Satanic Counterfeits of the Second Advent.

By D. M. PANTON, B.A.

No. 4

MORMONISM

WATCHFULNESS (imitated by Christadelphianism) leads to the Parousia (counterfeited by Millennial Dawnism), and this introduces the First Resurrection (simulated by Christian Science), which in turn empties itself in our Lord's Kingdom over all the earth, of which we now find that Mormonism is a studied camouflage. For Mormonism, or the Church of the Latter-day Saints, asserts that it is the Kingdom of God arrived on earth, and that Utah is the holy city from which the law is to go forth to all nations. Here are the words of Mr. Orson Pratt, by far the ablest writer Mormonism has produced: "The Stone, which is to smite the Image, is to be 'cut out of the mountain without hands' (Dan. ii, 45). The present location of the Latter-day Church is in the valleys among the Rocky Mountains; this appears to be its appropriate position, according to prophecy. The angel has appeared—the Gospel is restored—the Kingdom is set up—its location is among the mountains; and shortly the latter-day kingdom will prevail against the kingdoms of the world, and fill the whole earth." "So out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people," says Elder John Morgan, "shall the honest-in-heart be gathered to a great central gathering place, to be protected, while the scourges of God pass over the earth." "We believe," says the official Creed, "that Zion will be established upon the Western Continent, and that Christ will reign upon the earth a thousand years." So to submit to this kingdom in Utah is necessary for salvation. "God," says Elder John Morgan, "has set up His kingdom upon the earth never more to be thrown down. His duly-appointed and authorized officers are ready to admit men and women as citizens of this kingdom. He or she who hears the sound of this gospel and heeds it not will be under condemnation. He

or she who heeds and renders obedience to it will reap life everlasting."

Now one glance past this camouflage is all that is necessary, though it is also acutely painful; for, in the hinterland, there rises at once the hideous image of Blasphemy. For what is the Mormon doctrine of God? It teaches that God is an exalted man, once a man on earth as we are now, ever changing and advancing, but never absolutely perfect. Joseph Smith, second only to Brigham Young among their "prophets," says: "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens: it is the first principle of the Gospel to know that He was once a man like us; yea, that God, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth, the same as Jesus Christ Himself did." Their Doctrines and Covenants (Sec. cxxx, 22) declares: "The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as any man's"; and "this being," says Joseph Smith, "cannot occupy two distinct places at once." But who is this huge man in the heavens? The answer is almost past belief; but it comes from no less than their supreme prophet, Brigham Young. "ADAM IS GOD, THE SUPREME GOD, THE CREATOR OF THIS WORLD, OUR GOD, AND THE ONLY GOD WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO Do. He is our Father and our God. Who is the Father? The first of the human family." "Adam" says the Pearl of Great Price (p. 60) "is the Father of all, the Prince of All, and the Ancient of Days."

All Christian Churches are therefore anathema; Mormonism is the sole Church of the living God, to which all nations are required to submit. "All the Churches," says Mr. Orson Pratt, "preach false doctrine and are under the curse of God." How solemn all this is when we remember that Mormonism has a vast world-wide propaganda; that in 1912 it had more than a thousand missionaries in England, distributing annually five million tracts and between one and two hundred thousand volumes; that its agents have again and again been expelled from Germany as a meance to morality; that it is a political octopus threatening the very life of America; and that its organisation is unsurpassed, cemented by secret and terrible oaths.

Now, among the counterfeits of the Second Advent, Mormonism has one valuable trait—it alone among these obviously jointly-planned sects openly betrays its supernatural and Satanic origin, and so reveals the mastermind in the background of them all. It is exceedingly striking that Spiritualism and Mormonism were born on nearly the same spot, and closely together in time; for the alleged discovery of the golden plates of the Book of Mormon was made within eight miles, and within eighteen years, of the house in Hydesville, New York State, where Spiritualism was born. Joseph Smith was a medium. "Iwas seized upon," he says, "by some power which entirely overcame me, the power of some actual being from the unseen world, which bound my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered round me"; and concerning all Christian Churches he was informed by this visitant from the unseen world—" All their creeds are an abomination in my sight, corrupt professors who draw near me with their lips while their hearts are far from me" (The Mormons, p. 24). Contemporary evidence proves that the supernatural was really present among the early Mormons: "contemptible gibberish which they dignify with the appellations of unknown tongues" (Ibid., p. 69). The counterfeit test, manifestly concocted by the demons themselves, to which the spirits were put which swarmed among them and prompted their immoralities and polygamies, is stated in the words of Brigham Young: " Every spirit that confesses that Joseph is a prophet, and that the Book of Mormon is true, is of God, and every spirit that does not is of Antichrist." 1

The truth is that there can be no Kingdom without the King, and no crown without the cross. Our Lord said: 'There be some of them that stand here, which shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God. And about eight days after these sayings, He took with Him Peter and James and John, and went up into the mountain. And as He was praying, the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment became white and dazzling." Therefore the kingdom is the visible glory of Jesus; they

¹ See Tests for the Supernatural, 11d., (Thynne & Jarvis).

saw the kingdom; and no sooner had the inherent glory of our Lord thus suddenly and silently whitened out in face and robe than Moses and Elijah "spake of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke ix, 31). When the living Prophet and the dead Lawgiver break the silence of centuries, their theme is one—the central Person is Christ, and the central fact is the cross. The "going out" of the camp, to atone; the "going out" of life, laid down; the "going out" of the tomb, left empty; the "going out" of a world, redeemed: no plant will ever bloom in our Paradise, no note will ever thrill in our songs, no jewel will ever gleam in our crown, that is not the fruit of the exodus of Christ.

A native ruler, on his death-bed, ordered his servants to make a large cross and place it in his bedchamber. "Now," he said, "lay me on it"; and as he thus lay dying, looking by faith to the blood of Jesus, he cried, "It lifts me! it lifts me! Jesus saves me!" Crucifixion with Christ (by faith) is a vital condition of sharing His coronation.

- No. 1 CHRISTADELPHIANISM.
- " 2 MILLENNIAL DAWNISM,
- , 3 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.
- ,, 4 MORMONISM.
- 5 ORDER OF THE STAR IN THE EAST. 4d. per dozen of each kind (Postage 1d.); 3/- per 100 assorted and post free.
- ., 6 SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM.
- ,, 7 BAHAISM.
 - 8d per dozen of each kind; 6/- per 100 assorted and post free.
- CHAS. J. THYNNE & JARVIS, LTD., WHITEFRIARS STREET, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

SATANIC COUNTERFEITS OF THE SECOND ADVENT.