

for as the Mormon religion is antagonistic to hypocrisy and vice of every kind, people who are inclined to viciousness and impurity of conduct may be counted on to wage a determined warfare against the Gospel of Christ, which the Mormons are proclaiming to the world. But "truth is mighty and will prevail," and one marked evidence of its onward march is the kindlier feeling displayed by the better classes of the nation toward the Latter-day Saints and those of their number in the missionary field.

#### A YEAR OF THIRTEEN MONTHS.

One of the questions that will come up before an international congress to be held in connection with the Paris exposition at the end of the century is one relative to a change in the calendar, dividing the year into thirteen months instead of twelve. The idea is said to have many adherents both in England and America.

If the plan be adopted, the year is to have that odd number of months, each of the first twelve months to contain 28 days and the new month to have 29 ordinarily, and thirty days when it is leap year. In the new arrangement each month would have exactly four weeks, except the last one, and each date would always be on a corresponding day of the week, that is to say, January the 1st would always fall on a Monday, and so would the 8th, 15th and 22nd of each month.

Undoubtedly such an arrangement would simplify matters in many respects, but the change will hardly be made so as to enter into force early in the new century. It will appear too radical to the generality of mankind.

#### AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

There is a special providence in the archaeological discoveries of the present age, corroborative of the Christian religion. If it is true that never before has there been among the children of men such a widespread rebellion against the Lord and His Anointed One, manifesting itself in efforts to turn the weapons of history and every other science against the citadel that has stood for ages, it is equally true that never before were the evidences for the other side multiplying so rapidly as in our own age. Only those who voluntarily choose not to see can be blinded to the fact that the bastions and ramparts are being strengthened in proportion to the severity of the attacks directed against them.

The latest discoveries in the direction indicated have just been made in Cairo. They are important as bearing upon the history of the Christian Church in the first two centuries. Among them is a manuscript from the fifth century which is a Coptic translation of three original Gnostic writings of the second century. Its value, says a London dispatch of August 1, consists not only in the fact that it hands down old Gnostic writings that hitherto have been unknown except by name, but, above all, in the circumstance that one of them was known to Irenaeus and epitomized by him without

any statement of the source from which he had derived it.

The discovery of this manuscript enables the student for the first time to test the accounts of the Gnostic system as given by the church fathers in the light of the original manuscript.

It contains three independent treatises entitled Gospel According to Mary or Apocryphon of John; second, Wisdom of Jesus Christ; third, Practice of Peter. The Gospel of Mary is the document used by Irenaeus, and consists mainly of the Revelation of John. The Wisdom of Jesus Christ consists of questions addressed to Him by the disciples, and His answers. The Practice of Peter is the narrative of one of Peter's miracles of healing.

Some of the epistles of Paul are clearly directed against the Gnostic tendencies that commenced to make themselves felt among the apostolic churches at the very earliest date. It is therefore to be presumed that many of his polemic expressions hitherto but imperfectly understood, if at all, many receive new light from a statement of the Gnostic doctrines by their own exponents. The study of the New Testament will derive new interest and additional historical confirmation.

When it is considered how in all ages the progress of human research and thought has led to depths of skepticism and infidelity, but at the same time furnished ample material for the bridging over of all apparently impassable chasms, it is no wonder that the greatest thinkers, the most successful scientists, the best of mankind, have been believers and not agnostics.

#### WOLSELEY AS A CRANK.

Lord Wolseley has been creating a new agitation by his recent remark that he would not like to pit the British Indian troops against any European army, and is being roundly denounced as a crank by those of his own nation and others who have been praising the Indian army as a well drilled and competent body of soldiers, and the Goorkas and Sikhs as among the best light infantry to the world. But the fact remains that if General Wolseley is a crank in remarks of that kind, he is turning in the right direction for British interests in a military way. Those who charge him with being guilty of a piece of rank indiscretion, and who point out that the net result of his criticism will be to encourage any Russian plan of conquest that may exist and to discourage the only considerable force that England could bring on to checkmate it, do not rightly judge either the motive or effect of the general's diplomacy.

As a matter of fact those who know Lord Wolseley's methods and the official sentiment he has to deal with will recognize at once that he has made another play for increased efficiency in the British army, and that the very criticism he has aroused assures success in attaining his object. Five or six years ago he characterized the English home army as "a lot of boys" unfit to be pitted against any standing European army on the battlefield. He was roundly abused for this; but the fact was that he was

right, speaking from the standpoint of a commander who wished to see his army invincible. He had tried in vain to effect necessary changes, but could not overcome the listlessness that stood in his way, not only in political circles but in the army itself. Then he made the assertion referred to, and the country was aroused. The prediction that the other powers would look upon the English army with contempt as a result of his indiscreet utterances did not meet fulfillment; but the inefficiency he complained of was removed and today the British home force is in better condition than it has been for a century.

Lord Wolseley is proceeding with the British Indian army as he did with the volunteers; and the probability is that the Indian troops instead of being discouraged will be incited to bring themselves up to the standard their general requires, and will get all the government aid in doing so that they require. Lord Wolseley is a peculiar man to many outside observers, but he knows a thing or two about British military matters.

#### JOSEPH SMITH'S SISTER.

The following, which appears in the Nauvoo, Ill., Rustler of July 28, will interest a very large number of the residents of this section of country, because of its reference to the only surviving sister of the Prophet Joseph and Patriarch Hyrum Smith, who were martyred in Carthage jail:

Last Sunday was the 83rd birthday anniversary of Mrs. Catharine Salisbury, of near Fort Green, and it was fittingly celebrated. She is a sister of the Mormon Prophet, Joseph Smith, and is the only living member of that famous family. Hers has been a most remarkable history. She was born in New York and was one of the six chosen members of the Mormon Church organized and founded at Palmyra, N. Y., and knows much about Joseph the Prophet's discovery of the "golden plates" from which he received his inspiration.

ON JULY 31, 1896, hogs sold in the Omaha market at \$2.70 to \$3, with the bulk selling at \$2.70 to \$2.80. On the same date in 1895 the prices ranged from \$4 to \$4.55, the bulk going at \$4.45 to \$4.65. In 1894, on the same day, the range of price was \$4 to \$4.80, bulk at \$4.55 to \$4.65. In 1893 the range of prices on July 31 were \$4.60 to \$5, bulk at \$4.75. Four years ago, in 1892, the range of prices on dogs was \$5.47½ to \$5.75, with the bulk selling at \$5.55 to \$5.65. This shows the prices in 1896 to be just half what they were in 1892 and 33 per cent less than they were a year ago.

The American Banker "argues" in the following driving way:

The gold standard is said to be a British institution, and for that reason it behooves citizens of the United States to repudiate it. But the English language is a British product also, and yet the silver party has shirked the full meaning of its patriotic duty in failing to demand the universal adoption of Sioux or Volapuk.

Such talk as that cannot preserve dignity to even a great a question as the money problem.