

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report of Postmaster General Vilas for the fiscal year which closed on the 30th of June, is a very gratifying exhibit of that important branch of the public service. The department has now become all but self-sustaining, much nearer to it than ever before in the country's history, while the ramifications have largely increased, expedition has been forwarded and improvements of various kinds have been inaugurated.

It is a sterling argument in favor of cheapness in rates that under a system which enables us to send an ounce letter for two cents, the revenue to the government is several millions in excess of what it was a few years ago when the rate was three cents for half an ounce; in other words, at sixty two and one-half per cent less, the profits are fully twenty-five per cent more. The increase in population accounts for but a small portion of this enormous gain; the real cause is the greater freedom with which people use the mails when a satisfactory document as to length and weight can be transported anywhere in the country for so little.

Mr. Vilas believes that early in the coming year the small excess of expenditures over receipts in his department will entirely disappear; and that if Congress can be induced to make an appropriation sufficiently large to purchase postal cars, and thus obviate renting them as at present, the postoffice bureau will at once thereafter become one of the government's sources of revenue. This would be a consummation never before thought of, certainly never seriously expected, and it shows how rapidly we are progressing. A few decades ago, when postage was twenty-five cents and letters as a consequence were few and far between, the thought that this indispensable adjunct of civilization could ever be made to subsidize, except by being set apart as a standing but inevitable luxury, was confined to a few who were looked upon as day dreamers; but if any one had told even them that before the generation ran out the price of postage would be reduced twelve and one-half times and a missive as heavy as is usually desired carried from shore to shore at that and the government make money out of it, it would have been treated as a case of extravagance in the use of language overreaching itself and accomplishing rapidly. Yet it was done last year within two million dollars, and the service is greatly superior to any we have ever had before. For all of which, a great deal of credit is due to Postmaster-General Vilas.

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

UNDER the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance for the United States, a general Christian conference is to be held in Washington, on the 7th, 8th and 9th instants. A programme for the three days has been prepared, from which it appears that a considerable number of the most learned, talented and celebrated ministers of the Union are to take part in the proceedings of the conference. These will consist largely of the delivery of addresses and the reading of papers upon prominent topics of the day, connected with the religion and civilization of the age.

One object of this conference seems to be to concentrate the highest intelligence among the theologians and clergymen of the country upon certain problems with which that class has to contend. Among these are "The Saloon," "The Social Vice," and others of like importance. "The Necessity of Co-operation Among Christian Churches" is a theme on which a number of prominent clergymen of different denominations are announced to speak. To a discussion of it more time will be given than to any other topic, as two sessions of the conference will be devoted to its different phases.

The advocacy of co-operation among the different sects will have the effect of counteracting sectarian narrowness, and of cultivating a broader charity and more extended liberality. It is likely that these ends are among those most desired to be accomplished by the promoters of the move, as they are in line with a marked tendency developed of late among certain sects in different states.

The proceedings of the conference will be spread before the country by the press, and the more thoughtful among the people will be interested in the manner in which the leading divines of the day will treat upon vital and prominent social and religious topics. The conference will result in good, as it is hardly possible for public opinion not to be affected in a favorable and healthful manner by its proceedings.

A circular letter signed by the president and secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, requests the publication in our columns of the programme; the length of the document is our reason for not complying with the request. This circular letter states that "the meeting promises to be one of the most important ever held on the continent."

A "NAPOLEONIC" CAREER.

THERE is a dash of adventure running through the career of Henry S. Ives, "the young Napoleon of Wall Street," which in effect has given the man a separate and distinct station among others of his kind who justify sundry and repeated irregularities on the plea of "financial skill." He gets into and out of trouble with an ease and indifference never before seen on so large a scale, at least not during late years. By some means best known to himself and his victims, he manages to obtain great sums of money every now and then, notwithstanding the fact that no dividends are ever declared and no substantial results exhibited. With most men, this sort of thing might be practiced once, or at the most only a few times, but Ives makes a business of it and prospers at it. He seems imbued with the idea that there is enough in the world for everybody, and as long as possession is a degree of respectability which generally places the possessor beyond the range of annoying inquiry, it does not matter much how the "boodle" is got; so there is no failure in the programme. If he had confined his transactions to tens, hundreds, or even a limited number of thousands of dollars, he would doubtless be serving out a term today; but he knows better. He goes after enough (and gets it) to take his transactions beyond the range of grand larceny and into a channel where courts and officers do not always hold forth.

A dispatch on Tuesday announced that Ives was preparing to take the aggressive again, and his partner having secured enough backing to once more enter Wall Street and become the terror and admiration of all dealers. We might have anticipated the sequel; on Thursday came another dispatch saying that a victim was going to make one more effort to secure Ives' arrest and indictment for converting to his own use certain securities of the value of half a million dollars, entrusted to him for a purpose but not the purpose to which they were put. And the mute types seemed to breathe forth something of the injured man's spirit of resentment and determination. Doubtless he is dead in earnest now, as several others have been before him, but it needs no intimate association with the perpetrator of the wrong to enable us to say that he is not much disturbed over the prospect and will go ahead with his new venture as though everything was as serene as the first blush of a June morning. A wonderful man, surely.

Shakspeare truly says of greatness that some men are born to it, others acquire it, and others still have it thrust upon them. It is difficult to tell exactly which of the conditions named presided over Ives' career, perhaps all of them. His is the kind of greatness many men surrender the greater part of this fleeting life to attain, to the exclusion of useful and honorable effort, and at last give it and life up together. A healthy young man who is not afraid to grapple with the realities of life, keeps his mind fixed upon an upright career and tries to make everything as pleasant as possible for himself and others as he goes along, is worth all of such people that ever had a being.

THE PUBLISHERS BLAMEABLE.

THE trouble and inconvenience that have resulted from the change in text books ordered by the Territorial School Convention last summer, have occasioned wide-spread regret throughout the Territory that any changes were made. It does not follow from this fact that the convention ought to be censured. It acted in good faith, and on the presumption that the publishing houses with which it was entering into agreements, were also acting in good faith.

But the latter, without exception, have failed to fill orders for books. Not a text book in use in the district schools of this Territory has been furnished in sufficient quantities to supply the demand. Teachers are being perplexed, pupils are being hindered in their progress and parents are being excessively annoyed. The public are blaming the stores for not keeping school books in stock, retail dealers are exasperated because the wholesale dealers do not fill their orders, while the latter find it impossible to obtain from the publishers the quantities of text books required.

The situation is about this: Acting upon the merits of the respective text books, and the bids at which publishers agreed to supply them, the convention ordered certain ones adopted. There is no way in which that order can be changed or modified within five years, except by special act of the Legislature. Hence, the district schools are at the mercy of the publishing houses whose books were adopted. True, those publishers agreed to supply the Territory, presumably with promptness, but unfortunately the contracts so to do were not made with any person, corporation or body authorized to enter suit for their enforcement. A publishing house which agreed to furnish the schools of this Territory with a given text book, and on the strength of whose agreement that text book was

adopted, cannot, nevertheless, be compelled by any action at law, to keep that contract, there being no person or persons authorized to act as plaintiff.

From this anomalous condition of things the district schools are suffering to an extent which proves the urgent necessity of a change in the school law. Some officer, board, or body should be authorized by law to enter into formal contracts with publishing houses, and to sue for the enforcement of the same. Such an arrangement would bring the school books into the Territory as fast as required. The change in text books has gone so far that a special legislative act rescinding the order of the convention, or providing for a reversal of it, would add to the existing trouble; hence there appears to be no remedy for the present state of affairs save an appeal to the magnanimity of the publishers.

In the foregoing Thomas Memmott, Esq., of Scipio, Millard County, who addressed to us a communication under date of Nov. 25th, making inquiries regarding the school book question, will find replies to his queries.

TEMPLES AS SEATS OF LEARNING.

THE following quotation from the prayer offered at the dedication of the Kirtland Temple, which was given by revelation and repeated at the dedication services, indicates one of the most important uses to which Temples, erected by the Latter-day Saints, are designed to be put:

And do thou grant, Holy Father, that all those who shall worship in this house, may be taught words of wisdom out of the best books, and that they may seek learning even by study, and also by faith, as Thou hast said.

In one sense, according to the views of the Latter-day Saints, the pursuit of intelligence is the worship of God. The Temples which they build are designed for the highest and purest forms and ordinances of religious worship, hence it is embraced within the purposes had in view in their erection that the highest and purest forms of intelligence shall be communicated to the worshippers within them.

It is eminently consistent with the objects for which the Saints build temples that the sacred structures should contain libraries, class and lecture rooms, and every other facility and convenience necessary to constitute them seats of learning; and that classes should be formed in them for the purpose of being instructed in all branches of science and useful knowledge, which in any way tend to make men better, wiser, or more intelligent. In the carrying on of certain kinds of legitimate temple work, instructors will be employed to teach the truths of every science and of the arts, to classes comprised of members who are worthy to receive instruction in such a place. To the highest learning of the age these instructors will add the inspiration of the Almighty, in imparting knowledge to their classes, and the result to be accomplished in time, should be a greater degree of intelligence among the temple workers and students of the Latter-day Saints than can be found elsewhere in the whole world.

As most solid and enduring growths in nature are the results of slow and gradual processes, so time will be consumed in bringing these seats of learning up to the standard to which it is the design they shall attain. But a very promising commencement has been made, as our readers will observe, who have perused the lectures which have been delivered in the Logan Temple and reproduced in these columns. The talent which has so far been employed in the educational work of that sacred institution has been of a sufficiently advanced order to be able to impart much valuable instruction to those who have attended the lectures delivered there, and as the progress of the classes shall require greater learning and intelligence on the part of instructors, teachers having the requisite qualifications will be found among the Saints.

No feature of the religion of the Latter-day Saints is more strikingly distinctive than that of temple building and temple work. In their estimation an unspeakable sacredness and importance attaches to this portion of their faith. In their devotion to it they have imparted generously of their substance for the erection of costly edifices in which to conduct those portions of their exercises for which ordinary houses of worship are inappropriate.

The lecture by Elder James A. Leishman on the "Establishment and Abolishment of the Primitive Church," recently delivered in the Logan Temple, and published in a late issue of the NEWS, is a sample of the instruction imparted therein. It was a comprehensive address, replete with valuable historical facts, and showing considerable merit and upon a variety of topics have been delivered in the same place, and the indications are that the interest and value of these Temple lectures will steadily increase.

At Rexburg, Idaho, on Friday morning, the 25th instant, on Mrs. Fred Laurey awakening, she was horrified to find that her little babe about six weeks old, lay dead in her arms. In all probability the baby had been overlaid.—*Logan Journal.*

NOT TO BE CAUGHT.

WE observe in some of the papers an account of an incident which is in unison with the proverbial tact and prudence for which President Cleveland has become noted. Some parties had laid out an addition to the City of St. Paul, Minnesota, after the manner of the lately defunct North Salt Lake addendum to this city. With that pure patriotic devotion to the welfare of great men in high positions for which land "boomers" are conspicuous, the St. Paul men named two of the streets Grover and Folsom avenues. They then made out a deed to the corner lot and sent it to President Cleveland. That distinguished gentleman is not to be caught with that kind of bait. In answer he returned the deed accompanied by the following letter:

"I send you with this a quit claim deed executed by Mrs. Cleveland and myself to you and other parties who were grantors in a deed to me of the premises in Cleveland Park, near the city of St. Paul. The object of the deed enclosed is to reconvey the property described therein to the parties who, with the kindest intentions, transferred it to me as a gift. I don't know why this land should be given to me, and if it is of value, I think that those who by their enterprise have laid out the park should have the benefit of it. I am much pleased by the kindly feeling which prompted the conveyance to me, and beg to assure you that the pleasure thus afforded is fully equal to that which I should experience by retention of the lot which I reconvey."

The action of the President was neat and appropriate on its face, the reply being scrupulously guarded so as to avoid giving offense. What he really had in his mind was: "Now, look here! If you supposed I couldn't see through the dodge to make me an advertising medium for your little 'boom,' you are greatly mistaken. The feeling that prompted you to make this tender to me is a sneaking kindness you have for yourselves. You were hoping to make me the means of money-making for you. Try something and somebody else."

On general principles it is very bad taste to tender substantial presents to men who occupy prominent and influential positions, unless they happen to be in actual need of them. But that should never be, as it is the duty of the public to substantially maintain in the usual way men who are occupied in the public service. Men who show a feverish anxiety to make valuable tenders to high officials are apt to be inspired by ulterior motives, for there are numerous poor in the world, who are on the sharp edge of starvation, to whom the means thus expended would give great relief. In that direction there is all the outlet that could be desired for outbursts of benevolence. For spurts of seeming philanthropy which expect return showers of favors, there are opportunities in the process of throwing gifts at the feet of the wealthy and influential.

The high official who is a taker of gifts is, in a limited sense, a receiver of bribes, especially when it is evident that the tender is made in the anticipation of a return in the shape of official favors. Some of the men who have occupied the position of Chief Magistrate of this nation have been examples in this respect, having been scrupulous in declining all approaches of that character. Among the most prominent in this respect are George Washington and Grover Cleveland.

TIGHTENING THE STAVES.

MR. BALFOUR, the British Home Secretary for Ireland, is keeping his promise to show no leniency to violators of his specially constructed law in relation to the Irish. Under the coercion act, proposed meetings or demonstrations on the part of the National League or other Milesian organizations can be proclaimed—that is, forbidden—and it is not only a misdemeanor to engage in such gatherings thereafter, but to publish the details of them as well. This will strike some people as a peculiar piece of work for a modern statesman to elaborate upon and enforce without discrimination, but it is law, and of course, as such, must be obeyed. One thing must be said in Balfour's favor—he is impartial and exempts no one from the operations of his imperious statute because of age, sex or condition in life; the high and the low, the rich and the poor, go into court through the same door and are driven in the same "Black Maria" to Tullamore Jail.

If, however, the honorable secretary has an especial grudge it is against members of Parliament and editors, which he gratifies by means of the operations of his copyrighted law. It would, perhaps, be a little too severe on him to say that as all of the members who violate it belong in the ranks of the opposition, he is killing two birds with one stone by locking them up—impartially enforcing the law and quietly reducing their strength and influence. He managed to capture a brother statesman nearly every day lately, and if this kind of thing continues there will soon be no Home Rulers left in Parliament.

Two distinguished editors are now beholding only so much of daylight as

comes through the narrow windows of a jail on account of Mr. Balfour's determination and his subalterns' vigilance—O'Brien and Sullivan. In addition to their editorial duties, the former is a member of Parliament and the latter Lord Mayor of Dublin. The offense in the first case, was speaking at a meeting in and the second publishing the proceedings of one Ordinarily, there would seem nothing heinous in either case, unless the mere fact that Mr. Balfour's peculiar enactment contravenes those constitutional privileges makes it such. We suspect that some English statesmen are like some others nearer home of whom we have heard; when great results are to be accomplished the proper thing to do, in their estimation, is to accomplish them first and discuss the constitutionality of the proceedings afterward.

O'Brien and Sullivan, in addition to their exalted official station, are men of high character, much learning and splendid abilities. They are simply, in their dungeon cells, examples of how impossible it is to all at once adjust a yoke to a neck unused to wearing one. If matters had been revolutionized by easier stages, if the transition from a state of things in which freedom of speech and the press prevailed to the throttling of one and the censorship of the other had been brought about with less abruptness, perhaps those whom the changed condition affects would have grown into it and eventually have given the powers that be trouble in that connection. And we very much question the efficacy of such radical, not to say vindictive, enforcement of the law as is now going on in Ireland. Men are not convinced by force nor won over by indignities; they may, as they generally do, go to prison without a murmur, but prison fare and prison discipline do not extirpate thought nor abolish convictions, and those who are conscious of having committed no real offense against man or the rights of man, will be apt to emerge from their confinement with the faith that is in them strengthened and renewed by the ordeal.

No properly balanced person thinks of extending sympathy to the hardened criminal or punting up palliation for his crime. It is well for the world that it is so. It is also the fact that men who sometimes fall beneath a blow of special legislation are offenders of so artificial a character that correct thinkers respect them more than they do their tormentors. Something of this kind is suggested when a portion of the British press pronounce the imprisonment of Sullivan a national scandal, and those which are constrained by party fealty to uphold it do so in very gingerly terms. Perhaps, after a while, Mr. Balfour will reconsider.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

AT 4:15 o'clock this afternoon the French Congress completed its labors by electing M. Sadi-Carnot President of the Republic, after a long and unbroken session in which animadversion and recrimination figured conspicuously. It looked this morning as though Ferry would be chosen, he was leading the list so far, and was so substantially backed, the Suez and Panama Canal Companies being concerned in his political promotion and using money and influence freely to secure his success.

Sadi-Carnot is what we would call in this country a compromise candidate. He is a strict republican and has some of the elements which appear in all the other gentlemen whose names were mentioned for the position. He will undoubtedly unite the various factions and take up the work of national prosperity where Grevy laid it down. France thus passes safely through one of the most critical ordeals in her history.

Shooting Scrape at Uintah.

At about 3:30 o'clock this morning Mr. Howard Connor, a railway employe of the Union Pacific, accompanied by Mr. J. H. Thompson, and another man whose name we have not learned, all of whom had been out to a ball, came into the Pacific Hotel and applied for a room and bed. The night clerk at the time was in the bar-room serving some customers, and the night porter, Mr. James Neal was on watch in the office, behind the counter. Mr. Connor and Mr. Thompson had registered, and the third party had taken the pen and commenced writing his name, when a dispute arose between Connor and the porter, the details of which we are unable to learn at present, which ended in Neal's drawing a pistol and shooting Connor. The ball struck a rib on the right side, and glancing around under the flesh lodged in his back. The quarrel began in the office, and the shooting occurred soon after in the hallway leading to the dining room. Dr. F. H. Harrison was called, and he extracted the bullet. The wound, though quite painful, is not considered very dangerous. Howard is resting quietly this morning. Mr. Neal has been arrested and placed in jail. Further facts and details are expected to be developed at the preliminary examination, which will probably be deferred for a short time until Mr. Howard is able to appear, or until the full extent of his injury is known.—*Uintah Chieftain, Nov. 24.*