

criticize this paper because the publishing company's bid was above that of some other company, when that point was not an issue at all.

While passing, however, a suggestion will show how a great disparity would come in the various bids. For instance, the specifications called for a price per page, in minion, brevier and long primer type, without giving any idea of the proportions of each, that being left to guesswork. As the sizes of type differ very much, a difference would come in on that score. But to make the matter worse, when the code commission was applied to for something more definite, a member replied to one office that there would be fifty to seventy-five pages of minion, while another informed another office that there would be one hundred and fifty pages of that type, and he would not guarantee that it would not go above that. Thus between those two offices alone, the difference, on statements of the commission, was as one to two or three, or even more. The uniformity of the outside bids show that they were not under the disadvantage of that disparity at least, to say nothing of others that might be named.

But to the real question in issue. The Herald, in its Monday editorial, admits that if the bid of a local house "should be somewhat larger, within reasonable limits, it would still be as well to favor the local house, and public sentiment would probably justify the letting of a contract to it." That shows our contemporary's ignorance of the facts, or something very much worse, for in its local columns of the previous day, Sunday, it stated on the authority of Grant H. Smith, of the code commission, that the Utah Lithograph company's bid "was a few hundred different from the Lincoln house to which the contract was awarded." And that few hundred does not make the "75 per cent to 100 per cent higher" which our contemporary prates about as "all poppycock," nor a quarter of it. The Lincoln house's bid is stated as "in the neighborhood of \$6,000;" we on eread it was under that figure. The Lithograph company's bid at \$2.92 per page for 1,500 pages would come to \$5,880.

On this showing the "saving of \$6,000 on a contract," which the Herald alleges, is a misstatement out of whole cloth. The News company's bid cut no figure in the case; it was barred out of consideration by other local bids, to which fact no exception could be taken. Hence the inexcusable discourtesy of our contemporary in assailing this paper because it said that if the work of printing the code could be done here as well and at a reasonable price, the local workmen should be given the preference, even at a little higher figure. We know the taxpayers endorse this sentiment at least equally with the practice of paying hundreds of dollars a month to a salaried official and refusing a pittance of laborer's wages to the home mechanic.

By the way, the untenable position of our contemporary must not be taken for the attitude of the code commission. That body can make an infinitely more consistent explanation than that referred to, and do so honestly

and truthfully. The News casts no reflection upon the commission as to either integrity or ability, but when it differs with it in matters of judgment, has the right to its opinion, and, as in this instance, to express it without anger or unfriendliness.

#### HAS SEEN THE MORMONS.

"The wandering Jew" of the Denver Field and Farm has discovered some live Mormons, and in an interesting way tells his readers that the Saints are not the people that many folks have been taught to believe them. He says he has spent some time at Sanford, Richfield and Mancos, in Conejos county, San Luis Valley, Colorado; that these are well known Mormon settlements; that the commonplace Gentile naturally pictures the average Mormon as a wild-eyed polygamist with a two-edged sword and a fierce desire for another Mountain Meadow massacre, but that his peasant association with them revealed a spiritual life as much influenced by the gentle ways of the common Master as any Gentile community he has seen. He further says:

I spent a very pleasant evening with Bishop Coombs of Richfield, who kindly explained the Church government, its plan, ideas, objects and articles of faith and if there was anything in it that would sound out of place in an orthodox congregation I failed to catch it, and no one can be made to believe that eternal life depends entirely upon the belief that a man did or did not find a golden book in a hole in the ground. The life and character, the faithful living close to the convictions of right, are worth more than all the creed and articles of faith ever written. The King James Bible is their Bible just as it is written, and all mankind might lay the Book of Mormon by its side and reach heaven by a route as direct as the Methodist. The book is a simple history, and if it appeals to our reason we certainly commit no unpardonable sin by believing it, for instead of being contradictory of the Bible it confirms and fortifies it and makes it easier to believe and understand. When the time comes for the final triumph of the Christian faith all the present nonsense and dissension over technical points and creeds will be swallowed up in the greater idea of faith in a common Lord "and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." The most consistent view I have obtained of the religion of Moroni is the practical manner in which it is applied in every-day life. It is the quiet simplicity of the people in their every-day plan of following their industrial pursuits which must charm every investigator.

The Field and Farm article is expressive of what every fair-minded person will note upon an intimate acquaintance with Mormonism who are in full fellowship with the Church. It is also another evidence of the prophetic power in Mormons which predicted its onward progress to the regeneration of the world. The writer in the Field and Farm accurately describes the Book of Mormon in saying that "instead of being contradictory of the Bible it confirms and fortifies it and makes it easier to believe and understand." That book is the strongest historical witness of the divinity of Christ that men have as a record,

not excepting the Bible itself, for it has been preserved in its precious purity. The burden of its whole testimony is the majesty, power and mercy of Christ the Lord, and it stands an inspired companion with the Bible in establishing the eternal truths of the Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth.

#### BE READY FOR THE WORK.

In the future of announcement and preparation for the approaching Jubilee (from which we would not knowingly withdraw a single prop or element of force or utility), an occasional moment may well be spared for the consideration of the important event which precedes it, the meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress. From all reports the attendance will be large and representative, and many men of influence and high standing will take part in the deliberations. A great amount of work has been done in making the preliminary arrangements and much more remains to be done before the president's gavel shall rap the opening session to order; but this will all be performed in due season no doubt, and there is every reason to anticipate a profitable, pleasant and successful series of meetings.

In the time that will intervene before the Congress meets, those who are to take part in its deliberations should store their minds with that useful knowledge which will enable them to bring forth something of profit to the part of the country chiefly interested. They should consider, and acquire comprehension of, the subjects to be dealt with, that they may be ready for the work, in voting, speaking, or anything else where duty calls. There is more subject than one that is of leading importance to the Trans-Mississippi states, and none should be overshadowed by an undue prominence given to any other.

Above all, there should be observed that spirit of conservatism which has characterized the people here as a rule, and which is a chief element of success under conditions which the work of the congress must cope with.

#### JAPAN AND HAWAII.

The rumor that Japan contemplates seizing the Hawaiian Islands and at the same time make a swift descent upon the Pacific coast cities of the United States and threaten them with destruction in order to force our government to consent to Japanese annexation of the island republic, is altogether too fanciful. Notwithstanding the fact that it is ascribed to a Mexican officer "known to be a close confidant to President Diaz," it will not be regarded as otherwise than the dreams of a visionary. The Japanese may have exaggerated ideas of their greatness and dream of the conquest of empires, but they have also sense enough to understand that the United States shores offer no fields for military experiments for an invading army similar to those of the Chinese shores. Japan may offer