

properly exercised; for there are no persons within the limited jurisdiction referred to who may not prophecy, when the true spirit thereof is on them, without using either their own name or any other. If it is prophecy, there can be no doubt of its source; and in such case its promulgation will not be the occasion of contention or dissension, even in a slight degree, among those who have testimony of the truth.

### THE REVELATION ON WAR.

The question has been asked whether the revelation on war, section 87, Doctrine and Covenants, was published before the Civil war broke out. Elder F. D. Richards of the Council of the Apostles, courteously furnishes the information that he received a copy of the revelation from Apostle Orson Pratt at Liverpool and that it was published by him in the first English edition of the Pearl of Great Price, in 1851.

In the Millennial Star of 1851, Vol. XIII, page 216, a notice appears of the publication of the Pearl of Great Price and a list of contents is given. In this is included "A revelation given December, 1832, which has never before appeared in print." It is therefore perfectly clear that the revelation referred to was given to the world years before the event it foretold took place, and also that its first publication is that by Elder Franklin D. Richards in the Pearl of Great Price, Liverpool, 1851.

### A FRIEND OF FIENDS.

A special dispatch to the New York World gives some details regarding the confession of H. H. Holmes, the multi-murderer, now awaiting execution in a Philadelphia prison for one of his many crimes. These details are of interest in the sense that complete disclosures of hidden events are interesting, even though the recital should excite horror and disgust. The death-roll of the Philadelphia fiend embraces some twenty names, representing all ages, both sexes and many conditions. It is stated that he has given all the facts, and writes as calmly, coolly and remorselessly as he killed; not only does he tell of all the murders which he carried out, but of six more planned but frustrated by various means, some of them probably through his gory career being nipped in its full bloom.

We are advised that when Holmes's confession appears, there will be accounts of the violent death of nine people whose absence from their homes and their friends has hitherto been unexplained. He describes in detail the murder of the Williams sisters, of Quinlan, the janitor of the castle, who "knew too much," of Benjamin Pletzel—the murderer for which he is hanged—and of the Pletzel children. "In fact," says the dispatch, "Holmes, sitting in the shadow of the gallows, with the last hope gone, with the time and place of his death fixed beyond a change, has given way to his vanity as a craftsman and has written his life. He, of course, cannot tell the truth. But he has told it as nearly as possible for a man of his

strips to tell. He will add something to the knowledge of his life. But he will add nothing to the knowledge of his character."

It is claimed that Holmes "points with pride" to his awful work, and that his entrance upon such a career was the result of deliberate choice when a farm boy in Vermont. His crimes were committed by nearly every known means except the noisy ones, and he seems to take pride in the thought that he has made murder a fine art and thinks he will achieve "immortality" through communicating them to the world. He is to be hanged in May and the world will be the better that he is no longer in it.

### ENGLAND'S JUST CAUSE.

If the rumors relating to the doings of Russia in Armenia are based on facts, England has a just cause against her rival in Asia. It appears that at the time Europe threatened to send a naval squadron to Constantinople the sultan made a bargain with the czar, the purport of which was that Russia should be allowed to Russianize Armenia, provided the naval demonstration should not take place. It is said to be in pursuance of this plan that an attempt is now being made to expel missionaries of other than the Russian church.

By the Anglo-Turkish convention of 1878, which, by the way, is in force as long as England occupies the island of Cyprus, one agreement was that "if any attempt shall be made at any future time by Russia to take possession of any further territory of his Imperial majesty, the sultan, in Asia, as fixed by the definite treaty of peace, England engages to join his Imperial majesty, the sultan, in defending them by force of arms." By this stipulation England is in honor bound to meet with arms any open advance of Russia on Turkish territory. The question is therefore natural. Is the sultan skillfully planning a conflict between England and Russia on the basis of the Anglo-Turkish convention?

There is nothing on the surface to indicate any imminent danger of this kind, but the sudden halt in the advance of the Nile expedition, the unexpected visit of the German chancellor to Paris, and perhaps the return of United States Minister Terrell to Washington, may not be merely accidental coincidences.

### THE UNITED BRETHREN.

The religious society known as The United Brethren in Christ is a familiar organization to quite a number of Utah people, who were members of the society before they heard the Gospel message, to which they gave heed when they united with the Latter-day Saints. The society is just now being disturbed as a result of an attempt to change its constitution, and the courts are taking a hand in settling the vexed question. A dispatch in the News on Wednesday conveyed the information from Dayton, Ohio, that a court decision in favor of the radicals, as they are known among The United Brethren, would be contested in the higher courts.

On Monday, in Visalia, Cal., the superior court handed down a decision on the subject in dispute. The constitution of the society provides that no rule shall be passed to change the confession of faith, nor shall a change be made in the constitution, without the consent of two-thirds of the whole society. The society numbers 200,000 persons. An election was called to vote on amending the constitution and revising the confession. Fifty thousand voted for the change and 3,000 against. The majority claimed that the question was carried, and dissensions arose in the church. The majority began seizing property all over the United States. In the California case, Mr. Horeman, representing the majority known as liberals, took possession of a piece of church property in Kings county, and Mr. Allen for the minority, called radicals, sued for recovery. The court decides in favor of the radicals, as 50,000 is not two-thirds of the membership, and says the change, if made at all, must have the consent of the proportion required by the constitution.

The probability is that the organization will go to pieces on the dispute, or at least that two societies will be formed where there was but one before. The condition seems to be an anomalous one for an organization that professes to abide by the divine, unchangeable law; but it is no more than is to be expected when the fundamental rules are formulated by man and by him may be amended or revised. That religious organization which has the divine sanction and approval receives its rules of guidance only from the divine Source, and these are not subject to the interior revision of man. He may reject or receive them, and abide the consequences, but he cannot change or nullify them.

### THE SPAULDING MANUSCRIPT.

The old story about the Book of Mormon being identical with the Solomon Spaulding manuscript became threadbare long ago, its refutation being an easy matter among people who would listen to the evidence thereon; but there are still many people so ignorant of the facts and so bound by prejudice as to place reliance in the story. In time, however, the Spaulding fiction will find its level even among persons not fully informed on the subject, while the Book of Mormon will advance steadily to its true position in the minds of the people—that of a sacred record of the ancient inhabitants of America, as the Bible is such a record of people who dwelt on the eastern continent. Apropos of the discussion of this subject, we reproduce the following from the Kirtland staff correspondence of the Cleveland Plain-Dealer, which appeared in that paper on Wednesday, April 7:

Prof. Wright of Oberlin, was in Kirtland Monday afternoon. He delivered a lecture in Willoughby the same evening. Prof. Wright came to examine the temple and get certain information to place in the archives of his college relative to the history of the Latter-day Saints. Prof. Wright said the Spaulding manuscript, which, for forty years, was believed by