

Mormons of their rights, the respectable element in the State show a wholly different disposition. They receive the Elders with kindness and courtesy; they open their houses to them with generous hospitality; and they accord them a fair hearing. This manner of treatment comes from state, county and city officials, from newspaper editors and from honorable citizens generally. One unpunished event like that recorded in the item from Live Oak will do more in the eyes of the country to injure Florida's reputation than a dozen kind actions can counteract in the mind of the public generally; but the Mormons, both missionaries and those at home, are appreciative of the fact that the representative classes of Florida's citizens are above the despicable mobocracy which makes a person's religious convictions a cause for ill-treatment.

### EGYPT'S FUTURE.

There is much difference of opinion in Europe as to whether or not England will relinquish her control of Egypt at an early date; the continental papers declare that that relinquishment is inevitable, while British journals take the view that England is permanently established in the valley of the lower Nile and may extend her possessions to the institution of an East African empire something similar to that in India. In view of the supposed retirement of the British, as regarded by the continental nations, it is interesting to note that there is a new claimant for Egyptian control in the person of the king of Belgium, who has been making great headway in the upper Nile country, and who seems to be ambitious of becoming the sole master of the whole Nile valley.

Upon this subject a late issue of the Brussels *Soleil* declares that in his plan to secure this mastery, the Belgian king has quietly but steadily pursued his aim ever since Stanley returned from Africa; that while others talked, King Leopold acted; that sometimes it was said that he was working for England, at other times that he favored Italy, but the truth is that he looked after his own interests; that the Belgians do not intend to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for others. Wadai, Dufel, Gondokoro and Lado were in the possession of the Kongo state while France and England were still preparing to get there. Upon this statement of the case it is urged that King Leopold's activity must end in his obtaining possession of the land of the Pharaohs, and the influence which both France and England seek to obtain will go to King Leopold, for England, once driven from Egypt, will become a warm friend of the Kongo state.

Possibly King Leopold may be successful in carrying out his daring Egyptian policy, but to an onlooker it appears that its accomplishment will be attended by a condition giving England very important powers in connection therewith. The last named country might be willing to accept something of that kind in order to shut out effectively France, Russia and Italy; but the English will not retire any further than to a position to where

they would be "the power behind the throne." The effective control of Egypt, either direct or indirect, is too vital to British welfare to be relinquished while England has diplomatic or physical ability to order it otherwise.

### WHAT WATER DID NOT DO.

It would seem that the special correspondents sent by the English press to America the past season largely belonged to the "booby" class, and that the way they were "guyed" in many quarters indicated to a marked degree their imbecility and irresponsibility as newspaper men. This has been shown up in the experience of several parts of the country, and Utah is getting its share. A few days ago we made reference to the absurdities of a special correspondence from this city to the London Telegraph, and now have occasion to note in the same connection a like correspondence to the London Mail. The writer to the last named paper signs himself G. W. Stevens; and in his letters disclose anything worthy of reading, from the standpoint of accuracy, it is not easily discernible. There is a lot of trash about how missionaries are sent out by the Church and what is done with converts who come to Utah; also about Church organization, polygamy, and other matters associated with the Mormon people, all intended, of course, to throw discredit on the Mormons. The source of information is alleged to be prominent residents of Salt Lake City, from where the letters are assumed to be written. Among those to whom Mr. Stevens refers as giving him information are a "judge" who edits a newspaper and a "judge" who is secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Here is an extract from one of the Stevens letters:

"But Brigham Young was a big man?" said I.

"He was a natural boss," said the judge, "but not near so big a man as his people made out. He pretended to receive telephone messages from the Almighty every time, and they did what he told them. But he was a bully and a braggart; he hadn't any real courage. He was not a Mahomet, sir."

"But he did a lot here."

"He had a lot of men working. It looks wonderful to make a garden out of a desert; but it was the water did it. A tribe of civilized Indians down in New Mexico had done it before, and the Spaniards had always irrigated. I guess you won't find anything here in the way of irrigation they haven't got in Egypt. And you can water this land in a year; back East it took a man a lifetime to clear his patch of forest."

That was the view of a man who had fought Mormonism for twenty years and had beaten it.

Whether the foregoing came from the "judge" editor or the "judge" secretary, or some other "judge," Mr. Stevens does not make quite clear, so the honors may go where they will. But in view of the fact that many of the reading public accept newspaper statements as true, the "humor" which led to "guying" the green Britisher in the foregoing fashion will not be appreciated by Utah people. No doubt all the land under

canals here can be watered in a year; it is profitably irrigated several times a year, which is more than can be said of some other subjects under a different species of "irrigation." But the Indians did not do it, and the Spaniards did not do it, and the Egyptians did not do it, in Utah; neither did water make the Utah desert a garden. The people who plowed and planted and cultivated; who made the roads and built the bridges; who constructed the dams, reservoirs, canals and ditches; who fought famine, and drouth, and Indians, and devouring insects; who brought out the water from mountain gorges or hidden springs and applied it to parched soil and thirsty vegetation, when they had coaxed that vegetation into existence by ceaseless thought, and toil, and worry—these are the people who made of the desert a garden. The "water did it" story is not told by those who have practical knowledge of irrigation by water, for they know it is not true. Neither did water-power reel off the stories about Utah told to the glib Englishman who writes for the Mail.

### GROSS MISREPRESENTATION OF UTAH.

A short time ago Secretary of State Hammond received a letter from a wealthy resident of Glasgow, Scotland, who is largely interested in the sugar industry at Greenock and who desired to know something of the best-sugar opportunities in Utah, with a view of investing a large amount of money therein. The wealthy Scotchman, Mr. Stewart, presented a long list of inquiries, intended to elicit the desired information. It appears that a similar letter was sent to officials in other states and territories, one being received by Hon. Lorion Miller, secretary of New Mexico. New Mexico has a large sugar factory just started in the Pecos valley, at which place the chemist of the Utah sugar factory spent some time last season giving the people information concerning beet raising and sugar production. Mr. Miller referred Mr. Stewart's letter to A. C. Campbell, of Eddy, N. M., general attorney of the Pecos irrigation and improvement company, and the Pecos Valley Argus says Mr. Campbell's response is "a complete and very satisfactory reply." Here is one of its statements:

In Utah lands are owned by Mormons, and held in small tracts, and are not for sale at any price except to a Mormon.

That a person to the territory of New Mexico, with sufficient learning and assumed respectability to be admitted to the bar, should be so grossly ignorant of the law or so wilfully perverse in morals as to utter such a base falsehood seems incredible, but the proof is conclusive. And there can be no excuse for this alleged lawyer making such an utterance. He knows, when he knows anything of the land laws in the United States, that the condition he describes is an utter impossibility under those laws; that there is in Utah as well as in New Mexico a vast area of the public domain not yet passed to private ownership; that it is as open to non-Mor-