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THE "CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE."

There is published at Denver a weekly paper which has as its name the *Rocky Mountain Christian Advocate*. In its issue of February 4 there appeared the following note:

"The Rev. Benjamin R. Birchall, who as a local preacher supplied the Scofield and Castle Gate circuit for six months of last year, has withdrawn from our church and joined the Mormons. He was baptized Jan. 2, 1893."

One week later, February 11, these items appeared in the same paper:

"Rev. John G. Clark reports progress at both Scofield and Castle Gate. He will build a church at each place. His predecessor has joined the Mormon church. We hope Brother Clark's experience there will not result similarly."

"Rev. Dr. R. G. McNiece who has been the popular pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Salt Lake for about sixteen years comes forward now declaring that he believes annihilation of the wicked to be scriptural."

"According to Christian Science, I wonder if Mormonism is a disease—affecting certainly constructed brains. Indeed it appears to run through families and communities, without regard to one's opportunities, education, or anything else. Rise up, some modern Solomon, and let us know what the nature of the delusion is. Dr. Mabry says he thinks the Lord has turned them over to believe a lie and be damned. Ephraim joined to his idols. Well, if Dr. McNiece of the First Presbyterian church is correct (he is reported to be a believer in the annihilation of the wicked), and if others are right who say that intelligence is the germ that survives death, then let the Mormon grade of intelligence be annihilated, says Yggdrasyl. J. D. GILLILAN."

Mr. Birchall, at whom these covert thrusts, as well as direct reference, had been made, wrote a letter to the editor of the *Advocate*, but the latter failed to give the gentleman an opportunity to be heard in his own behalf, and his communication never appeared in the Denver publication. It was as follows:

NEPHI CITY, Juab county, Utah,
Feb. 15, 1893.

Rev. Claudius B. Spencer, A. M.,
Editor *R. M. C. Advocate*:

Dear Sir—In your edition of Feb. 11th there appears an article in the

column of Utah notes which I would like to give answer to.

First, let me say I do not know whether I am acquainted with your writer, "Yggdrasyl," or not, but the article I speak of is fathered by an old friend of mine, Rev. J. D. Gillilan, though I suppose that, owing to my recent action in withdrawing from the M. E. Church and connecting myself with the Latter-day Saints he has no further use for me.

His article opens by wondering as to whether Mormonism is a disease. If you will allow me I will, at the writer's request, call myself "The Modern Solomon," and let you know whether or not Mormonism is a disease. I will also try and give you the nature of its delusion. Now to the point: Is Mormonism a disease? My answer is yes, but when the patient once gets thoroughly afflicted, he seeks not for medical remedies, only by a richer outpouring of the Holy Spirit and living a life consistent to the will and commandments of God. Truly this disease affects constructed brains, but God in His infinite wisdom has constructed them from the standpoint of humility and tells us if we do His will we shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or man.

His will, which He requires His children to fulfil, lies in His written word, which we believe to be the greatest truth ever yet proclaimed; and we further believe, with Emerson, that the greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it, thus, according with the Apostle James, "Faith without works is dead, being alone." These works are viewed by the sectarian world as impossible to man to accomplish. Herein lies the trouble: They refuse to let God help them and thus reject the everlasting Gospel and also the everlasting Savior.

Before I ask your writer to apply his remedy for our disease perhaps I had better tell him a little of its nature, so that if he afterwards applies the wrong remedy he will have himself to blame and not me.

Our religion is a revealed one, fulfilling the Scripture. It has room for patriotism, morality, piety, logic, the Bible, and for God. You can learn in it more about morality, more positive statements as to the certainty of our knowledge, also more insight into the Bible than in any other place in the world. We also hold the keys to the interpretation of the Scripture, whereas all the other de-

nominations can only guess at its meaning; hence the argument comes, we know of a certainty, whilst all other "isms" in religion only believe.

It is doubtless true, as has been hitherto said, that controversy with the Mormon people may not turn upon scholarship, but I am bold to assert that on scriptural doctrine the most ignorant man in the Mormon faith can silence the most learned professing Christian outside of our own Church.

Dr. Mabry of Salt Lake City, thinks the Lord has turned Mormons over to believe a lie and be damned. I will ask Dr. Mabry to point out to me and for the benefit of our people at large, where, in any degree, our faith and doctrines tend to the relation of falsity.

If the reverend gentleman will follow me in the following, he will find that instead of it being the community of Mormons who are believing a lie, it is his own body of Methodists: In the discipline of the M. E. church, page 3, it reads: "There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, etc." Now then we read in Genesis: "God created man in his own image." And I will leave it for the doctor to answer as to whether he as a representative of manhood, has body or parts. Further—On the following page of the very same discipline it reads as follows: "Christ did truly rise from the dead and took again His body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature," etc. How then can he take again his body if he never had any?

Dr. McNiece is also reported to be a believer in the "annihilation of the wicked." May God in His mercy extend the same towards him, and others whose business it is to make merchandise of the Gospel, and more especially when it is constituted of the precepts of men. Some say "intelligence is the germ that survives death; then let the Mormon grade of intelligence be annihilated." Ah, what a prayer, especially for a Christian minister to make! But would not the ministry of this Territory crush down the Mormons, if it were possible?

But what a glorious thought that Christ has restored again the everlasting Gospel not to be hence removed. Praise His name, the time will come when "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess!"

I pray for the hastening of the same and let my successor on the Scofield