

merce is greatly aided by its extensive communications from within and without; the Elbe at the point at which Hamburg is situated widens out abruptly and becomes from there on to the mouth virtually an arm of the sea rather than a river. By means of recent improvements vessels of all grades and displacements can now at any season or whether the water is high or low deliver their cargoes and take on freights directly at the warehouses, which was not so until lately, vessels drawing more than eighteen feet of water being unable to come in at all and the others being only able to come near when the tide was in. No sooner has the city prepared itself for still greater strides in the commercial world than the plague descends upon her and it becomes a question not of enhanced prosperity but of merely sustaining itself. The population at this time cannot be far from a quarter of a million.

### A NEW MINERAL TREASURE.

Doctor James E. Talmage of this city has just returned from a trip into southeastern Utah, whither he has been in the interests of science generally and of the Deseret Museum in particular. He speaks in pleasing terms of a deposit of magnificent crystals of selenite, or pure crystallized gypsum, which occurs in one of the side canyons of the Dirty Devil (or Fremont) river, in the newly created county of Wayne. This deposit was first made known by Brother John R. Young, who once lived in that region; he brought specimens of the material to this city, and Dr. Talmage, realizing the scientific interest attached to them, took the earliest opportunity of visiting the location. It was his first intention to remove but few of the crystals, leaving most of the formation undisturbed as a natural beauty; but he soon found that the spirit of vandalism manifested by most of those who visited the place would soon destroy the crystals, so he at once took steps to secure legal title to the land, and as soon as this was perfected, operations for the removal of the selenite crystals were begun.

The material occurs in a small cave, which is bounded by a gypsum shell, and this stands in relief on the side of a sandstone hill. Perfect crystals have already been removed, measuring from an inch to three feet in length, and weighing from an ounce to two hundred pounds apiece. One group of superb crystals taken out last week weighed not less than 600 pounds. A number of these magnificent formations are on exhibition at the Deseret Museum, where a Nkw's representative saw and admired them. We were permitted also to examine photographic negatives of the cave and the formations adjacent.

The Doctor states that this material, selenite, has no commercial or money value, as no use has yet been found for it in quantity, aside from the manufacture of plaster of paris, and for this purpose the uncrystallized varieties of "plaster stone" are preferable. The entire value of the crystals in question depends upon their scientific interest, and upon the lessons which they teach concerning the laws of nature

and of God, by which they have acquired their symmetry and beauty. It is the intention of the Museum authorities to remove the specimens to this city, then to send the choicest to the World's Fair; afterwards to distribute specimens to all the noted scientific institutions of this and other countries.

It is pleasing to find persons in the community who see worth and interest in other things than dollars and dimes; and who will undertake the development of scientific matters for their own sweet sake alone. Dr. Talmage remarked that he had never yet found time or inclination to prosecute mining for gain of means; and that this is his first personal experience in mining. This involves a constant outlay of means and a steady income of knowledge and satisfaction concerning the wonderful ways of the Creator.

### UNOSTENTATIOUS FUNERALS.

The policy of unostentation and cheapness at funerals is one that gains ground and finds favors among the more advanced in intellect and the more thoughtful in every department of life. It has all along been understood that grief that is real and heartfelt cannot be assuaged by pomp and ceremony; the sorrow which a human being feels over the loss of a relative or friend is apt to be too deep-laid for anything merely superficial to reach it; there is more in the presence, the comforting words and respectful demeanor of neighbors and acquaintances, than in all else that man can do, and when to these is added that consolation which only comes through faith in the Gospel and a glorious reunion beyond the grave, all that mere outward ostentation can accomplish seems little more than so much solemn mockery.

It is not that ceremonial attention or fitting adornments should be altogether wanting when we lay to rest all that is earthly of our loved ones; quite the reverse. They should be so attired and surrounded that they will be as beautiful to look upon as anything within the cold and clammy grasp of death can be; but it is not at all necessary that expensive trappings and high-priced adornments be provided, especially when those who are responsible for the cost are poor and in need of all they have—that is, in showing respect, and feeling respect, for the dead, we should at no time entirely forget the duty which is owing to those who still live.

We have said that simplicity in this regard was obtaining favor among the more advanced socially and intellectually, and so it is. A recent conspicuous case was that of the poet laureate of Great Britain, Alfred Tennyson. The services on the occasion of his funeral were, as he wished them to be, of the simplest character. The journey from the home where he had lived to Westminster Abbey is described by one writer as having been accomplished "with a beautiful poverty of ceremony and display." Being averse to hearses, his dislike in that respect was observed and the coffin was carried from the house by old servants and placed in a small cart waiting to receive it. The relatives arranged themselves in the rear and the procession moved slowly

to the tomb, those who stood along the roads and streets along the line of march reverently raising their hats and making other undemonstrative tokens of respect. What more could be done? Would he himself have desired anything else?

Another instance in point was the funeral of Mrs. Harrison. All arrangements were marked with the utmost simplicity and most sincere respect. The ceremonies themselves were destitute of glitter and glare either in speech or action. A few words expressive of the worth and character of the deceased added to the faith and hopes of those she left behind, was quite enough and would be in any case. As the poet so truthfully and forcibly expresses it—"Can flattery soothe the dull, cold ear of death?" We should realize the appositeness of this and let our actions be governed accordingly.

Nowhere in the world is there less excuse for vainglorious display and hyperbole than here in Utah among the Latter-day Saints. Such things are not only opposed and urged against in a social way, but the instructions which we receive from time to time as well as the numerous object lessons imparted when one of our leading men or women is laid away, all go to show that vanity or mere show—always objectionable at any time or place—is never so much so as on an occasion calling for solemnity, sacredness and simplicity.

### RUNNING CHICAGO DOWN.

Chicago has the reputation of being a place where one can live higher or cheaper than anywhere else on the continent. There are a good many subscribers to the first part of the certificate of character, though the train who are willing to make affidavit to the latter is somewhat abbreviated and altogether tenuous; it may be said that immediately after a great fete or red letter day in the Lake City, there are no visitors at all charitable enough or hardy enough to bear the mildest kind of testimony in opposition to anything of a damaging character that is said concerning the denizens thereof.

One who "took in" the dedication ceremonies to (presumably) the fullest extent, gives vent to his feelings in the following strain: "About the only thing that visitors to the Chicago celebration were not charged ten prices for was air." This is rather steep; it is at least steep enough to call forth the following vigorous and explanatory denial from the *Mall* of that city:

"That's not true. Hotel prices were raised somewhat, but transportation of every kind, save that of the hack drivers, remained the same, as did prices of everything desired by the human palate or the ordinary mentality. Admission to concerts, dramatic performances and shows of every name was precisely what it always was. In fact, it would be difficult for our contemporary to specify any desideratum outside of hotels and livery accommodations for which there was the faintest pretext of an extra charge."

Those who contemplate visiting the great show next near—and it is a "fair" presumption that their name is legion or a large part thereof—will