

THE MORMONS AT CLYDESIDE.

[Hamilton (Lanarkshire, Scotland) Herald Sept. 4.]

Truly the weather is no respecter of persons. The sun shineth and the rain falleth on the just as well as the unjust. Saints and sinners, goats and sheep, have to flake their umbrellas when the rain cometh down, or they are going to get wet. There! It might be out of place to classify ourselves—though it is becoming a pretty common thing nowadays—but we might just remark in passing that the rain seemed to have a special spite against us on Sunday afternoon, as we wended our way Bridgewards. It seemed bent on preventing our being present at the conventicle, but we are a stiff-necked party when our mind is made up, and the rain had ultimately to give up its attempts at coercion and cease falling. Then the sun shone out brightly once more.

At the bridge was a collection of umbrellas and waterproof, which went to prove that others were as determined as ourselves. Many, in fact, showed their contempt for the rain by going out unprotected, and their courage was rewarded by the joy which they felt in the discomfort of those who had coverings when the rain went off.

At the call of time the gathering was not so large as on previous Sabbath, but as the evening advanced the crowd swelled to its usual dimensions. The Gospel of Mormonism was to be preached, and there were many there from curiosity to bear for themselves of what that Gospel consisted. The hour from 5 to 6 was divided between the two gentlemen who have all alone showed the bitterest opposition to the claims of the Mormons, and though a very patient hearing was given them, the audience did not seem to give the full attention which their earnestness and the subject deserved. But it was perfectly evident that the Mormons were the chief attraction. Six o'clock was the time at which the Mormon preachers were to hold forth, but when that time came the gentleman in possession had to be reminded that time was up. An unseemly wrangle took place at this point between some of the audience and the gentlemen who were last speaking, in which a considerable amount of temper was displayed and nasty things were said. The younger portion of the audience howled with delight at the prospect of a free fight, but the majority of those present seemed to feel sorry that such scenes could be possible at a religious meeting. The opponents of the Mormons were anxious to have a chairman appointed to time their addresses, but the followers of Prophet Smith gently but firmly declined any such undue interference, and in this the meeting was with them. The chief of the Mormon speakers referred to at the outset to what he characterized as a most unfair reference which had been made to a most respectable man in Overton through an anonymous letter in a weekly paper. He stated that he had simply called at this man's house for the purpose of getting a copy of Bancroft's History of the United States, and how any one could be so cruel as to base a covert attack on any man on

such slight grounds he could not understand. This, however, went to show the bitterness with which they are assailed by people who profess to be followers of Christ. The friends who were with him on the mission and himself had been attacked again and again in the most violent language, but they had never retaliated, because they did not think it was Christ-like to do so. The missionary then began to lay down the doctrine of his church, which doctrine, he said, was based on the teachings of the New Testament, which most of them held in their hands, and from which he would quote. They believed in conversion. People to be saved must believe. Belief first, then faith, then baptism, then the laying on of hands by someone specially appointed for that purpose, and by the laying on of hands the convert received the Holy Spirit. He quoted at great length, giving as he went along the books, chapter and verse, which he read. Some interruption took place at this stage through some of those who oppose Mormonism declaring that the speaker was not quoting Scripture at all, but that he was twisting the passages to suit himself. One of the early preachers of the evening, who had been watching over the shoulder of the Mormon "like a cat watching a mouse," to use a familiar expression, said that he was reading from a strip of paper in the back of the book. The speaker replied that this was true, but that he had quite as good a right to arrange his texts for handy reference as his opponents had. The meeting saw the justice of this, and when further interruptions took place there were angry shouts of "Fling them off the back!" Order was again restored, and the Mormon speaker, continuing, said that the true Gospel had been lost, but that it had been restored by an angel of God to the Prophet Joseph Smith, who had given it to his Church, and it was now preached to all the world. Signs were not wanting that the end of the present dispensation was fast approaching, and it behooved all to read the Scriptures for themselves, study the matter carefully, and finally come to a conclusion on this important question.

He then called another brother to say a few words. One of the missionaries, who has had very little to say up to the present time, followed on pretty much the same lines as the last speaker. He was very much agitated, and rambled a bit, but that he was in earnest and believed what he said to be true was beyond question. One remarkable passage in his address rather took the audience by surprise. "He did not care," he said, "what people's belief was, provided they stuck to it honestly. Whatever religion a person professed he ought to act strictly up to it, and not profess one thing and act another." The other two young men, who were part of the mission, testified briefly their adherence to what had already been said. The Mormons closed their service with singing and prayer. The principal announced that in a short time he would have to return to America, but before doing so he hoped to have the pleasure of again speaking to the people at Garrion Bridge.

The Mormons had a very attentive hearing so far as the meeting was con-

cerned, but as soon as they finished there was pandemonium for some time. The gathering had swelled considerably while the Mormons were speaking, and the blood of several would-be speakers was fired by some of the statements which had been made. [The Herald then gives an account of the meetings after the Mormons had left, in which the participants did considerable quarrelling.] It also says of another meeting:

The neighborhood of Garrion Bridge is being kept very lively on Sunday evenings by the preaching of Mormons and those who meet there to oppose them. The Socialists think they also have a right to be heard, and last Sunday evening they were successful in getting themselves included amongst the performers. Mr. Robert Smilie, being asked to speak on behalf of the Socialists, showed the breadth of the sympathy of the party to which he belongs. While not agreeing with all the doctrines of the Mormons, he admired the government of a state where there were no millionaires and no poor. The matter of the number of wives a Mormon had did not touch the great social question at all. He could only say on such a question as that of the number of wives a Mormon was allowed to keep, that if Brigham Young had fifty wives, and they were all like our Scottish wives, Brigham was more to be pitied than laughed at.

UTAH WEATHER AND CROPS.

The weather during the forepart of the week ending September 21st was moderately warm and very favorable for general farm work in Utah; the latter part was somewhat unfavorable for harvest operations on account of showers and high winds. On the night of the 18th, a severe and destructive wind storm passed over the State, causing great damage to the hay, grain and lucern stacks, fruit orchards, shade trees, fences, houses, etc. The registered velocity of the wind at Salt Lake City was 44 miles from the east at 11:45 p. m. on the 18th. This is the highest velocity recorded since the establishment of the station, during the month of September. Reports indicate that the storm was heaviest in Utah, Salt Lake, Davis, Morgan, Weber, Cache and Box Elder counties. The pear and apple crop was almost destroyed, and hundreds of tons of hay and grain were scattered over the fields and will be a total loss. In some districts the seed crop of lucern was entirely destroyed.

Harvest is about over except in a few districts where the work of cutting and baling of grain and hay is still going on. Corn is about all out, and beet digging in progress. Threshing is in full blast in all sections, and in several localities the work has been finished. Potatoes and garden stuff are generally good crops in all parts of the State.

Pears—Cold winds during first part of the week; all tender plants killed by frost; slight storm on the 18th; rain on the 19th. The cutting and stacking of grain and hay is still going on; grain crop fair; second crop of lucern not as good as could be desired, it being, in most cases, too young.

Kootenai — Weather has been warm and windy. All grain cut and