

Communications.

Mormonism.

REV. L. E. COLE.

Mormonism is one of the great frauds flourishing in the opening of this new century. Attention cannot be too often called to this giant institution of deception and sin for the emissaries of the various sects of this false system are pressing their claims in every state of the union and throughout the world and they are quite successful in deceiving and destroying unwary souls. Here in California the people frequently hear the doctrines of Joseph Smith preached by Mormon elders and priests, some of which are that there are many gods; that Adam was a god; that Jesus Christ was the Son of God in the same sense that we are the sons of our fathers; that the Holy Ghost is a man with bodily parts; that the Bible is a revelation from God to the Jews; that the book of Mormon is a revelation of God to the world, taking precedence over all former revelations; that baptism is for the remission of sins; that by the laying on of hands the Holy Ghost is received; that they perform miracles of healing by impartition of hands; that they are the only true church in which is found identical organization and officers as enumerated by Paul: 1. Apostles. 2. Prophets. 3. Evangelists. 4. Pastors, teachers etc., and they all accept the doctrines as set forth by Joseph Smith. All other systems of faith are false and their worshippers ignorant and lost.

But Paul believed that one qualification for apostleship was to see Christ Jesus. See I Cor. 9:1. John evidently believed the same qualification to be essential in an apostle. He writes: "That which was from the beginning, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and our hands have handled of the Word of life, declare we unto you." I John 1:1.

The eleven believed that only one who had seen Christ and witnessed all his works and words was qualified to fill the office of an apostle as indicated in Acts 1:22:26. "Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. Matthias was chosen and numbered with the eleven apostles."

Who of Joseph Smith's followers have seen Christ. They do not claim to have seen him. Joseph did not see Christ, only the Angel Maroni, and Spaulding's manuscripts as doctored up by Rigdon. A poor claim have they to apostleship, surely. But they claim to be prophets. Well surely Joseph ought to have devel-

oped such propensities. His father is said to have been a kind of vagabond who sold blessings at \$3 apiece, and his mother a fortune-teller; both shiftless, ignorant, superstitious, untruthful. They became followers of Mr. Wingate who claimed to be able to discover and locate under the surface of the earth, gold, silver, currents of water, and discover medical herbs and roots and to cure all kinds of diseases. This was done with a small instrument called St. John's Rod. They excited the people with promises of the gathering of the last tribes of Israel, and great glory in the latter days. But the record says the affair proved a failure, a swindle, as such nonsense surely must.

But Joseph being born in the very heat of the excitement, and at its highest pitch his mind would naturally be inclined to the marvelous, and it is not strange that he reveled in that realm. At the age of 15 years he began to see visions, according to their claim and this continued 7 years, culminating in the great discovery of the golden plates with the urim and thummim, and launching upon the world the Mormon Bible. Then he became a prophet.

Dec. 25, 1832, Joseph is said to have uttered a great prophecy, foretelling the late civil war, and in 1843 Smith repeated this prophecy. It was not, however, published in this country till after the war and but few of all the many predictions were fulfilled.

About the middle of July, 1831, in a gathering of the faithful in the city of Independence, Mo., after much prayer for a knowledge of God's will as to where to erect the new Jerusalem, Joseph proclaimed: "Hearken O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, who have assembled yourselves together according to my commandment in the land which is the land of Missouri, which is the land which I have appointed and consecrated for the gathering of the saints, wherefore this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion. Behold the place which is now called Independence is the center place, and a spot for the temple is lying westward upon a lot which is not far from the courthouse."

Strange, is it not, that they defied their prophet and chose the vale of salt, and there builded their temple and city. According to Moses' law the prophet should be stoned. But in one instance Joseph hit it correctly. He is on record as saying before the time of his tragic death, that if ever Brigham Young becomes president he will lead the church to hell. We do not question the fulfillment of this prediction. Not only the Mormon church, but communities influenced by these elders sent out from Sodom, are drifting in that direction.

Let the world beware of that church claiming to send forth apostles, prophets,

miracles, wonder-workers, for God has said that such shall go forth in the last days, but he pronounces them false prophets, etc., and in Revelation he commends the churches that have tried them and found them liars.

Let us keep hold of the simple gospel of salvation by faith, and sins remitted by the precious blood of Christ, live godly, die happy and find a home in God's holy city, in glory.

The Passing of the Rum Power.

REV. LEM BEAUCHAMP.

Brother Editor:—I want to give a few thoughts and make a few requests of all temperance people, and especially of the church to use every possible means now for the overthrow of the rum power. It appears to me that this is the time for the American people to move out on this line as never before. God has heard the cries of his people and is showing us our responsibility as professors of christianity in regard to the question so plainly that we cannot dodge it. And if all Christians will stand out fully against the liquor traffic, then the temperance element outside the church will join in the battle with us and God will help us, and the traffic will go, and at once.

I am glad to see the railroad companies and other corporations leading out on this line as they are, and the church ought to step out and take the lead in this reform, for rum is the great curse of our nation. I am glad to see our president take the position he has in regard to the trusts, but I was sorry to learn of his drinking the first toast at the banquet of the senator's daughter. It was a bad example for a Christian president.

I am glad to see the move that is being made in the colleges on the line of prohibition. If we can get the young men of our country who are being educated, soundly converted to prohibition principles, it will be a sure sign that the rum power is tottering. It is no discouragement to temperance people for whiskey men to say more liquor is sold under prohibition than is sold under high license. If that were true they would all be working for prohibition. That is like the little song I learned when I was a little boy, it said:

"Satan saw his trade was failing,
Heard no more of the widow's wailing,
Set his imps about us yelling,
Don't stop, don't stop, keep on selling."

I fully endorse the proposition of the Friends church to hold a conference of all branches of the church in 1906 at Washington to adopt measures for the overthrow of the liquor traffic. I think this is a step in the right direction. If our law makers won't make laws to dispense with the traffic, let the people rise up and say it must go. Brother K., agitate the question of a church conference in the CONSERVATOR. That