

## WHY NOT INVESTIGATE?

AN EASTERN journal, discussing the "Mormon" question, remarks:

"It is not wise to ignore the fact that against wind and tide and under the most discouraging circumstances Mormonism has steadily advanced as a force. The philosophy of this is probably not obscure, but the reasons assigned have generally been insufficient. If we assume that Mormons have an implicit belief in their peculiar creed and civil polity and are simply men in dead earnest, what has happened was bound to happen."

The fact that "Mormonism" is "a force" will sooner or later be recognized by the whole world. That the "Mormons" have "implicit faith in their creed" and that they are "in dead earnest," is admitted by all candid people who know anything about them. The vast majority of the people in both hemispheres, however, have never been correctly informed as to the creed of the "Mormons" or as to their true character. Ask the ordinary man of the world or member of a Christian church, or even an editor or a preacher, what "Mormonism" is, and he will most likely answer "polygamy," and the common idea of a "Mormon" is that he is a "polygamist," or one who has loose ideas of the marriage relation.

This ignorance is fostered from two causes: General indifference as to specific religious tenets, and persistent misrepresentations from the pulpit and the press by which the public mind is darkened and prejudiced. Everybody is interested in projects by which money can be made; comparatively very few care anything about questions of religious belief. And as to "Mormonism" there is scarcely a book published or a lecture delivered or an article written by a non-"Mormon," which does not contain either the most egregious errors or the most malignant falsehoods.

There will come a time when the world will wake up to the fact that there is something in "Mormonism" that they have not understood and that it is of value. It will have been demonstrated that it is peculiar apart from polygamy, and powerful in religious principle and as a social force. The cessation of plural marriages will help to bring this conviction to the public mind, when it is seen that the "Mormon" system advances and accomplishes its work, in spite of its submission to the laws forbidding the practice which was supposed to be its distinguishing feature. Then it will be possible for its votaries to present its claims to public attention, and its doctrines and spirit and effects will be made conspicuous.

The difficulty now is that people imagine they know all about "Mormonism," while they have not the

faintest conception of its many peculiarities and beauties. Putting entirely aside its doctrine as to the marriage relation, it has so many differences with commonly taught religious ideas, that it is worthy the thought and investigation of the theologian, the philosopher, the social scientist and the politician.

That it is indeed "a force" which has not been comprehended, everybody who knows anything of what it has accomplished, ought to be able to discern. And that its believers are and have been "in dead earnest" is witnessed by their whole history. If they have not proven their earnestness and sincerity, by their lives, their sacrifices, their sufferings, their unselfish efforts in its behalf, then no votaries of any faith ever gave such evidence.

However, there will not be much change of public opinion or of public indifference on this question, until the idea obtains that there may be something in "Mormonism," after all, that is of vital consequence. Now it is taken for granted that it is "a delusion" or a "fraud," without looking into it. But this will not always be the manner of its treatment. And there will come a demand for its literature, its exponents, its evidences and facts, and both its force and the character of its converts will be perceived. Then the honest and true, the pureminded and devout among all classes and nations will rejoice in its light and take pleasure in its teachings and influence.

"Mormonism" is neither more nor less than a new Divine dispensation, embodying the Gospel and Church of Jesus Christ as committed to man by Jesus of Nazareth and His Apostles, and bearing the same Spirit and authority in which they ministered. It has the key to "all truth," it brings man into communion with his Maker, it organizes, directs and sanctifies humanity, and will prepare the way for the everlasting dominion of righteousness on the whole earth. It is a creed, a system, a force that has come from above, and it will not be destroyed or overcome by anything below. The world has seen but its beginning, and that is measurably shrouded from their view. Its future will be grander than we care to attempt to depict, but is as certain to be magnificent and mighty as truth is to triumph over error, and as the Kingdom of Christ is to prevail over the powers of this world. Why do not thoughtful and candid men and women make thorough investigation of its claims and history, its principles and promises?

## STATE REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE.

THE objection that the United States Senate is not a representative body is again revived. It is shown that the smallest State in the Union has the same number of representatives in the upper House of Congress as the largest, and it is argued that this is an "inequality" at variance with the genius of our system of government. The remedy proposed is to elect Senators as Representatives are elected, namely by popular vote of the various States instead of by their legislatures and in proportion to their respective populations.

This has so often been met and disposed of that it seems almost unnecessary to argue the point anew. But some papers are contending that the larger States ought, by reason of their great population, to have a bigger representation in the United States Senate and propose to let every State, as now, send two senators to Congress, but allow the larger States additional senators at the rate of one to a million or part of a million of population, when it exceeds one million persons.

It will be seen at a glance that this proposition is as much out of harmony with the principle that regulates senatorial representation as the scheme to place the Senate on the same popular plane as the House. And it is not likely that the smaller States will ever consent to being swamped by the larger, as they would be if this plan were to prevail. The Constitution would have to be amended to alter the present system in any way, and even if Congress were to approve of it, in all probability it would be rejected by a sufficient number of the States to defeat it.

This idea of popular representation in the Senate is foreign to the purpose of the organization of that body. The people are represented directly in the House. The States, as sovereign commonwealths, are each represented in the Senate. Thus all the people take part in making the laws, and all the States take part also in the same legislation. It matters not whether a State be large or small in area or in numbers, it is an organized autonomy and as such is to be represented in the Senate.

Any departure from this principle is antagonistic to the theory on which the Congress was established, and to the Constitution from which Congress draws its life and receives its powers. It is all right as it stands and needs no tinkering of the kind proposed.