

EDITORIALS.

THE TRAMP NUISANCE.

The tramp nuisance is becoming a subject for the attention of statesmen and social scientists. Not only do the tramps that overrun the country alarm peaceable citizens, but the part they took in the late strike shows that they can wield a power in the land, in case of any popular outbreak, which would put at defiance all local authority and legal force.

The outrages which resulted in the destruction of so much property during the late "uprising," were not perpetrated by railroad men, but by the *bona fide* striking operatives. Tramps were the marauders, the fire-fiends and the robbers and despoilers, who struck terror to the public heart, overpowered the state police and militia, and rendered necessary the aid of Federal troops.

The genuine tramp must not be confounded with the unfortunate laborer, unable to obtain employment. The latter is always glad of a job, the former invariably shirks it. The tramp is criminal in his nature and habits and will steal where he cannot beg, and holds human life too cheaply to hesitate at violence or even murder if it stands in the way of his depraved desires. The laborer hunting for work is an object of compassion who needs sympathy as well as employment, and can readily be distinguished from the base counterfeit who deserves neither countenance nor support.

In all the troubles that may arise through the struggles of labor against the encroachments of capital, the working people must be careful to make plain the distinction between their class and the following hordes, who will try to take the advantage of the situation and plunder the rich under the pretence of helping the poor. In such cases the workman should join with the employer in putting down lawlessness and chastising the mobs.

Ogden and Salt Lake have been somewhat afflicted with the lazy, loafing, mendicant, vicious tramp, and will be again. The only method we know of to apply as a remedy, is to make every able-bodied person seeking relief do something to earn it, and when the real, thieving, vagabond tramp puts in an appearance, let the police take him up as a vagrant and compel him to work on the streets for his provender. If this rule is adopted and the policy of "no work no food" enforced, Utah's cities will obtain an unfavorable reputation among the tramp fraternity, and will be chalk-marked as spots to be studiously avoided.

ROUND DANCING.

We are gratified to see that the attack on "round dancing" is gaining ground. The Catholic priesthood set their faces like a flint against the practice, and the press in many parts of the country is lending its powerful aid towards the abolishment of this objectionable social custom. The wife of General Sherman has expressed her views in a letter on this subject. She says her "soul revolts at it," that very soon "women will blush at it," and that "public opinion will eventually drive it out of society." Mrs. Sherman says further:

"The advocates of this dance have had their own way long enough—absorbing all entertainments—sneering upon and ridiculing those who quietly decline to participate—openly and constantly insinuating of those who decline it that they are therefore evil-minded, etc., or quoting impudently and insinuatingly their only weapon, '*Honi soit qui mal y pense*,' and then throwing themselves in men's arms to prove their own purity of mind."

The advocates of the waltz claim that it is graceful, pleasant and impure only to the evil-minded. All this may be true. We believe that the majority of our young people who indulge in the waltz have no impure ideas or intentions in their recreation. But at the same

time it must be admitted that the close embrace of the modern style of this whirling, giddy, seductive dance is not proper for the modest maiden, and is not exactly the position in which a prudent wife should place herself. Among friends and intimate acquaintances the waltz might possibly be danced with no evil results except its effects on the dizzy brain. But if the sanction of custom is given to it under those circumstances, it will be indulged in at public balls and general social gatherings, where the libertine and the worldly-minded find ample opportunity to use their baneful influence and lead astray the unwary.

The dance is permitted to the Latter-day Saints as a healthful recreation, when properly conducted, but the waltz and other "round" dances are placed under the ban of the wisest men and women amongst us, because such dances can be made the medium of much harm, and it is better to "avoid the very appearance of evil" than to give to it the least color of advantage.

For the sake of those who might be injured, in thought or act, through this fashionable and fascinating but pernicious form of contact in public, which would be scouted in private, will not those who can waltz without a thought of evil, abstain from a pleasure that can be painlessly dispensed with, and which adds nothing to health, longevity, respectability, or anything that is permanently beneficial? We believe every lady and gentleman who desires the welfare of the community will answer this request in the affirmative.

WORKS OF FICTION.

A NEVER-ENDING stream of fiction is pouring out from the fountains of literature. It is estimated that eleven hundred original novels a year are published for the delectation of the lovers of romance. About a third of these are produced in America and another third in England. Just think of it! The inveterate novel-reader, in order to keep up with the stories of the times, would have to take in three volumes every day in the year, to say nothing of novelettes and serial stories in magazines. The effects of so much fictitious pabulum on the public mind, particular its feminine section, is very injurious. It renders it unfit to grasp ideas of any gravity or questions of real importance. It creates a distaste for any kind of reading which requires the exercise of the thinking and reasoning faculties. It gives exaggerated notions of life and its incidents, pictures impossible heroines and unearthly heroes, plays all kinds of tricks with truth and history, and, with its gaudy coloring of imaginary pleasures, renders the novel inebriate dissatisfied with and unfit for the dull-hued realities of actual existence.

Light reading may be permissible to those who study and exercise their mental powers on matters of moment. But it should only be indulged in as an infrequent recreation. The mind that becomes absorbed in novels, and lives and moves and has its being in the realms of fiction, is in a diseased condition and needs treatment that will deprive it of the cause of its derangement. Many an innocent girl has been led into the path of disgrace and dishonor through the romantic ideas imbibed from story books. Elopements, and secret marriages, and hostility to the wise counsels of kind parents, are frequently the result of the false and foolish notions that are instilled into the unbalanced mind by pernicious novels. And boys are often prompted to take the road to ruin, through the gay pictures of the lives of lawless vagabonds which are painted by the novelist and romancer.

In guiding the juvenile mind and advising the young man or woman just emerging into maturity, the greatest wisdom is needed. If a taste for light literature exhibits itself, entire prohibition will often precipitate rebellion or secret disregard of parental restrictions. It is better in such cases to make judicious selections than to forbid all indulgence. There are works written with the object of holding up virtue to admiration and vice to reprehension and abhorrence, couched in lan-

guage chaste and refined, and containing pictures of real people and actual scenery, which do no more harm than painting, statuary or the drama. Such books do not enervate, nor pamper the love of the marvellous, and are not to be compared with the vile brochures which are poured from the press in a flood of nonsense and impurity.

It is better to correct the public taste than to try and crush out the desire for literary recreation. There are books and publications of various kinds, brought into Utah by the ton, which are a disgrace to any man's house or any book store in the country. By judicious training these can be made to appear to the public mind like the horrible daubs which some people have on their window blinds, to eyes accustomed to look on the triumphs of the true artist.

That the demand for literary fiction is increasing is proven by the growing issue of romances from the press. It is not a good sign of the times. But while the world's love for untruth becomes greater, as they reject the principles revealed from the heavens for their benefit, the Latter-day Saints should set their hearts on those things which are true and enduring, and which will form eternal treasures that will never fade, when falsehood and folly shall have passed away.

BLEEDING CUBA.

Poor Cuba still bleeds and suffers and struggles under the Spanish yoke, and Spain still sends troops to crush out the spirit that revolts against her tyranny. Two thousand, as an advance guard of fifteen thousand soldiers, have landed on the island which ought to be free, most of whom will in all probability yield to the miasmatic climate, if not to the bayonets and bullets of the patriots.

It really seems that humanity would dictate the stoppage of the war in unhappy Cuba. Also that a government which sprang into existence through a successful revolt against despotism, should give as much moral support to another people battling for political independence, as is consistent with treaty obligations and the rights of friendly Powers.

All that is needful for the United States to do in aid of the brave and gallant Cubans, is to accord them the rights of belligerents, or acknowledge the independence of Cuba.

The Gem of the Antilles has maintained the struggle with its European oppressor long enough to show that the conflict is not a mere insurrection, and that among its leading spirits are heads with brains as well as hearts with courage. They should receive that sympathy and support which freemen accord each other, and the spirit of the Monroe doctrine should influence the councils of the Government in its deliberations on Cuban affairs.

Congress will meet in less than a month, and it is to be fervently hoped that some step will then be taken, which will end in the bursting of the foreign shackles that now enchain a brave people on a fruitful and valuable isle of the sea.

LAMENESS OF THE LAW.

The subject of "lynch law" has been frequently handled in terms condemnatory of its adoption under any circumstances. "Judge Lynch's" circuit used to be considered as belonging only in the South and the West. But several cases having recently occurred in the North, wherein the people have taken into their own hands the execution of the extreme penalty upon outrageous malefactors, the matter has been taken up in a different manner, and treated with some degree of allowance.

There are certain crimes which deserve the severest punishment. When the law does not fully meet the merits of the case, or the execution of the law is so uncertain and tardy that Justice stands in danger of being defrauded, it is no matter for wonder that the popular voice and will should thrust the legal executives aside, and accom-

plish by mob violence that which should be done under established regulations.

Properly there should be no such thing as mob law or popular execution of popular vengeance. There ought to be no necessity for it. The law ought to meet the requirements of every case, and the administrators of the law should be honest and firm enough to maintain and dispense it, while its executives should be strong and stern enough to carry it strictly into effect. One of the most admirable features of the English system of jurisprudence is the promptness of its judgment and the certainty of its penalties. Detected crime cannot procure long delays, nor when sentence is pronounced avoid its execution. There is no need for the people to abrogate the rights of Courts, nor to take the place of the authorized representatives of outraged justice. The law is mighty and its majesty is sustained and respected.

The saying which was common in New York not long ago, "hanging for murder is played out," illustrates a weakness in the criminal law and practice of this nation. If justice was sure to obtain its own, Judge Lynch's occupation would be entirely gone and soon be known only as one of the cured excrescences of the body politic.

There is one class of crimes for which the law provides no adequate penalty. We refer to the violation of female chastity. This is so well understood that when a husband or father inflicts personal violence upon the destroyer of his wife's or daughter's virtue, a jury can scarcely ever be found who will find a verdict of guilty, even if death is the consequence of the chastisement. Several instances have occurred, recently, of lynch law in rape cases, the brutes who perpetrated the crime being treated to a "short shrift and a strong rope." The public verdict was, "served them right," and yet all acknowledge that mob law and mob executions are wrong in principle.

The laws relating to these crimes need changing. Forcible violation of female chastity should be a capital offense. Money compensation for seduction and kindred crimes should be wiped off every statute book. They should be punished by the severest penalties. In theory, virtue is reckoned dearer than life; in legal practice it is made cheaper than goods and chattels. A house cannot be forcibly entered without danger of bonds and bars; but the sacred portals of virtue can be invaded, and a little money will cover up the infliction of an injury that can never be truly repaired.

These are subjects for our statesmen and legislators, and they should be studied and understood by all who have at heart the welfare and peace of the community.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The attack on the U. P. train last night, at Big Springs, particulars of which will be found in our telegraphic columns, was one of the most daring and successful feats of highway robbery ever perpetrated.

Chicago has manufactured \$6,000,000 worth of leather during the present year. Utah is doing a little in the leather business, but it will take her a long time to reach Chicago's figures, unless she hurries up her tanneries.

The *Scientific American* gives the following rule for calculating the number of shingles required for a roof. It may be useful to those who are about to build: Divide 3,000 by the number of inches to be laid to the weather, and multiply the quotient by the number of squares to be shingled; the product will be the number required.

The New York *Herald* ridicules "revelations" and despises "prophecies." Yet that inconsistent paper when handling "Mormon" affairs continually essays the role of a prophet. But it makes a very poor attempt in every instance. Its latest prognostication is that "the rule of the Twelve will draw Mormonism to a somewhat rapid ruin by disorganization." Its remarks on the subject indicate the most profound ignorance of "Mormonism," and a little time will show that the great "sensation" journal is one of the false prophets that were to arise—and fall—in the latter days.

Since the opening of the Suez Canal, it is said the level of the Mediterranean has sunk three and one-fourth inches.

From a Pittsburg telegram received just as we go to press we learn three cars were thrown from the track on the B. and O. R. R. this morning by the breaking of an axle. Fortunately no lives were lost, although eleven persons were injured, including the conductor, baggage master and brakeman.

Political economists believe that wages have reached their lowest figure, and that the prices of manufactured articles are now as low as they dare be placed. This news will please and encourage the laborer, and brighten the prospects of the capitalist whose means are invested in manufactures.

A Cincinnati plumber who charged \$300 for work performed in such a way that it did more harm than good, sued for the amount when payment was refused, and instead of recovering it, was assessed \$2,000 damages for the injury caused by his carelessness and lack of skill. That was "turning the tables" with a vengeance.

Bright tin is a powerful reflector of heat as well as light. An Illinois dairyman turned a milk can bottom up on a table, to be purified by the sun. Shortly after, the window blind was found to be on fire, and the weather-boards of the house were burning. In a little while the house would have been in flames, and the cause of the conflagration would have been a mystery. The bottom of the milk can formed a concave reflector for the rays of the sun, and hence the burning of the blind.

The great wall of China is frequently referred to, but few people have any idea of its magnitude. Mr. Unthank, an American engineer, while engaged in making surveys for a railroad in China, took some measurements of the famous wall. They give its height as 18 feet and its width on the top 15 feet. Towers, 24 feet square and from 24 to 45 feet high, appear every few hundred yards. And the wall continues over hill and dale, river and ravine, and plain and mountain for 1,300 miles. The foundation is laid in granite, and the wall itself is of solid masonry. The pyramids of Egypt are a pigny affair compared with this wall, and there is nothing like it in any public works of ancient or modern times.

A ridiculous story is in circulation to the effect that President Brigham Young's mother is living in destitution in the States. The *Sacramento Record-Union* rightly rejects the rumor and says, "there have been no end of deceptions practiced upon the public, which should warn us not to place implicit reliance upon rumors, however plausible they may appear." This advice is good for the press generally to follow in relation to all the scandalous reports about the great man who has departed, and the *Record-Union* would do well to practise its own precept, for this story, which is utterly without foundation in fact, is no more baseless than many yarns about Brigham Young and the "Mormons," which that paper has repeated with the utmost gravity.

The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* tells a long story about a horde of bats which recently infested a house in Dog Prairie, St. Charles Co., Mo. Mr. McAtee, the proprietor, heard a noise in the evening as of an approaching storm, and suddenly a black cloud of bats descended. He shut his doors and windows but about 100 had entered which he killed. They swarmed into his stables and poultry house and he was compelled to turn all his animals loose. As the bats in countless numbers still flew around and dashed against the house, he opened a window and allowed a large number to enter, then with the aid of his hired man dispatched them with axe helms. The first lot he killed numbered by actual count 4,103. Next morning the bat army had disappeared. But it returned with the next night, and he repeated his tactics, killing 3,000 more. They kept up this attack for several nights in succession and 17,000 bats in all were destroyed. It is supposed they came from an immense thicket on the Missouri river. The truth of the story is vouched for by several respectable and reliable persons.