you have save it be one wife, and concubines he shall have none." That was the law for that period and people. But He declares further "For if I will, saith the Lord, raise up seed unto me I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things." The former law was the rule of this Church until

the Lord gave the commandment in the revelation on Celestial Marriage. And this manifestation of divine light, unfolding the purposes of God in the exaltation of His obedient children, making plain the celestial or eternal order of marriage, with endless increase and the extension of the glory of the Sons of God, is the most momentous and magnificent unfolding of the plans, purposes and behests of the Almighty ever brought forth by the great seer of the nineteenth century. They who pretend to believe in Joseph Smith as God's prophet, and cannot see the same marks of the Divine Hand and impress of the Eternal Spirit on this revelation that are stamped upon all others received through the same mouthpiece, must indeed be blind and their light must indeed have become darkness. Let the wise consider and understand, while the wicked do wickedly, oppose the truth and perish in their wilfulness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The latest attempt to measure the speed with which the electric current travels on a wire gave 32,200 miles per second as the result.

The Santa Fe New Mexican announces that "Shakespeare is now in telegraphic communication with the outside world." Let it might be understood from this that the spirit of the deceased king of poets has opened communication with men in the flesh, we will add that Shakespeare is the name of a town in New Mexico.

Following is given as a cure for the equine habit of pawing: "Fasten a short piece of log chain—say five or six links—by means of a light strap to his leg, just above the knee, (in the stable, of course), and see how quick that pawing horse will leave off the habit. In most cases a few days will be sufficient to effect a cure."

The following is said to be a sure cure for that painful thing called a felon: Take some rock salt, thoroughly dry it over a fire and pound it fine; mix this with its proportion of spirits of turpentine and apply. Renew the application two or three times and the felon will die a natural death in a day or two and not be of any more trouble.

This is how some of the Colorado papers view the settling of our people in their State: "A lot of Mormon immigrants from Arizona arrived at Mannassa a week ago, to join the Mormon colony here. So our country is filling up with a farming community that will be a permanent advantage to us."

Congressman De La Matyr has something in his head besides the "greenback" hobby. He has introduced a bill for the investigation of the removal of the Ponca Indians. Good. The Poncas have been shamefully abused, and their story should be told where some compensation can be made to them, and punishment meted out to their oppressors.

The Topeka (Kansas) Capital says: "The news from Los Pinos Agency is confirmatory of Ouray's suspicion that the Mormons are making mischief with the Utes. This being the case there should be a commission without delay to sit upon the Latter-day Saints." We think that something heavier than even a United States commission ought to "sit upon" the number of skulls who circulate such false and senseless rumors.

In some parts of the country a new industry is springing up in the shape of muskrat farming. A man with a good pond or marsh can seed it down to rats and make it yield him steadily, after two years' breeding, about \$50 per acre. The trapping is a winter industry when there is plenty of leisure, and is a source of amusement to the young members of the family. The market for rat-skins is steady and reliable.

The return of prosperity in this country is causing an increase of immigration. At New York, for the year preceding the first of November there was a total of 162,715 arrivals, against 119,069 for the previous twelve months. Subtracting the sojourners and the citizens of the United States returning, there is a total of 124,615 genuine immigrants for the period in question, against 80,148 for the equal period

just preceding. Of this number, 28,557 were from Germany, and the reason assigned for the emigration of so many from the German Empire, is the well grounded belief that a mighty revolution in Europe is imminent.

Young men, read this, which is the statement of Dr. Copeland, a competent medical authority: "Using tobacco, especially smoking, weakens the nervous powers, favors a dreamy, imaginative and imbecile state of mind; produces indolence and incapacity for manly or continuous exertion; and sinks its votary into a state of careless or maudlin inactivity, and selfish enjoyment of his vice." Also this from "Appleton's Cyclopaedia: "The strongest tobacco contains six or seven per cent. of alkaloid nicotine, a dark, acrid, tobacco oil, a most virulent poison; a drop of the concentrated solution being sufficient to kill a dog, and its vapor destroying birds."

The people of Denmark are beginning to feel alarmed again in regard to the designs of Prussia. It is firmly believed that Germany intends to occupy Denmark, with the connivance, and if necessary, assistance of Sweden; the former to take the peninsula of Jutland and the island of Fuhnen, leaving Sealand and the surrounding islands as the share of the latter. It is believed that in defending herself against this expected attack, the Danes will concentrate their forces on the island of Sealand, being unable to defend Jutland. The course of Prussia, in relation to Schleswig-Holstein, shows what that Power will do when a good opportunity offers for further aggrandizement at the expense of a weaker nation.

The following in relation to the Kirtland Temple appears in some eastern papers: "The Mormon church which Joseph Smith built at Kirtland, Ohio, in 1834, is now owned by Smith's descendants, and is rented for lectures, dances, and exhibitions of all kinds. This first Mormon Temple is a massive stone structure, four stories in height, and surmounted by a tower overlooking all the country around. It was solidly and durably built by the Mormons themselves, of roughly hewn sandstone, from plans Smith claimed to have received in a vision and is still quite well preserved." The Kirtland Temple may be claimed by the persons above named, but it is not their property, and it is a shame to the holders that it is devoted to such uses. It belongs of right to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and we believe the legal title vests there as well as the just possession. Time will show.

Radical infidels and skeptical blasphemers are generally as ignorant as they are aggressive. At a lecture in Virginia City recently, a man named McGrath was neatly silenced by a woman in the audience. He asserted that "Christ was an ignorant carpenter, unable to read or write." A lady arose and asked him to read John viii, 6-8. He at first declined, but was urged to do so, and read as follows: "But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him he lifted up himself and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down and wrote on the ground." The lady received three cheers, the lecturer was confused and had to acknowledge himself beaten. Reference to Luke iv, 16-20 would have shown that Jesus was able to read, and that he did so in the synagogue on the Sabbath day.

LITTLE COLORADO STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of the Little Colorado Stake was held at Sunset, Apache County, Arizona, Saturday and Sunday, November 29th and 30th, 1879.

Saturday, 10 o'clock a.m.

Present on the stand—Elders Lot Smith, W. C. Allen and John Bushman, of the presidency of the Stake, Elders L. H. Hatch and J. N. Perkins, of the Eastern Arizona Stake, Bishops of wards and others. After the opening exercises, the Saints were reminded of their duties in meeting together in conference and as missionaries. The fulfillment of the prophecies was referred to. Reports were then given by the Bishops and others of

their wards. General good feelings prevailed, and the Saints were striving to live up to their duties.

Saturday, 2 o'clock p.m.

After the usual opening exercises, President Lot Smith presented the general authorities as sustained at the late Semi-Annual Conference held in Salt Lake City, as also the authorities of this Stake, with the home and Lamanite missionaries, who were unanimously sustained. The statistical report of the Stake for the quarter ending Nov. 30th, 1879, was read by the clerk.

Elders L. H. Hatch, J. N. Perkins and others, spoke upon the greatness of this dispensation, the necessity of obedience, the relationship we sustain to our Father in heaven, and the judgments that await the wicked.

Sunday, 10 o'clock a. m.

Opening exercises. Statistical report of the Sunday Schools of the Stake, for the quarter ending Nov. 30th, 1879, read by the clerk. Letters were read from Elder George Q. Cannon.

The first speaker read from the Book of Mormon, Alma xix chap., commencing at the 5th paragraph, and spoke upon the resurrection and eternal judgment; on the importance of preparing ourselves in this life for that which is to come; on the spirit of revelation and the principles of union.

President Lot Smith spoke upon the eventful age in which we live, the importance of meeting together to receive spiritual food and being moderate and temperate in our diet, recreations and manner of living.

Sunday, 2 o'clock p. m.

After devotional exercises the sacrament was administered. Bishop George Lake, Counselor John Bushman and others spoke upon the principles of union, the education and proper training of the young, the encouraging of home manufactures, and the storing of grain.

President Lot Smith spoke upon the importance of keeping up our schools, that our children might be educated. He desired the blessings of the Lord to attend the people.

Conference was adjourned until the 28th and 29th of February, 1880, place of meeting to be designated hereafter.

Sunday, 7 o'clock p m

A general meeting of the Saints in the meeting room of Sunset was held, where several of the brethren from different settlements bore their testimonies. The brethren spoke in a most instructive manner, giving their experience in the ministry and exhorted the Saints to labor for the redemption of the remnants of the house of Israel upon this land.

The conference was well attended, the speakers enjoyed a good flow of the Holy Spirit and was listened to with marked attention.

F. G. NIELSON,
Clerk of Stake.

Cannot Be Seen

In this list is the name of any of their numerous competitors. So greatly superior to ordinary porous plasters and liniments is Benson's Caprine Porous Plaster, that it has gained the approval of the highest medical authority in the world. Dr. J. N. H. Thompson, of Washington, D. C., Judge in the Drug Department of the Centennial Exposition, says of them: "I use them constantly in my practice, and esteem them one of the most useful inventions of the age." Benson's Caprine Plaster strengthens, soothes, stimulates a healthy circulation of the blood, relieves at once, and cures quicker than any known plaster, liniment or compound. It is now considered to be the unrivalled remedy for lame back, rheumatism, neuralgia, spinal and kidney affections, sciatica, lumbago, stubborn colds. Sold everywhere. Price, 25cts.

BE CAUTIOUS THERE ARE FRAUDULENT and worthless imitations of Benson's Caprine Porous Plaster in the market; one in particular having a similar sounding name, contains lead poisons. Each genuine Benson's Caprine Plaster has the word Caprine cut through the plaster. Take no other.

Make the Children Happy

\$1.50 THE NURSERY \$1.50

A Monthly Magazine for Youngest Readers, Superbly Illustrated. Send 10c. for a Sample Number and Premium List.

JNO. L. SHOREY, 36 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass.