

INTOLERANT DISCRIMINATION.

THE Rev. R. G. McNiece is greatly exercised over the criticisms on the movement for the closing of business houses on Wednesday to boom the "revival" now in progress in this city. He has written a long letter to the *Tribune* which that paper prints, but describes it as childish and some of it "absolutely pitiable in its bigotry and littleness."

We do not care to oil the effusion, as it is too frivolous for these columns, but we will notice one of its closing paragraphs because it contains a vicious, untruthful and unchristian lying at the "Mormons." As to the most of the other parts of the letter, they are simply a petulant and puerile attempt to draw a parallel between an alleged "revival" with the funeral services of a nation's fallen hero, a national Thanksgiving, Christmas and other general public observances. No argument is necessary to show the immense difference between them and a preaching meeting in a tent, so we offer none.

But Mr. McNiece says the Hebrews and the "Mormons" would have "no just grounds to ask or expect such a proclamation" as that issued in this instance by the Mayor, "for the sufficient reason that the United States Supreme Court has decided by unanimous decision that this is not a Hebrew, nor a 'Mormon,' nor a Mohammedan, but 'a Christian nation.' Hence it is entirely legitimate for Presidents and Governors and Mayor to issue proclamations in promotion of the Christian morality and Christian institutions on which our nation is founded."

The insinuation in this is to the effect that a "Mormon" is not a Christian, and the "Mormon" religion is not a Christian religion, and further that the Supreme Court of the United States has virtually so decided. We are not much surprised at anything that a man will say who has been proven to have deliberately misrepresented both the "Mormon" people and the "Mormon" religion. But we would like to see the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States which contains the assertion made by this minister, so that it may be shown how much truth there is in his words and how much he has drawn upon his imagination.

The Supreme Court of the United States has never rendered any decision concerning the religious character of this nation. The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land, and it utterly forbids the enactment of anything that would tend in that direction. That body has rendered decisions to the contrary of the preacher's assertion. If it has used the term Christian in any way, it has been in a social and not a religious sense. It has upheld in several opinions, notably in the Reynolds case, the Jeffersonian doctrine which in terms excluded the use of the word "Christian religion" in law and constitution. It was opposed also by Madison, who maintained that "religion, or the duty we owe the Creator, is not within the cognizance of civil government;" the Supreme Court also endorsed this. And further, it approved of the action of the Virginia Assembly, which repudiated in the State bill of rights, all

reference to the Christian religion attempted to be endorsed, and adopted that which, as explained by Jefferson, "meant to comprehend within the mantle of its protection the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and Mohammedan, the Hindoo and Infidel of every denomination."

Therefore the proclamations of Presidents and other public officers for Thanksgiving days and other public holidays, while recognizing Almighty God, do not have any special reference to a particular religion. If they did they would be out of place and contrary to the genius of our national government, and insulting alike to the Hebrew and the Mohammedan, the Infidel and Hindoo who may be citizens of our country.

But if a "Mormon" is not a Christian then there are no Christians in America. This is not meant to draw a comparison between the life of any individual and that of another, though we would not shrink from that, if it meant the course of the Rev. Presbyterian and that of "Mormon" men in this community. But it refers to the religion classed as "Mormon" and any of the so-called Christian sects of the age. A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at least as fairly entitled to the appellation of a Christian as a member of the Presbyterian Church. The organization, doctrines, ordinances, discipline and general characteristics of the former can be shown to compare closely with those of the primitive Christian Church, while the comparison with the other would demonstrate a great dissimilarity.

Therefore the "Mormons," in the supposition that only Christians, have any right to recognition in such proclamations as that issued by the Mayor, stand on the same plane with the Presbyterians and the Baptists, the Methodists and the Congregationalists and all the rest of the multifarious sectaries of modern Christendom.

But the term "Christian" as designating a special form of religion, has no right to a place in a public proclamation from President or Governor, Mayor or other civil officer. The Hebrews have just as much right to call for a closing of the stores on any occasion connected with their efforts to ameliorate mankind, as have the Christians of any particular creed. And the "Mormons" have as much right as either to ask for a general suspension of business during their general conferences, when the general public are invited to attend for their moral and spiritual welfare.

Bigotry and intolerance, narrow discrimination and sectarian spleen are anachronisms in the nineteenth century. We have nothing to say against Mr. Mills nor his efforts to awaken religious interest and moral sensibility, here or elsewhere, and wish him only good things and success in his legitimate ministry. But we think he will agree with us that such efforts as those put forth by a self-constituted champion in today's *Tribune*, will only tend to damage him and the work he is endeavoring to perform.

THE HAGUE, Sept. 14.—There was a death from Cholera yesterday in Maassluis, South Holland. One case of the disease was reported at Elburg on the Zuyder Zee.

LETTER FROM MEXICO.

The long-continued drouth has ended at last, to the joy of people and range stock; many of the latter have died for want of grass during the past season. For two years there has been but little rain, causing small streams and springs to dry up and rendering the prairies brown and bare. But in spite of all this the people raised some grain near Casas Grandes, and we in Juarez have produced quite an amount of peaches, apples, plums and other fruit. I never saw finer peaches, apples and grapes in any country. Arrangements are being made to establish a fruit cannery here, and a small beginning will be made this season. There is but little land in this settlement suitable for grain, but considerable that is adapted to fruit culture, and we hope to build up quite an extensive fruit and canning industry here.

Our quarterly conference just closed was largely attended by people from Diaz, Dublin, Juarez, Pacheco and Cave valley, also by some from the new settlement in Sonora; and it was a time of rejoicing with all. The instructions given were wise and comforting; and the Juarez choir, under the able leadership of Brother Walsen, added greatly to the enjoyment of all. We learn by brethren from our new settlement in Sonora that Colonel Kosterlitzky, military commandant in northern Sonora, had lately returned from the City of Mexico with very generous concessions of government for the settlers in Sonora. He stated that President Diaz is much interested in the welfare of the Sonora colony, and that he gave it the name of Oaxaca, in honor of his birthplace. He also gave great concessions to the settlers in Sonora, in addition to those granted in the general colonization law, as follows:

Authority to import, free of duty, for one year, corn, 15,000 pounds; barley, 5,000 pounds; wheat, 5,000 pounds; beans, 10,000 pounds; flour, 30,000 pounds; meal, 5,000 pounds; alfalfa seed, 3,000 pounds; garden seed, 50 pounds; rice, 2,000 pounds; potatoes, 5,000 pounds; coffee, 1,000 pounds; tea, 75 pounds; salt, 30,000 pounds.

The Sonora colonists are exempt for ten years from all military service, State duties (import and export); expense for consular papers and legalization of passports; all kinds of contributions and taxes except municipal and stamps; the right to import free of duty all breeding and work animals, farm tools, machinery, building materials, and furniture. And the government gives premiums on all notable or new industries.

The new settlement of Oaxaca was granted a full civil organization of our brethren, as follows:

President, John U. Rencher; Judge, J. H. Langford; Recorder, Peter A. Dillman; Constable, M. H. Martineau; Stamps, William Maxwell.

A professed Latter-day Saint (whose name is known here) took a letter some time previous to President Diaz, hoping to injure the new settlers of Oaxaca, saying they had already obtained colonization rights in Chihuahua and were now trying to do the same in Sonora. But President Diaz, said to Colonel Kosterlitzky, "The Mormons have not had their rights as colonists in Chihuahua, but they shall