

## THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

### THE MAGDALENS OF NEW YORK CITY.

MR. OLIVER DYER, the writer in the *Galaxy*, whose articles on John Allen, the "Wickedest Man," created such a sensation throughout the country recently, seems to be determined to expose the evils of the social system of Christendom, as developed in New York City. Since his exposure of the dance houses he has been exploring the mysteries of the Magdalens, or houses of reformation for fallen women, and the means by which their inmates are procured. His revelations promise to be as startling as those of the agents of the Midnight Missions and Magdalens of London, published in the London press a few years ago. Mr. Dyer's investigations show that the same causes which operate there to swell the ranks of prostitution are working in New York, and that recruits are obtained from the same walks in life. Of four hundred rescued from a life of vice and shame in the streets of London, it was found that there was hardly one who had not been a Sunday school teacher or scholar, and that the aggregate attendance at Sunday school gave an average of three years to each.

Mr. Dyer says that in New York City there are six hundred and forty-seven known houses of prostitution, most of the inmates of which are the children of Christian parents, and were formerly Sabbath school teachers and scholars, and members of Christian churches.

Speaking of the various methods by which these unfortunate beings were initiated into their present modes of life, Mr. Dyer says, that in some cases their parents have trained them for this as they would have done for any respectable occupation.

No comment upon such a state of things is necessary to show the fearfully unhealthy state of the social system of Christendom. The nation pays enough for the erection of churches, chapels and meeting houses, and for salaries to ministers of religion and religious teachers; and in every nook and corner of the land Sabbath schools are to be found; yet there is a radical defect somewhere, even in the methods of religious instruction, or the ranks of the fallen would never be recruited from among those who are the early recipients of religious instruction and culture. What is the matter? Who can point out a remedy for this wide spread immorality and its awful train of physical ills? The Latter-day Saints only can answer this question, and this they are doing practically. The solution of this problem,—in vain attempted by social reformers and religionists—is their special mission. Under Joseph Smith the work was commenced, under Brigham Young it is being carried on and progressing. Under their administration seduction and adultery—the great causes or the social evils under which Christendom groans—are capital crimes. Among their followers female chastity is held inviolate, and the result is a virtuous and happy community. This is Heaven's remedy, and when Christendom and the world at large, will adopt and rigidly enforce these as parts of their religious faith and practice, happiness will follow, for virtue and happiness are inseparable.

### LABOR SAVED BY MOWERS AND REAPERS.

THE invention of labor-saving machinery of all kinds is characteristic of our age and nation, and in agricultural pursuits inventions for saving labor and time are numerous and very valuable. Our steam-plows, mowers and reapers, and other inventions to facilitate the labor of the husbandman, tend greatly to decrease his toil and increase his wealth. The *Sacramento Bee* in a recent number presents the following statistics on this subject:

"About 90,000 mowers and reapers are annually manufactured in the United States, and the average cost is \$125 for a mowing, and \$175 for a reaping machine. The average duration is five years; this would make the annual average cost, without interest, \$80 or for the 300,000 machines in use, \$9,000,000. This \$9,000,000 wear and tear of machinery represents the labor of 26,000 men, who at an average (including board) of \$40 per month would cost \$12,480,000, consequently the farmers and the nation is annually enriched \$3,480,000 by the use of mowing and reaping machines, to say nothing of the greater proportion of the

crop saved, or of the more certain and better preservation of the crops, and the release of the labor of 26,000 men for other purposes.

As agriculture has been and still is the main branch of industry followed by the people of Utah, the above facts and figures are worthy their attention. The majority of our foreign population having passed their days in factories or other manufacturing establishments, and being forced to live from hand to mouth, have, upon arriving here, been anxious to enter upon some pursuit that promised emancipation from such thralldom, and the land and agricultural pursuits have offered the greatest chances for the gratification of such desires.

Owing to the nature of our soil and other causes the pursuit of agriculture in this Territory has required almost incessant and rigorous toil from those who followed it, especially where unaided by labor saving machinery. Hitherto the importation of such machinery has been a matter of great difficulty, owing to the time and means required for its transportation. But the completion of the railway will prove of great benefit to our people in this direction. The cost of transportation will, no doubt, be reduced, while the time required for its transportation will be very trifling, so that we may reasonably hope before long to see the most improved labor saving agricultural implements within reach of all our people who follow the noble pursuit of agriculture.

### LEARN A TRADE.

THE fashions and habits which prevail among our young men have changed very much of late years. In former times their ambition, in many instances, was to handle and break wild horses, to be expert at throwing the lasso, and at picking it up from the ground while the horse was under full headway. Much of the time of the boys and young men of that period was spent on the range after stock, or in the cañons. These were very necessary and useful pursuits, and they were indispensable under the circumstances which then surrounded us. Our young men of the present day do not take pride in dressing in the Mexican ranchero's costume, nor in riding the saddles used by that class, nor in wearing outlandish spurs and heavy leggings. If they do not wear silk sashes of gaudy colors fastened around their waists, with the ends dangling at their hips, but wear suspenders instead, they are still considered dressed. To escape ridicule it is not necessary for them to wear long hair, or to have a hat with a brim six inches wide.

Tastes have changed, and, in many respects for the better, and a visible improvement is very perceptible among the young men. There is entirely too much carelessness, however, among them, and in some instances among parents also about their learning trades. There are but few of them who think any mechanical pursuit worthy of their attention. They work around home, and probably do a little farm work, but grow up without a knowledge of any special branch of business. This is unfortunate. Every young man should prepare himself to work in some well-defined field of labor. If he has a taste for farming, he should avail himself of the excellent opportunities which the present age affords of becoming a thoroughly practical and intelligent farmer, if he wishes, he can even become a scientific farmer. The facilities which every young man of the present day has within his reach admit of this. If he has a taste for mechanism, he should devote his attention to it and spare no pains to make himself a good workman. So with any pursuit that he may choose to adopt, he should master it, and never be satisfied with his progress as long as there is anything to be learned. A man who is "jack of all trades and master of none" is proverbially of but little account. A knowledge of various branches of business, even if it be but partial, is never a disadvantage; but one, at least, should be thoroughly mastered.

Many of our young men and boys appear to have an aversion to becoming apprentices, and where they do entertain the idea, they expect, in many cases, to get wages which no employer feels warranted in paying. In many countries parents pay a premium to secure to their sons the privilege of learning a good business or trade, and in almost every country the knowledge which the apprentice acquires is considered of some value, and he does not look for, neither is he paid at the same rate as the skilled

hand who has served his apprenticeship. In consequence of the views which prevail here there is but little inclination among employers to take apprentices. If the boys would moderate their expectations to reasonable limits, and manifest a determination to stick to their business and learn it, there would soon be a great change of feeling on the part of master workmen respecting apprentices. There is plenty of room for good farmers, good mechanics and good workmen in every branch of business. The demand for them increases every year, and the boys and young men should prepare themselves to supply it.

We never see a young man whose only ambition seems to be to get a clerkship in a store, or some other light employment, without having a feeling of pity for him. Such work may do for invalids or women; but it is not such as a young man should spend his youth and early manhood in acquiring. After leaving school attention should be turned to some useful pursuit. A few years should be spent on a farm, at a carpenter's bench, at an anvil, in a machine shop, or in some other position where skill in a good, reliable handicraft can be learned. Then if circumstances should so shape themselves that a young man can do better in any other pursuit, he is no less prepared, because of his trade, to enter upon it. His habits of application and industry will be an advantage to him, and should he fail in that direction, he still has his trade to turn to, confident that his skilled labor will procure him a living. If he masters two trades (for there are several trades at which employment can only be obtained at one season of the year) he is still better prepared for the battle of life, and is of more value to the community as a citizen.

### PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

THE campaign of the Presidential candidates is now fairly inaugurated. In almost every section of the country stump orators for the Republican and Democratic parties are, or very soon will be, at work, laboring with all conceivable earnestness to convince the people that the salvation of the country depends entirely upon the success of the party whose cause they severally advocate. From now until the 3rd of November the exertions of both parties will be such, as in all probability have not been seen before in this Republic; and it will be well if blood is not shed in the struggle for victory.

The stake at issue is very high. On the one hand we have the Republican party, in whose hands the whole power of the government is at present vested. They have everything to lose. On the other hand, there are the Democrats, at present almost powerless in the administration of national affairs; they have everything to gain. The Republicans are the progressive party of the nation; they have freed the negro, and want to confer upon him the elective franchise and to make his status, in the eye of the law, equal in every respect to that of the white man; and thus, in a practical way, endorse the Declaration of Independence, "that all men are created equal."

The Democrats are the Conservative party of the nation. They, virtually, are willing to acknowledge the truth of the same axiom; but in the case of the negro they are unwilling to acknowledge it practically, at least, so far as the franchise is concerned. Between the two parties the most intense animosity exists and neither party is likely to be at all scrupulous as to the means it employs to ensure its own success and to accomplish the defeat of the other.

Whichever party succeeds the chances for peace and harmony prevailing through the nation are meagre. If the Republican candidates are successful, the policy of that party with regard to the reconstruction and admission to Congress of the Southern States is almost certain to be rigorously enforced, which will not be at all likely to decrease the irritation and bitterness already existing between the two great sections of the country. If the Democratic candidates are elected, the idea of resigning all control over the army and navy, and in fact over every department of the administration of the government, will, after eight years of absolute sway, be extremely distasteful to the Republicans, and one to which they will hardly be likely to submit without a struggle; so that let whichever party succeed that may, it is not at all improbable that the alarm of civil war may again be sounded, and the direful and bloody scenes of the late rebellion again be re-enacted. It would be otherwise if the contending parties were imbued

with that genuine patriotism possessed by the founders of our government; but to-day power is sought because it is power, and for the furtherance of selfish ends and party purposes, and not for the sake of well governing, and promoting the best interests of a mighty people.

The people of Utah view the contest from a very different standpoint to any other portion of the inhabitants of the Union. On all matters—religious or political, secular or worldly—they are accustomed to vote as a unit; and amongst them party feeling and political excitement are unknown. In either of the great political parties of the nation we know that the friends of "Mormonism" or the Kingdom of God are few, and we are far from feeling or believing that the salvation of the nation, totally or in part, is dependant upon the success of either party. That good and well meaning men are to be found in the ranks of both we feel assured, but they are too far in the minority to have much weight or influence in deciding the affairs of the nation.

In reviewing the history of the past dozen years we can see that the welfare, peace and prosperity of the nation have materially declined. At the election in 1856 the finances of the nation were in a prosperous condition; and though many signs in the political horizon were ominous and portentous of evil, yet the nation as a general thing was harmonious and prosperous. Under the administration of James Buchanan the treasury was emptied of its surplus, and the nation prepared for the outburst of the most gigantic and bitter civil war of which history furnishes any account. In 1861 that war was inaugurated and for several succeeding years was waged with intense energy, and the nation plunged into a debt, whose magnitude is almost beyond conception, and in a space of time so brief as to be unprecedented even in the history of any of the European nations; in addition to this, sectional and party feelings of the most hostile and deadly character permeated all classes of the people. Now as history but repeats itself, there is nothing very promising for the future of the nation in the success of either party.

However, our stake in the contest, or influence in its decision is very small; but we can look on calmly and dispassionately during its progress, assured that the issue of this, as of all other events materially affecting the destinies of the millions, is in the hands of Him who over-rules all things according to His good will and pleasure.

### Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY,

Sept. 1, 1868.

Editor *Deseret News*:—Several persons, residing in this City and Territory, have applied to me to obtain information in relation to taking the benefit of the Bankrupt Act of March 2d, 1867, passed by the Congress of the United States. In answer thereto, to one and all, I would inform them that the law referred to made it obligatory upon all persons wishing to take the benefit of said law, to file their petitions, with schedules annexed, with the Clerk of the Court of Bankruptcy, for the district in which such petitioner resided, previous to June 1st, 1868; after which date no person could take the benefit of said act, unless he could pay fifty cents on the dollar of all his liabilities, except by the written consent of a majority in number, and value, of his creditors. But since June 1, 1868, Congress has passed a Supplemental Bankrupt Bill, the principal feature of which is the extension or postponement of the fifty per cent, clause, until the first day of January next, A.D. 1869; that is, any one who applies for the benefit of the bankrupt law, or is forced into bankruptcy before that time, shall be entitled to a discharge upon his giving up his property, no matter how small may its value be. But after January 1st, 1869, a different policy will prevail; any one may apply for the benefit of the bankrupt law, or he may be forced into "involuntary bankruptcy" by his creditors, he may be declared a bankrupt, but he will not receive a final discharge unless his assets produce fifty per cent. of the amount of his debts. In such case the condition of the bankrupt will truly be unfortunate. He will be deprived of his property, but he will be unable to go into business again without liability to his old creditors. Such is the debtor's situation, unless he takes the benefit of said law before the first day of January, 1869. I would therefore say to all, who, through losses, misfortune or otherwise that are desirous of taking the benefit of