

## EDITORIALS.

## SIMPLICITY IN PUBLIC SPEECH

THE lively and pointed correspondence of "Junius" in relation to the St. Louis Convention is, as is usual with his contributions, plethoric with profitable suggestions. In this respect his allusions to the quality of the speeches may be reflected upon with profit. Those delivered by P. A. Collins and Daniel Dougherty are described as models, while those of some of the other delegates are alluded to with some degree of contempt.

The cause of the preference was the existence of two elements of power in speech—directness and simplicity. There was no straining for effect, clearness being the leading consideration.

"Junius" is on this subject in unison with a growing spirit of the times, a tide having set in against "high-falutin'" in public utterances, written or spoken. This is a community of preachers, the genius of the body religious being such as to create the latter in unusual numbers. The high duty devolves upon the Church to flood the world with truth. The most direct route to the attainment of that object is the most profitable, because it admits of the largest amount of work being done in the briefest practicable time. The clearest and simplest methods of presenting it must be the most satisfactory; it enables truth to reach with the least impediment the understanding and the heart. Delivered in simplicity, by the power of the Spirit of Truth, it reaches its mark with the precision and speed of a well directed bullet from a firearm in good repair. When truth is clothed in elaborate habiliments the comprehension and affection of the hearer are deprived of their legitimate part by the temptation to gaze with mazy admiration at the intricate and fine spun garments. Thus the effect of truth is diminished by its being partially obscured from immediate view.

The area of the comprehension of truth should not be narrowed down or limited by the manner in which it is presented. The simpler process of expressing it insures the largest practicable receptacle. While there are many capable of understanding correct principles when tendered in high-sounding phrases of speech, there are greater numbers who are incapable of grasping it in that form of presentation. From this standpoint the duty of a public teacher is clear, on the principle of doing the greatest good to the largest number. This is of singular force in its application to the preacher of the Gospel. Condensation combined with simplicity is a growing demand of the age, in speaking to and writing for the public. And we should say that our young men, in going into the world to make the Gospel proclamation, should aim at presenting the message of which they are the bearers in the simplest and most effective manner possible to them. When rhetorical figures are used they should be of that character that will enable the auditor the more readily to comprehend the central thought conveyed. In this respect the Savior's utterances have never been approached, while His sermon on the mount is a paramount model of condensation. There was with Him no effort to produce an effect on the minds of those to whom He spoke that He was a great orator. He was essentially a teacher of truth. The very simplicity of his utterances constituted their chief beauty, and was in them an element of power. It is an essential aim to speak correctly, but not diffusively. The latter feature should be guarded against, that the facts enunciated may not be so enshrouded in words and metaphor as to require an unusual effort to discover them.

The genuine orator is he who stirs the intellect and the heart to the highest degree of activity. To produce this effect, both must be subjected to a direct appeal. A simple, earnest, intelligent presentation of truth constitutes the means.

## CHURCH SCHOOLS.

It is a gratifying feature to see an awakening almost simultaneously in every Stake of Zion to the great value of Church schools as factors in Zion's progress. It is now twelve years since President Brigham Young established experimentally two such institutions, one at Provo, the other at Logan.

The education of the Latter-day Saints to the necessity of such institutions is quite as effectual, if not so rapid, as would be the case had the subject been thoroughly advocated years ago; for then the educating factors would at best have been but untried theories, whereas now they are the practical results—the every-day examples of hundreds of young people who have received training in these institutions.

In spite, however, of the fact cognizant to the people of nearly every ward in Zion, that young people, careless and indifferent to religion, and many times unmanageable in district schools, have come home, after a course of

training in these institutions, entirely changed, a new light shining from their eyes and beaming from their countenances, which change always comes with the supremacy of the spiritual over the carnal mind—in spite of results that prepare these young people for leading places in improvement associations, Sunday schools, home and foreign missions—there are those among us who still argue: "Well, it may do for so and so's children, but I am convinced that it would be money thrown away on mine. Why, what religion they get in Sunday schools and meetings is more than they can well stand, so that I have a difficulty to get them to go at all."

Exactly so; but it is the very meagreness and disjointedness of the ideas obtained here that does the mischief. Far be it from us to disparage the value of these factors in the religious education of our youth. As well might a starving man reject a loaf because he could not get the whole. But how much of spiritual food will be gathered from meetings that today are devoted to the "momentous times," next Sunday probably to some exalted principle, and the next to a repetition of faith, repentance, etc. It is so with Sunday Schools, and with Improvement Associations in not quite so striking a degree. Suppose this way of teaching be applied to mathematics; let the exercises be a week apart, the first devoted to algebra, the next to addition of simple numbers, then a dose of geometry, with fractions following by way of variety to secure the interest! And yet there are people who wonder why their children become dissatisfied at just such methods of teaching them theology, and moreover the feasts a week apart at that! The fact is, the human mind, aside from idle curiosity, becomes interested only in that which it fully grasps and comprehends. We have growing up among this people a class of young reasoners who will not be satisfied with empirical knowledge. There must be a connected chain between every principle in the plan of human redemption from the birth of the spirit in heaven to its final exaltation. Each principle about to be unfolded must grow logically out of that which is known. Then it is impossible not to become interested. For what can be more wonderful and sublime than the plan of salvation unfolded in this order? As a matter of fact, it is the testimony of teachers in the institutions referred to that ninety-five per cent of the students attending, many of whom come prejudiced, become, in a few weeks, intensely interested in the Gospel. In a short time the energy of the body is taken from the muscles and applied to the mind, the spiritual nature gains the ascendancy, and the man grows nearer the image of his Maker.

We trust that the movement of Church schools may gain ground till every Stake has its academy, and every ward its graded Church school. But let the growth be steady, not spasmodic, so that not an inch of ground gained may have to be surrendered for want of pecuniary support.

## A TELEGRAPHIC MIS-STATEMENT.

A DISPATCH states that Andrew J. Stewart, of Utah, associated with a person named Brown has purchased a large tract of land in Mexico. It is stated that the gentleman named has been acting in this transaction as agent for the "Mormon Church," and that the land was procured for the purpose of establishing colonies of Latter-day Saints. This is an error. Mr. Stewart is not an agent of the Church, but for an eastern syndicate. Before leaving for Mexico he called at this office and explained the nature of his business and also exhibited maps of the section of country which he appears to have procured. If we recollect aright the members of the company for which he has acted reside chiefly in Boston.

## THE PERFECTED PHONOGRAPH.

BEFORE us is a copy of the *Electrical Review*, a scientific journal, published in New York City, which contains an account of an exhibition lately given of the phonograph, as invented and perfected by Edison. It is a marvelous thing. Astonishment and admiration are excited by the account given of it. It performs feats hitherto deemed inseparable from life and voluntary motion, and the inventor's genius seems to have discovered a useful and practical substitute for brains, although perhaps not so potent in that respect as money.

The phonograph was first exhibited to the public about ten years ago. It was then in a very crude state compared with its present development, and while it was admitted to be a wonderful invention, no practical or valuable use was suggested for it, and after securing patents upon all of the new principles and ideas embraced in it, Edison, its inventor, allowed it to relapse into obscurity, while he devoted his attention to the perfecting of the electric light. Recently, however, he has taken his crude invention in hand and has made of it a valuable addition to the conveniences of human life and labor, as well as a means of amusement and instruction.

The main principle of the phonograph is identical with that of the telephone, a diaphragm which vibrates responsively to waves of sound striking upon it. From the under side of the diaphragm protrudes a fine needle which pricks minute indentations in the surface of a smooth and yielding substance, prepared for the purpose, and called a blank. We clip the following from the description of the invention given by the journal named:

"A recording blank which will take a continuous record of eight minutes' duration (comprising from 1000 to 1200 words), has been adopted as the best size for the purpose.

This blank is made of wax, cylindrical in form, one-eighth of an inch in thickness, two inches in diameter and four and one-quarter inches in length. The record is made in a spiral line around the blank, 100 lines to the inch, and is revolved at the rate of 50 revolutions per minute. By the addition of gear wheels 200 lines per inch can be recorded, which would double the capacity; but for the sake of simplicity and favorable conditions for multiplying musical or other records, 100 lines to the inch is preferable.

Half and a quarter size blanks are provided for short records intended for transmission through the mails.

While the record is being made by the voice, a turning tool attachment near the recording diaphragm shaves off the surface of the wax, insulating the words as spoken on to it. By means of this, when the recorder is set back at the beginning of the cylinder to be spoken into again, the wax surface bearing the previous record is shaved off at the very instant when you are speaking, so that your new talk finds a fresh surface all ready for it. This operation can be repeated twelve or fifteen times, giving to each wax blank a capacity of 15,000 to 18,000 words, equal to six or eight columns of printed matter, and costing less than the very cheapest paper which would be required for the same number of words written out in long hand.

A test, made to determine the number of times that the record made upon a wax cylinder can be repeated, shows that it retains its distinctness after thousands of repetitions.

Mr. Edison has also devised a process by which musical or other methods can be duplicated cheaply in any desired quantity. The inexpensive and easy multiplication of copies by this process, which is accomplished without having to speak the original matter into the phonograph more than once, will be of great practical service when it is desired to distribute phonogram circulars and announcements, or to deposit copies in a number of different places."

A blank containing a record is placed in the machine, and a typewriter operator wishes to reproduce that record. An earpiece similar to that of a telephone is held in place over the operator's ear by means of a spring, the phonograph is set in motion, and the operator has read to him, slowly or rapidly as he may wish, the record he is reproducing upon the typewriter.

In precisely the same manner a compositor, standing or sitting at a typecase, has slowly read in his ear the matter he is putting in type. Should he forget some of the words, or desire a sentence or clause repeated, to see if he has put it in type correctly, he has but to touch a lever, and the machine repeats the words. An editor may talk in the phonograph, his words are recorded, the record is sent to the composing room, read slowly to the compositor, who puts it in type, and the mechanical drudgery of writing is wholly dispensed with.

Music is preserved and reproduced with marvelous fidelity. Even that produced by the piano, or by a duet or quartette of instruments, is repeated with an accuracy and fullness of tone both remarkable and enjoyable. Other uses for the wonderful instrument are expected to be suggested from time to time, but enough work is ready for it to do to render it of the highest value.

It is possible that the utility and advantages of the wonderful instrument may have some offsets. It may be well enough for editors to congratulate themselves at the prospect that they can sit in an arm chair with their heels tilted on the table, with a phonograph in front of them and reel articles off by the yard from the china instead of from the end of a quill. They must seriously consider, however, that they might become the victims of misplaced confidence by relegating the important departments of spelling and punctuation to the compositor.

It might be made inconvenient for prominent men who are in the habit of getting interviewed and then denying the slips they make. Suppose the interviewer had one of Edison's internal machines handy where the mutterings of the great man could be retained in minute indentations. The irrepressible newspaper man could, in self-vindication, turn the crank of the apparatus in the presence of a select few, who could make affidavit to the effect that the sounds produced were a repetition of the vocal utterances of the recalcitrant individual.

It would be very awkward for gushing couples to unconsciously utter their nothings in the presence of a hidden enemy, in the shape of a phonograph, placed in close proximity to where they might be expected to seat themselves by some sinister knave. To have their little speeches reproduced for the delectation of a coterie of rivals or other spiteful people, would not be conducive to the peace of the parties in chief.

In some situations there would

probably not be much choice between the phonograph and dynamite, as the effect of both might be blasting. But then, there never was a great boon that did not blow somebody cold. The triumphs of science are not productive of unadulterated joy. Every breeze that brings good to humanity is accompanied by its full quota of distress.

## THE RED BANDANA.

WE have been asked by a number of people what was meant by the "red bandana" in connection with the nomination of Allen G. Thurman. It is simply a recognition of one of the old gentleman's eccentricities. Wherever or whenever the veteran statesman was seen, on state or common occasions, it was in company with a common ten cent bandana handkerchief, a liberal portion of which invariably stuck out of his coat pocket. He has other uses for this flaming emblem of the native simplicity of the wearer than its mere application to the somewhat formidable nose which ornaments his intellectual face. It is said by those familiar with him that when sitting in the Senate chamber he had a habit of protecting the seat of his formidable intellect from drafts of cold air by covering it with the red bandana. The object of this was to prevent an obstruction to the intellectual draft upon his mentality by that horror to the clear thinker, a cold in the head.

Many of the people here will remember that the late George A. Smith had a similar habit in public assemblies. In fact the bandana was as common an accompaniment with him as with the present democratic candidate for the vice-presidency.

It appears that nearly all great men have some pronounced eccentricities that somewhat distinguish them from their fellows cast in a more ordinary mould. The bandana business of itself amounts to little or nothing, and is interesting merely on account of what it signifies. It is an indication in Mr. Thurman's case, as it was in Brother Smith's, of the native simplicity of the man. When such peculiarities are associated with greatness of mind, the friends and admirers of those prominent individuals delight to dwell upon them. In the instance in point it is an indication that the wearer of the common square of cotton stuff has a refreshing contempt for the stiffer conventionalities of life.

Real simplicity of character endears the great spirits among men to the bulk of their fellows, while ostentation inspires them with disgust. Assumed eccentricity or simplicity creates antipathy, being even more despicable than genuine arrogance and superabundant display. Pretended simplicity is closely allied to mock humility, which is a hypocritical manifestation that may be properly designated as the acme of conceit. Hence people of sturdy composition turn with no small disdain as a rule from the long haired artistic sentimentalists of which this country affords its full quota.

There is no doubt, however, in relation to the native simplicity of Allen G. Thurman, the bandana being only one of its symptoms, and must be taken in nelson with his record as one of the ablest constitutionalists America has produced. His ability in that line shone out with undimmed lustre during the trying days of reconstruction, when questions arose of great importance and moment. His views on the most difficult questions evolved out of the civil war were among the ablest, clearest and best. They alone were sufficient to stamp him as one of America's great men and as a historical character of no mean proportions.

Mr. Thurman's advanced age has been offered as an objection to his being given second place on the democratic ticket. As an evidence that his powers are impaired by that cause, his speech to the delegation that waited upon him at his home after the nomination, is cited. It should be remembered, as an offset, however, to the somewhat pointless character of his remarks, taking the report of them as correct, that the "Old Roman," as he is familiarly called, essayed an unflattering role on the occasion in question. He made an attempt at getting off something humorous. The idea of Allen G. Thurman perpetrating a joke is too absurd for anything. As well expect a shout of laughter from a tomb. He is a "poet, grave and reverend" statesman or nothing. Take the veteran in his element and he may yet exhibit a good deal of his characteristic ability.

In connection with the "red bandana" matter we have taken the liberty of referring to George A. Smith, who is held in respected memory. He also was a statesman, having strong powers of mind allied with marked simplicity of character. It is pleasant to recall such familiar characters. Connected with his mental force, there was, however, in him an irresistible vein of humor. There have been few men also who have displayed greater aptitude in forming a conclusive point into epigrammatic shape. In the deliberative discussion of important subjects he would centre upon a vital point and at the proper time roll it on to those who had been expressing a different view with a force that caused them to feel as if a load of rock had been emptied upon and played smash with their theoretic structures. Reference to the bandana, vividly recalls to memory, our own George A.

## PLACING POISON ON THE RANGE.

THE relations existing between sheep owners and cattle men, on the ranges, do not increase in friendliness as the feeding grounds become, year by year more and more circumscribed. On the contrary the rivalry and antagonism between the two classes increases in intensity. Unfortunately Congress fails to take any action with a view to ending this conflict of interests, and the courts are, to a great extent, powerless to check it. Under the law, any part of the public domain is as free for sheep as for cattle, and vice versa, but it seems a pity that there should be no plan by which the two classes of animals could be kept separate, or by which the public range could be divided between the two.

A case lately transpired in Idaho in which an extraordinary plan was resorted to for the purpose of preventing sheep from encroaching upon the range of a herd of cattle. Saltpetre was exposed in such a manner as to poison the sheep, a man named Larkins, an employee of the Promontory Cattle Company, being the person alleged to have done this. A man named Faust, foreman of a firm of wealthy sheepmen, entered a criminal charge against Larkins, for exposing poison on the public lands, and had him arrested. The case is pending in the Idaho courts.

Even if the range were private property, to protect it from trespassing stock by exposing poison upon it, would be an unjustifiable, if not a criminal course; and the wrongful nature of such a policy is greatly increased when its design is to keep sheep off portions of the public domain upon which they have a right to enter, the object being to give cattle the exclusive use of such lands. In this Territory it is a crime to expose poison with the intent that it shall be eaten by any animal belonging to another person; and any one convicted of such an act is punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for three years.

Until the public lands shall become, by purchase or lease, private property, it is difficult to see an end to this conflict between sheep and cattle; but all concerned should defend their interests by means which are not prohibited by law.

## A MARVELOUS SIGHT.

THE following account of a wonderful and awe-inspiring sight, which is said to have been witnessed on the night of May 21, by the inhabitants of the town of Findley, Ohio, appeared as a telegram in the New York *Sun*:

"A strange spectacle was visible in the northern sky here last night, which has caused great consternation. It was the representation of a human hand of immense proportions. Early in the evening the sky in the north had a peculiar look which as the night wore on took the form of flashes of light, becoming more brilliant and unnatural as the night advanced. About 11 o'clock those watching the phenomenon were terrified to see the plumes of light concentrating into a distant object, which soon assumed the shape of a giant's hand, well formed, and as distinct as if painted upon the black back ground of the sky. The hand appeared to be a shadowy substance, through which waves of light of a blood red color surged as regularly as heart beats in a human breast, and then fell off at the ends of the fingers in drops of the same color almost as large as hot air balloons. The first finger of the hand pointed downward toward the sleeping city, as if warning the people of some woe about to fall on them. The spectacle lasted for about a half hour, and was witnessed by hundreds, who were breathless with excitement, until slowly it began to fade away and finally disappeared.

## AT THE CONVENTION.

Another Bright, Pungent and Interesting Letter from Our Special Correspondent.

## FIREWORKS AND WORK OF FIRE.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 7, 1888. Last night we had a display of fireworks which cost \$50,000, and we had another kind of display in the fire business also. A flour mill and packing house said to be worth \$250,000 made a beautiful illumination. It was in active progress even at 9 a. m. this forenoon. Notwithstanding all this noble endeavor to amuse and entertain on the part of St. Louis, yet her visitors are departing by the hundred. They will not wait to finish the business of the convention.

## WILTED HUMANITY.

The day is dreadfully hot. The heat is so enfeebling and oppressive that persons from the north and east look more like dead men, trying to identify former haunts, than like live men attending a political convention. The most resolute face to be met is that of the man who is walking to the Union Depot, with his grip-sack, his overcoat and his thick felt hat. He feels that he has been the victim of a weather joke.

## ABOUT A "UNITED PEOPLE."

About 10:30 a. m. Chairman Collins