

the difference between the world and the home of the Saints of the Most High.

We are laboring most earnestly and zealously for the cause of Christ, and as our doctrines are so much at variance with those taught by the ministers of the day, we are necessarily opposed to them and many of them are doing all in their power to harm us by telling all sorts of malicious falsehoods against us, but they only make us the more friends by so doing.

One Rev. Clay of Salt Lake City has written a letter to one of the papers here telling the people that polygamy is practiced in Utah as much as ever it was and that the Mormons are a law-breaking and wicked people; but we are thankful to say that he has only made us stronger friends and raised enemies for himself.

We are all looking anxiously forward to our conference, which will be at Vanceburg, Lewis county, beginning with July 31st, and ending August 2nd. We anticipate a glorious time and a rich spiritual feast. Our beloved President, Elias S. Kimball, will be with us and we will receive much good instruction.

In the month of June we had the pleasure of initiating four honest souls into the fold of Christ. They were Brother Henry Figgins and wife, Sister Ida Parker and Brother Levi Houston. They are Saints in very deed.

We have not lacked for anything. The Lord has kept His promises to us, has made the way easy for us to tread, and the burden light, and it is a great pleasure indeed to work for a master who is constantly rewarding His servants.

We have many good friends here. Foremost among them are Brother John Parker and wife, Uncle James Gray, and many others too numerous to mention. We are enjoying very good health and thank our Father for it. We wish to thank you most heartily for your paper. It is a source of enjoyment to us and is doing a noble work in assisting in the spread of truth.

We are your brethren in the cause of Christ,

CURTIS B. SMITH,
T. H. BLACKBURN, Jr.

FLEMINGSBURG, Fleming County, Ky.

THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL.

Before me lies Pope Leo's encyclical letter which is supposed to be a reply to Gladstone, and is another call to all followers of Christ to unite with what his holiness styles the only true church, although a comparison of the Catholic church and the Church of Jesus established reveals the fact of wide and conflicting differences, in doctrines, ordinances and priesthood.

Now, as this subject is all important involving the eternal life of the soul, a careful study thereof should be made by all believers in a future state of existence.

For, if what the Pope states is true, that there is only one true church, it is of infinite consequence to all mankind to know which is that church. If the Catholic church is the church of Christ the most rigid investigation of its claims will make them appear the stronger.

I will confine my research to the New Testament, as that book contains an account of Church as set up by Christ's own hand, with its workings under His personal ministry and that of His chosen

Apostles. All churches therefore, that are not an exact model of that Church, that do not teach its doctrines, and include its authority must be rejected, at once, as unlike the divine pattern.

The Pope of Rome is right on the necessity of divine authority in the Church and that such authority must be no less than that of St. Peter's who held the power to bind on earth and in heaven.

I Cor. 12: 28 reads: God hath set some in the Church, first Apostles, secondarily Prophets, thirdly Teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Where are the Prophets of the Catholic church? Where the gifts of healing? The gift of tongues, the gift of miracles? Permit me to compare the power of Pope Leo with that of the Elders of the ancient Church. Mighty miracles were wrought by the latter. They laid hands on the sick, the blind saw, the lame and the deaf were healed and devils cast out. The gift of tongues and of prophesy, the gift of vision were in the church and Solomon says where there is no vision the people perish. Is Pope Leo a prophet? Is he a seer? In all his encyclicals I never saw a line of prophesy, no "Thus saith the Lord."

On the question of succession in the Roman priesthood let us examine facts. Only fifty-seven years after the Church of Christ was organized by himself darkness prevailed. John saw the Church full of all manner of abominations and drunken with the blood of martyrs.—Rev. 17 A. D. 325, the great apostate power, drenched in the blood of martyrs, in the reign of Constantine, adopted what was then known as Christianity, as the religion of the empire. Jerusalem had been trodden down of the Gentiles. In the first century the covenant people of God the Jews, became extinct as a nation. Christianity and paganism assimilated: the former becoming the leading element of the Roman empire, it suffered from destructive civil wars and was finally crushed by barbarians. Modern nations have sprung from its arms and have adopted its religion, its customs and ethics, without the guidance of a divine Priesthood.

But suppose for a moment the Pope is right. What about the slit in the early Christian church into two parts about the seventh century? The churches in the eastern part of Asia Minor held that the Patriarch of Constantinople was the head of the church. The church of Rome and western Europe recognized the bishop or pope of Rome as the head of the church, and since that time wide differences in practice have grown up between the churches. Between the Greek and Roman church the main points of variance stand thus. The Greek church rejects the authority of the pope but acknowledges the infallibility of ecumenical councils. It practices baptism by immersion, denies the existence of purgatory, but prays for the dead, admits of no images, sanctions the marriage of priests, if they enter that state before admission to holy orders. The Greek church, like the Catholic, rejects the modern Protestant churches. Now which of these two great churches is right, the Catholic or Greek church? If the Greek church, then the Catholic is relegated to eternal damnation, and vice versa.

But let us examine the claims of the Catholic church to succession of the priesthood. We have all read much of the quarrels, for pre-eminence, which arose between the bishops of Rome and those of Constantinople, those of the former claiming it on a current tradition that Peter, the chief Apostle, had founded that church. Linus was the first bishop of Rome, Anacletus succeeded him, and Clement succeeded Anacletus. Through this bishopric Rome claims Apostolic authority. That bishops could not ordain Apostles is clear. The lesser could not ordain the greater. Thus the entire Roman doctrine of succession falls to the ground. That Christ built His Church upon Peter is a most extravagant claim. Peter denied Christ. The claim has been refuted by many pens. The following questions refute the claims of the Catholic church: Does the bible teach infant baptism? Whence did the Catholic church derive its ceremony of baptism, of marriage, of ordination to the various offices of that church, seeing the Bible is silent upon these questions? Answer. From ecumenical councils. Now, as these claim no inspiration, they must be man-made. The Lord has stamped the church with unmistakable evidences of its divinity. Jesus says: "These signs shall follow them that believe." How long? The logical answer is as long as there are believers. Wesley says, the reason why the miraculous gifts ceased was because the Christians had turned heathens again and had only a dead form left. True faith always produces miraculous powers. If believers fail to receive the promised signs, what reason have they to believe they will receive the promised salvation? Miracles decrease as faith decreases, and end when faith ends. What nonsense to think of a man's having faith enough to obtain a crown of glory who has no faith in present revelation. Jesus said: "All things are possible to them that believe. For verily I say unto you, that whoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart, he shall have whatsoever he saith."

"Therefore, I say unto you: Whatsoever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Not a line from Genesis to the Apocalypse shows in the faintest degree that the miraculous gifts were to cease, except through unbelief. What presumption to pretend to the office of St. Peter without the power of St. Peter. Peter said to the man at the temple gate: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I unto thee. In the name of Jesus Christ, arise and walk." Can Pope Leo do that?

James v: 14, 15 reads: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the Elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up. And if he has committed sins they shall be forgiven him."

Note, this power was not confined to Peter; the Elders had it. Do the Catholic priests have this power? Can they cast out devils, quench the violence of fire, stop the mouths of lions? This was the true faith. Where is it now?

CHARLES D. EVANS.