

## MORMONS AND POLYGAMY.

A remarkable document has just been issued in the shape of "an address" from "the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to the world." The address, which is signed by Joseph T. Smith, John R. Winder and Anthon H. H. Lund, on behalf of the church, and adopted by vote of the church, in General Conference, April 5, 1907, in Salt Lake City, opens with the statement that "In the hopes of correcting misrepresentation, and of establishing a more perfect understanding respecting ourselves and our religion, we the officers and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in General Conference assembled, issue this declaration." Dealing with the question of plural marriages, which is the one of most general interest to the outside world, the document says:

The only conduct seemingly inconsistent with our professions as loyal citizens, is that involved in our attitude during the controversies that have arisen respecting plural marriages. This principle was introduced by the Prophet Joseph Smith, at Nauvoo, Illinois. The practice was continued in Utah and published to the world, as a doctrine of the Church in 1852. In the face of these facts, Brigham Young, whose position in the matter was well known, was twice appointed with the consent of the Senate, first by President Fillmore, and afterwards by President Pierce, to be the Governor of the Territory. It was not until 1862 that Congress enacted a law forbidding plural marriages. This law the Latter-Day Saints conscientiously disregarded in their observance of a principle sanctioned by their religion."

The address goes on to say that the disregard of the law was in the spirit of maintaining religious rights under constitutional guarantees and not in any spirit of defiance or disloyalty to the Government. It also says:

The "Mormon" people have bowed in respectful submission to the laws enacted against plural marriage. While it is true that for many years they contested the constitutionality of the law of Congress, and during that time acted in harmony with their religious convictions in upholding the controversy and as by spoken and written word, a principle committed to them from God, still, when every means of constitutional defence had been exhausted, the Church abandoned the controversy and announced its intention to be obedient to the laws of the land. Subsequently, when statehood for Utah became a possibility, on the condition that her constitution provide by ordinance, irrevocable without the consent of the United States, that plural marriages should be forever prohibited, the "Mormon" people accepted the condition by voting for the adoption of the constitution. From that time until now, the church has been true to its pledge respecting the abandonment of the practice of plural marriage. If it be urged that there have been instances of the violation of the anti-polygamy laws, and that some persons within the church have sought to evade the rule adopted by her, prohibiting plural marriages, the plain answer is that in every state and nation there are individuals who violate law in spite of all the vigilance that can be exercised; but it does not follow that the integrity of a community or a state is destroyed, because of such individual transgressions.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the church still believes in polygamous marriages as "a principle committed to them from God," and the inference is that if the laws of the United States permitted it, plural marriages would still be contracted. As it is these were reduced from 2,451 in 1890 to 897 in 1903. This plural marriage question has an added interest for us Canadians from the fact that there is a Mormon settlement in the Northwest, and that from time to time vague statements are made or hints given that polygamy is not unknown among them.



REV. DR. DUVAL,  
Winnipeg.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

The corner-stone of the new St. John's church and Sunday school at the corner of Broadview and Simpson avenues was laid Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, in the presence of a large gathering in spite of unfavorable weather. The stone was laid by Mrs. Joseph E. Armstrong, associated with Rev. Professor MacLaren, principal of Knox college. Rev. J. McP. Scott, the pastor, sketched the history of the church. Addresses were given by Rev. Alfred Gandier of St. James' Square church, conveying greetings from the parent congregation and the other Presbyterian ministers of Toronto—Rev. Wesley Dean, who spoke on behalf of the other ministers of Riverdale; Rev. Wm. Frizzell, and Rev. Wm. McKinley, Moderator of Presbytery.

The new church is to be of red brick with stone dressings, about 155x70 feet, and seating 1,000, with the Sunday school to the rear, also accommodating 1,000. The cost of the structure, which when completed will be one of the handsomest edifices in the east end of the city, will be about \$50,000. The St. John's people are supporting a missionary of their own on the foreign field—Rev. George Murray Ross, in Honan, China—and three members of the church—Dr. (Miss) Chone Oliver, Miss Harriet Thompson and Miss Florence E. Clearhune—are on the staff of missionaries in Central India; Dr. Jessie MacBean is in Macao, China, Mr. Frank Blain in inland China, and Dr. and Mrs. F. O. Gilbert are on the Rolling River Indian Reserve, Manitoba.

The beginning of St. John's church was in December, 1836, when a Sunday school was opened by St. James' Square church, the first superintendent being Mr. John Cameron, then editor of the Globe, now postmaster at London. Preaching services were started in the following spring. The pastor, Rev. John McP. Scott, who had oversight of the work from the first, was inducted on December 17, 1839.

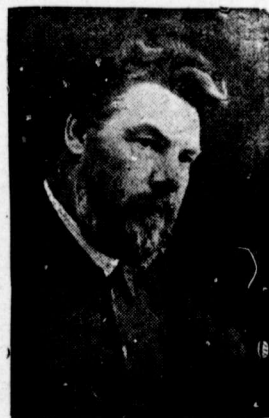
## SCOTTISH NOTES.

The cause of church union in Scotland is not losing, but rather gaining with the progress of time. The usual method of seeking closer relations has already been set in motion, and committees of the Church of Scotland and of the United Free Church have been in consultation as to possible grounds upon which union may be achieved. It is true that these committees are non-official, and their deliberations will be of value only as preparing the way for some future formal conference.

"The Church Union Association" is the name of a society in Scotland composed of members of the Established Church of Scotland and the United Free Church. The object is the creation of a spirit of Union between the two churches. The members are young men and represent the new spirit in both churches. The immediate effort is co-operation and the consolidation of agencies; first the amalgamation of the educational institutions, and at a later time the combination of the mission and benevolent agencies.

The report of the United Free Church College Committee shows a decrease in the number of students—namely, 133, as compared with 143 in the previous session. Of these 52 studied at Edinburgh, 62 in Glasgow, and 19 in Aberdeen. There were 42 non-regular students—13 at Edinburgh, 21 at Glasgow, and 3 at Aberdeen. These figures show that the Glasgow College is now the leading college of the Church, attracting more regular and more non-regular students than New College, Edinburgh.

For the vacant Principship of New College, Dr. Alex. Whyte is nominated by 10 Synods and 42 Presbyteries; Dr. Marcus Dods by 7 Synods and 38 Presbyteries; Professor Paterson by 3 Synods and 12 Presbyteries; Professor MacEwen by 13 Presbyteries; Professor Orr by 3 Presbyteries; Dr. Hutton and Dr. George Robson each by one Presbytery. A memorial is submitted by the students of the New College, stating it to be their strong and unanimous desire that Dr. Dods should be appointed Principal.



REV. DR. MOWATT.  
Minister Erskine Church, Montreal.

Three good Presbyterians will have the degree of LL.D., (honoris causa) conferred on them by the university of Toronto at the coming convocation. They are the Right Honourable James Bryce, British Ambassador to the United States; H. I. Sirang, M.A., for many years head master of the Goderich Collegiate Institute; Arch. MacMurchy, M.A., for many years rector of the oldest grammar school in the Province. In each case the honor is well merited.