

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### WHERE IS ANDREE?

If scientific calculations can be depended on, there is no reason why Andree and his fellow-travelers should not be safe and sound in winter quarters somewhere in the Arctic regions.

In a telegram from New York to the Times-Herald it is stated that European scientific journals announce that the astronomers and meteorological experts of several government observatories have received full meteorological reports for the month of July, when Andree left Danes' island; they have calculated the direction and the velocity of the wind in the Polar regions during that month, and the conclusion arrived at is, that the daring explorers, barring accidents, must have passed the Pole in less than six days from the time of their departure, and that thereafter they must have floated to some part of Franz Josef Land.

As to the capability of the balloon M. Lachambre states that it could float for fifteen days. He believes that a journey over the ice in the summer time would have been exceedingly difficult in the small boat attached to the balloon, and that the explorers consequently would stay in some convenient place until later in the fall. If they remain in winter quarters for scientific observations, they will not be heard from until next fall.

The reason why no carrier pigeons have returned is discussed by the Austrian explorer Dr. von Payer. He says it is safe to state that the pigeons, unused to Polar conditions, have refused to leave the balloon. They may have made an attempt but they have returned. During extreme cold weather the birds soon become exhausted.

The revival of interest in Andree's exploration has resulted in thousands of letters of inquiry as to the amount of provisions carried by the travelers. King Oscar has therefore requested Dr. Beauvais of Copenhagen, who supplied the provisions, to state the exact amount of food furnished. Dr. Beauvais reports that Andree had ample provisions for nine months, and that this quantity, if used judiciously together with what can be procured by the explorers themselves, would last for two years. His report is as follows:

"The Andree expedition has provisions for nine months. All the boxes in which the conserved food is kept were made of copper, as iron would have had a disastrous effect on the magnetic instruments carried by the expedition. To occupy as little space as possible they were made square instead of round. The food consists of every kind of steaks, sausages, hams, fish, chickens, game, vegetables and fruit. If these provisions have been saved, together with the food which the explorers can procure through fishing and hunting, they have sufficient provisions to last them two years.

"The expedition is also furnished with a new kind of lozenges of concentrated lemon juice. This is the first time these have been used by polar expeditions, and it is expected they will absolutely prevent every attack of scrofula.

"Finally, the expedition is provided with twenty-five kilo of thin chocolate cakes, mixed with pulverized pemmican. To preserve this food against dampness it is packed in parchment, covered with stannine, a brittle metal, composed of tin, sulphur and copper, and inclosed in air-tight boxes. Nan-

sen's expedition was also provided with this food, and it was found to be both nourishing and pleasant to the taste."

It is believed by those who still have faith that he has not perished, that Andree will be heard from by way of Siberia first, and the czar has issued a decree to the Siberian government officials charging them to be on the lookout, and offering a handsome reward for the first authentic news of the explorers. The announcement that they must have reached Franz Josef Land after a successful aerial voyage across the Arctic ocean, in the absence of all communications with the distant region may sound as pure guesswork, but many deductions of science, when founded on observations, have been verified to the letter. Leverrier knew that there was a planet in space not before observed by any astronomer and located it with unerring exactness. Helium was announced to exist from purely a priori reasoning. The science of physics has postulated an absolute zero, 273 degrees Celsius, at which all molecular and chemical action ceases and at which electrical resistance disappears, and the conclusion has been approximately verified by later experiments. The reasoning as to Andree's whereabouts may not be considered more uncertain than these and other scientific predictions. Should it be verified, it will certainly prove a great victory for the meteorologists who have made the calculations.

### NOT A "CHURCH CANDIDATE"

The Outlook, an undenominational paper published in New York, in common with other cotemporaries, feels exercised about the supposed political power exercised by the Mormon Church.

The result of the municipal election in Salt Lake City is taken as an evidence that that "power is unbroken" and that for the future it will be exercised in behalf of the Church. The Outlook has this to say:

"That President Wilford Woodruff's demand at the October conference that Mormons should unite in politics was taken as more weighty than the light talk of an old man was shown in the results in Salt Lake City. John Clark, the candidate for mayor of the citizens, but a very devout Mormon and the undisputed Church candidate, was elected by a small majority. The Gentile vote and the Independent vote were divided among three candidates—all Gentiles. Mr. Clark was supported by the politicians whose names are always associated with church politics, and the conclusion that the Church elected him is well supported. Every Gentile who was on the ticket with him was defeated. Every Gentile who was on the other tickets was seriously 'scratched,' and every Mormon running received a comparatively large vote. The same result was seen all over Utah. Ogden's administration, as well as Salt Lake's, will be in the hands of Mormons, though in each the Gentiles form the bulk of the population. The city council in each case, by a majority of Mormons, shows a result of religious voting. The tendency of Mormons to vote for men of their own faith has an important bearing on national affairs. It is not improbable that next year a legislature may be elected in Utah which will be so overwhelmingly Mormon that a United States senator will

be chosen who will give his chief allegiance to the Church leaders."

The quotation is another illustration of the tenacity with which even those who should be teachers among their fellow-men will cling to prejudices of long standing. Misconceptions once established are not easily corrected. That the Church is a "political power" is one of these lingering errors that, ghost-like, appear and reappear when least expected.

The whole argument based on the results of the municipal elections is a fallacy. Mr. John Clark was not a candidate of the Church, whether disputed or undisputed; nor was he elected by Church influence. Mr. Clark was the candidate proposed by a committee of citizens who united for the sole purpose of working for good city government. In this committee were as many Gentiles as Mormons, both sides being represented so as to remove every just ground for the charge of religious partisanship. Mr. Clark was after some discussion, decided upon, not because of his religious affiliations, but because it was believed that he was the candidate most likely to carry the victory. The talk about a Church candidate or Church election is without foundation, and so is the rest of the allegations of the Outlook in this connection.

The leaders of the Church, and the members, in common with all good citizens, have an interest in the establishment of the best possible government in their settlements and in the State, as in national affairs. As citizens it is their right and their duty to aid in the accomplishment of this purpose to the best of their ability. They claim no other rights. If the Mormons merit criticism on this ground, a growing class of voters all over the Republic, and that of the heat element, stand condemned, too. But they all are on constitutional ground, safe as long as that instrument of liberty remains.

### THE PUBLIC HAVE RIGHTS.

Salt Lake City is probably not worse than any other city of a similar size, in the Union, or in the world; probably it is much better than many; yet there are conditions that demand for their correction the earnest efforts of wise and morally good servants of the public. A recent occurrence is one among many in proof of this. If there are dens within the corporation limits where men and women can congregate and indulge in debauchery, quarrels and murderous assaults with pistols and razors, and if it has come to this that one class of toughs contemplate the killing off of another class, "to even things up," it is time something were done to purify the atmosphere for the benefit of citizens by cleaning out both gangs, and extinguishing absolutely the respective dens and haunts of each.

Unfortunately some people see in political success only a means of obtaining offices for the money there is in them, directly and indirectly. They claim as their right the reward for political services rendered and can see no farther. They are blind to the fact that the public have rights too—rights of much greater importance than any individual little claims that may be urged. They forget that public men are but servants properly accountable to their masters for their stewardship. Little improvement is to be hoped for when the servants undertake to run the household in their own interest instead of with a view to benefit those who placed them in charge.

The right of the public in this instance is to have existing laws and ordinances carried out impartially in