366 THE APOCALYPSE [oH. xiv. 4  
  
The first description of this body is fundamental, or  
characteristic : the 144,000 are unlike the earth. Its  
course is, at the worst, fornication (ix. 21), at the best,  
“marrying and giving in marriage” (Matt. xxiv. 38).  
Antichrist refuses marriage, and so do his crew. Dan.  
xi. 37; 1 Tim. iv. 3. Jesus sanctions it, as lawful.  
John ii.  
But He has also a company, who, in hope of especial  
glory in the kingdom, abstain from it. Matt. xix. 11, 12.  
Similarly, 1 Cor. vii. 1, 6-8, 25-28, 32-35.  
Fornication is a crime which may be committed by  
members of the Church, to be visited with especial wrath.  
Rev. ii. 14, 15, 20-22. But these not merely abstain  
from what is evil ; they refrain from what is lawful. Tis  
a life-long abstinence, and this accounts for the small  
number of them: it accounts, too, for the exactness  
of the number. None receive the saying, save “ they  
to whom 7 its given.” It is given only to 144,000,  
even of the Church, or disciples of Christ.  
They “were not defiled.’ The past tense looks  
back on their life on earth as now completed. The  
next words in the present, define their abiding state.  
“For they are virgins.”  
Again, I say, these words must exclude the married :  
the married may have chastity, but not virginity. It is  
remarkable that the word “ virgins ”’ is made to describe  
males: the pronoun is in the masculine, in all three  
cases.  
This body is not Jewish.  
“Thou (Israel) shalt be blessed above all people:  
there shall not be male or female barren among you,  
or among your cattle” (Deut. vii.14). Virginity was a  
calamity, then. Judges xi. 37.  
Jesus annulled the law’s teaching concerning mar-  
riage and divorce, and set up His own law instead :  
withal assuring His disciples, that there was a special