

MODERN PLAGUES.

LESS than a year ago a contagious disease developed in Russia which, within the space of a few weeks, swept over the greater portion of Europe and the United States, attacking hundreds of thousands of people. It was not a very deadly malady, as but a small percentage of those afflicted with it died as a direct result of it. But it left other ailments in its train, and thousands of deaths in many different countries were more or less directly attributable to it. It was the now familiar "grippe," but its rapid and extensive spread over a great part of the globe was a notable occurrence, and suggests the query, "Why may not a more deadly disease spread as fast and attack as many people?"

The news which comes from Russia to the effect that a plague of mice is now overrunning a large portion of that country suggests the idea that the Czar's dominion is likely to be the source and scene of modern plagues. The dispatches tell of the devastation of whole provinces by field mice, and state that the little animals have killed and devoured dogs by the hundred, that they swim rivers, and climb mountains, and that there seems no way of destroying them, nor of checking their progress. There is something in such news as this to arrest the attention of the most skeptical and matter-of-fact of Irreligionists. Whence come so quickly these myriads of little animals? Is not their sudden appearance proof of at least the possibility that what the Scriptures say took place in Egypt, actually occurred? All Scripture is one; and when the truthfulness of that portion which was written in ancient times shall be vindicated to the present unbelieving generation, that portion which has been brought forth in modern times will also be proven true.

THE editor of a leading German journal recently visited this country. On his return to Germany he said in his newspaper: "Nowhere have I seen so many beautiful women as in America, including even old ladies with white hair. The native American girl, especially if of English or Scotch descent, is tall and slender, generally blonde, with regular features and small hands and feet. The complexion is often pale; rarely do they have the fresh color of a Viennese girl. The most beautiful girl I have ever come across in my life I saw in a New York store. She was an American of Spanish descent and of dazzling beauty."

A FALSE CHRIST.

GEORGE JACOB SCHWEINFURTH is the name of an individual who holds forth at Rockford, Ill., and to whom the papers have made frequent reference of late. He is reported as claiming to be Christ, and as announcing himself to be a personage to whom the homage of mankind is due. A recent press dispatch represents that the sect which he has built up has seven churches, which would indicate that he is making converts quite rapidly.

A man named Morgan, who was, for about two and a half years, a follower of Schweinfurth, but who has lately deserted him, represents him to be avaricious and immoral. According to Morgan, promiscuity prevails in the sexual relations of the men and women whom Schweinfurth has converted, and while we have seen no distinct account of what he teaches, it is evident that he is making himself notorious throughout the region in which he flourishes.

Be that as it may it would only be fair to receive the statements of Morgan with a liberal allowance for exaggeration, dissenters and apostates as a rule being noted for unfairness and too often unqualified falsity, in relation to people and professions they have severed relations with. It is singular that people can be found who are so mentally darkened as to be deceived by impostors of the false Christ order.

RELIGIO - POLITICAL CRUSADE WORK.

WE publish in this issue a *Herald* Washington special, which gives an adequate idea of the Baskin anti-"Mormon" bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Cullum. It includes the extreme features of the Idaho test oath, besides going still further than that oppressive and unjust measure.

Among the alleged features of the organization, membership in and support of which produces political disfranchisement, is that it "teaches or advises that any such law as aforesaid is not supreme, or that any alleged revelation on the subject of such marriage is paramount to any such law."

Without repeating the cogent and powerful facts that can be set forth in support of the position that the Latter-day Saints are among the most loyal citizens of the Republic, it may not be amiss to allude to

an anomaly in this connection. While the "Mormons" hold to the doctrine of the inspiration of the Constitution and the consequent propriety of all laws made in pursuance thereto, and that they (the Saints) will yet take part in the reorganization of this country upon the basic principles of the national organic law, they are pursued relentlessly on the ground of disloyalty. It is asserted that they hold that the revealed word of God takes precedence of earthly decrees and statutes. Upon the basis of such a charge they are to be disfranchised, should the measure now aimed at them prevail.

We have no desire to see a crusade inaugurated against any other religious body, but where unjust discrimination is made it is impossible for its victims to shut their eyes to the fact. The Roman Catholic Church from the Pope down, at this juncture of its history, takes no pains to disguise its adherence to the doctrine of papal supremacy over all earthly laws. The dictatorship in politics and all the affairs of life is claimed to centre in the head of that church, and proportionately in the official clergy who operate under him. The following uttered by Vicar General Preston, in a sermon delivered in New York on Jan. 1st, 1888, gives a fair idea of the unqualified scope of this assertion of supremacy:

"Every word Leo speaks from his high chair, is the voice of the Holy Ghost, and must be obeyed. To every Catholic heart comes no thought but obedience. It is said that politics is not within the province of the Church, and that the Church has only jurisdiction in matters of faith. You say, 'I will receive my faith from the Pontiff, but I will not receive my politics from him.' This assertion is disloyal and untruthful. * * * You must not think as you choose; you must think as Catholics. The man who says, 'I will take my faith from Peter, but I will not take my politics from Peter,' is not a true Catholic. The Church teaches that the supreme Pontiff must be obeyed, because he is the vicar of the Lord. Christ speaks through him."

Notwithstanding the encroachments of this growing iron power in the country, all the opposition it meets merely appears in spots and is of a desultory and unimportant character. It does not appear that any man, in either branch of Congress, dare introduce a measure looking to the disfranchisement of members of the Catholic Church on the ground of declared and pronounced allegiance to a power deemed by its members superior to the State. We have no wish to see such a measure attempted, but simply note the fact that the sup-