

life into the souls of the believers, manifesting itself in a more or less Christ-like conduct. It was when the original institutions of the Church became a thing of the past that various substitutes became necessary. Religious festivals may be classed among such. By their general inefficiency to promote the true welfare of man they prove their origin.

As a special feature of Good Friday this year it is stated by an Episcopal clergyman of South Carolina, that the various bodies of our planetary system today occupy exactly the same relative position to the sun and to one another that they had on the day of the crucifixion. It is claimed that this has not occurred since that day.

### CONFERENCE AT INDEPENDENCE

Serious difficulties seem to have broken out among the members of the Reorganized church of latter-day saints, now in conference at Independence, Missouri. If the dispatches received this week concerning the proceedings at the sessions give a fair account of the situation disruption of that church may be imminent. A house divided against itself must fall.

It appears that about a year ago a so-called revelation was given to the church concerning the vacancy in the first presidency, David H. Smith, one of the counselors, being confined in an insane asylum for a number of years. The "revelation" reads:

My servant, David H. Smith is in my hand; and his bishopric shall be continued for a season; if he fully recover, he will enter again the work. If I take him to myself, another will be appointed in his stead when the quorum is filled.

A great many of the members of the church openly claim that the Almighty would never have expressed such ignorance as to the probable future of the afflicted counselor as the "it" indicates. Is it possible, they ask, that God does not know whether David H. Smith will recover from his sickness? and they refuse to accept the "revelation" as authentic. Among the skeptics are some of the twelve apostles, while others claim to have received satisfactory testimony as to its truth.

The Reorganized church has evidently encountered a dilemma, either alternative of which is unfortunate for its position. Either the section quoted is a genuine Divine revelation, or it is not. If it is, all the apostles and elders and other members who refuse to accept it are arrayed against the Almighty, failing to discern the truth and consequently groping in spiritual darkness. "He that is of God heareth the words of God," says the Savior; and the inference of this is that those who do not bear the words the Father are not of God. If, on the other hand, the revelation is not genuine, the president of the Reorganized church, by offering it as the word of God, stands charged with a most serious offense, and the apostles and others that claim to have a supernatural testimony as to its truth appear in the light of deceived or deceivers. What conceivable escape is there from these conclusions? Both are equally fatal

to the claim that that church is guided by light from above.

Another issue of serious importance has arisen. One of the apostles introduced a resolution stating that it was the sense of the church that members of certain degrees of the priesthood were not empowered to assist in the administration of the sacrament. A member of the first presidency declared against the views expressed in the resolution. The question then came up whether in matters relating to the rules of the church the voice of the presidency had the deciding authority or whether this was vested in the members of the church. A vote on the resolution resulted virtually, it seems, in a declaration against the presidency.

While these contentions may be regrettable in some respects, they are no surprise to those familiar with the cause represented by the Reorganized church. For years the questions now openly discussed have formed subjects for private conversation and meditation; and their solution had become a necessity. Revelations on these matters presumably were expected, but, it seems, in vain. Yet we are inclined to think that these clouds on the horizon of our Josephite friends and brethren are intended to be one of the greatest blessings to them. There are in that church many good, honest men and women, whose only desire is to know the truth and to do what is right. For some reason or other they have been prevented from thoroughly perceiving the whole situation as it is. If by the discussion at the conference these should be led to investigate more thoroughly the Gospel as revealed through Joseph the Prophet and receive a testimony that only in the Church founded by him according to Divine command and still building on the rock of revelation is the whole truth to be found, they will perhaps humbly embrace the opportunity and return to the "old paths" leading to a fulness of knowledge. Unity sometimes evolves out of schisms; tearing down often precedes building up. Possibly the events of the conference at Independence may result in the return of some honest saints to the Church and be a preliminary to the reunion of friends who never ought to have been separated.

### WHERE TO COLONIZE.

Among men who have been thrown out of employment from one cause and another there is much inquiry as to suitable places for colonization, where they can make their living as tillers of the soil, or as mechanics in a new and growing settlement, rather than exist on a mere pittance in crowded cities or drift into a condition of pauperism. The Pullman strikers, for instance, have been considering the advisability of establishing a co-operative colony in the Southern States; they have also had called to their attention the advantages of the arid West. In both of these directions they probably would find success, if efforts were properly encouraged, for in neither place is there required a change of customs and methods such as would be required were they to emigrate to some other country.

Men out of employment by strikes

elsewhere also have been making similar inquiries. Some affected in Brooklyn have turned their attention to the West. The Detroit strikers having been enthused by the reports from Venezuela of unoccupied areas, fertile soil, and delightful climate, are giving attention to that country, with a view of attempted colonization. Unfortunately, the advantages of that location for settlement, by those reared in a temperate zone, have been given a too roseate hue, and if the Detroiters proceed as at present suggested there is grave danger of disastrous failure. The luxuriance of tropical vegetation and the cheap acquisition of land are not the only requisites of success even for people who are willing to work. A less fertile soil might be far more responsive to their efforts in a land to which they are acclimated by years of residence. No Americans or Europeans have yet made a success of South American colonization, for the reason that the climate, however delightful it may be at certain seasons, still is too trying on people from northern climes; and undeveloped Venezuela, with its malaria and vermin, is burdensome to the most vigorous American colonist.

The Canadian emigrants who thought they could better themselves in Australia returned this week, having met with complete failure. They now are convinced that even in the broad, and sometimes cheerless, areas of Canada there is more hope for them than at the antipodes. Australia is a fine country, a great country; but as they drew near to it the enchanting view lent by the distance and through glowing reports of immigration bureaus passed away; the cold, hard fact was apparent that the difficulties were not less there than in British America; to some they seemed even more inhospitable. In the unoccupied districts it was almost impossible to make a start without means on which to proceed. In the more thickly populated sections there were strikes upon strikes, leading to several riots, of which only meager information reaches American shores. The many thousands of unemployed could not find means of living for themselves, and the opportunities were still less for the Canadian emigrants. In Melbourne, on March 12, the unemployed held a mass meeting and adopted resolutions pleading with the ministry to call parliament together at once to sanction productive works, that the unemployed might be given something to do and thus be saved from starvation. Thousands upon thousands of men were in the procession which marched to the government offices, where their leaders interviewed Premier Turner, who promised what aid he could give. With these scenes before the Canadians it is not to be wondered that they were convinced that Canada was a better place for them than was Australia.

There are also men here who are looking for places suitable for colonization. Crowded in the cities, they see no hope of relief, and wonder where they can go to better themselves. They look east, west, north and south, and hear and read of many places open for settlement, some of which might be eminently suited for their condition. But in many instances they look too far off. As the Detroit people are wearying their eyes on the