

Early in the history of human existence on earth, the Almighty declared the fundamental principle that it is not good for man to be alone. It was not good for him to be without the companionship that comes in the marriage relation, therefore he was given a wife; and as that which the Lord doeth "shall be forever," as the scripture says, then Eve was Adam's wife for eternity. The association entered into by divine authorization and direction was of an everlasting character. In the wife which the Lord gave him, Father Adam received a good gift—he was removed from that state which the Lord said was not good. If he had rejected the proffer of the Lord, and sought his wife through another source than the one divinely open to him, his contract would not have reached into eternity, and he would not have attained to the superlative goodness of that gift whose perfection is reached only in a perfect sphere. Hence the suggestiveness of the advice given by the Apostle James in his day: "Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

With respect to the covenant of marriage, the Lord has opened the way for the Latter-day Saints who enter into that relationship to do so in the manner ordained by Him. And none who understand the force of the principle will supplant the divinely appointed way by submitting to an inferior or conflicting procedure. The marriages which Latter-day Saints contract should be by divine authority and counsel. The word of the Lord given in latter times is not less emphatic on this principle than in ancient days. To the Saints He has revealed the everlasting covenant of marriage according to His law, and has declared that condemnation follows those who do not abide it—that those who reject it cannot enter into His glory. According to this, those who claim standing in His Church, who profess to do His will, yet choose another form of entering into the relationship of husband and wife, place themselves in a very unenviable position. The Lord has spoken plainly regarding His eternal covenant or law of marriage. He says:

All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made, and entered into, and sealed, by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power, are of no efficacy, virtue or force, in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end, have an end when men are dead.

For whatsoever things remain, are by me; and whatsoever things are not by me, shall be shaken and destroyed.

Therefore, if a man marry him a wife in the world, and he marry her not by me, nor by my word; and he covenant with her so long as he is in the world, and she with him, their covenant and marriage are not of force when they are dead, and when they are out of the world; therefore, they are not bound by any law when they are out of the world.

The revelation contains a further statement of the condition of those who are in the marriage relation outside of His covenant. It also points out with equal clearness the situation of those who marry according to His word, giving the promise that if they abide in that covenant then those blessings conferred upon them shall be of full force; they shall pass "to their exaltation and glory in all things, as hath been sealed upon their heads."

It is of vital importance that this principle of the divine, eternal nature of the marriage covenant should be taught especially to the youth of Israel, that no young man shall seek a wife outside of that order and covenant, and that no young woman shall be willing to accept as a husband one who cannot or does not comply with the conditions of the divine law. Upon their instruction in and acceptance of the word of the Lord on this subject depends not only their happiness in this life but their exaltation in the life to come, with all the rights of heirship which that exaltation implies.

GATES OF ASIA OPENING.

Notwithstanding the rumors that the radical party in Japan considers the terms of peace unsatisfactory and that the agitation in that country possibly may lead to a renewal of hostilities, the probability is that peace will be concluded substantially on the agreement now made. The influence of the mikado's government is strong enough to secure the needed support of the parliament for the carrying out of the program agreed upon.

One of the conditions is of great interest to the whole world. China, it is asserted, will throw open to civilization over one hundred million of square miles of her territory, containing a population of 200,000,000 people, formerly almost entirely excluded from communication with the rest of mankind. Six of the largest cities of the empire, hitherto closed to commerce, will be opened, and three great rivers will be free to navigation. In this way inland cities and districts will be reached by the merchant fleets of the world. All nations, it is declared, will have equal privileges and chances to establish trade relations, or plant industries and import the necessary implements for the development of the country's vast resources. Japanese war vessels are to be stationed in the several ports to protect the interests of foreigners and to see that the conditions of peace are kept inviolate. That this arrangement, if carried out, will give a much needed impulse to trade in the near future and help to scatter the clouds of depression is but natural.

Russia, it is further asserted on reliable authority, is in perfect harmony with Japan and is ready to lend her aid if necessary, on the condition that access be given that country to some ice-free harbor as an outlet for its trade-Siberian railroad. This, too, virtually means the opening up to the world of millions of acres of productive land and vast mineral resources in the north of Asia.

Much secrecy is observed regarding

the overtures for a proposed alliance between China and Japan, and the representatives of both countries seem to be instructed to "discredit" the reports already published. The probability, however, is that such a compact will be entered into as soon as the treaty of peace has been ratified. It is now added that the mikado has expressed a desire to pay a personal visit to the emperor of China as soon as practicable for the purpose of discussing the features of the proposed alliance and also that Siam will be invited to join the Asiatic union. Li Hung Chang is said to favor this far-reaching scheme of arraying, as it were, the millions of Asia against the rest of the world, and should it be consummated it is not impossible that before another century has passed, so-called Christian civilization will be involved in a tremendous struggle for its own existence. Will it be able to stand the trial? Not unless it is entrenched behind fortresses built on pure morals, truth and sublime faith. Some preparations on these lines are among the chief questions of the hour, quite as important as the construction of warships and other machines of destruction.

A WORD FOR THE GULLS.

The NEWS had a visit Saturday from a very excellent friend, who began his remarks with: "You know I am a chronic grumbler and sometimes a crank," who, however, is really nothing of the kind, but who is on the contrary one of the clearest-headed and most practical men in the community. "Well," he continued, "I want to raise my voice against a threatened bird-destruction which I believe will work untold harm and havoc to this Territory. I refer to the proposition to begin at once the removal of the so-called guano deposits from the islands of the Lake. Right now is the breeding season of the thousands of gulls which have created these deposits; to disturb them in their nesting, to drive them away, is to lose this year's crop of gulls; and to do this latter simply means the preservation of thousands of bushels of pesky worms and insects which are an injury to the crops and which our friends the gulls have heretofore devoured. If the guano deposits are as valuable as some claim them to be, they can surely be allowed to remain until the birds' breeding season is over. In any event, it is my belief that we can better do without the guano for all time than without the gulls for a single season."

The NEWS is glad to give utterance and endorsement to this sensible, humane and valuable suggestion. No one who has watched the gentle and beautiful birds in flocks following the farmer's plow and picking over the freshly turned soil for the destructive grub and insect life of which our friend speaks, can fail to realize the benefit their friendly appetite and zeal afford to local agriculture. In fact, all their dealings with mankind find a place on the credit side of the account; in no respect are they an injury; in every respect they are a help. As to their capacity for food, earlier Utah history in a notable