

this will be a bad year for crops, as it is one of the seventh years since the arrival of the Pioneers in Utah (1847, 1854, 1861, 1868, 1875, 1882, 1889). The year 1889 was known by the meager crops, owing to the scarcity of water, and in Idaho much cattle perished for lack of food.

Would it not be well for our people to heed the advice of the Prophet Heber, who was but repeating the admonition of Moses to his people (Leviticus xxv): And the Lord spake unto Moses in Mount Sinai, saying:

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto the Lord.

Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof.

But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the Lord; thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

Next year, 1896, is again a sabbatical year, as seven years will have elapsed since 1889; it will also be the forty-ninth year since the arrival of the Pioneers: Moses further says in the same chapter, verses eight to twenty-two:

8. And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

9. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month.

11. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you; ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.

20. And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in nor increase.

21. Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.

22. And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

All I want to add is that in my own judgment the years 1886 and 1897 promise to be very remarkable, according to the words of two mighty Prophets.

Yours respectfully,  
A. A. RAMSEYER.

### THE CALIFORNIA MISSION.

The San Francisco *Call* of June 10 has an article with reference to the Latter-day Saints, and the missionaries in California. The headlines are as follows:

"To Redeem the Gentiles.—Mormonism Making Its First Strugg Effort to Plant Itself Here.—Many Missionaries at Work.—Not Gray-Whiskered Fellows but Nice Young Business and Professional Men."

The article proceeds thus:

"The Mormon Church is engaged in the interesting work of planting its feet by the Golden Gate and drawing to the true fold and the true God the Gentiles of California.

"It is long now since the second Gospel contained in the miraculously

revealed Book of Mormon has been read by many of the Faithful in California. Now, for the first time in the history of the Church, an active and a considerable effort to establish the Church here has been begun. This is not the "Reorganized" church which has been heard of in Oakland, but the true and original Church founded by Joseph Smith.

"Recently twelve Gentiles have been baptized here and in Oakland. Twelve more have applied for admission, and a number are investigating. That may not seem to be very rapid work, but it is planting the seed, and the First Presidency and the Apostles at Salt Lake are encouraged.

"Occasional Mormon missionaries have struggled along in California before without adding more than one or two to the 300,000 or so numbered in the fold of the Mormon Church, but the present missionary effort is well organized and is carried on by twelve missionaries, or Elders, who are under the direction of Henry S. Tanner, president of the California mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"These missionaries are surprising people to the average Gentile who sees one or several of them for the first time. The general conception of a Mormon missionary is that of an old gray-whiskered fellow who may properly be suspected of a sensual nature. Well, that's all wrong.

"The Mormon missionaries now proselyting here are a lot of nice young, bright business and professional men of intellectual appearance, gentlemanly manner and pleasant address. They look and act like anybody else and could easily be mistaken for a lot of Native Sons. They are men of the world, yet devoted to the Church and willing to sacrifice themselves a little for a time for her glory and the redemption of the Gentiles.

"The Mormon Church has a way of its own. It looks about and 'calls' this and that man to leave home and business and go forth. It generally calls men of money who can pay their own expenses. The twelve California missionaries are not costing the Church a cent. The president, Henry S. Tanner, is a school teacher by profession and a bright, cultured young man. He was run out of a place in South Carolina by a mob once, and came here last fall.

"Most of the others have come recently. One is W. M. Woodland, a young attorney of Bannock county, Idaho. Another is Parley T. Wright of Wright & Sons, a large and well known dry goods firm of Ogden. Willard Scowcroft is a partner in the Ogden firm of John Scowcroft & Sons. John Smith has a real estate business at Salt Lake. The others are all young business men. Each has left his business for a year or two and each pays his own expenses entirely and all can afford to live pretty well.

"These missionaries are not suffering any privations or martyrdom here. They take life pretty easy. From three to five hours a day they put in going from house to house and speaking to people who will talk with them anywhere.

"A card bearing the articles of faith and some tracts are offered, with the suggestion it would be interesting to

investigate Mormonism without prejudice. They are ready to lend books and encourage any disposition to look into the famous and much reviled faith. Thus they go quickly but persistently about their proselyting work in the face of almost universal indifference, but without any particular opposition. There is no hurrah, no fire, hardly noticeable earnestness.

"Fifty people heard Elder Tanner tell of "The Rise of Mormonism" in a hall of Pythian Castle last evening. The services were simple. Three Elders offered as many brief prayers with uplifted hands and a few in the congregation sang from the psalms as many hymns, the words and strains of which were conceived by faithful ones in the promised land of Utah.

"Two missionaries are working in Oakland, two are in Los Angeles, two in Sacramento, two in Fresno county and two will soon go to San Diego.

The *Call* also gave an account of a meeting of the Saints held on Sunday evening, June 2, in which it said:

"The principles and articles of faith upon which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, familiarly known as the Mormon Church, were expounded by Elder H. S. Tanner at Calanthe (St. George's) Hall, 909 Market street, last evening.

"Elder Tanner is president of the California mission of the Church and has been here since last August. Since his arrival he has succeeded in building up quite a flourishing local colony in behalf of the Church which he represents. The first services were held at 29 Eleventh street, and then the quarters were located at 927 Mission street.

"As the congregation grew in numbers it was found necessary to have more commodious quarters, and the move was made to 909 Market street. The first services were held yesterday, and the new hall was crowded. There are seventy-five members of the congregation, but there were many other attendants drawn thither by curiosity.

"In the morning, at 10:30 o'clock, the Sunday school was called together, with about twenty pupils present. At 2 o'clock to the afternoon and at 7 in the evening the regular services were held.

"What is Mormonism?" was the subject of the Elder's evening sermon. He began by explaining where the name of Mormon came from. The name as applied to the Church was a misnomer. It was not the name of the Church, but the members believed in the Book of Mormon, which they hold was the work of a man named Mormon, who lived on this continent 1,500 years ago. The speaker contented himself with stating his belief in Mormon and his book and then proceeded to enlighten such of his hearers as were not already enlightened as to the Articles of Faith of the Mormon Church.

"The Church of Latter-day Saints was organized in Fayette, Seneca county, N. Y., April 6, 1830. It was called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in order to distinguish it from the early Christian Church founded by Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. I will read our Articles of Faith."

The Articles of Faith are given in full, and the account continues: