

them the unknown God and the doctrine of a resurrection; the whole system of Christianity was pronounced "foolishness," but the haughty defenders of paganism were unable to stay its triumphant progress. Mormonism may appear to many as unworthy of serious investigation, but its fate does not depend on popular applause. Thousands have found in its teachings the key to the mysteries of existence: of life and death, time and eternity; they have seen in it the sure foundation for that hope which remains unshaken as the eternal hills. There are some who in the most beautiful works of art and profound works of learning can see only a "jumble." They deserve sympathy; they are to be pitied.

It is surprising that at this late day, when Mormonism has been before the world for over half a century, some religious journals still know so little about it as to venture the statement that the system denies the divinity of Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit. The refutation of that is to be found in the accepted books of the Church, including the Bible, as well as in the numerous sermons, published and unpublished, by the Elders.

It is equally surprising to hear the charge reiterated of secret practices as regards to plural marriages. The fact is that the Mormons have always fearlessly and honestly stated what they believe and their practices have been in the open day-light. The antecedents of the Church, from the first day of the proclamation of the message from heaven and till now, are such that no charge of secrecy can be justified. There is no shadow of ground for the suspicion that the manifesto referred to was not issued in good faith, or that it was not similarly accepted by the people. To state anything to the contrary without proof is unworthy of Christian journalism, and deserves nothing but severe rebuke.

The statement that Mormonism is inconsistent with the free institutions of this country is daily demonstrated to be untrue in the fair State of Utah. Let those who doubt come and see. If they will go through our settlements from one end of the State to the other they will find a people full of patriotism, intelligent and industrious. They will find schools and institutions of learning and a general desire for progress along the lines laid out by the founders of the country; they will find Utah ahead of some states in the Union and behind none in devotion to the institutions of the country. Many strangers have lately come here with eastern prejudices in their hearts but have departed prepared to silence just such slanders as those published by the Christian Observer.

It is only to be added that the advice of that paper to let Mormonism alone will not be followed. There are thousands whose souls refuse the spiritual food offered by modern systems of Christianity. They are longing to hear the voice of the good Shepherd and to follow Him. To such Mormonism appeals as the spring of living water in the wilderness to the weary pilgrim. They will not let it alone. They will drink of the pure, life-giving stream and then go on and proclaim its virtues to others. In this way multitudes will still be benefited notwithstanding the false cry that the spring is poisoned.

NOT SPRING YET.

The sudden and unexpected change in the temperature, following so closely upon the wind-up of one of the coldest spells ever experienced in this latitude and having continued so long, seems to be considered by many as the opening of the springtime. This is hardly with-

in the pale of reasonable conclusion when the record is contemplated, and the matter being looked at in all its aspects, so premature a departure of winter is not desirable. In the first place, it would be unseasonable and therefore unhealthy, the summer weather would be abnormally drawn out and, most significant of all, there is not yet enough snow in the great reservoirs surrounding the crags.

In Mexico and some of the more southerly portions of our own country, this kind of thing is common if not continuous, but that part of the world is a thousand miles and upward nearer the equator than this and it is the proper because the natural thing there, the people being all accustomed and acclimated to it and arranging affairs accordingly. The middle or near the middle part of the temperate zone, which is about where Utah and her immediate surroundings are, is the region where one has a natural right to look for the seasons, solstices and changes of temperature as ought thereby to come along with something approaching regularity, and this is generally what is visited upon us, although it sometimes happens that we have polar and nearly equatorial weather within a surprisingly short time of each other, and the temperature of the past six weeks has come pretty close to this meteorological freak. However, if conditions shall not have become quite abnormal, we are entitled to at least one month more of winter, and to judge of the future by the past, it is not trespassing upon the proprieties in the least to run the occasional cold breezes accompanied with more or less snow well into April. Undoubtedly the best plan is to take the weather as it comes, seeing that we have to.

ADDRESS ON THE "TEN REASONS."

If the originator of "Ten Reasons why we should not fellowship with the Mormons" had been present at the Latter-day Saints Church on Wednesday night, says the Evanston News-Register, he would have been informed in the broad and liberal view of Elder Penrose of Salt Lake City why the Mormon denomination does not seek or demand people to fellowship with them. Taking the most important reasons assigned, the speaker dispelled them in a way most convincing to his hearers. He had no time to deal separately on the entire ten reasons but selected those for which the church stood sponsor, explaining that those he would not comment on were the individual opinions and writings of the church, and not the accepted teachings of the church. A long discussion followed on Scriptural sayings and text books. The concurrent belief of their anti-biblical nature was fully discussed, and they were put to the front as biblical in the highest sense. Following this subject, he spoke at length on the avowed belief that Joseph Smith was the instigator and mainstay of the church. This belief is rigidly explained was a false one and only entertained by those unacquainted with the history of the church. Joseph Smith was a high Prophet guided by the hand of God, the leader of the church. "We," the speaker continued, "are the Latter-day Saints, while Christ and His followers were the former day Saints." Branching out on contrary views held by those outside the church, the discourses closed his remarks in well chosen words of religious advice to the people of this ward.

The Wyoming Press, in commenting on the discourse, says that Elder Penrose quoted numerous passages of Scripture to prove that the Latter-day Saint doctrine of salvation was biblical in an eminent degree, and adds

that the speaker "denied that his Church teaches dependence on good works as the basis of pardon for original sins, and declared that the blood of Jesus Christ was the basis recognized by the Church and good works an essential to the end. He ridiculed the Christian idea that murderers and scoundrels can go straight from the gallows to Abraham's bosom in the realms of bliss, when they were too vile even to be tolerated in this wicked world and were sent out of it via the gallows route. Elder Penrose's familiarity with the Scriptures was a marvel to the strangers so fortunate as to be present, and certainly was one of the most remarkable exhibitions of memory we have ever seen."

FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Kamo, Whangarei, N. Z.,
Jan. 18, 1898.

H. K. Aldous, R. K. Hardy and the undersigned, left your city July 3, 1897, in answer to calls to the Australasian mission. After a long voyage we landed in Auckland, August 10th.

Brother H. K. Aldous was assigned to labor with Brother Milo B. Andrus, in the Bay of Islands district; Brother R. K. Hardy with Brother McDonald in the Turangi district; and I was assigned to labor with Brother G. F. Burnham in the Whangarei district. Upon our arrival Brothers Markham, Packard and Hales were honorably released. The brethren we have been placed with speak the Maori language, and are familiar with the customs of the people.

We are going to hold a general conference in Whangarei district Feb. 11, 12 and 13. Elders and Saints look forward to a spiritual feast. Brother J. N. Lambert, who speaks Maori very well, is touring the Whangarei and Bay of Islands districts in behalf of our coming conference. He represents Elder E. F. Richards, who was called elsewhere.

I was delegated to meet Brother Lambert on Jan. 8. We spent the first Sunday at our conference quarters among the Saints. Brother Lambert delivered an interesting address to them upon the first four principles of the Gospel. Monday we received a gratifying welcome from some outlanders. Brother Lambert gave them two well chosen lectures.

Tuesday we were joined by Brother G. F. Burnham, and Wednesday we three went to Te Horo, the Bay of Islands. We were late arriving. The Saints of Te Horo met us and led us to their village with torchlights. Here we heartily joined hands with Brothers Andrus and Aldous. We received every consideration from the good Saints of Te Horo, and all had the privilege of speaking in the native language. We continued our journey Friday.

God's work is rolling forth in might among this people. There is no greater joy than being servants in His vineyard.

Yours truly,

L. H. HOLBROOK.

Senor Palo y Bernabe, the new Spanish minister to Washington, is described as a "colorless young man of almost no force of character at all," who has been carried along in the diplomatic offices of Spain for the sake of his father and his family. He is, however, a great scholar and has contributed to the literature on commercial history. He is a son of Admiral Polo, who was minister to the United States during President Grant's administration, and succeeded in staving off belligerency recognition in the last Cuban rebellion. Evidently he is depended upon for a similar service at Washington at the present time.