of crowding, and ill health, and poverty that characterize all large cities elsewhere; that is, if public matters were conducted in view of the general advantages which we possess. These claims we will not attempt to dispute, for there is a great future before Salt Lake and Utah.

In securing additions to our population from the great cities of the East, however, there is one point not to be lost sight of, to insure success. A great inducement for eastern people to change is that in their present abodes they are too crowded—they do not have breathing room. Their streets are too often narrow and dingy; when they come to Utah they are filled with admiration at the broad, open streets, they breathe freer in the abundance of fresh, pure air and clear sunlight, and there is a thrill of liberty such as they have not experienced before; they long to enjoy it and to leave it as a heritage to their children. But there is one feature which rises in their minds as an objection to Salt Lake as a thickly-populated city, and hence they hesitate. In the East they have close streets and crowded thoroughfares, but they have spacious and numerous parks which are a pride and a joy. In Salt Lake we have the wide, beautiful streets, but the parks are lacking; and the homeseeker looks with a nameless dread to the closely-built city that comes of necessity with a dense population and its want of sufficient parks for breathing places, which not even the spacious streets can supply to the extent desirable.

We are filled with praise of the wisdom and foresight of the Pioneers who laid out this city and founded this Territory; but in an important respect their wise foresight is being measurably unheeded. The open public grounds which at one time were designed for every district of the municipality have been diminished. Some have been wholly devoted to other purposes; though some remain to a limited extent. Union Square is occupied by the University buildings, and in time a portion of the grounds there may be suitably parked; Agricultural Square is used for the Exposition buildings and grounds, with less than half of it left for general public purposes; Washington Square is taken up by the city and county building, its grounds being laid out in a most satisfactory manner for public use; Pioneer Square was donated for a railway depot, but is now abandoned and remains a barren spot that is a reproach to the municipality. Besides this we have Liberty Park, destined to be a most beautiful place, and Capitol Hill, another fine location; yet altogether the total available parking grounds in the city are under 200 acres in extent.

At a recent election, Baltimore, by popular vote, authorized the investment of $1,000,000 in another park; the property is "Clifton," the country place of the late Johns Hopkins, and it gives a large acreage to public purposes. Then Baltimore has Druid Hill park, 700 acres, Patterson park, 106 acres, Federal Hill, Riverside, and Carroll parks, all of large acreage, besides a dozen or more small parks, from two to six acres in extent. Every section of the city has its country place and playgrounds; and in all this grand system of parks, the affairs are so conducted that there is no burden on the taxpayers—the latter a condition which probably cannot be reached by Salt Lake, but is a reminder of opportunities which have been. It was accomplished by Baltimore granting railway franchises in the city conditioned on the payment of nine per cent of the gross revenues to the park commission; from this source the park revenues amount to nearly $300,000 a year. As was aptly expressed in a recent report of the system: "The street railway business flourishes, and the only difference between Baltimore and other cities in this respect is that the companies have to pay the city and not the politicians for their franchises."

Now the Chamber of Commerce cannot give to us all that Baltimore has, but it can inaugurate a movement by which all our public parks will be retained and improved, and their number and extent be added to as opportunity offers and occasion requires. Thus may be removed the only notable objection which exists to Salt Lake as a city desirable above all others, east or west, for homes. This will not require a great outlay of means in the direction indicated; the making of improvements may come in due time, when circumstances are favorable. But it demands the institution of a definite public policy by which everybody shall be assured that as Salt Lake increases in population her inhabitants shall have other breathing places, and her children other playgrounds than the streets. The lungs of a great city, to be healthful, must not be thoroughfares for business and traffic—they should be parks and gardens, with all the freshness and beauty belonging thereto.

In regard to Pioneer Square, there is one proposition which the Chamber could look into, and which would receive the endorsement of every good citizen. It also would be giving important assistance to the educational department of the city. Not long ago the city Board of Education was looking for a place for a city high school, and there was a project to secure a little spot of ground where the old county court house now stands—which project fortunately failed. But just one block from the old county court house stands unused a beautiful ten-acres, the grandest spot in the city from a historic point of view—Pioneer Square. To what more appropriate use could the Old Fort—the identical spot where the Pioneers first rested in this valley and called it by the endearing title of home—be put than for the chief educational structure of the Pioneer city of the Rocky Mountains? Not the cramped spot formerly proposed, but spacious, well situated grounds. Why not give to Salt Lake City school district the right to use two and a half acres in the center of the east side of Pioneer Square for a high school building, on condition that the remaining seven and a half acres be kept in order by the school district as a public park? Pioneer Square should never be put to a baser use than the best within reach of the municipality—the intellectual and physical development of the city's youth.

The precept in advertising Salt Lake is in sending out pamphlets and reading matter and having displays; all are necessary. But the real basis of success is to accompany these by the example of doing something at home in the way of development, public or private, by business, industrial, educational and other enterprises, which are convincing proof of the determination to do as well as to say, to work at working as well as at talking.

JAPAN AND THE WEST.

The hesitation of Japan to accept the treaty with the United States, on account of an amendment adopted by the Senate and considered unfavorable to the island empire, shows very plainly the awakening self-consciousness of the nation and its determination to assert its equality with the most civilized countries in the world. And this is all the more remarkable because Japan is a non-Christian power striving for admission on equal terms in the great family of the Christian peoples.

The emergence of Japan out of obscurity is the work of but one short generation. From the time Commodore Perry visited the islands, in 1853, and exhibited some of the wonders of Christian civilization, the interest in Western progress was aroused, and steps were soon taken to regenerate the country. Everything foreign was adopted and given a fair trial. At present Japan has a constitutional government, a railroad system, representatives at foreign courts, a modern navy and army, educational institutions, and almost every other organization necessary for further progress. Above all, the whole nation is inspired by that patriotism and enthusiasm for its own interests, that, if well directed, may yet assign it an important role on the stage of the world.

One phase of Japan's history deserves special attention. While the country adopted foreign institutions of every kind, the Christian religion as represented by the churches of the world, was also admitted and given a hearing. At one time missionaries fancied that Christianity would be adopted as a substitute for the prevailing religions. Lately, however, this hope has been all but abandoned. A closer study of the doctrines of the West has produced a conviction in Japan that her future religion must be either Buddhism or Confucianism or Shintoism reformed on the lines suggested by Christianity. What is considered good in this latter system may be adopted and incorporated in the existing creeds, but in the main the teachings of the churches are considered inferior and so marked is this sentiment that missionary societies begin to contemplate the advisability of withdrawing some of their missionaries, seeing that their work there is of but little avail. Should it happen, then, that Japan attains a position of equality among Christian nations while still retaining most of the anti-Christian principles inherited from the past; should the emblem of the rising sun be floated on a level with that of the cross, and should Japan and