

circumstances of a large percentage of the suicidal record, and by the fact that about one-fourth of those attempting the rash act fall in their purpose or are prevented, such persons furnishing a direct source of information as to why they chose the "end all" of mortal life in the momentary pain of death rather than to continue to face the difficulties incident to mortality.

In all cases of suicide, whether they happen after weighing motives and consequences or are the effect of a sudden resolution, emotion is necessary, that is to say suffering, physiological or psychological; must, at the very time of the act, have thrown the brain into an abnormal excitement.

Besides mental disorders the following causes conduce to the suicide mania: incurable physical ailments, violent passion, as crossed love, jealousy, ambition and anger; domestic troubles; financial derangement; and vices, as libertinism and alcoholism. An instance of suiciding from a false sense of honor was afforded recently in the case of a young man of the South, who, having, from conscientious scruples, refused to fight a duel, afterwards believed himself thereby dishonored and chose to end his shame with the suicidal act.

That there has been a gradual increase in the ratio of suicide since the first quarter of the present century is not at all flattering to the new condition of things imposed by modern civilization. Cities furnish many times more cases than country populations. Rome and Athens saw suicide come into fashion when effeminacy, ambition, and the desire of riches prevailed among them. The corollary of all this is that whilst in the due progress of civilization intellectual conditions are in general improved, at the same time a demand for the comforts and conveniences of modern life has correspondingly increased, and to a degree that cannot be attained by the many. The age has stimulated in the higher classes inordinate ambition and avarice, in the middle classes a luxurious tendency which increases superfluous desires, in the class below detestation of the wealthy classes and hatred to work, and in all a dissatisfaction of life conditions and a keener sensitiveness from the effects of culture. To these elements may be added the general want of true religious conviction, or any deep rooted philosophy to take its place and, like a sheet anchor to the souls of men, place an inhibition on self-murder by showing the consequences of the deed in the light of an eternal hereafter. Besides, that true religion, deep-set and influential as it should be in the moral and social lives of men, would teach them fortitude to bear the inevitable wearisome burdens and to avoid the vices and crimes which for the greater part swell the present list of misfortunates.

It is curious to observe certain facts in relation to age, sex and methods prevailing in the "taking off" process. As to age it is noticeable that violent deaths are much more common among men than women, the number averaging about as 267 to 100 per million of inhabitants; although up to the age of twenty the excess is on the part of the females. With men the greater number of suicides happen between twenty and thirty, and fifty-five and sixty-five years of age; while with women, under twenty and between forty-five and fifty-five. A preponderance of the suicides come from the ranks of the unmarried, the widowed and the divorced.

The German people lead the world in numbers of suicides, and the prevailing method among them and throughout northern Europe is hanging. In southern Europe, in a warmer climate and beneath a fairer sky, they seem to prefer drowning. This is no more strange, however, than is the fact that in our own America we hardly ever hear of a case of self-drowning in the winter time; the water is too cold to give any comfort to the act. After drowning and hanging come, in the order of prominence enumerated, fire-arms, wounds, falls from a height (a specially prominent past-time in France), poisoning and asphyxia. Men seem to prefer fire-arms; while ladies, fearing to disfigure their beauty and desiring to make the matter as interestingly mysterious as possible to the coroner, prefer poisoning, strychnine, rough on rats, or anything at hand in that line being satisfactory. June and July are the choice of months; and the hours 8-9 a.m., and 2-3 p.m., or else the darkness and mystery of night. The more violent and protracted deaths, as the blowing off the top of the head, starving, beating out the already limited stock of brains, or, like Cato's daughter, the swallowing of live coals may generally be assigned as the acts of minds disordered by some form of insanity.

#### THE LATE HOMICIDE CASE.

THE other day the Park City *Call* arose in its wrath and uttered a fierce declamation because Richard Grant, saloon keeper, who killed Peter Anderson, at the Park, was acquitted. It intimated that the assertion occasionally uttered, that if a murderer was brought to this city for trial his safety was assured, was well grounded. Then the *Call* turns loose on the prosecuting attorney and his assistants, taking the ground that they were responsible for the result of the trial. Mr. Peters especially came

in for a large part of the odium of our Park cotemporary.

With the general proposition of that paper regarding the too common result in cases where men are charged with taking human life in the District Courts of this Territory, we have no fault to find. We question the justice, however, of laying the blame for this condition of things upon the shoulders of the prosecuting officers. In the case in question, for instance, the District Attorney himself was absent attending to the duties of his office in the First District, at Ogden, and the trial was conducted for the people by his assistant, with whom special counsel was associated for the occasion. An examination of the evidence showed, in our opinion, that it was sufficient to warrant a conviction. Further than this, we were at the time impressed with the idea that such a result would have been justified on the testimony of the defendant alone, aside from that of any other witness. The jury thought otherwise.

Now, if the *Call* will explain a process that ought to have been used by the prosecution that would have caused the jury to find a verdict that would have been, in the opinion of a good many people, a just and proper one, then the censure upon the prosecuting officers will appear to have some show of reason behind it; otherwise it has not. The jury system operated in Utah is not of a character to overwhelm thoughtful and consistent people with respect for it. The Goddess of Justice is said to be blind, but in Utah she is substituted by a hag with merely a single fold mosquito bar bandage over her sharp optics.

The *Call* utters a dark hint in reference to the case in question, or rather its consequences. In plain terms it means to say that the next man who does any straight killing in Park City will in all probability be visited with the summary vengeance of the populace. This is a dangerous doctrine, and one of which we cannot approve but it is a common sentiment in many portions of this county, where the courts fail to afford that protection to life that it is entitled to.

#### STRAINED RELATIONS.

A SIGNIFICANT indication of the tension of the relations now subsisting between France and Germany is contained in a dispatch, which appears in another column, announcing that hereafter no Frenchman will be permitted to enter Alsace or Lorraine without a passport signed by the German representative at Paris, and the governor of the province. With taunting irony a German organ remarks that it is time that it was understood that Alsace and Lorraine belong to Germany. But Bismarck has caused the rigid passport regulation to be established from other motives than a desire to taunt a foe. He does not want any French agents to be engaged in fomenting trouble in the conquered provinces.

#### THE INDIAN LAND QUESTION.

A FEW days ago we published an article in relation to the bill pending in Congress which provides for opening to settlement certain Indian lands in Idaho. As stated in the article, we did not have accurate information respecting the lands to be thrown open, but from what we had previously understood regarding the matter, we suspected that the move to cut down the Fort Hall Indian Reservation was a scheme in the interest of land speculators, particularly in the neighborhood of Pocatello. Mr. W. C. Hawkins, of Oneida, a settler of Marsh Valley, writes us an explanation of the position of the settlers of that vicinity relative to the matter. He states that most of them located upon the lands they now occupy before those lands were included in the Indian reservation; that the government does not seem disposed to order the settlers away, but that the Indian agents have pursued a very oppressive policy towards them, and have harassed them very much since 1879. He states that these officials have charged the settlers fifty cents per head as pasture for their stock, which, in addition to the other heavy taxes they have to pay, has been a serious burden.

Mr. Hawkins further represents that, under the present condition, a system of land grabbing has been going on, which will be stopped when settlers are permitted to make filings; that the Indians have never wanted the lands now occupied by settlers in Marsh Valley; that the various bands of Indians interested signed a treaty for the relinquishment of the same in 1880, since which time the settlers have been expecting to be permitted to make filings; that the settlers have no desire to rob the Indians of their lands, and that the latter will still have 400 acres for each individual member of the tribes on the Fort Hall Reservation.

This explanation throws a favorable light upon the position of the farmers and stock raisers of Marsh Valley, and causes their efforts to secure the lands they occupy to appear justifiable. But regarding the proposition to take a townsite out of the central part of the Fort Hall Reservation, near Pocatello, which, we understand, is contained in the bill referred to, Mr. Hawkins makes no reference. Probably he and the other settlers of Marsh Valley are

in no wise interested in the townsite scheme.

On general principles suspicion is aroused by proposals to open Indian lands to settlers, so rarely are those measures founded in justice and carried out in equity. The one under consideration, it appears, is in part fair and just, but there still remains doubt regarding at least one feature of it, the Pocatello townsite scheme. This doubt will disappear only when it is made to appear that that feature has been abandoned, or that the Indians have been paid a fair value for the land taken from them in carrying it out.

#### WISE WORDS.

It is thirty-eight years since Horace Greeley delivered an address in New York, at a celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of Benjamin Franklin. The words of wisdom that fell from the old philosopher's lips on that occasion are as appropriate today as they were at the time they were spoken. Among other things he said:

"I hope no one here gives heed to the mumbling of self-styled political economists about over production and the kindred phrases with which counsel is darkened. Over production—of what? Where? Can there be over production of food when so many, even in our midst, are suffering the pangs of famine? Over production of clothing and fabrics, while our streets swarm with men, women and children who are not half clad, and who shiver through the night beneath the clothing they have worn by day? Over production of dwellings, when not half the families of our city have adequate and comfortable habitations, not to speak of the large class whose lodgings are utterly incompatible with decency and morality? No, friends! there is no over production, save of articles pernicious and poisonous, like alcoholic liquors, lewd books, implements of gaming, etc. Of whatever conduces to human sustenance, comfort, or true education, there is not and never has been too much produced, although, owing to imperfect and vicious arrangements for distribution, there may often be a glut in the warehouse trade, while thousands greatly need and would gladly purchase if they could. What the world eminently requires is some wise adjustment, some remodeling of the social machinery, diminishing its friction, whereby every person willing to work shall assuredly have work to do, and the just reward of that work in the articles most essential to his sustenance and comfort."

#### THE YOUNG MEN'S CONFERENCE.

It will be observed by the programme of proceedings at the approaching conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations, to be held in the Tabernacle on June 2nd and 3rd, that it is sure to be an interesting occasion. It embraces a wide variety and includes entertainment as well as instruction. The subjects upon which lectures are to be delivered cover the leading departments of research in which the associations engage. They will be published in the form of a pamphlet or book, which it is intended to utilize as a species of guide for the conducting of the exercises of the associations.

The musical feature of the Conference will be strikingly attractive, the services of a combination of talent in that line having been secured that is seldom brought together. It includes the Tabernacle Choir, Zion's Choral Union, Stephens' juvenile class, Stephens' opera company, a select male choir, besides a number of special quartette and solo singers. These musical forces will constitute quite a brilliant array.

The railroads running into this city give round trip tickets for a single fare, and have otherwise manifested a disposition to accommodate. Arrangements have been made looking to the hospitable accommodation of visiting members of the associations from the outlying towns and settlements, and doubtless the gathering will be a large and profitable one. We hope to see the building filled at each session, from beginning to close.

#### SHALL THERE BE SHALE?

A SHORT time since some of those who have been pushing the City Council to make improvements suggested that the streets be laid with shale, to keep down the dust. The Council made a move to act upon this hint. This caused speculators to make a dash for the shale lands contiguous to the city. They took the initiatory steps to secure them for their own benefit.

This patriotic act caused us to intimate that it would be in order for a still more eager shout for shale on the streets to go up into the open ears of the municipal fathers, as a market would be wanted for the article.

This soft insinuation was met by a statement that the shale philanthropists stood ready to donate enough of the commodity to cover Main Street a distance of several blocks.

It is to be presumed that the people are now to accept of the proposition that the lands were not laid hold of for the purpose of drawing the dimes out of public into private coffers. In other words, that they were secured for the express purpose of donating shale to cover a portion of the chief business street.

There are some considerations, however, that do not seem to harmonize with this aspect. One is, that if the land had not been taken by private parties the corporation could have obtained the shale without putting anybody to the trouble of donating it. Another is, that it never has been the intention to cover Main Street with the material in question, but the outlying thoroughfares merely.

No proper fault may be found with people who look out for the "main chance," but where philanthropy and patriotism are not genuine constituents, spasmodic attempts to inject them is not a detectable operation.

#### EMANCIPATION IN BRAZIL.

THE advance which the human race is making in morals does not keep pace with its progress in intelligence, and its opportunities for ethical and religious growth; hence the condemnation on which rests upon it. But, in some respects at least, and especially those which relate to the principle of liberty, the world is certainly advancing toward a higher plane. This fact is proven by the steady curtailment of the domain of human slavery. A few days ago, a bill providing for the emancipation of slaves was passed by the Brazilian Senate, which had previously passed the Chambers. The bill will become a law beyond a doubt, for the Emperor Dom Pedro, whose signature only is now lacking to make it such, is at the head of the political party favoring emancipation.

It is stated that the process of liberating the slaves under the bill will not be an abrupt one, but will be progressive, but it is expected that it will be entirely completed within a comparatively short space of time.

The history of slavery in Brazil is interesting and instructive. The mouth of the Amazon is directly opposite that of the Congo, and the temptation to Brazilian planters to import slaves was too strong to be resisted. Hence, early in the present century, the slave traffic between those two rivers had assumed great importance. In 1827 England treated with Brazil for the suppression of the traffic, but the latter government made no earnest persistent effort to accomplish this till 1865, when the traffic was largely but not entirely stopped.

Dom Pedro, now lying at death's door in Italy, merits the affectionate regard of the colored race, especially in Brazil, for his efforts to abolish slavery. He commenced the work in earnest immediately after the close of the American civil war, and sought to have a law passed under which the children of slave mothers would be free. He was unsuccessful, but in 1871 a law was enacted by which it was provided that the children of slave mothers, born after September 28, 1871, should be free at the age of 21. At the same time several hundred crown slaves were freed, and further provisions were adopted tending in the direction of emancipation. A tax was assessed on all slaves for the purpose of creating a fund with which to purchase the freedom of some of them, and in this way, in fourteen years, between 1871 and 1885, 20,000 were emancipated at an average cost of \$325 each.

In the meantime the anti-slavery sentiment had grown rapidly in strength and extent, as may be seen from the fact that in those fourteen years 100,000 slaves were freed by their owners, or by private generosity. The number of slaves remaining in the empire in 1885 is given as 1,133,228. In 1884 two provinces freed their slaves, and schemes of various kinds, such as entertainments, fairs, bazaars, etc., were adopted in great numbers, for the purpose of raising funds with which to purchase the freedom of slaves. At length a law has been passed looking to the speedy emancipation of all the bondmen in the empire.

The fact that so many slaves have been made free in a country like Brazil, without the loss of a single life, and without violent demonstrations of any kind, will stand forth as a remarkable one in history; and Dom Pedro, one of the most sympathetic and democratic emperors of modern times, will be credited by the historian with having done much to bring about the accomplishment of the desirable consummation.

#### THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

THE dedication of a temple to the Most High is among the most important events connected with a revealed dispensation from God to man. Because of the far-reaching interests and effects involved, the attention of the whole body of faithful Latter-day Saints has been centered in the recent event at Mant.

The sacred edifice so recently dedicated at that place is the fifth structure of the kind that has been completed thus far in the last dispensation, ushered in through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, the Prophet, the others being those of Kirtland, Nauvoo, St. George and Logan. In the

first named, as related in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, many of the most important keys and powers pertaining to the establishment of divine truth on the earth were conferred upon the servants of God by heavenly messengers—the Prophets who lived in past ages and held them when they were in mortality. In that respect the manifestations of a heavenly character witnessed in subsequent sacred buildings of the kind differ from those of the first one erected in this dispensation. The keys then conferred remain with the living Priesthood, hence a repetitive bestowal is unnecessary. The keys and powers communicated in the Kirtland Temple remain with the Church and will be forever perpetuated and will be operated until the last son and daughter entitled to salvation reaches the sphere of eternal destiny.

But the Lord manifests His power in His own way at every step taken in the progress of His glorious work. In whatever shape the manifestations appear they are always appropriate to the needs of His people, for their comfort, encouragement and instruction, that they may know that their feet are planted upon the rock of ages.

The most general manifestation to the honest in heart is the still small voice of the Spirit, which quickens the soul, speaks peace to the mind, and gives an unyielding assurance to the true disciple that he is engaged in a work planted on the earth by a divine hand. Through the power of that Spirit spiritual perceptions are conferred, enabling the possessor to catch occasional glimpses of the other side of the veil. Hence those who have passed to the beyond are seen by some in houses dedicated to the cause in which the dead are engaged as well as the living. By the same Spirit the visible appearance of the Holy Ghost resting upon the servants of the Lord is seen, while the sound of spirit voices salute the ears of others, indicating the joy of the departed at the expansion of the work by which the dead as well as the living are to be redeemed.

All these manifestations are spiritually discerned, seen and heard, and without the presence of the Comforter no mortal can realize them. Yet they may be seen and heard by some and not by others, and the latter yet be in possession of the same spirit, being firm in the testimony which the Holy Ghost imparts, realizing in their whole being that the work is true, by the testimony of Jesus.

That there have been such spiritual manifestations, witnessed and heard by a large number of people, during the late dedication proceedings in the Temple at Mant is not a matter of surprise to any Latter-day Saint. They comfort the people, however, being an evidence that in the most cloudy times the Lord is with them and gives them an assurance that their ultimate deliverance from every tribulation is a foregone conclusion. Those who are for them are more and infinitely greater than those who are against them.

There are those who scoff and mock at these things, attributing them to chicanery and deceit. They call for ocular and aural proof, placing themselves in the category of a class against whom Christ hurled a pronounced charge and denunciation in his day. The proof shall not be forthcoming in the shape in which it is demanded. The Lord will furnish plenty of evidence in His own time and way, and shall cover the scoffers with shame and the mockers with confusion and dismay. In the meantime if they will not believe honest hearted truthful people they would not believe though one arose from the dead and told them of the correctness of these things.

#### THE SENTIMENT AGAINST SUICIDE.

THE rapid increase in the rate of suicides is a matter that warrants serious consideration. Attempts have been made at different periods in history to legislate against the crime.

In many European countries, as France, Bavaria, England, Lower Germany and Switzerland, remembrance is still preserved of the penalties denounced against suicides. The victim's property was confiscated, his remains denied burial, or perhaps disinterred; while often the yet quivering body of the self-murderer was mangled by the milions of the law, carried on pitchforks or dragged on a hurdle through the streets as a warning against future cases.

It is doubtful whether even these horrible indignities could prevent a man so determined, from cutting the thread of his own existence. One slash of the knife, or a sudden report rings out, and all is over,—the victim to melancholia is beyond all amenable to earthly tribunals. The detestation in which the act has been held in all ages is beyond question. It is a proper sentiment, although it should never be roughly or barbarously expressed. The knowledge of the existence of this general condemnation may have been the means of checking the growth of suicide, as some sensitive people who might otherwise, in their morbid conditions, have committed the act, have probably been deterred by the thought of the repugnance with which their memory would be regarded by their surviving friends.