

OF MIRACLES.

The position of the churches of the world in this age in relation to miracles is difficult to account for by those who maintain that these churches are Christian in their doctrines. It amounts to nothing less than skepticism regarding one of the more important features of primitive Christianity. The Gospel presupposes miracles as a well established fact. They are "signs" following the believers. They are "spiritual gifts" or "manifestations of the Spirit" and a proof to the world that the power to forgive sins is given to those commissioned to act in the name of the Lord. But in this age such gifts are not desired by the churches and the consequence is a theology almost entirely without any manifestations of the Holy Spirit of God.

True, the Catholic church recognizes the principle of the continuation of miracles. But according to the decreets of the Tridentine council, a supernatural phenomenon must first be submitted to the judgment of a bishop, who is to consult "theologians and other pious laymen" about it, before it can be accepted as a miracle. And consequently everything wonderful that happens outside the Catholic church as well as everything that does not suit the purpose of the clergy is declared to be hallucination, imagination and fraud.

The modern Protestants have gone a step further and declare that the supernatural ended with the days of the first Apostles. Modern miracles are declared to be impossible or at least superfluous. In this, as in so many other points, Protestantism touches very closely pure infidelity.

It looks as if modern Christianity had gradually yielded its position to the advancing sciences, a maneuver all the more unnecessary, because no true scientist has ever pretended that all there is to know in nature is actually known. One truth never contradicts another, and it will therefore always ultimately be found that the teachings of the Gospel including those which refer to the supernatural are in full harmony with and find support in the discoveries of the sciences. Already Augustine recognized this when he said:

"How can that which expressed the will of God be against nature, since the nature of everything is according to the will of the Creator? In performing a miracle, the Lord does nothing against nature. The supernatural may seem unnatural to us but not to God, who made everything."

It is gratifying to notice that notwithstanding the skepticism of a mummified theology, advanced thought goes in the direction of recognizing the possibility of miracles and accepting those of the Bible as true. It is conceded that the great Director of the universe neither suspends nor ignores the laws of nature but makes use of them in obtaining the most wonderful results. The miraculous is then not to be considered as something contrary to those laws, although we with our present knowledge may not be able to explain their origin, any more than an inhabitant of

Central Africa may at first sight be able to explain the nature of a telephone or an electric battery. The laws by the aid of which our Savior healed the sick, raised the dead, changed water into wine, are undoubtedly as much natural laws as is the law of gravitation. This is the view taken by Schleiermacher, Fluegel and others.

In the Doctrine and Covenants the promise is given that God will show "miracles, signs, and wonders unto all those who believe on my name. And whoso shall ask it in my name in faith, they shall cast out devils, they shall heal the sick; they shall cause the blind to receive their sight and the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak, and the lame to walk." Here is the scriptural doctrine again given to the Church in its original purity and sublime simplicity. And the Latter-day Saints, who in faith have accepted this among the principles of the Gospel, are not even liable to the censure of the great philosopher Kant, who justly accused those of inconsistency who professed to believe in miracles and yet never produced one. For among the Saints, thousands can testify to the power of God manifest among them as in the early Church of our Lord, even to the occurrence of miracles.

DEFENDED BY DEMOCRATS.

Since Andrew Johnson turned against the party which elected him and returned to the Democratic fold, it is questionable if there has been so bitter a feeling among the Republicans in Congress toward the President as is now entertained because of the appointment of Judge Jackson to the Supreme bench. And the Republican press to a great extent is with them, only the disfigurement experienced finds expression in more guarded terms as a rule. The Democratic papers, however, with almost unanimity, support the President's action, and it would be strange if they did not. The New York World, which has caricatured, abused and in every conceivable manner opposed the administration generally and the head of it particularly, is for once gracious enough to speak well of him. It says among other things:

In nominating Judge Jackson to succeed Justice Lamar on the Supreme Court bench President Harrison has put aside partisan considerations in a way which Presidents have not often been sufficiently highminded to do. He has rendered the country a great service in establishing a precedent of the utmost value. He has done much to emphasize the exalted and non-partisan view that should govern all minds in matters pertaining to our higher courts. He has adorned the end of his administration with an act of patriotism which deserves and will receive the commendation of the country.

It is certainly a strange, whether or not it is a desirable experience for the President to find his chief defenders in the Democratic party, but to that complexion has it come for this occasion at least.

Brigham City is soon to have an institution for the cure of inebriates.

THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTS.

Seven months of the current fiscal year have now passed and the statement of receipts and expenditures up to this time is something to which all citizens are entitled and in which a great many are interested. There was a decided increase in the revenue, this being, however, overcome by a corresponding increase in disbursements on the pension account, these seeming to grow continually. We are advised that last month the revenue amounted to \$35,003,052, the outlay figuring up to \$38,351,452, leaving a deficit of over three and a third millions, that of a year previously being practically the same—\$3,791,869, and both being so much by way of expansion of the public debt, which is now a little under a billion. The figures for the seven months ended February 1 are as follows:

	Fiscal year 1893.	Fiscal year 1892.
Receipts:		
Customs.....	\$121,678,704	\$103,181,627
Int. revenue.....	93,666,814	88,497,239
Miscellaneous.....	10,908,773	12,848,502
Total.....	\$229,254,092	\$204,527,367
Expenditures:		
Civil and mis.....	\$61,590,496	\$59,271,930
War.....	30,429,290	28,842,751
Navy.....	16,441,957	17,545,431
Indians.....	6,299,421	7,448,175
Total ordinary expenditures.....	\$114,761,165	\$113,108,289
Pensions.....	93,471,182	71,871,961
Interest.....	20,521,935	16,258,680
Total expenditures.....	\$228,754,283	\$201,238,931
Surplus.....	\$49,899,809	\$3,308,436

The expenditures are thus seen to have increased \$27,585,351 against an increase in receipts of \$24,726,724, and reducing the already small surplus accumulated during the period named down to the insignificant sum of \$49,809. It is surprising, if not unaccountable, that with so many subjects of public aid disappearing with the advance of time, the outlay should continue to grow and the amounts paid out so steadily and largely increase; but so it is.

ANOTHER THING NEEDED:

The American is nothing if not enterprising, pushing and wide awake to his own interests. At times a lethargic spell seems to overtake him, and then, as if to give the world the benefit of the most emphatic contradiction, that can be desired, he seems to have "eyes that see not and ears that hear not the things that so nearly concern his temporal salvation." It is as a rule, though, a safe proposition that he does not occupy that kind of position long; the drowsiness wears off, activity is resumed and "Richard is himself again."

Next week there will depart from this city headed westward a party of men intent upon wresting from the hard hands of Dame Nature in her Deep Creek belonging, at least a portion of the treasures which she guards so well and parts with under such trying circumstances to her assailants. These men know in advance that they are heavily handicapped, not only by the means spoken of but by other and more embarrassing