

The first verse: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," is usually connected in time, or rather only divided by the same periods, which are mentioned in reference to the "day's" works of the Almighty. How many ages rolled between the time when God spake, and chaos heard, and the worlds were evolved out of pre-existent element, and the time when He said "Let there be light and there was light," is not revealed in the Biblical account.

During that "geological epoch" such gradations and evolutions and successive changes may have occurred as would, if understood, put to rout all the carping criticisms of would-be wise philosophers who claim that their theories are the discoveries of science.

The "grand old man" is doing a good work, even though he may not grasp the full facts or comprehend the great truths of the creation of this planet. And he must command the admiration, even of his enemies, by his vigor and faith, and his fidelity to the matured convictions of a well ordered life.

#### BELIEFS OF THE WORLD.

"BELIEFS of the World" is the title of a volume published by Gay Brothers & Co., New York, which is worthy the attention of "whole Christendom." Unlike nearly all works of this character it is reliable and the different creeds of modern times are given as they are. It is very unfair to treat any religion solely from the standpoint of its opponents. No one can properly study Catholicism from the presentation of its principles by a Protestant, nor can Protestantism be justly judged from the criticisms of a Catholic. The bias which naturally influences every strong partizan or devotee renders his statements of a system different to his own, to some extent at least, unreliable. The actual belief of all sects, parties and societies ought to be viewed as stated by their authorized exponents.

Arguments as to the correctness or good effects of any creed are a different thing. Both sides of any question should be examined by those who desire to arrive at correct conclusions. But the doctrines, ordinances, tenets and claims of each society cannot be fairly understood or judged on the colored representations of an adversary. This is particularly the case in reference to "Mormonism." It has evoked

so much and such bitter hostility that it is entirely unsafe to take the explanations of any of its dissentients for a guide. Common justice would say, "If you want to know what 'Mormonism' is, first let the 'Mormons' state it themselves; then, if you want to hear its enemies, see that they attack its real principles, and not be led away by assaults upon something foreign to 'Mormonism.'"

The book to which we now call attention has been prepared with a view to a fair representation of all the modern religions from the standpoint of their recognized exponents. Strange to say, "Mormonism" is made no exception to this rule. The historian of the Church was applied to for a succinct statement of the history, tenets, discipline and practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and his response is given in the book, as furnished, but embellished with a number of engravings.

The ancient faiths now surviving in Asia are also presented and numerous illustrations are interspersed. The volume contains six hundred and forty-eight pages and eighty-six pages are added containing biographical sketches and portraits of the modern religious reformers.

We have given the work this extended notice because the publishers have acted in good faith, and judging from the part devoted to the faith and history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the whole work is reliable and therefore of great value to the student of history and the religious progress of the world.

#### THE VITAL OBJECTION IGNORED.

The *Boston Herald* says:

"The *Springfield Republican* makes a good point with our senators and representatives in Congress when it asks them to give a reason for the introduction of Idaho and Wyoming into the Union. There is no reason except that of giving votes to a party in the Senate and for the presidency. There is not an intelligent man living but knows this. On the other hand, it is altogether probable that these new states, if they are brought in, will turn the scale in favor of an unlimited silver currency. But Massachusetts' members of Congress never stop for a moment to think of that any more than of other Massachusetts interests to be sacrificed in the mad rush to gain party advantages. They thus afford another evidence that the day has gone by when Massachusetts business men had vigilant representatives at Washington."

A matter of finance is here urged as a reason why the two Territories named should not be admitted into

the Union. The issue is political advantage on the one hand and pecuniary gain on the other—a mercenary contest throughout. The vital objection to the admission of Idaho seems to be completely ignored by the *Herald*, even though it is published in the shades of Faneuil Hall, the "cradle of liberty."

It shows the decadence of the political morality of the times when the admission of a new State is favored or opposed on account of its prospective position on a financial question, while a religious test in its constitution, disfranchising tens of thousands of its best citizens, is entirely overlooked.

#### "A UNIVERSAL CRISIS."

THE fulfilment of prophecy is brought about by the operation of natural laws, and the ability to comprehend these laws and the results which must flow from them, constitutes, in many instances, a leading element of the prophetic gift. Men are able, by means of the natural powers of their minds, to comprehend a condition which is close upon or actually surrounding them, but it is the office of inspiration to descry developments when they are afar off, expound the laws that are operating to produce them, and to give warning of their approach.

To assert that a man was a false prophet because the events predicted by him come to pass in what is called a natural way, and as results of natural causes, would be absurd, a true test of his inspiration being the fact that he foretold them at a time or under circumstances that would have rendered it impossible for the human intellect, unaided by the power of God, to have foreseen them.

The Prophet Joseph Smith, in the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and other writings and sayings put forth by him, predicted developments of the most stupendous magnitude to take place on the earth. A fulfilment of these forecasts involves extensive wars of the most destructive character; radical changes in the forms and fundamental principles of human governments, and in the organization of society; the abolition of existing religious systems, and the establishment of an order of things all over the world which will insure to every human being absolute liberty and independence, and complete immunity from bondage and injustice, in any and every form, at the