

expected to reach 46 000. In November 375 cases were sent to the poor-house; calls for physicians averaged ten a day. This is an increase of poor of nearly 28 per cent above 1894. The figures indicate that more than one-sixth of the entire population of Cook county, Illinois, are suffering for the necessaries of life—an exceedingly bad showing for general prosperity in that section of the country. It is to be hoped that all the great centers of population in the East will not show a similar increase of destitution; at any rate the far western states and territories are more fortunate than the Illinois figures show.

#### ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT.

A discovery thought to be of importance for the history of early Christian literature is, according to the Scientific American, credited to Dr. Karl Schmidt, of Cairo, Egypt. In the library of the cloister of Akhmim—the same library in which the Gospel and the Apocalypse of Peter and Apocalypse of Elijah were found—Dr. Schmidt recently came across an old Coptic manuscript containing a record of conversations between Christ and His disciples. Both the beginning and the conclusion have been lost through mutilation of the manuscript.

The chief subject of conversation is the resurrection of Christ, which is reported in detail and in such a manner as to combine the narratives of the four Gospels. The object of the writing is to warn the reader against unbelief, especially gnosticism. There is a long discussion of the resurrection of the body. The work shows itself to be an apocryphal mischievous of the Apostles to the congregations, and reveals the congregational orthodoxy in the early church. Like the Apocalypses of Peter, it shows also that the church was not always able to resist the temptation of following the gnostic trend of thought. Its date, approximately, is 160 A. D.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

We have received from the Agricultural College of Utah copies of an announcement of winter courses of study for farmers and others, in agriculture, dairying, domestic arts, and regular college work. The winter courses begin with the second term, Jan. 7, and continue during ten weeks. The farmers' course includes stock-feeding, dairying and animal husbandry, farm buildings and machinery, draining and irrigating, soils and manures, horticulture, entomology and veterinary science. This course is intended for those busy farmers and farmers' sons who have not the time to devote two or four whole years to obtaining a scientific education in agriculture. Most progressive farmers know that the old methods of farming, although practiced with comparative success by our forefathers, no longer pay. Success is not possible in our day without a knowledge of at least the fundamental principles upon which the modern art of agriculture is built. With a view to supplying some of this knowledge in

the most practical way, in the shortest time and to the greatest possible number, the course outlined has been provided. The subjects which have been included are sciences related strictly to agriculture.

Farmers who avail themselves of the opportunity doubtless will derive great practical benefit from attending this course, which includes many actual demonstrations of the subjects discussed, and a practical laboratory course in cheese and butter making in a model creamery equipped for this special purpose. The only charge made by the college is a fee of \$2.50 to cover the cost of the materials used by the student in his practice work.

In addition there is a short course for women, in domestic arts, comprising selected studies that bear directly on housekeeping, and adapted to those of mature years as well as to young women. This course includes cooking, sewing, hygiene for women, and other subjects.

Those directly interested in these subjects should not fail to accept the privileges extended of acquiring a thorough knowledge of their avocations, that they may be better prepared for the duties and responsibilities of life. And in placing before the people advantages of the kind suggested the Agricultural College is doing highly commendable work. May it meet with the deserved success which should follow the labors of those who have the institution in charge.

#### PRAYER FOR ARMENIA.

Bishop Potter, of the Episcopal church, recommends to the clergy of his diocese a prayer to be read in the churches in behalf of Armenians. In the face of the strange paralysis of human interposition, he says, which apparently exists among Christian nations, we can at least pray to the Ruler of nations that he will speedily cause this tyranny to be overcome. The text of the Episcopal prayer is as follows:

Most gracious God, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works and whose compassions fail not, we commend to Thy fatherly pity and protection all those Thy children, whosoever they may be, who are suffering from the cruelty of the oppressor; and especially that ancient nation, the people of Armenia, whose sons and daughters cry aloud to Thee, and to us, their brethren in Jesus Christ, for succor. Stay the hands of those by whom they have been so cruelly wronged and outraged; strengthen the purpose of Christian nations to arise and contend for their defense; kindle in the hearts of this people a spirit of service and sacrifice in their behalf; and so hasten, we beseech Thee, the day of their deliverance. All which we ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### ALEXANDER, NOT JOSEPH.

Our attention has been called, by Joseph Smith, president of the Reorganized church, to a letter from Golanville, Virginia, which appeared in the News about two weeks ago, wherein it is stated that John Fanning Petts, of Smyth county, Virginia, had visited

Nauvoo in 1842, and recently related how he had met the Prophet Joseph there. Among other memories, Brother Petts was credited with saying that the Prophet was carrying in his arms baby Joseph, now president of the Reorganized church. In preparing the letter for press the comparative dates were not observed closely, for young Joseph was born in 1832, being 12 years of age when his father was martyred. The baby referred to doubtless was young Alexander, and in recalling an event of more than fifty years before, Brother Petts probably got the names of the boys confused. We cheerfully make the correction, so that none of the readers of the NEWS may retain, if they have it, the idea that young Joseph was but two years old at the time of the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch. That sad event occurred fifty-one years ago, and the Prophet's son Joseph is now 63 years of age.

#### THE SENATOR FROM UTAH.

The Senator from Utah and Other Tales of the Wasatch, by Josephine Spencer, is a contribution to the home literature that will be read with interest. It deals with subjects of the day in the excellent style and depth of thought that already have given the author a reputation among those familiar with new writings in rhyme and prose.

In the introductory chapter she introduces a mysterious orator who addresses his audience on the qualities required in the Senator from Utah. There is in this chapter alone stored up a little treasure of thought and truth. Then follows a future view of Utah, "as it might be," were contention and strife to divide the interests of the State. This is vividly told in a little story in which the senator from Utah is one of the principal characters. In the second chapter, a Municipal Session, an effort of a member of the City Council to break the tyrannical power of a combine is described. This is followed by Finley Parker's Problem, a chapter devoted to a condition of things similar to those that produced the marching of the so-called industrial armies. In the next chapter the question of co-operation is thoughtfully illustrated. Letitia is a novellette charmingly told and deeply interesting on account of the many familiar objects around which it is woven. In Mariposa the reader is taken over Antelope Island, and Hester, the story of an interposition, closes the little volume.

The Senator from Utah is one of these literary introductions that can be read and re-read with profit. It should find its way to every home in Utah. It is published by George Q. Cannon & Sons company, Salt Lake City, Utah.

THERE is one remark of the London Standard regarding President Cleveland's financial views which will find ready acceptance in a large part of the country, particularly the West. It is that "it is tolerably certain that less ultimate harm will be done by the rejection of his proposals than by their adoption."