

who treated me with due courtesy and allowed me to peruse books and publications, from which some of the foregoing is culled. I am now on my way back to Kansas City.

ANDREW JENSON.

A VIEW OF CALIFORNIA.

If it will not be asking too much of you, I would be pleased if you would allow me the use of a small portion of your valuable space to present a few items in connection with an article published in the *DESERET WEEKLY* of the 2nd inst., entitled "The Decadence of Modesty," which is given as an excerpt from the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The article referred to asks the question, "How, then, can we hope to cultivate modesty in the rising generation when it is hemmed in and surrounded by glaring and shameless immodesty?" And it might have extended the interrogation by asking, "How can a people who show by their own laws that have been enacted by their own representatives in the state legislature, which allow the Sabbath day to be openly desecrated, expect that modesty could do otherwise than wane?"

I have noticed, during the time that I have been in this state on a mission, that the Sabbath day is looked forward to with the greatest pleasure as a time for taking part in a concert, theater, excursion or general holiday, by the great majority of the people. The saloonkeeper keeps his accursed den open and is patronized as freely as on week days; and the youth of the state are forced to see the effect that it has on the public, or remain in the house. If the statement be true that there are 40,000 establishments in the state dealing in intoxicating drinks, and they are kept open on Sunday, how can the people expect their children to avoid such evils while the parents sustain and encourage such things by continuing to send men to the legislature to express their wants and those representatives repeatedly fail to adopt measures to abolish such open violation of the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy?

If the people really want the morals of their children protected, why do they not go to work right at the root of the evil and uproot it by enacting laws that are in keeping with the object to be obtained, and then elect officers who will see that those laws are enforced? We have to meet the old issues that our church believes in a plurality of wives, while the complain-er will admit with the next breath that some of the cities of California, if not all, have a paid police officer patrolling those streets that are inhabited by prostitutes and opium dens, and who is quite as prompt in protecting their dens as any other part of the city. The principal difficulty that seems to confront those haunts is that they must not keep their doors open. But they are allowed to sit at the window dressed in costumes in keeping with their profession, and solicit patronage. And the writer of this article, having occasion to pass through a street in that portion of the city of San Francisco, saw a police officer standing at one of those windows, joking with the females within, while at the same time there were boys of sixteen or

eighteen years talking with others of the same class near by.

The people tell me that they cannot think with any degree of allowance upon Mormons or their religion, and at the same time they use their money to protect such institution as referred to above. Is it any wonder that a servant of God, having the Gospel to preach to them, finds few to listen to him? The writer has met several who pretended to listen to his testimony, and who promised to investigate, and asked him to come to their home at stated times, and then ran away from home to avoid an interview.

It seems almost impossible to find any one who will listen to our testimony. If a meeting is advertised there is seldom anyone attends. Or if any at all, they don't come the second time, because our message is antagonistic to their evil practices. Religion of all denominations is at a great discount with the people here. As a result the churches are sparingly attended, and that principally by ladies. In Stockton one of the most influential ministers, a Methodist, said a week ago that he is going to leave that city because he did not get enough pay to support his family. And he does not hire help, but is very economical. On the next street there is a nice little church for sale, a notice up in front being to that effect.

It seems almost impossible to find a person who will talk on religion. If we start the subject they will walk off and leave us, and all we can do is to continue our searching until we either find a righteous person or find there are none here. We noticed, while in Stockton, that music and singing on the streets did not induce people to follow the beautiful strains to a tent that was pitched for the purpose of holding "gospel" meetings in.

If it is the silver question that is causing such conditions it is to be hoped that our law-makers will come to the rescue. For if the nation blames Congress for the present condition of society, as many do out here, that body of quarrelers had better go to work in real earnest and remedy a few of the evils.

There are five Elders in the California mission at present, and so far as proselyting is concerned, there is little to encourage them. But perhaps the morality of the people has something to do with it.

Praying that God will keep the Saints from going into the wicked ways of the present age, I subscribe myself

Your brother in the Gospel of Christ,
J. D. CUMMINGS.
SACRAMENTO, CAL., Sept. 6th, 1893.

SCHEME TO SELL CITY WATERWORKS

The nefarious scheme to sell the city waterworks to a private corporation is at the front again. Several times it has been brought up, but on each occasion has failed in being worked to a successful issue. But the manipulators regard this as an opportune time, and are again at work. They see in the scheme a good thing for themselves if they can get the property, and no one blames them particularly for looking out for number one in making investments. But with a City Coun-

cil that will play into their hands the case would be different.

What is the situation of the present City Council? Their administration is "strapped" for money, and may be some of them are individually in the same fix. That is the special feature that is being counted on by the would-be waterworks proprietor, and the fact that the municipality will be hard run for funds throughout the period of the next administration, because of past official extravagance, is also taken in guizance of. Hence the hope that the waterworks will be disposed of to secure needed cash.

The idea of having a private corporation take the city's water system is an old one. Some four years since, while the matter was being agitated, Mr. Underwood, of Omaha, came here and made an attempt to carry it into effect. He was president of the American Waterworks company, with plenty of influence and capital. He organized a corporation in which there were counted with him Dennis Sullivan, of Denver, and W. S. McCormick, A. Hanauer, R. C. Chambers, N. Tweweek, R. Mackintosh and others of this city. Though the company was formed, it never did anything because it was ascertained that at that time the city would not sell. Witcher Jones and others made a similar proposition, but they failed also to get the waterworks. Seven or eight thousand citizens protested against it by petition.

Now, in the financial distress of the city the Underwood scheme has been revived. Several of his old associates in the company deny any connection with him on the present occasion, but he has plenty who are willing to work with him for the "big plum."

Two weeks ago he came to this city, and registered at the Knutsford. He remained a week, and when asked the purpose of his visit, said it was "for pleasure." But it was noticed that among his frequent callers were some who were formerly associated with him in the waterworks proposition as well as others. So when it was asserted that he was again on the alert for securing the waterworks, with what he thought good prospect of success, it was not a matter of surprise, though it is an item of vast importance to the citizens.

Just how the scheme is to be carried through is a matter of uncertainty. But it is a fact that it will be worked for all it is worth, unless the exposure of the plans and a decided public sentiment defeat the huge job.

With how much concern the weight of public sentiment with the present council is regarded in certain quarters is indicated in the remark of one of the workers in the scheme today, when he said, "Twenty-five thousand dollars will do anything with the present City Council." Some people may think the estimate either too high or too low.

One thing may be considered certain, and that is that whatever view the members of the council possess on the subject of selling the waterworks, the people are vigorously antagonistic to the scheme. Their opinion has not varied to any extent since the Witcher Jones proposition of three years ago. At that time Councilman James