## CHEISTIAN MESSENGER. uu:mai

## MARCH 26 1884.

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The present position of the Mormons.

Gov. Murray of Utah is now conferring with the officers of the United States Government in reference to the threat. ening state of affairs in that Territory. During the three years in which he has represented the United States there he has carefully watched and noted the designs and the movements of the leaders of the Mormon Church who hold the great mass of the population in their despotic grip. The danger he fears is not alone the fact that polygamy is practiced and encouraged by the leaders of the church in defiance of law, but that they are establishing there an ecclesiastical government that nullifies the national authority and is supreme over the consciences and lives of its adherents. Of the population of 140,000 in Utah, 110,000 are Mormons, believing implicitly in the doctrines and slavishly obedient to all the requirements of the church. The three cardinal principles inbred in their minds are their duty to pay tithes, to live regularly, and to obey the priesthood. Their church courts assume absolute control in temporal as well as ecclesiastical atfairs, and while a cardinal idea of our fathers in framing our form of government was the absolute separation of Church and State, the Mormon leaders have reversed this and made the church the sole and supreme authority to all its followers. They have thus quietly nullified the authority of the Government ; and while they have not yet openly dared to inaugurate rebellion, they are actually and contemptuously ignoring or evading the laws of Congress, have deliberately maintained an illegal Territorial Government for over thirty years and are educating their people to feel that the church alone is to be obeyed. In defiance of the Constitution they have passed an act incorporating ' the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ;' which corporation is immensely rich, holding property in one county alone to the amount of \$2,500,000, though the law declares that ' no corporation shall hold or acquire greater real estate than \$50,000 in any Territory, and that all exceeding that amount shall be given to the United States." Gov. Murray feels strongly that the opposing and usurping power of the Mormon Church, in which the crime of polygamy that it enjoins is only an incident, instead of weakening by time and the approach of civilization, is intrenching itself so firmly that unless Congress soon interposes, bloodshed and war must result. He is convinced that either Congress must repeal the laws that are now openly defied and trampled upon, or that it should assert its authority, abolish the Legislature, repeal the organic act, and appoint a Ter-

Lamily Reading. no knowledge.'

motive in asking it-you are not With that strange and wonderful splendor professed unbeliever, I hope?' "I make no profession of any sort."

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'Whatever opinion I may have, Miss Walsingham, you may rest assured of this : I shall never, by act. word, or look, try to counteract your influence over Fay. And I wish to say that you are mistaken in thinking that I hold religion in contempt. I do not, for the very reason I gave a moment ago-my inability to form an opinion concerning that of which I have so little knowledge. I do know something-as much as I care to know -about what is called religion ; but I fear my opinion of that would not please you. However as I said, you need have no fear of my influencing your sister in one way or the other on this subject.'

satisfied with that.'

Miss Agnes rose as she spoke, and relief as the door closed.

Refu Select Serial. 'I know very well you are not satisfied, though, Miss Agnes,' she

am not competent to form an opinion concerning anything of which I have | binds people together because they are

. May I ask-I know it is a delicate question; but you are aware of my

But you must certainly have some opinion of your own on the subject."

. Very well, I suppose I must be

brought her visit of inquisition to an end. Martha drew a long sigh of

pose-though I wonder if the tie which of one blood, can be reasonably and truly called by that holy title-love? It it was love that existed between Miss Agnes and little Fay, it must have been a poor, stunted kind of love. that bore no sweet and satisfying

fruits. Martha understood intuitively the nature of her little pupil. It was new experience for her to have a bright, impressible child to watch over and teach, and she entered upon the task with intensest interest. It did not need many days, however, to show her how difficult and often discouraging a task it was. Had it not been for one thing, they could scarcely have gone on together at all: for it was the constant setting of will against will. It had been the same between the two sisters; but while Miss Agnes was not lacking in strength of will when it concerned herself, she failed to establish any lasting anthority over Fay. When 'you must' did not produce the desired result, she had no other sort of ammunition which she could bring to

bear upon the little rebel.

With Martha the case was different. Combined with her immovable determination, she had a steady perseverance which Miss Agnes lacked. Then she

had tact, a fertile imagination, and considerable inventive power. said to herself, ' for I would not give the ' one thing' of which I have spoken

groove of thought and action? Bind myself by solemn yows to live in accordance with certain rules and regulations laid down by those who could not possibly know the needs of my nature? No, indeed ; not while I have my reason! I will not promise to believe such and such things, and order my life by them, simply because

they have been believed and lived up to by a few people who were undoubtedly very good and sincere-but who were people of one idea, and never tried to reach beyond that."

It cannot be denied that Martha's reasoning was poor and flimsy enough, like that of all those who seek to reason themselves out of the knowledge that they have a soul which must be fed; and that the only food upon which it will grow and thrive, is the religion of Jesus. The grand mistake which such persons almost always make, and which Martha was making, is that of studying the representatives of this religion instead of the religion itself.

Like most others who set themselves on the judgment seat, Martha was unjust in her opinion of Miss Agnes. While the latter was undoubtedly cold and proud and selfish, yet she was not so much so as Martha thought. It was a sincere desire to do her duty that actuated her; she truly loved her church, and wished to obey her Saviour. The trouble was that she contented

proceed in darkness. Heaven pity the modern saints " scattered abread ;" and may I not be called to serve their survivors when they pass from an earthly church oblivion

Here was a Baptist living and dying unknown by any of her faith, as believe her husband had also lived and died. Here were survivors expecting that the minister officiating at her funeral would derive food for comfort for their sorrowing hearts from a churchletter which by its terms had been worthless for seven or eight years. Dear Examiner, persevere in your efforts to reach and instruct the masses, and to bring Baptists, to church-membership."

At a recent Sunday-school anniversa ry at his church the Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs remarked : 'We have been reminded by Dr. Thwing in his vivid and eloquent address, of the inevitableness of the passage of time ; how fixed, continuous and irresistible is the onflowing of the hours, and years. Now this very fixity and certainty is a ground of confidence on our part. Were some days nine and some thirty-six hours in length we should not know what to depend upon; but God has settled these matters with definiteness and we can trust in the regularity of natural laws. Not less sure and exact are the provisions of his grace. They are certain. We may rest upon them. We know where we are coming out at last, if we give ourselves up to the guidance of the Captain of our salvation, with whom

A Striking Simile.

## **DEACON'S DAUGHTER.**

8

Sunset Gates Ajar.

To-night as I sat at my window,

That is fleeting as a dream;

I thought that the hands of the angels

And I caught a glimpse of the glory

From the hills on the other side

This sunset thought of mine.

Flung open at day's decline,

May pass to the morning sunshine,

When for me the sunset gateway

And I pass in through its portals

I know that I shall remember

In that city so fair and far

My strange and beautiful fancy

Of the sunset gates ajar.

Shall at day's decline unclose.

To that long and sweet repose,

Perhaps while I sat there dreaming

Some poor soul went through its portals

Of the gateway in the west.

To a long and endless rest;

Passed through the sunset gateway

Passed into the new life's gladness,

To be ad longer old.

To that "city paved with gold "-

That dwells on the heavenly hills ?

That those whose day is ended

Of earthly woes and ills,

That the gates of heaven are always

Is it not a beautiful fancy,

Had flung open heaven's gateway wide

"When the west was all agleam

BY MISS LILIAN F. WELLS.

CHAPTER. XI. (Continued).

Miss Agnes was evidently some. what surprised at the reception given by Martha, but she took the offered seat, saying :

. 'You are very kind, I'm sure.'

"Not at all,' returned Martha, with a suspicious sparkle in her eyes. She sat down and waited for what would come next, with great composure.

'You have quite a library, Miss Sturling,' said Miss Agnes, whose eyes had been attracted by the shelves full sudden longing for something she did of handsomely bound books, as soon as ahe entered the room. 'Are the books of your own selection?"

eyes grew suddenly dim.

"It is a very fine collection of its character,' Miss Agnes went on, ' and it is very unusual for a person in your position to have such a one, But-I think I am not mistaken-I see no religious works here at all.'

· · No there are none.'

" Pardon de for seeming inquisitive ; but is it your choice that there should be none ?!

"I had nothing whatever to do with selecting any of the books, except those.' Martha pointed to some halfdozen volumes which Miss Goodwin had purchased only a few weeks before they went to the sea-side.

"Then am I to understand that you have no religious books? Not even felt as if driving clouds would better in her performance of this duty. Fay a copy of our paper?' pulling out the a Bible ?' asked Mi-s Agnes, giving a quick glance round the room, then fixing her eyes on Martha.

began to sparkle again.

But how is that, Miss Stirling? Do you never read such books?'

of sermons by Jonathan Edwards, and

you any satisfaction. I imagine your ideas of my religious views must be somewhat confused.' Martha laughed ; but in her heart

she knew there was another who was not satisfied-and that was herself-She was elated at her success in baffling Miss Agnes' curiosity; yet she felt strangely unhappy. Why, she could not tell. It was not her fear that her work was to be made unpleasant by the fact that Miss Agnes had set herself the task of superintendent; nor was it any feeling of regret for what she herself had said. A not possess seized her, and a sudden disgust for everything she knew or cared tor. It was a new feeling to "No.' And the light in Martha's her, and a very uncomfortable one-She took down one of her favorite

books; but even that failed for some time to dispel the unwelcome thought. Many a time after that was Martha to be disturbed by such thoughts, and byand-by she would come to know what they were-these outcries of her starving soul.

Going to the window presently, with the book still in her hand, she leaned her head against the sash and looked upward. The sun had just set in a cloudless sky, and the golden light in the west was at its brightest. Just where the gold melted softly into the blue, the evening star hung quivering. Of all the phases of the sky, it was the one Martha loved best; yet she have agreed with her mood just now. liked going to church, but not the small sheet from his pocket. 'Now, Standing there gazing up into the still sky with its one silver lamp lighted, ceiving instruction in all that was profession can have any idea-of the "That is the case.' Martha's eyes Martha began to question. Was there anything in this religion after all? She thought of it as her father knew it; but her soul turned away from it at

"I believe that two or three books once. There was nothing in it that beautiful or desirable to her. Then she thought of Miss Goodwin's lovely life. But there was that hopeless, com'ortless death at the closehow about that? And now, here was another phase of this co-called religion presented to her in Miss Agnes. Well,

herself with dwelling in the mere outer was love. Martha had taken the child courts of the temple. She did not into her heart at once; and Fay, as all make her way close to the Lord of the children so quickly do, recognized the temple, that she might know him and love, and returned it, and unconsciously learn of him.

But

vielded herself to it.

They grew very fond of one another as the days and weeks passed by. Fay did not cease to be as troublesome a little pupil as ever taxed a teacher's patience. But Martha conquered in every conflict, and gradually they grew less and less frequent.

Fay declared that 'Miss Stirling was the loveliest, sweetest teacher m the whole world,' and was continually quoting her to Miss Agnes, till the latter could not avoid seeing what a work. strong hold Martha had upon the child. Miss Agnes would not acknowledge, even to herself, that she was jealous. But it was true that she was anxiousvery anxious-lest Martha should extend her influence to matters of religion, in spite of her assurance to the contrary. No cross-questioning of Fay, however, revealed any endeavor on Martha's part to prejudice her little pupil in regard to her own ritualistic theories or practices.

To prevent all possible risk, as far | We are so very crude; so new !' said as lay in her power, Miss Agnes deter- the sophomore, who was an Anglomined to begin a regular system of manuac. 'There is one thing, however, training with Fay, in all things pertain- on which I flatter myself we compare ing to ' the Church,' and life enjoined favorably with John Bull-our newsupon its members. Accordingly, Miss Fay was taken to church for every try rank high, sir, high!' Having re service which her sister attended, and ceived a civil reply, he continued : the latter was exceedingly punctilious am myself an editor. Like to look weekly closetings with her sister, re- you have no idea-nobody not in the deemed necessary for her to know in labor and mental strain involved in that preparation for her confirmation, which was to take place when Fay should be a paragraph or two in it that is worth eleven years old.

From these hours with her sister, this side of the water.' His companion Fay often came to Martha with tearful eyes and heaving heart. She would throw hersel! on the sofa and give way to a display of feeling that, to say the least, was not calculated to give one a very elevated idea of the teaching she had been receiving. Martha dreaded these outbursts; for Fay was always especially tractious and self-willed for

no shadow of change.

'I was once crossing the Atlantic and had come within three days' sail of the Irish coast. Fog and darkness shut out the sun by day and the stars That Martha might be convinced of by night. We had to trust to dead her spiritual need, was the earnest reckoning, that is to the log, the comdesire of Miss Agnes; and she made several efforts to lead Martha to underpass, the chart and other nice nautical computations. Standing by the captain stand that. But Martha showed such I heare him say on the last of these utter indifference that Miss Agnes soon days, 'We ought to see Fasnett Light in twelve minutes !' I took out my Martha had been Fay's governess watch and waited. We saw the welfor nearly a year, and was beginning come light in just eleven ! There to see the reward of her earnest labors in Fay's really good progress, when thought I, is a triumph of nautical skill and calculation, to push on so steadily she was suddenly obliged to leave this and surely through the darkness day after day to the point aimed at. W justly confide in one who has proved himself trustworthy in human affairs, but the witness of God is greater. Why ever distrust him? He has not only fixed the movement of the stars and the tides, but his promises of grace are un home in vacation, some years ago, made changeable. 'Him that cometh unto the acquaintance of a quiet gentleman on a railroad train. 'Englishman, I me, I will in no wise cast out." If the wisdom of man elicits our admiring perceive,' airily began our college boy. praise and commands our confidence The stranger bowed. 'You must find how much more should the grace o much to amuse you in this country. God, the infinitely wise, secure at once our homage and our love."

Some little time since a woman deivered a lecture in Lancashire, Engpapers. The journalists of this counland, against Christianity, in which she ritorial Council. declared that the gospel narrative of the life of Christ is a myth. One of the mill hands who listened to her obtained leave to ask a question. 'The question,' said he, . I want to ask the lady. is this: Thirty years ago I was curse in this town, and everybody shrank from me that had any respect small sheet. Keep it. There may be for himself. I often tried to do better but could not succeed; the testotalers considering, even it it does come from got hold of me, but I broke the pledge so often that they said it was no use trying me any longer; then the police got hold of me and I was taken before the magistrates, and they tried; and next I was sent to prison, and the wardens tried what they could do; and though they all tried. I was nothing better, but rather worse. Now, you say that Christ is a myth. But when I tried, and the teetotalers, the police, the magis-The following from the N. Y. Ezam- trates, all tried in vain, then Christ iner may teach the importance not took hold of me, touched my heart, and made me a new man. And now I am a member of the church, a class-leader a superintendent of the Sunday-school. and I ask, it Christ is a myth, how comes it to pass that that myth is stronger than A Pennsylvania pastor writes with all the others put together ?' The lady was sileut. ' Nay, Miss,' said he, say what you will, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation.'- Christian Secretaay.

That there is good ground for the position taken by Gov. Murray is confirmed by the position of the Salt Lake Tribune, the able journal that keeps vigilant watch over, as it is a thorn in the side of, the hierarchy that overshadows every interest in the Territory. In meeting the position of an Eastern paper that education and missionary work, and not legal prosecution or exclusion, are the remedy for the great evil, it says that those who thus reason do not understand the situation there. 'They assume that polygamy is the corner-stone of Mormonism, when in truth it is only the unclean cement of the foundation on which this sinister structure is reared.' It refers to a representative fact, where a Mormon boy who had been educated as an army officer at West Point, in answer to a question what he would do if he were to receive a direct command from the United States Government and a directly opposite one from John Taylor. promptly answered, 'I should obey John Taylor' The remedy, in the view of the Tribune, is to take from the chiefs their temporal and political power, and to coofine them to their legitimate work of caring for the souls of their people, It puts the argument in a outshell when it emphatically declares, . The question at issue in Utah is not a question of religion at all; it is simply a question of the relative power of the Government of the Unite States and the government of less than twenty men who assume the right to rule by direct command of God.' In the meantime public attention is turning to the whole question .---Illustrated Christian Weekly.

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A pretty severe Lesson. A story is told of a young sophomore, the newly-appointed editor of a college paper in New-England, who, on his way

gave up her attempts.

other worthy authors, have been the extent of my reading in that direction. "But you certainly read the Bible ?" ' It is not my custom to do so.' 'To what denomination do you belong ?' 'I belong to none.'

"Have you had no religious training?" "Oh yes, no lack of that, I assure

you.

"Then you belong to a Christian family ?' 'Yes.'

"Do you know anything about the Episcopal Church ?'

· Very little.'

sorry to see that you seem to hold who has had an unfortunate trainingwho knows nothing of the extremely adequate to all your spiritual needs.'

she would study that, and try to discover its realities and possibilities. Miss Agnes had been Fay's only teacher until the advent of the muchdisliked Miss Madison, Martha's pre-

decessor; but had declared herself unwilling to bear such a responsibility any longer, owing to her numerous church duties. But Martha soon came

to the conclusion that the weight of the · So I surmised. I am extremely responsibility was not the real reason why Miss Agnes wished to have religion in contempt. But I can easily governess for her little sister. The imagine how one might possibly do so truth was that the child had been indulged till she was comple ely such as I apprehend you have had-and spoiled. Mis Agnes, whose nature her religion, that it was only another was as diffe ent from Fay's as it well elevating and satisfying ritual of our could be, did not understand the latter's church. It you would turn your disposition, and was inca able of 'govattention to the thorough examination erning' her in any right sense of of its teachings, you would find them the term. Conseq ently, there was himself could wish or need. a chronic state of war between the 'What !' she exclaimed to herself.

a day or two afterward.

True to her resolution, Martha did study Miss Agnes, pondering her actions, words, and looks ; catching at every hint that might lead to a discovery of her motives; learning the principles that guided her life; and altogether, arriving at conclusions that would have caused Miss Agnes no little astonishment and indignation, had she known them. In regard to Miss Agnes herself, Martha decided that she was cold, proud, and selfish ; in regard to form of that which the deacon believed, and had done so for. years. On my and was as narrow, as unlovely, as wholly undesirable as his-not at all what any one who cared to reason for

changed his place soon afterward ; and the amused conductor, who had over heard the conversation, said to the young man : ' Do you know who that was?' 'No.' 'It was Mr. Walter, of the London Times.'- The Independent.

A Saddened Funeral.

merely of getting a letter of dismission to another church, on removing from one place of residence to another, but of promptly presenting it to the nearest Church, and so continuing in regular church relationship : »

reference to what he calls one of the saddest services of his life: "On Curistmas night I was summoned to attend the funeral of an elderly woman, whose son informed me that she had been a Baptist for thirty years. I had never heard her name, although she lived scarce a mile aw .y from the church, arrival at the house the following day, her son showed me a letter dismissing her and her husband (now dead for two years) from a Baptist church in Canada. The letter was dated in '75 or '76, if my memory serves me, and was good for 'You may be right. Of course, I two. They loved each other, I sup- 'Tie myself down to such a narrow I could learn but little, and I had to

Slowly all around us gather Shadows of the eventide ; Home we come to Thee, O Father, Let our hearts with Thee abide. We are weak and worn and weary, Chafed by toil and care and strife. Thou wilt give us welcome cheery To Thy nome of love and life.