

without the greater expenditure of time, labor or money would be of incalculably more benefit to the human family.

THE REAPER ON RAILS.

The New Castle railroad horror and its immediate predecessor of like character are sad and sorrowful things to contemplate. The sadness and sorrow which such occurrences produce narrowly escapes conversion into wrathful indignation when we are advised that they are the result of carelessness or neglect, but for which nothing of the kind would have occurred. It seems as if the railway have their seasons for holocausts, and that when the time comes the man or men and needful circumstances are always on hand and ready, and when a long period of immunity to some extent from such dire disasters is once broken the other extreme prevails. Certain it is that such visitations, like others that are unwelcome, seldom come singly.

The list of dead and injured in either case makes up a most ghastly showing, one that no amount of repetition can cause to be otherwise than ghastly. The "reaper on rails" is at large again and it seems impossible for mankind with all his ingenuity and discernment to find a means for driving the monster out of existence; on the contrary, his field seems to widen and he "laughs to scorn the power of man." These are occasions in which "words, mere words, cooled by the breath of man," alleviate nothing and accomplish nothing. The most that can be done, by the press at least, is to record the awful facts as they come and keep the subject before the world, with the hope that eventually manslaughter by means of mechanism will be as rare as the kind that is accomplished by the direct action and deliberate intent of man. May both forms speedily perish from the face of the earth!

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

When Utah was admitted into the Union as a State, the event was celebrated with festivities and rejoicings, in which citizens of every sect, creed and party took part, apparently with unqualified delight; and there was a tacit understanding among them all that by-gones should be by-gones, and that in future all citizens of the new State would pull solidly together for its upbuilding, and that every influence and element ending to retard its upward, onward and glorious destiny, should be frowned down.

Since then several incidents, originated by politicians, have occurred which have somewhat strained the friendly relations existing between different classes of citizens, and that have tended towards a revival of old conditions. But happily the plottings of politicians have not prevailed over the wise counsels of conservative men of differing views, and the good faith and good sense of the people of the State as a whole have been strong enough to resist successfully every attempt and conspiracy designed to disturb the harmony and mutual confidence with which the people of our State are seeking to advance its highest interests.

Following the failure of every attempt by politicians to spread discord and bitterness throughout the State, comes the action of the Methodist conference in this city, on Saturday last, which adopted a resolution that antagonizes, in an intense degree, the sentiments of an overwhelming majority of the people of the State, vio-

lates the understanding that the past was to be regarded as dead, and aims to discredit and dishonor our commonwealth in the eyes of the world. The resolution is as follows:

"That Statehood, while it has resulted in more firmly establishing the American idea in the minds of the citizens of Utah and in planting secure the public school system in the State, has, we must admit, embarrassed, rather than assisted, evangelical work in the State."

The meaning of the words "embarrassed, rather than assisted, evangelical work in the State is not very clear, for they do not constitute a very lucid declaration; but one meaning intended to be conveyed by them can scarcely be mistaken: Utah is more hopelessly heathen since statehood than it was before; and when it is remembered that this statement is made from a Methodist standpoint, it means a great deal.

But the resolution must be construed in connection with statements of alleged facts, made in its support by reverend gentlemen who took part in the debate which it occasioned; for it is presumably intended to embody those alleged facts, and to be the result of them. Dr. Wishard made two specific statements; one was to the effect that polygamy was being openly practiced, and the other was to the effect that teachers were denied employment in the public schools unless they would control them in the interest of the Mormon Church. He also declared that polygamy was being taught in the district schools of Smithfield, Cache county.

Rev. Wildman Murphy of Spanish Fork declared that the schools of that town were being controlled in the interest of the Mormon Church, and that polygamy was still practiced there. He added that there was no use attacking the latter practice, because the legal machinery was in the hands of those who believe in it. Dr. McNeice said the schools in country places were being filled with Mormon teachers and predicted that this would be the case in this city, after the first of next year, evidently referring to the election of new members to the school board.

Intense animosity towards the Mormon Church characterized the remarks and sentiments of several of the divines who spoke in support of the resolution; but a strong minority of the clergymen dissented from such views. Among the latter were Rev. F. C. Lockwood and Rev. A. H. Henry, both of whom were moderate in their expressions, and seemed to comprehend something about the spirit of Christianity. It is understood that there were other clergymen present who were too fair and broad-minded to endorse the accusations that were made. This is indicated by the vote with which the resolution passed, nine to six, a number present not voting.

The "News" is confident that this effort of religionists, like all previous ones by politicians to injure the State by reviving old and bad conditions, will totally fail. But the certainty of its failure is no justification of it, and does not relieve the movers in it of the odium it creates.

The charges they make are of violations of the criminal laws of the State. Why are they not filed with the officers of the law? Why should they be aired in a religious convocation instead of a criminal court? Is it not because of the hope that charges which would not hold water one moment under judicial scrutiny, may yet be utilized to create sectarian capital, and further a religious crusade?

Any statement to the effect that a single polygamous marriage has been celebrated in Utah, since the manifesto abolishing such marriages was

adopted by the Mormon Church in 1890, with the sanction or permission of the Mormon Church, or under circumstances which render that Church responsible therefore, is totally untrue; and Mormon officers of the law can be depended upon as confidently as could non-Mormon officials, to enforce the law in any case of the kind.

It is not here intended to deny that men who had more than one family when the manifesto was adopted, have continued to provide and care for them since. It is no violation of any law, human or divine, for them to do this; on the contrary it would be dastardly in them not to do it. What would these same Methodist ministers say of former polygamists should they make the manifesto a justification for casting adrift, as public charges, their former wives and helpless children by those wives? The situation of plural families in this State is painful and embarrassing enough, without such heartless attacks as that made upon them by these Methodist ministers; and the course that is being taken by the heads of such families is being approved by every citizen in the State, regardless of creed or party, who has the milk of human kindness in his veins, and is not actuated by some wrong motive.

THE SPOILSMEN MUST GO.

For once the metropolis of the nation and the metropolis of the youngest State of the nation are making similar efforts to accomplish a common purpose—an upright and able administration of the city's affairs through the stewardship of men who prefer the welfare of the whole to the special good of any particular faction. There be those who are intent upon belittling such efforts, showing, or rather trying to show, that nothing is or can be advanced by the non-partisan plan that cannot as surely, as safely and as well be had through the ministrations of those who hold fast to the party lines under all circumstances. The "News" has not denied that there are a sufficient number of capable, honest men in each party to give the city the kind of government it needs, but it has denied, denies now, and will continue to deny that such characteristics are the exclusive peculiarity of any particular organization. If this position is the correct one—and it is—it then follows that the necessary qualifications belonging to each of the parties in common, the distribution of positions should be made accordingly.

In New York a gallant fight against odds is being made. It has always with rare exceptions been completely party-ridden from end to end and from center to circumference. The away of the boss and the hand of the heeler have been all but undisputed factors in the economy of the municipality, and even with a so-called reform government now in existence the same state of things obtains, the difference being only in degree and not much of a degree at that. Under such circumstances it takes a battle royal to accomplish anything in the desired direction, and that kind of battle, we are well assured, is the one that is going on.

John P. Altgeld, late governor of Illinois, is concededly one of the ablest men on the Democratic side of our national politics. He says nothing that is commonplace and much that is profound, some of his sentences being tipped with an impressive truthfulness and couched in language of such incisive force as make them irresistible. His enemies concede this. He says nothing idly, but makes everything referable to an occasion and have a well-defined bearing upon it. In one of his recent speeches he said: