

can play poker and not be molested, and, according to his statement, the "Celestials' Pleasure Club" meets at the house raided. He showed Policeman Costello a book in which were written the names of the officers of the club. The incorporation purported to have been sworn to before Justice Clark. The Chinese on their arrival at the police station were taken into the sitting room in the rear of the office, where there was a pack of cards on the table. Some of them evidently thought they had struck another Chinese joint, for one of them picked up the cards and started a game of poker, but the police interfered before much progress was made in the game. A curious commentary is all this on morals among certain Americans.

Mormon Morality. The term morality as known among the Christians of the world, is an unknown term among the Latter Day Saints—Mormons. Upon becoming a Mormon no one is required to lay aside his cupidity, evil heart, foul mouth or beer bottle. A Latter Day Saint is not known from other men by the testimony of a spotless life. Many a father sits down to the dinner table, asks a blessing, and before the meal is over is cursing and swearing at one of

the children. The preacher on the Sabbath afternoon will often consecrate the elements—they administer the sacrament every Sabbath—then preach a sermon, retiring immediately afterward to bet on a horse race that takes place the same afternoon. Last week I heard one of the elders say in the pulpit, at one of their conferences, that he would as soon have his children read Dickens's works as the Bible.

The missionaries sent into "the world" to preach "the gospel" are often renegades of the wildest nature and lowest character, who are sent out to see the world. I know of several young fellows of the higher classes, however, who were sent "on missions" to Europe simply to procure better educations. One of them, the son of an underground apostle, did the Holy Land in that way; while another, the son of a German professor, simply went as a guide through Switzerland for a party of Salt Lake young blood. From a town in Southern Utah there went in 1886 a young man to Nebraska on a mission. He is one of the most notorious gamblers in the whole country, and the night before he left he won a team of horses and a wagon at the gambling table. Of such is the kingdom of the Mormons.

VI.—EDITORIAL NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

Strange Doctrine.

"DR. PIERSON is reported as saying 'I believe that, all the time, men and women are going up to heaven from heathen lands, who never heard of Christ.' Such a hope would afford as grateful exhilaration to old missionaries, whose work is almost done, as to Dr. Pierson—if it can be shown to rest upon a solid foundation. 'Take the case of Cornelius,' says Dr. Pierson. 'He was a heathen; he had not heard of Christ; and yet his prayers and his alms came up before God. Do you believe that Cornelius would have been lost if he had died before he saw Peter?' I have been face to face with the races of Burma for thirty-five years, and have not yet found a Cornelius, nor have I met or heard of a missionary who has found a Cornelius among any of the heathen races of Asia. It is true that I have found some, to my great joy, who somewhat resembled Cornelius; but it was soon found in every case that the person had read and pondered a Christian tract, or a portion of God's word."

Such paragraphs as this have been flying about in the newspapers. We do not often consider it worth while to chase up our "good name," believing that a reputation which needs much looking after is not worth looking after—no man's utterances, whether of tongue or pen, can be

judged fairly *in isolation* from their surroundings. The text is often explained by the context, but above all by the drift and tenor of a man's whole book of life and testimony. Whatever truth lies back of the above professed "quotation" is connected with the teaching of a class in the Y. M. C. A. Hall of Philadelphia, where on Saturday at 4 P. M. from 500 to 1,200 of the most earnest and evangelical Sunday-school teachers and adult disciples of the city gather. And it may be sufficient to say that whatever was said by the writer, who has the honor to lead the studies of that great class, it awakened no murmur of disapprobation. So much for the orthodoxy of the teacher and of the class.

But as to the sentiment itself. We were studying Matthew xxv. and the last judgment. The question arose as to the grounds of final condemnation. And one of the principles affirmed from Scripture was that no man is held *accountable except for the light he has*. And again, *that if the measure of knowledge*