

tion that in the multitude of false lights perpetually waved before the eyes of the world there is bound to be confusion, uncertainty and gradually disintegration; in which condition is it not fair to believe that the searcher after truth will eventually turn his attention to a system within which his doubts are dispelled, his uncertainty is removed and his skepticism replaced by the sure testimony of the Comforter? The *Christian Advocate* argues ironically, but well; the greater the number of false isms and foolish vagaries, the less reason is there to anticipate the downfall of a faith founded upon a rock, among whose adherents the humblest and the least learned may enjoy as thoroughly as the mightiest and the most eminent a knowledge of the divinity of the worship that made them one in the bonds of Christ.

We hope the splendid building dedicated last month will last into and through the earth's glorious millennium; and we can assure our esteemed contemporaries and all their esteemed readers that what the world calls Mormonism will live until that time and a great deal longer.

COLUMBUS YEAR.

The New York *Sun* gives out the startling reminder that "a Columbus quadricentennial comes but once in four hundred years," and then proceeds to claim that it is safe to say that not a man who has lived to enjoy the celebration of 1893 or to take part in it or to observe it, will repeat this performance four centuries later! "Work the year for all that it is worth, or there will be undue failure to perform what we owe to opportunity," it concludes, and we will all have to agree with it, though this is not the year at all—a circumstance which in its zeal our cotemporary may have lost sight of. The Exposition was held this year in order that the representatives of foreign powers might not see us in the midst of our bissextile family row, but the date of Columbus's landing was not changed in any way thereby. And if the New York luminary thinks that Discovery Day was not made the most of in Utah, it is because it had no representative here at the time. Like the hen which the boy set on two dozen eggs, we "just spread ourselves."

AS TO JOURNALISM.

Those who go down to the sea in ships (not including passengers) should be seamen thoroughly familiar with every department of their calling, completely seasoned to its hardships and fully capable of acting up to the tasks they have undertaken. Otherwise there is sure to be trouble more or less serious. The craft will take on contrary fits and lurch for great distances dead against the course, will take wrong tacks, will wallow in the trough of the sea upon its beam ends when it ought to be riding the crests like a gull, will ship seas and perchance strike a reef somewhere and go to Davy Jones's locker without previous warning. It is one of the cases in which a little knowledge of the situa-

tion, a small amount of experience, a disposition to do one's best when that best is quite limited, is not enough; the best attainable must be had.

There are many other departments of life quite similar, and they all go to show that tyros however promising and those who have no natural aptitude for the calling in which they are engaged, should not be entrusted with too much responsibility or allowed to make a display of their inefficiency even though encouraged by the plaudits of a few who may be as ignorant as themselves. In no department of life are there more instances of rank inefficiency masquerading as capability than in journalism; and it makes matters all the worse that most of the kind spoken of will now and then persist in making themselves conspicuous by "dipping in" and making a show of what little they have acquired, every time they get a chance.

The newspapers of the country that through difficulties innumerable and expenditures innumerable have forged to the front are not of necessity the best and most capable in the land; now and then, but not often, we see as much capacity in enforced restraint evinced in the pages of a small production from an out-of-the-way place as in the more powerful metropolitan press. And there is no reason why any country paper, however narrow its field, should not be as bright, as newsy and as well printed as any other, thereby making itself supported because of its merit rather than through the sympathy of the neighborhood. It may be conducted by a professional hand or an amateur, and so long as it confines itself to a discussion of subjects upon which it can speak with accuracy and understanding and is reasonably impartial, it ought to be a valuable adjunct to the community; but as a rule it will gain nothing in repute or lucre by engaging in dissertations on the problems of Euclid, the parables of Justinian or the subtleties of Confucius, especially as an apologist or critic, even though the writer may have devoted some little time to reading up on those subjects. It is a case of

Vessels large may venture more,
But little boats should keep near shore.

Speaking of the mammoth 100-page edition of the New York *World* recently issued, a cotemporary truthfully says:

The possibilities open in America to the poor are well illustrated in Mr. Pulitzer's case. He came to this country from the Austro-Hungarian empire a penniless lad, and made his advent into the newspaper business as a reporter in St. Louis about twenty years ago. He rapidly worked his way up until 1883, when he was enabled to buy the moribund New York *World*, into which he infused a life that has evolved it into the splendid and wonderful newspaper that it is.

As it was with Mr. Pulitzer, so may it be with any one who has the natural capacity. But it requires long, wearisome and studious years which bestow more of discouragements than of reward as they pass along. And the golden mean once gained, though so slowly and laboriously reached, is lost in the twinkling of an eye if the attention,

application and earnestness which gained it are withdrawn or even relaxed. The first consideration for one who would succeed in journalism is shown to be aptness, the next is education, and finally determination becomes indispensable.

GOOD, THOUGH ONLY PREPARATORY.

The inter-state anti-coal-combine convention, which is to begin its session in Chicago on the 5th prox., ought to prove a most interesting if not a very important event. Minnesota took the initiative in the matter, and in response to the invitation of her governor, the executives of twenty-six states signify their determination to appoint delegates. Even Pennsylvania, against whose coal barons the movement may be said to be aimed, is going to be represented, and it may be expected that the attitude and vote of the men from that state will come very nearly blazing the way for the rest of the delegates.

We are glad Utah is to have a voice in the proceedings; the choice of delegates by the Governor gives assurance that our Territory will be ably represented. It is perhaps too much to hope that the result of the convention will be the breaking down of the system of extortion under which a large part of the country is made to suffer, and in which we in Utah think we have a small grievance. But it cannot be otherwise than productive of good if it shall lead to a vigorous discussion of the subject, a full ventilation of the methods employed, and a union of effort as to means of resistance to be employed against the existing evil.

THE SILVER DOLLAR.

The history of the silver dollar is an eventful and interesting one. It was established on July 6, 1785, by the Continental Congress, although the exact weight was not finally fixed until August 8, 1786, when it was made equal to that of the old Spanish dollar whose weight was 416 grains of standard silver and 892.4 fine. This was equivalent to 371½ grains of fine silver with 44½ grains of crude silver. This dollar, however, did not originate with the Spaniards but was first coined and called a thaler at a mining town in Bohemia. Previous to July, 1785, the colonies used the English coinage. The weight of this coin was changed in 1827 by act of Jan. 18th, to 612½ grains of 900 fine, preserving the same amount of pure silver—371½ grains with 1-10 alloy. This act was discontinued by act of Feb. 12, 1873, which also decreed that the time-honored and Constitution-enslaved measure of values should be such no longer. It was made a legal tender in payment of all sums of five dollars or less, and the act might as well have declared in so many words that the Constitution so far as it relates to silver was set aside and the metal was no longer one out of which money should be coined. All subsequent legislation on the subject has been of the makeshift order and yielded but little if any practical benefit.