

Therefore it can be safely said that, wonderful as these recent discoveries are, they do not shake the historical foundation of the book of Genesis. In fact these discoveries would seem to confirm rather than contradict the statements of the Bible.

### JAPAN AND CHINA.

Twice, and with deep interest, I have listened to Senator Cannon lecture on the people of the two countries named above. The gentleman has made good use of his time and comes to us laden with a very different story from that which has been told for years and years by the representatives of foreign missions sent out to make converts of the people on the other side of the world. The missionaries have told us that the difficulty in converting those people was because of their depravity, barbarism and gross immorality. But Senator Cannon, without saying so, makes it very clear that the people are superior morally to the Christian missionaries who nag them to "come to Jesus." It is fitting that the representative of a people who have been so shamefully misrepresented by Christian missionaries in the United States should bring us the truth in regard to the Japs and the Chinese. If what Mr. Cannon says of the Japanese is true, and I believe it is, it would be more appropriate for them to sent missionaries to Christian lands to convert their people to purity of life than vice versa.

It has been said of Sir Edwin Arnold that he married a Japanese woman because he is a gross, brutal scrub of a man. But after hearing Senator Cannon's description of those women and their lives it becomes clear that Sir Edwin is a man of good taste and excellent judgment.

When we contrast those pagans, as seen in the new light, with the greedy, grasping, swindling, lying money-worshippers of the Anglo-Saxon race, we may well ask if so-called Christian civilization is not largely a fraud. If to make all happy in unselfish contentment; if to make all lives mild, beautiful and honest, is the true aim of civilization, then Japan stands above Europe and America.

Dr. Livingston, the celebrated African explorer, once wrote from the wilds of the Dark Continent to friends in England that it was useless to send missionaries to the heathen until after the schoolmaster had done his work. I believe that is true in all cases. If the American school system could be introduced and made effective in those countries it would be the greatest good that could be extended to them by those who are so eager for their conversion. But that would be a harder work, as well as a better one, than to make Christians of them and yet leave them in the condition of that Jap who told Senator Cannon that he was "a Christian" and yet, when asked what he believed, innocently replied, "nothing, nothing."

But when Senator Cannon by his own showing places both Japanese and Chinese, in some important respects, above the Christian world and then prays God that they may never swarm into our country, is he not stultifying himself? There was formed in Chicago a few days since an organization representing 50,000 Chinese now in the United States and for the purpose of effecting the repeal of the Geary law and securing citizenship for the people. They say they are Americans; their interests are here; they do not want to go back to China, and they want to become citizens. If they are of those Chinese of whom Mr. Cannon spoke in such terms of admiration, I see not how he can oppose their wishes in this matter.

As to the fear so often expressed that the people of Japan and China will very soon become a destroying force in the world of manufacturing, agriculture, wool growing and commerce, I think there is not much in it. There is too much money at stake in the Occident; there is too much avarice in the Christian world to allow of such a thing. I see in the growing enterprise of those people only the sure approach of trouble for them. The money-lenders, the trusts and combines that can enslave Europe and America will not hesitate to capture, burn and destroy all that land and kill off those hordes of industrious people to keep down any danger they might become to Christian countries. Christian commerce and Christian government. Look at Spain and Peru and Mexico! Recall what Christian occupation did in those countries and expect to see it repeated on vaster scale in Japan and China! Already Germany has begun the work. The others will follow. If the United States were in truth the grand nation we would like to believe it, here is a God-given opportunity for it to show its humanity by becoming the friend and protectors of those millions who by their own excellence are forging the thunderbolts that will one day shatter them. But instead of being a great nation and a Godlike people we are standing like scrubs to watch Spain starve the heroic Cubans on our very door sill, deaf to their appeals, and at the same time too dumb and incompetent to compel the Jews of London and the Shylocks of New York to respect our rights under our own government. Alas! Poor Japan and China, there are bloody days in store for you, and all because you will not "come to Jesus" and let the Christian world swallow you. CHARLES ELLIS.

### SEVIER STAKE CONFERENCE.

Richfield, Utah.

Nov. 26, 1897.

The quarterly conference of the Sevier Stake of Zion was held in the meeting house in Richfield, Saturday and Sunday, November 20th and 21st. There were present of visiting brethren Abraham O. Woodruff of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles; C. D. Fjeldsted and George Reynolds of the first seven presidents of Seventies; Prof. B. Cluff of the Brigham Young Academy, and Elder Andrew Kimball; Elders Wm. H. Seegmiller and Joseph S. Horne of the Stake presidency. Many Bishops and counselors and other leading men of the Stake were also present. The meetings were well attended, especially on Sunday. The following wards were reported by their respective Bishops: Richfield, Inverury, Elsinore, Joseph, Monroe, Annabella, Glenwood, Sigurd, Vermillion, Aurora, Salina, Burrville and Koosharem, and altogether in the main the condition of the people were satisfactory, yet there is considerable room for improvement.

The meetings were addressed by the following Elders: Abraham O. Woodruff, C. D. Fjeldsted, George Reynolds, B. Cluff, Andrew Kimball, Wm. H. Seegmiller and Joseph S. Horne. The main topics treated upon by the speakers were, tithing, the teaching and training of our children, keeping holy the Sabbath day, honoring and sustaining the Priesthood, building of our Stake Tabernacle, religion class work, purity of the sexes, idleness and the evil results flowing from it, amusements and the several degress of glory prepared for the human family according to their capacity to receive.

The authorities were presented and unanimously sustained.

On Saturday evening a general Priesthood meeting was held under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement associations, at which the house was

filled to overflow, mostly by young people. The meeting was addressed by Elders Woodruff and Kimball, whose teachings and instructions to those present were excellent and timely. The spirit of God was poured out both upon speakers and hearers during all the meetings, and the expression of all was that we had an excellent conference.

The sweet singing enjoyed during the meeting was furnished by the Richfield choir, under the able leadership of Prof. George M. Jones, who has recently moved here with his family from Salt Lake City for the purpose of conducting the choir and encouraging generally the musical work.

The health of the people is good and we are enjoying some excellent weather.

SIMON CHRISTENSEN.  
Stake Clerk.

### Y. M. I. A. MEETING.

The regular monthly city officers' meeting of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of the Salt Lake Stake was held at the League rooms Wednesday. There were present Superintendent Richard R. Lyman, Counselors Joseph F. Merrill, Heber C. Iverson, and J. B. Higgs, T. A. Clawson, Joseph A. West, R. R. Lyman Jr., A. E. White, P. J. McAllister, L. R. Wells, B. B. Brown, D. J. Lang, and Oliver Jensen of the Stake organization. President Joseph F. Smith and Apostle John Henry Smith of the general superintendency were also present. After singing the opening prayer was offered by Elder S. M. Barratt of the Seventeenth ward. Roll call showed fifty-four representatives present as follows:

First ward, 3; Second ward, 2; Third ward, 2; Fourth ward, 2; Sixth ward, 1; Seventh ward, 1; Tenth ward, 4; Eleventh ward, 2; Twelfth ward, 1; Thirteenth ward, 4; Fourteenth ward, 3; Fifteenth ward, 3; Sixteenth ward, 2; Seventeenth ward, 4; Nineteenth ward, 1; Twentieth ward, 3; Twenty-first ward, 2; Twenty-second ward, 4; Twenty-third ward, 1; Center ward, 1; Cannon ward, 2; Farmers ward, 1; Forest Dale ward, 2; Sugar House ward, 1; Wilford ward, 2.

Superintendent Lyman congratulated the officers upon the success they were achieving and said he was well pleased with the reports made by the aides of the work being accomplished. He said we must make our programs instructive rather than recreative. The ward officers should hold council meetings and should organize for missionary work among the young men. He urged that those members who were weak and did not understand how to study should be helped by those who were stronger. In some of the associations the instructors were doing too much of the work, thereby not giving the members the exercise they most needed. Upon inquiry he found the greatest amount of good was being accomplished where the catechization method had been adopted. He stated further that collection week (for the collection of the Improvement Fund) would be from December 14th to 21st, and urged that a strong effort be made during that week and then let the subject alone; do not attempt to collect it from non-members of the association.

The class exercises of the evening were conducted by Elder T. A. Clawson. As he was not familiar with the names of all present, a number was given to each to facilitate questioning the class. His method was to call on a member to give the facts connected with each of the subdivisions of the lesson, and then proceed to ask questions upon the same, using such questions as would have a tendency to cause all to think and reason upon the subject. The lesson was handled in a