

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

IN FAVOR OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

The growth of the Amantine movement in the United States is an anomaly. That a society whose avowed purpose is hostility to a given religion, and whose very life is the essence of religious intolerance, should have a successful rise and rapid growth in the midst of the freest nation on the globe, whose people hold sacred, as the very cornerstone of their social and political fabric, the doctrine of religious liberty, is one of the most singular social phenomena of the times.

Its character as such appears still more marked when it is remembered that not a single man who has been known in any state of the Union as a leader in thought or politics, or as possessing extended influence in religious circles, has openly favored the movement, and that not a solitary newspaper of standing in the whole country, has become the organ, or even the advocate, of the new organization.

On the contrary, the thinkers and speakers, as well as the newspapers, that usually represent the sentiment of the American people on any public question, almost unanimously denounce the Amantine organization. In their denunciation they are joined by religious leaders, and at least some of the leading Protestant denominations. For example, the Rock River (Ill.) conference of the M. E. church, which recently convened, adopted a preamble and resolutions, in which the following appeared:

Whereas, Religious liberty is the birth-right of every human soul, as well as the *sine qua non* of the best civilization and the grandest achievements; and,

Whereas, The government of the United States guarantees to, and the Protestant churches and their adherents in this land stand ready to defend Roman Catholics in the exercise of liberty of conscience, and the right to worship God according to their convictions and training, etc., etc.

To say that the News endorses the sentiments here expressed, and honors the M. E. church for expressing and entertaining them, is but to reiterate what we have often said upon this subject. The Amantine organization, so far as its purpose is concerned, is un-American, un-Christian, unjust, tyrannical, subversive of all true liberty, and worthy of the severest condemnation of the American people. Its methods are detestable and its principles are abhorrent to every true lover of freedom. It has no place in America, and should under no circumstances receive the support of Americans. It is a public enemy of a peculiarly obnoxious character, and should be treated as such.

The News is in favor of religious liberty. The life labor of this journal has been a contest in favor of this principle. No matter what religious body may be made the victim of its intended subversion, this paper will defend and advocate the doctrine of religious tolerance and antagonize its opponents. With the grievous history before us, of fair Utah, that suffered so much and so long in consequence of a religious con-

test, we can stand on no other platform, neither can the mass of the people of this Territory.

A MAGNIFICENT WORK.

There is perhaps no better criterion of a nation's advancement or lack of advancement than that offered by the condition and extent of its vocabulary. With every step of true progress along the line of intellectual activity, with every new discovery in nature, man feels the need of new words, or more precise signification of the words already in use, to express the new ideas. The present century may be called the carboniferous era of mental growth; the world is teeming with the strength of increase in discovery and invention, and the growth of our vocabulary is of a rate and stability wholly unprecedented. Dictionaries and lexicons soon fall behind the times, and constant revisions and extensions are necessary in the listed words of our tongue. It is freely admitted by the British press and critics that the best dictionaries for English speaking people originate in America; and in spite of American departures in spelling and pronunciation from the old time style of Britain, the best lexicons from the New World are readily acknowledged as standards in the Old.

The colossal Century dictionary, a cyclopedic work of six volumes, has met with general and well deserved commendation; but its great bulk and cost militate against its very general use. Nevertheless it stands a lasting and towering monument to the zeal and ability of American scholarship.

Recently, however, another work, less costly and less cumbersome than the Century, while thoroughly up to date, has appeared in the world of letters; this is the Standard dictionary, published by the New York house of the Funk & Wagnalls Co. In many respects this latest English lexicon is unique—in the first place it is a combined dictionary and thesaurus. To use the ordinary dictionary advantageously one must know the word he is in quest of; the thesaurus aids in finding the word to fit the idea. In the Standard dictionary, one turns to "architecture," for example, and finds under that caption not a simple definition of the term, but a list of all the words having any special signification in architecture and each of the words there listed is properly defined in its place in the vocabulary.

The arrangement of the matter is that suggested by reason and experience; thus, instead of following the old-time method of giving the derivation and obsolete usages of the word first, and the correct definitions last, the Standard presents first the word, properly spelled, as a heading; then the correct pronunciation; then the correct meaning, and after this, the special and obsolete definitions are given, with quotations to serve as illustrations. Beside the list of synonyms accompanying each important term, a corresponding list of autonyms is

given. But the chief distinguishing feature of the great work lies in the fact that every definition, every line, has been passed upon by chosen specialists: thus, church terms are not simply defined by writers whose knowledge is drawn from prejudiced sources, but all such terms have been passed by a specialist learned in the lore of the church represented. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has had free and ample representation in the work, every term appearing in its columns and having special meaning in the church usage or the theology of the Latter-day Saints has been defined or at least has had the definition approved by a committee of competent men selected by the authorities of the Church named. We believe this to be the first time in the history of this people that so liberal and just a treatment has been accorded them in any such work.

The editorial staff has comprised about 250 office writers and specialists; beside whom, 500 readers have been kept employed seeking quotations for illustration. Among the editors, one of our Utah scholars is prominent—we refer to Dr. James E. Talmage, who has been a member of the staff from the beginning of the enterprise.

The work itself is a handsome production; nothing has been spared in the effort to make it beautiful in appearance, and durable in style, as it is excellent in design, and unsurpassed in literary merit.

MUST HAVE RAILROAD AID.

The News believes in conceding to the owners of a business enterprise, as a rule, the privilege of conducting it according to their own notions. Railroads usually come within the operation of this rule, though they sometimes afford exceptions to it, owing to their peculiar relations to the state and to the people. What we are about to say may be regarded perhaps, as an infringement upon the rule stated, but it is said from a profound conviction of duty, and with a kindly feeling to all concerned.

Utah has a sugar factory. It is a gigantic plant, and cost a very large amount of money. A tremendous effort was required to build it. Inspired by pure patriotism, and a lofty regard for the highest interests of all the people of this commonwealth, a number of gentlemen possessed of means and credit, stepped boldly forward and shouldered the load which someone had to carry in order to prevent the failure of the enterprise, and the people are grateful to them. The Utah Legislature aided it by giving a bounty on sugar, and every taxpayer feels himself personally interested in its permanent success, as he most assuredly is. The bankers, merchants and business men of the whole Territory are very much concerned for its prosperity, and are very proud of it. In a word, all the people of Utah, individually and collectively, feel a lively interest in this factory. To them it is a source of joy and pride, as well of something more substantial, a necessary article of food. It means hundreds of thousands of dollars saved annually to this Territory, and it