

A MYSTERIOUS PREACHER.

[The following letter, the writer of which is a missionary in the Southern States Mission, America, appeared in the *Deseret News* of May 17th :

Shady Grove, Hickman Co.,
May 6th, 1880.

Editors Deseret News.

In the month of April, 1878, one Robert Edge, a preacher of the Gospel after the apostolic order, came to and near Lexington, Henderson Co., Tennessee, and commenced warning the people of the judgments of God that will shortly come upon them for their wickedness. Spoke very lengthily upon the fulfillment of prophecy that was uttered by ancient prophets, and thoroughly proving the falling away and apostasy of the primitive Church; the killing of the Saints by Pagan Rome; the rise and progress of the Romish Church, as being mystery, Babylon, and all her daughters and grand-daughters being under direct inspiration of Lucifer, the son of the morning; that Jesus Christ is the head Mason, and that Masonry, as at present, is a base counterfeit, and all secret societies are institutions of men, and are an abomination in the sight of the Lord.

He dwelt very lightly on the principle of baptism, but extensively on the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost; that the apostolic church was again restored on the earth, with prophets and apostles, baptism for the remission of sins, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, with signs following them that believe. By his administration four remarkable cases of healing occurred.

He positively refused money for his preaching. In the meantime the people became very curious to know who he was, and what church he belonged to. Being asked if baptism is essential for salvation, he said it was a true principle, but the people did not understand it. Being asked if he had authority to baptize, said if he had not, there were many on the earth who did have. Being asked if

there was an apostolic church on the earth, said there was, with many members. Being asked where it was, said it was in the United States, but avoided giving any further information.

After having delivered a series of sermons, he called upon all to come out of Mystery Babylon, forsake man-made institutions, and follow Christ in accordance with the apostolic order.

Sixty-three then agreed to follow him as he followed Christ. He then proceeded to organize them in a *brotherly love order*, after the apostolic order, by laying on hands and blessing them, and by requesting them to fast three days, and by instructing them not to marry outside of said order, saluting each other with the holy kiss, and if they would be honest, faithful and prayerful, the Lord would guide them by His Spirit in all things they should do to be saved; that there was more he would like to inform them upon, but persecution was rising, and he would shortly have to leave them; that if persecution arose so they had to leave, for them to go west of the Rocky Mountains for safety.

A lively persecution shortly arose, charging him to be a "Mormon" preacher, which he did not deny nor sanction, but his followers did deny that he or they were "Mormons."

Nineteen of the number fulfilled the requirements of the order of brotherly love, have withstood two years' persecution, more or less, and in the absence of their beloved preacher they have held weekly meetings.

In the fall of 1879, their attention was called to an interview between O. J. Hollister, a United States official, and President John Taylor.

They then wrote to the county clerk of Salt Lake County for information, who kindly forwarded a "Voice of Warning," and a list of Church works, by which they sent for a full list of Church works, *Deseret News* and MILLENNIAL STAR.

They wrote a letter of enquiry to President Morgan, who forwarded the

same to me, which was promptly answered, and in reply to which James H. Scott and S. Reed came to Cane Creek, Lewis County, a distance of fifty miles, and after hearing our views of the Gospel, which coincided with the teaching of Mr. Edge, they were baptized and confirmed by Brother Hyrum Belnap and myself, and returned home rejoicing that they

had thus far followed the promptings of the Spirit of the Lord.

Since Brother Argyle left me in charge of this Mission, Dec. 17th, 1879, eleven members have been added to the Church. Elders Carver, Belnap and Hunsaker are active in their mission and enjoying the same.

FRANKLIN SPENCER.

POETRY.

AT THE DOOR.

[SELECTED.]

At the door of thy heart He stands,
And long has knocked;
But the door is barred with iron bands,
And doubly locked;
In the summer's sun and the winter's rain,
He has pleaded entrance oft and again,
And with patience waits—in vain, in vain;
His words are mocked.

'Tis the Prince of Peace that calls;
No longer wait!
But hasten down from thy banquet halls—
Unbar the gate!
He will change thy songs to nobler strains,
He will cleanse thy soul from sin's dark stains,
Give crowns for pleasure's gilded chains—
Give love for hate.

The door of thy heart open wide;
Depart, O sin!
Bid the Prince of Peace to thy side—
Welcome him in!
A loving, tried, and constant guest,
His spirit dwells ever in thy breast,
Joy, peace, and everlasting rest
Will then begin.

DIED.

BUDGE.—At Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho, May 26th, of diphtheria, Kate, familiarly called "Dot," daughter of William and Eliza Jones Budge, aged 7 years and 9 months, lacking 3 days.—"News."

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