

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

NOTICE.

To the officers and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

It having been reported to us that Brother Moses Thatcher has on three different occasions recently addressed congregations of the Saints at Logan, Cache Valley, this therefore is to notify you that by action of the Council of First Presidency and Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the name of Moses Thatcher was not presented at the General Conference of April and October, 1896, to be sustained in his office as an Apostle; and that this action of the authorities suspended him from exercising any of the functions of the Priesthood, that is, from preaching the Gospel or administering in any of the ordinances thereof, until he, by making satisfactory amends to his fellow-servants, should be restored to their fellowship and that of the Church.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
First Presidency.

MORMONS AND "CHRISTIANS."

It appears that our Christian friends outside Utah are commencing to go over the accounts with the view of ascertaining whether the money spent in missionary enterprises among the Mormons is a profitable investment. A Methodist pastor in Wyoming, Rev. Dr. Beggs, says it is not. In an article in the Methodist Review, he makes the following statements, quoted by the Literary Digest: "The churches are not reaching the Mormons." "So far as converting the Mormons is concerned, money has been largely wasted." "If two hundred real Mormons have been changed and made into earnest Evangelical Christians during that time, we have not been able to discover them." "A Presbyterian pastor who has labored for the past five years in Utah is of the opinion that not one hundred Mormons have been converted into actual Christians." "Why waste time, money, and labor carrying on what many regard as a religious crusade against a quiet, sober, religious and industrious people?" "The time has come for the authorities of all Evangelical churches to change their plans of missionary operations in Utah." "Had the missionary money spent during the last twenty-five years in supporting missionaries in uncivilized, uncultured, and barren fields, where very few Gentiles live, been put by the Methodist Episcopal church into a commanding college, much greater results would now appear."

To this a committee of Utah Metho-

dists replies that thousands of souls have been converted and that the value of the work can never be estimated on earth. They further claim that a "goodly number of Mormons" have been brought into the churches and that their schools have worked a "marvelous revolution."

A St. Louis paper, evidently not entirely satisfied with these platitudes, undertakes to point out that it is due to these missionaries that the federal government has not lost its power in Utah, and that the great "change" brought about by Congress, courts and public opinion is a result of the "leavening, quickening, educating influences exerted by the representatives of Protestantism in the stronghold of Mormonism." The conclusion is that the money is well expended.

We do not begrudge our Christian friends what little comfort they may derive from the contemplation of their success as missionaries. It is nevertheless a fact that Dr. Beggs speaks the plain truth. Mormonism, as a system of doctrines considered, is superior to the teachings of Protestant ministers, that even apostates, who leave the Church for various reasons, refuse to become identified with the "actual Christians." That is the reason why the so-called conversions are so few and far between.

With regard to the other "leavening influence" mentioned, it would seem unnecessary to point out to "Christians" acquainted with Utah's history, that it has not always been to the glory of Protestantism. When everything is considered with impartiality, it will be admitted that whatever moral excellence and progress Utah today may boast of, is due as much to Mormonism as to any other factor. The Mormons have always been found on the side of morality, good government, advancement and loyalty. Some "Christian" ministers have fought hard on the opposite side.

HOME INDUSTRY BENEFIT.

The advantage to the State of such an institution as the Utah Sugar factory is recognized in a general way, and ought to be especially so by the beet raisers who find a market thereat for their crops. The distribution to them of the money for their beets is incidentally a benefit to the State in the money retained and circulated here; and in addition to this the people of the State have received a constant benefit ever since the factory was started, by a permanent reduction in the price of sugar.

As a reminder of the general good to the people of home industry establishments, some figures from this week's Lehi Banner, relating to the sugar factory, are instructive. The Bauner says that up to Wednesday the factory had received 12,026 tons, had worked up 11,000 tons, and had made 17,500 sacks of sugar. "This year there has been planted in the district 3,200 acres of beets. To raise, harvest and deliver them will cost \$60 an acre,

this to go the farmer for labor. This season the crop will average 15 tons per acre, which, at \$4 per ton, brings in \$60 an acre and therefore means a clear profit of \$30 an acre to the farmer. On the whole acreage this means that \$96,000 clear profit in cash will be distributed among the farmers this year. This week the company has paid out \$87,151 for beets to farmers in the various districts as follows: Lehi, \$14,500; Pleasant Grove, \$2,753; Lake View, \$1,621; Provo, \$468; Springville, \$3,560; Mapleton, \$2,100; Benjamin, \$30; Payson, \$785; Loveland, \$280; West Jordan, \$140; Riverton, \$912. Besides this \$7,500 was paid out to the factory employees."

It ought not to require further argument to convince people in Utah, if there are any unconvinced, of the propriety of fostering and supporting home industries.

B. Y. ACADEMY.

Twenty-one years ago yesterday, Oct. 16, the Brigham Young Academy was founded in Provo by the illustrious Pioneer whose name it bears, and who passed into the spirit world less than two years after the date named. In common with other works of this inspired and duly commissioned servant of the Lord, the effects of this institution for good have made themselves felt in every part of these valleys. The academy has had much of adversity to struggle with; many have been the untoward circumstances to be met and passed through. But in it all, the institution has made steady progress, gaining wisdom and strength in its toiling advance, until now it stands one of the best equipped educational institutions in the West. To the Latter-day Saints this, and other embryos of the same class, presents a feature of special importance in that in addition to the ordinary advantages of educational institutions there is here presented the Gospel of the Lord Jesus in its purity and fulness; the same principles taught by the Messiah, and which His servants were commanded by Him to teach, uncontaminated and unaltered by the doctrines of men. Many success continue to attend the B. Y. Academy and all similar institutions engaged in disseminating the truths of mortal and immortal existence!

A SENSATIONAL DISPATCH.

The Cincinnati Enquirer of a recent date has a sensational statement regarding an "outbreak expected in eastern Kentucky, where Mormons are swarming by hundreds," and publishes an alleged special dispatch from Grayson, Ky., as follows:

Mormon Elders are swarming like locusts in eastern Kentucky, taking advantage of the intense political excitement. They are moving, selecting positions, gaining footholds and laying lines for the severest religious conflict of modern times. There are over 1,000 picked men in the field. They scout in pairs, go "footback," enter every cabin, preach in every grove and school-house, sow their literature knee-deep. They divide the field into stakes, towns, ships, boards and wards, have Presi-