

it will make men peaceful and pure and chaste. We know that we are living in the age of the coming of the Son of Man. Those that are unpunished from the world will enter in and sit down at the marriage feast of the Great Bridegroom. The Saints of the first Christian era will be there. The martyrs of the Lamb will be there. The prophets of old will be there. Many shall come from the east and the west, the north and the south and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of God, while those who turned a deaf ear to the message of the Lord will be thrust out.

The preaching of "this Gospel of the Kingdom" to all the world and the gathering of the elect are some of the signs of Christ's coming, as foretold in the 24th chapter of Matthew. The servants of God are going to all nations. The Saints are coming from all quarters of the globe to "the tops of the mountains." And by these signs we may know surely, with the wars and tumults and other concurrent events, that "the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

There may be many preparatory appearances. Christ will manifest Himself where and when and to whom He pleases. When God has anything to reveal to the Church He will do so through His chosen servant, who holds the keys. But He can manifest Himself wherever He pleases, by visions or otherwise, and He is not bound by distance or other influences as we are, but can communicate with His children as swiftly as the lightning's flash. Christ will surely come to His temple and He will manifest Himself to His servants who are pure in heart, they who will be able to abide the day of His coming.

There are many things connected with this subject that there is not time now to touch upon. Christ will not come in His glory until a great many important events have taken place. The Gospel will be preached to all nations. There are many millions yet, particularly in Asia and Africa, who have not heard the message. Then it must be preached to the Jews. Jerusalem will be rebuilt and Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives as predicted by Zechariah. The Redeemer will come to Zion. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood and the predicted time of unparalleled tribulation must take place before the great consummation.

Now, read the Scriptures, for they testify of Him who is the light and life of the world. Learn His ways, walk in His paths, enter His holy temples and prepare for His appearing, for Christ will surely come, and His reward is with Him, but His work is before Him. Let us be true and chaste and Christ-like in all our ways and He will bless us and receive us to Himself. May God prepare us for the great event of His glorious coming and Kingdom. Amen.

The choir sang the anthem:

Grant us peace, O Lord.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder William C. Dunbar.

THE BILL TO ROB THE CHURCH.

In the House of Representatives on the 11th inst., Mr. Ezra B. Taylor called up the Senate bill 4047, and yielded the floor to Mr. Caswell of Wisconsin. The bill was read as follows:

"Be it enacted, etc., That all funds or other property lately belonging to or in the possession of or claimed by the corporation mentioned in section 17 of the act entitled 'An act to amend an act entitled 'AN act to amend section 5352 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, in reference to bigamy, and for other purposes,' approved March 22, 1882,' at, before, or since the taking effect of said act, except so far as it shall appear in respect thereto that there is a lawful private right to the contrary, shall be devoted to the use and benefit of public common schools in the Territory of Utah; and the Secretary of the Interior shall take and receive the same and dispose thereof to the uses aforesaid in such manner as shall seem to him, with the approval of the President, to be most expedient. And the supreme court of said Territory is hereby invested with power and authority to make all necessary and proper orders and decrees for the purpose hereinbefore mentioned."

When Mr. Caswell took the floor, Mr. Oates stated that an understanding was had that this bill should not be discussed until Mr. Culberson could present a minority report. Mr. Caswell was very anxious to have the matter disposed of during the morning hour, and a dispute arose between him and Mr. Culberson which resulted in Mr. Caswell's taking the floor and making the following remarks which we take from the Congressional Record of December 12th:

Mr. Caswell. Mr. Speaker, I would like to proceed with the consideration of this bill. It is a matter of very great importance; and I desire the attention of the House while I make a statement. I shall be very brief, and then will yield some time to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Culberson] if he wishes to be heard.

Those who are conversant with the discussion in 1887 of the Mormon bill known as the Tucker-Edmunds bill will remember that by the act of Congress of 1862 all corporations within the Territory of Utah were restricted in the ownership of real property to the amount of \$50,000. But notwithstanding that restriction the Mormon Church gathered into its possession, in its own name and through the interposition of trustees, large amounts of property both real and personal.

By the act of 1887—the Tucker-Edmunds bill—the franchise was abolished, and the property of that church, both real and personal, was placed in the hands of a receiver. Proceedings were instituted in the Territorial courts of Utah by which litigation has been had concerning this property. It was all placed in the hands of a receiver. The church building itself has been set

apart for the occupation and enjoyment of the members of the Mormon Church. The litigation that was instituted found its way to the Supreme Court of the United States, and that court has held that the law was constitutional, and that the proceedings which have taken place were proper and legitimate.

The parties supposed to be interested as trustees, and referred to a few minutes ago I suppose by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Vaux] were interpleaded, setting up their rights to the property both real and personal, and they were heard. The court held that this property in the hands of trustees was really the property of the church organization, that it belonged to the church and came within the range of the confiscation and was properly in the hands of the receiver. So that the rights of those parties have been litigated and ripened into judgments.

But the bill provided that the proceeds of the real estate in excess of \$50,000 should be placed in the school fund of the Territory of Utah, for the purpose of educating the children of the Territory, both Mormon and others. But the bill applied only to sales of real estate, not to personal property. The law placing the proceeds of the real estate in the school fund of the Territory has been sustained; but in the meantime the receiver holds nearly \$300,000 worth of personal property; and the question now is, what should be done with this personal property? It rests in the hands of the receiver; and everyone can see the importance of its early disposition. This money was gathered into the hands of the Mormons in aid of the Mormon Church and its purpose, which the court holds to have been an illegal purpose. Of course it should be the object of the courts and of Congress, so far as possible, to carry out the wishes of donors when they are legitimate.

Mr. Oates. I would like to ask the gentleman a question at this point. Is not the disposition of this fund involved in a litigation now pending an appeal? That is the fact, if I am correctly informed.

Mr. Caswell. I do not so understand it. I understand that all questions as to the ownership or title to this money have been adjudicated and that the decision of the court substantially is that it is a part of the funds that were confiscated.

Mr. Oates. Under the Edmunds-Tucker law?

Mr. Caswell. Under the Edmunds-Tucker law the personal property has been placed in the hands of a receiver without determining what its future disposition should be.

Mr. Oates. How can that be when that law applied only to real estate, and this money is the proceeds of personalty?

Mr. Caswell. Well, such is the decision of the court. I understand that the adjudication extends to personal property as well as to the realty.

Mr. Oates. Has the gentleman that decision at hand?