

ness in 1858 did not meet a very encouraging reception here; his name was Rev. C. Bedini and he was the archbishop of Thebes. The state department refused to recognize him, although Secretary Marcy thought there would have been nothing improper in doing so had the applicant been a layman instead of a dignitary in the Catholic church, this notwithstanding the fact that the United States was officially represented at the Vatican. But the refusal of recognition was not the worst phase of the treatment received by Rev. Bedini. Anti-Catholic newspapers concocted all sorts of scandalous stories about the papal agent, one of which was to the effect that he on a certain occasion administered ecclesiastical discipline by skinning an apostate priest alive. He was insulted and threatened at Pittsburg, and at Cincinnati a conspiracy was formed by Italian and German refugees to hang him and burn the Catholic cathedral of the city. The plot was discovered just in time to save his life, the gallows which the conspirators intended to use being captured when the latter were arrested.

It is gratifying to lovers of liberty and those who prefer to deal with others in a spirit of tolerance and moderation, that such things would not today be permitted here even if they are anywhere thought of, which is doubtful. While an ecclesiastical diplomat accredited to us from the Pope or any other similar authority would be refused an exequatur, he would be made welcome in a private capacity—is made welcome, in fact, as Mgr. Satolli is able to testify.

### THOSE FAULTY ROOFS.

No one disputes Chicago's foremost position in matters of enterprise and energy. But, judging by the experience of last Sunday's rainstorm, the builders in that city could profitably take lessons from those in the trade hereabouts, and learn how to make a roof that would serve for more than a sieve. It is understood that the World's Fair buildings were so slight in construction as to be almost flimsy, but it was hardly anticipated that visitors would have to take umbrellas and rubber coats into the exhibition rooms to keep dry during a shower. In the agricultural building, on Sunday night, streams did not merely trickle from the roof, but literally poured in, so that in a few hours the water on the floor was two inches deep. The machinery hall was not much better, though part of the trouble there was attributed to the breaking of skylights by snowslides on the roof. The manufactures building was in a worse condition. The water did not drop through the interstices in the badly constructed roof. It poured in streams, and for the entire distance of 1,785 feet there was not a dry spot after the storm had been in progress a short time. The transportation, mines, and administration buildings were also soaked internally, the only general structure that was kept dry being the electricity hall.

The various state buildings were better constructed, and their roofs kept out the wet. Other public buildings fared badly from the same source of trouble. In the East Chicago avenue police court, says the *Chicago Mail*, "Justice Kersten was compelled to hand over justice while sheltered under an umbrella. The usual crowd of complainants, defendants, policemen and spectators were protected with umbrellas or rubber coats. Many yards of plaster which dropped from the ceiling lay upon the floor, and the water poured down uninterruptedly directly over his honor's throne during the night and entire session of court this morning. The only portion of the court room which escaped the damaging effects of the fearful weather was a small space to the left of the entrance."

### PROLONGING LIFE.

The question of the longevity of man, its causes and susceptibility of expansion, are matters which receive attention from minds trained in scientific channels as well as many others. It is altogether an important and interesting subject, but all or nearly all the discussions of it contain such a decided percentage of theorizing that to most people they are not convincing and therefore not satisfactory. A writer in the *Queen* talks up the subject from a hypothetical standpoint and begins by supposing that if it became, through the advance of medical science, as common for men to live through the century as it now is for them to reach the three-score-and-ten, what a difference the extra thirty years would make! He pursues the theme in the following readable strain:

At 20 we—that is to say, those most enviable persons who are only 20—now look forward to forty-five years of strength and work. Then at 50 we should be in the position which we now occupy at 20. Think of a Darwin, a Huxley, a Tyndal, an Owen, working not for forty-five, but for seventy-five years, clear and strong of brain! What discoveries should we not make! But we are not all philosophers. Some are statesmen. There would be, therefore, losses. Think of certain great orators and party leaders—to name any would be invidious—going on for seventy-five years! And heirs would have a good long time to wait. And rich men would have a bad time, because people would not stand being poor for 100 years on end. And then we should be calling out for a further extension of life. What a shame, it would be said, to cut us off at 100—a miserable, paltry 100—just when we were beginning to understand life! Everything is short, saith Augustine, that hath an end.

Truly, "he that loveth his life shall lose it," and he that devotes too much time to the means whereby it can be lengthened out unduly is wasting effort that might be profitably employed. It is easy to understand that most people are continually doing things which have a tendency to shorten their lives; and then it ought to be as well understood that if they did not do these things they would, in the normal course of things, live just so much longer. That is about as near to it as science can ever come.

### GRESHAM FOR PREMIER.

The cabinet makers have nearly completed their work now, winding up at the top contrary to the usual procedure. The latest advices hint that Judge Walter Q. Gresham has been tendered and will accept the portfolio of state, and as neither he nor Mr. Cleveland will deny the statement and as there is pretty good evidence supporting the announcement, we suppose it will have to be received, at least till the contrary appears.

There can be no question regarding Judge Gresham's general fitness for that or any other official station he may be called to, the only matter in such connection likely to elicit unfavorable comment being the advisability of a Democratic President appointing a Republican to the highest office in his gift—the highest but two in an executive sense in the nation. If, however, the President-elect has decided upon such appointment, the opposition of disgruntled politicians and the unfavorable comments of displeased newspapers will not deter him for a moment. Perhaps it is understood that Judge Gresham's vote for Mr. Cleveland in November last was the former's official renunciation of Republicanism and entree into the Democratic fold, and perhaps not; he has always been a man of great independence of thought and freedom in action, and his vote at that time may have had no other political significance whatever.

We believe the judge is an agnostic, but however that may be his judicial work has been conspicuous for its fairness, comprehensiveness and learning, and if he goes into the state department it is a very safe prediction that the country will never have occasion to be ashamed of his work there.

### KEEP THE FROM TEMPTATION.

An important duty which rests upon parents among the Latter-day Saints is that of giving their children practical instruction in the principles of righteousness. The Almighty has said that He is "not well pleased" with those who permit the tender ones placed in their care to "grow up in wickedness." He has also given the Saints in this dispensation positive commandment that they "shall teach their children to pray and to walk uprightly before the Lord." Sometimes parents classed as Latter-day Saints appear to pay little heed to the divine injunction regarding their offspring. Fortunately this number is comparatively small; it would be well if it could be reduced still further.

The pitfalls in the pathway of improperly cared for youths are almost innumerable. One great danger to which thoughtless parents sometimes expose their children is that of imbibing a desire for intoxicants. Not long since, it was suggested to a gentleman who was encouraging his little son to sip beer as a beverage that he was incurring considerable risk to the child in so doing. The response came, in a jocular way, "Oh, a little beer never hurts an Englishman!"