CALIFORNIA SAINTS.

San Francisco "Examiner" Statements Concerning Them.

MISSIONARY WORK ON THE COAST.

How a Newspaper Man Picks Up Facts and Ideas About the Mormons.

THE San Francisco *Examiner* publishes the following article regarding the Latter-day Saints in California and the work of the missionaries laboring there. It will be observed that in giving the narrative the newspaper man has injected a number of ideas of his own that are foreign to the views and condition of the saints. The article reads:

The old-line polygamist Mormons are making an issue and move on California. This state is now one of their colonies, and nearly a score of circuits are engaged in proselyting. As a result, churches have been established in this city, Oakland, Sacramento and San Bernardino. The congregation in this city has seventy-one members, the one in Oakland about the same number, and those in Sacramento and San Bernardino are said to be growing rapidly. In Los Angeles, San Diego and other populous centers of the southern half of the state there are half a dozen Elders at work under Bishop Taylor, and as many more are stationed in or traveling through the northern half.

Secretly but the proselyting has been conducted, but the presence of the Mormon missionaries has not become generally known. The movement to California commenced in August, 1893, when J. L. Dalton arrived here from Salt Lake to search of the scattered members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who had strayed over the Sierra Nevada. By September Elder Dalton had secured sufficient number of fellows to organize a branch of the Church in Oakland, with Joseph Nattress as president, and in October a second branch was put in working order in the capital city, with Aaron Garlick at its head. In the spring of last year Elder Dalton was so much worn on his hands and the field promised to be so fruitful that six more Elders were sent out to assist him, and the elder was regularly assigned to a mission. J. D. Calkins and A. S. Keller were located in Sacramento, H. B. Williams and O. H. Maycock went to San Bernardino, and E. L. Blodgett was stationed in this city. The south promised so much that such Church dignitaries as Francis M. Lyman, one of the Twelve Apostles, Brigham H. Roberts, a prisoner of the Seventies, and Bishop Elmer Taylor came out and began work south of the Tehachapi pass.

Elder Dalton retained the presidency of the mission until the 15th of this month, when he was succeeded by no less a personage than Dr. Karl G. Maeser, D. L. D., the superintendent of the Latter-day Saints' educational institutions for all of Zion. He introduction, consequently, extends from Canada to Mexico, in both of which countries there are four schools. Besides these and the numerous institutions in Utah, there are five schools in Idaho and three in Arizona. Dr. Maeser has been here for several weeks, but so far has confined his work to preparing an exhibit for the Midwinter Fair and beginning a series of lectures in the hall at No. 927 Mission street, the meeting place of the San Francisco congregation. Here a Sunday school is well under way, and services are held in the afternoon and evening of every seventh day. The Saints are largely responsible for the Territorial exhibit in the Mechanical Arts building of the fair, and, therefore, have had no great difficulty in securing an hour space desired for their "educational" exhibit.

The coming of Dr. Maeser attracted considerable attention here (though in being the first ex-polygamist on this coast of a cabinet officer of the Church, that of common interest was necessary to acquaintance. Missionaries and officers may be appointed or ordained and assigned to duty by the "First Presidency," composed of Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, but it requires the unanimous approval of the faithful in the mission to which they are assigned before they can enter upon their labors. Elder Dalton was quite popular in the California churches, and Dr. Maeser awaited the outcome of the voting on his reception with considerable interest. The result was favorable, however, he was accepted, and is now in full charge of Latter-day affairs in California. He is in rather better condition than most of the missionaries, as his salary as school superintendent still continues. When the Presidency sends out a missionary officially, it is generous enough to grant him time to arrange his family and business affairs for an absence of two or three years, but if poor he strip in his purse, and the "call" individual must be his own stay in the matter of personal expenses and support.

Just how California came to be selected as a mission ground is primarily best explained by the fact that the "kingdom, or "theocracy" of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the monogamist sect, has begun work here with some success. The Josephites are more numerous in the old-line Mormons than any sect in existence, and much of the proselyting work is with a view of splitting the sect of the Josephites from the tithing-house and the temple. Such is not now viewed object, of course, for the old-line Mormons would refuse to recognize the recognized as a branch worthy of recognition.

Dr. Maeser is a venerable, white-haired German, with an interesting style of expounding the doctrines of the Saints. He and his fellow laborers have no hesitation in upholding polygamy, but accompanying the announcement is a strong denial of the present practice. This difference in preaching and practice comes from President Woodruff's revelation forbidding a plurality of wives, which was promulgated as an order to life, but about the same time, strange to say, that the Edmunds bill was declared unconstitutional. After the revelation, in order to escape hitherto prosecution and persecution, the Church authorities issued a promise to work by law, and this promise, says Dr. Maeser, has been faithfully kept. There is little prospect of the long-sought effect, before the millennium of 1000 years, to which all good Mormons are looking forward.

"No time has been set for the Millennium," said Dr. Maeser, in an interview, "and to tell you the truth I do not believe it will come in our day. It would be a great misfortune if it should come in the present or in the next few years. We have work to do, and we must do it. We are not ready for the Millennium. We have to prepare the way for it. It cannot come in the earthly sense of the word, but it will come in the spiritual sense. A Jewish writer in his commentary on the prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel, and the living waters and healing leaves of the holy Scriptures, says that the Millennium will come when the children of Israel will be gathered together in a great assembly, and God will be in the midst of them. Then will come the Millennium. Now, I believe that the Millennium will come when we shall have the Spirit of God with us, and when we shall be able to live in the spirit of it. We are not ready for it now. We have work to do, and we must do it. We are not ready for it now. We have work to do, and we must do it. We are not ready for it now. We have work to do, and we must do