

Cross who are always doubtful of the result of their endeavours, generally fight in such a half-hearted manner as to do little or no effective execution.

In all ages and at all times, there have not only been found enemies of Christ, to pronounce His religion a failure, but Christians weak enough of intellect and faltering enough of heart to re-echo their sentiments. Instead of obeying the command of their Divine Master and putting their energies into the work, they have contented themselves with being simple on-lookers, interested it is true on the right side, but so fearful of failure, as to justify themselves in remaining idle; while others, with no more capacity, but with a higher enthusiasm and more perfect faith, devoted their lives to the glorious work of saving souls, knowing that He who promised that no labor should be in vain in the Lord, would in due time give them success.

Is Christianity a failure? We think not, and we are sure that no one who has ever tasted its enjoyments would think of pronouncing it such. It is true, that were its servants more faithful to their Master's interests, it would be doubly as effective as it now is, but with all their shortcomings, we think even its bitterest enemies would scarcely characterize it as a failure, but rather a recognized triumph. Any apparent want of success that may be ascribed to Christianity can certainly not be traced to any inherent defect which it possesses in itself, but rather to the imperfect presentation of its many excellencies in the lives and actions of its professing exponents. If Christians would *live instead of talk religion*, they would take away the greatest stumbling block that ever beset the cause they wish to assist. Ask half of those who are not under the influence of the gospel, why they do not accept salvation, and they will point you at once to the lives of professing Christians that they know, and tell you that if that is the *result* of your Christianity, they are fully as well off without it. The worst feature is that these charges of inconsistency are for the most part true; and unwittingly in many cases professing Christians are the worst hindrances. Their religion has to its advancement.

The cure for this seems to us to be, a

more entire consecration of ourselves to Jesus, a larger and more childlike faith in His promises, and lastly, a *practical living out of our principles*.

If Christians could only be made to realize how much depends upon the influence of their every day life, they would be more careful to conform themselves to their great Exemplar, and not only walk as seeing Him who is invisible, but live with a view of winning souls by the power of their example. And it seems to us, that when professors of religion shall fully realize this truth, such misgivings about the power of Gospel as we have quoted above will not only be sadly out of place, but almost impossible in the face of the mighty power which will then attend the preaching of God's word.

THE FUTURE OF MORMONISM.

It is but a few days since the world was startled by the news that Brigham Young, the great Mormon Prophet, Priest and President, the greatest polygamist of modern times, as well as one of the greatest villains that ever perpetrated crime under the cloak of religion, had been called to give an account of his life's work before that Judge, before whose dread assize both great and small have to appear.

Of the ultimate result of his sudden decease upon the Mormon Church of Latter-day Saints, it is almost too soon to speak with certainty; the probabilities are, however, that the blow is so severe that that organization can never recover from it.

For years past Brigham Young, has been justly regarded as the bulwark of Mormonism, and now that he has been called from this scene of action, the problem of its ultimate destiny will be easier to solve. That there is any one among the Mormon community competent to fill the place of the deceased Prophet no one, even in that organization, believes. That it can long be ruled by the twelve *Apostles (?)* as now constituted, is highly improbable, for among these very Apostles are men such as Taylor, Wells, Cannon and Smith, who, although entirely destitute of Brigham's prophetic inspiration (?) have ambition enough to urge them to the attainment of the Presidential Chair.

If there were no other, this alone would be a serious obstacle to the future prosperity of these latter day saints, but in addition to this, we find that the Mormon church itself is divided upon doctrinal questions, many of the people having gone back on the revelation of Brigham Young and attached themselves to that of Joe Smith, Jr., a son of the original Mormon Prophet, and author of the Book of Mormon. That this faction has been making great headway there can be but little doubt, for we are told that not only do they exercise a great deal of influence in the outlying country, but in Salt Lake City itself they are erecting a tabernacle as a rival to Brigham Young's temple.

But the most powerful influence at work upon the downfall of the Mormon Church is decidedly the feeling of the people themselves. Now that they have been relieved by the hand of death from the iron despotism of Brigham Young, who kept them in darkness and ignorance that he might rob them of millions in the name of the Lord, the Mormon people—thanks to the encroachments of the civilizing telegraph and railroad lines—are beginning to see what dupes they have been, and to assert their independence in no unmistakable language.

No better proof of this can be given, than the fact, that Brigham Young's gigantic store which he factiously christened "*Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Association*," which was designed, together with its branch agencies to coerce the patronage of the faithful throughout Zion, has for a long time ceased to prosper, while the opposition enterprises of Gentile traders and Mormon apostates, such as Chistill, Lawrence, or the Walker Bros., have flourished in independence and amassed fortunes out of their trade with the members of Brigham Young's Church, who preferred doing business with an honest outsider, to being swindled within the pale of the Church, even though it were by their Prophet and President.

The Mormon population of Utah Territory is now estimated at about 100,000 souls. At the taking of the last census in 1870, there were 44,121 males, and only 42,665 females, which is proof positive that polygamy is not now the prevalent custom among the Mormons, whatever it may have been in earlier times.