

poetic yet often humorous style. We have not time today for a review of the book, having only just received it, but from a cursory examination we should say that it will make a most appropriate present for Christmas or New Year's, and will prove vastly entertaining to all who peruse it. Order of the Leonard Publishing Company, Box 1296.

### IMPORTANT TO CITIZENS.

WE again urge upon the voting citizens of Salt Lake the necessity of seeing that they are duly and properly registered for the approaching municipal election. Upon their ballots in February will depend the kind of city government we shall have for the ensuing two years. This is a matter that affects all people who reside within the city limits or have property therein. It is a question not merely of money, business, taxation, but of public morality, decency and good order.

No person can vote who is not registered. No one can register for the coming election after this week. Registration for the last county election is not registration for the municipal election. Voters who have removed from a precinct wherein they have registered will not be permitted to vote in the precinct to which they have removed, unless they have their names duly transferred. Registrars make mistakes sometimes. Names are occasionally misspelled or omitted altogether. Let every voter see that his name is placed properly on the list.

Citizens once disqualified under the provisions of the Acts of Congress, who are not now bigamists or polygamists, can register and vote, according to recent rulings of the courts. All who can lawfully take the oath—no others, are entitled to the privileges of the franchise in Utah. Let there be a full, legal registration this time, without fail.

### POPULATION STATISTICS.

IN 1890 the population in Alabama was 1,513,017, in 1880 1,262,505. These figures show an increase for the decade of nearly 20 per cent. There are 66 counties in the State, 6 of which show decreases. There are 22 cities and towns with a population each of 2000 or more. Mobile stands first with 31,076, Birmingham 27,178, and Montgomery 21,863. In 1880 Birmingham had only 3000 inhabitants. In ten years it multiplied itself nearly nine times, but the greatest increase is shown in Anniston City, Calhoun

county, which in 1880 had only 900, but in 1890 10,000. Every city and town in Alabama shows an increase for the decade. It ranks at present as a manufacturing State.

In 1890 Oregon had 174,768 inhabitants, in 1880 813,767. This shows an increase of nearly eighty per cent. There are thirty-one counties in the State, two of which show decreases, but owing to decrease in territory. There are fifteen cities and towns with a population each of 1000 or more. Portland has 46,385 inhabitants, East Portland 10,532, Astoria 6,184 and Albina 5,129. This latter city in 1880 was a hamlet of 143 souls. All the cities and towns of Oregon show extraordinary increases since 1880. Twelve of the fifteen cities show increases of over 100 per cent. each.

### A "CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION."

IN one of the articles prepared for Christmas reading by a professed minister of the Gospel and published in a daily paper, it is asserted that "In 1864 there was not a Christian organization in Utah."

This is such a broad and sweeping declaration and is made in such positive terms that it calls for some inquiry as to its truth. And as the Latter-day Saints, a religious body, had inhabited these valleys ever since 1847, the statement carries the declaration that these early settlers either were not Christians or that they had no church organization. It is not the first time that an attempt has been made to exclude the Latter-day Saints, or "Mormons," from the pale of Christianity. Coming at this season of the year and on the day of good will to all men, it betrays a lack of the true Christian spirit which is particularly striking.

The people who first planted civilization on that portion of Mexican soil which was afterwards called Utah, were not only citizens of the United States and believers in the mission and divinity of Jesus Christ, but they were organized as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which had existed under that title for many years. In 1864 there were a large number of meeting houses which were used and had been dedicated for Church purposes, in which God the Eternal Father was worshipped, every Sabbath day at least, in the name of Jesus Christ. This is beyond dispute, so that settles the question as to whether there was a religious organization in Utah previous to 1864.

But was it a Christian organization? Let us see. What constitutes a Christian organization? That might be answered in a different way by each

professing Christian denomination. It would not do to let each sect determine as to whether other sects claiming to be Christian were really Christian or not. There must be some general definition which would fairly cover the ground of inquiry. Is not that a "Christian organization" in a general sense, which is formed for the purpose of promoting Christian doctrine and worship and observance according to the best understanding of its members? If so, how can the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints be excluded from the category of Christian organizations.

The very name of it is suggestive of its character. Its existence is dependent on the fact of alleged revelations from God through Jesus Christ to Joseph Smith, and the purported direction of the son of God in all the affairs of the Church. It claims to have been set up and organized and governed under Christ's immediate instructions. Does not this give it a right to at least the name of "Christian organization."

"But," it may be objected, "we do not believe there was any such revelation as pretended, but that the whole matter was either a delusion or a fraud." What of that? The belief or disbelief of any number of opponents will not alter the truth. And if they are right, the fact remains that the members of the Church in question do verily believe it is the true Church of Christ, that they have joined it as such, that they have proven the sincerity of their faith beyond controversy and that they do all things in their Church in His holy name. So whether they are mistaken or not they belong to a "Christian" Church as much at least as the members of any other body professing to be Christian. In a general sense, then, they cannot be justly denied the title of a "Christian organization."

When we come to the question of what is truly Christian in doctrine or organization, we enter upon a wide field of controversy. What has the Catholic to say of the Protestant, the various contending sects of each other on this point? We need not go to Jerusalem where the Mussulman soldiery have to guard the Holy Sepulchre and, by force of arms, prevent "Christians," of opposing sects, from tearing each other to pieces on the spot sacred to the Prince of Peace, for an answer to this question. It can be illustrated much nearer to home, and receive reply in some of the articles written from a sectarian standpoint for home Christmas reading.

But the Latter-day Saints believe in