

concerning their respective prerogatives, is about as bad as, if not worse than autocracy pure and simple. Austria furnishes an instance of this at the present time. The Cubans have fought long and suffered much in order to escape the evils of the present conditions; they cannot be expected to lay down their arms at the invitation of Sagasta and carry the struggle into the halls of a parliament, when they know beforehand that there they would not be on an equal footing with their antagonists. Nor can the world at large expect them to do this. Spain has been unable so far to put an end to the insurrection. In view of that fact, she ought to be willing to offer the Cubans peace on honorable conditions at least.

#### CORN AS FOOD.

What to do with the surplus production of corn in this country is somewhat of a problem. People have not yet learned its true value as food, and the consequence is that while farmers are getting a fair price for wheat, their corn finds but a dull market. Few Europeans know that it is cheap and wholesome food, and even Americans need to be taught its possibilities as a supply for the table.

The Orange Judd Farmer suggests the formation of an "American Maize Exposition Corporation" for the purpose of advertising to the world the value of corn as a food product. The main purpose of the corporation would be to hold an international exposition devoted to the corn plant and its products, to be held at Chicago or Buffalo in 1899. This exposition should exhibit the corn plant in all stages of growth, and the manifold uses of the corn grain should be shown by exhibits of all forms of corn food preparations as well as the manufactured products from corn grain, such as alcohol and sirups. Included in the exposition plan is a cooking school, to demonstrate the new and old methods of cooking corn and its products. It is also a part of the plan suggested by the paper mentioned to send the essential portions of this exhibit to the Paris exposition in 1900, then to London, Berlin, Vienna and finally to the Orient.

The plan, if carried out, would be of great value to the agriculture of the country, not to speak of the benefits the world at large would derive from it. The millions of workmen who labor for exceedingly low wages ought to welcome any wholesome addition to the food supply. It took but little effort to induce the people of some European countries to consume horse flesh, only a few years ago considered unfit for the table. It should take less effort to open up a large market for the American corn, the excellent qualities of which can be demonstrated easily.

#### JEWISH COLONY FOR NEVADA.

The attention of the public is being called to a new colonization scheme in our neighbor state, Nevada. Jews from California have obtained a large tract of land in Smith's Valley, Lyon county, and thirty-five families have started on a pilgrimage to this new land of promise, to reclaim it and make it the location of happy homes and an altar to the honor of Jehovah. According to reports these Hebrews have great plans for the future. Their intention is said to be to invite Hebrews from other parts of the country to join them. They aim in course of time to make the whole state of Nevada a Mosaic commonwealth, with Israelitish government and schools of their own. They want to have a legislature of Jewish Elders and establish orthodox

Judaism. This is said to be their ultimate aim and ambition.

The country in which they are to locate is described as in a high degree forbidding. The summer temperature is 120 degrees in the shade. For miles and miles nothing grows but dusty sagebrush. The mountains are barren. No plant, no brush thrives on their slopes. They are crumbling away and spreading themselves over the flats. No effort so far has been made to reclaim the dreary plains, though thousands have crossed them since 1847. This, however, does not deter these Hebrews from taking up the battle with nature. They believe that they will succeed just as the Latter-day Saints succeeded, with industry and perseverance.

The people interested in this colonization scheme are mostly of Austrian, Polish and Russian extraction. They are accustomed to hardship and are, according to all accounts, determined to succeed. They believe that in a return to the pursuits of their ancestors in the Holy land they will find deliverance from the bondage of poverty.

Speculation as to what may be the outcome of this colonization scheme is out of place as yet, but there is no doubt that the Hebrew race is capable of great things, whenever they concentrate their energy on one common object. Can it be mere accident that the national consciousness seems to be awakening simultaneously in the Old World and the New? That movements are started for the establishment of Judaism in its original purity here as in Palestine? Is there a possibility for the building up of a Jewish state side by side with Utah, which owes its existence to the gathering here of some of the children of Israel? These questions only the future can answer, but the rumored gathering of Jews to Nevada suggests them and furnishes food for reflection.

#### AN ANCIENT BATTLEGROUND.

An item of great interest appears in the Chicago Times-Herald as a dispatch from Wichita, Kan., Nov. 28. It tells of the discovery of an ancient battleground in Indian territory where, according to a conservative estimate, at least a hundred thousand men were slain in battle. The dispatch reads:

"Professor Edwin Walters, the renowned archaeologist and geologist, made the astounding discovery and has quietly pushed his investigations until he is able to furnish indisputable evidence of the soundness of his theories.

"A few months ago, when the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf railway was being built through that wild country, the construction gang in excavating trenches on the right of way cut into a most remarkable formation. Under the top strata of alluvial soil they found a layer of adobe or plains formation of the quaternary period, and in the strata of fine silt lying underneath it were found the bones of countless warriors of a prehistoric race.

"Professor Walters learned of the discovery, and under his direction pits were dug in a great number of places, revealing the remarkable fact that under an area of thirty acres these skeletons of an extinct race were thickly buried. There are 4,860 yards in an acre, and there was one body for every two square yards, or nearly 2,500 bodies to the square acre. Figuring from this basis Professor Walters calculates that from 60,000 to 100,000 is not an exaggerated estimate of the number of bodies that lie buried there.

"The bones were dug up literally by the car load when the railroad was built through, and large quantities of stone axes, arrow heads, javelins and

pieces of pottery were found. These finds came to the attention of one of the directors of the road who lives in Holland, and the arrow heads and pottery were quietly packed up and forwarded to a museum in Holland.

"The more recent explorations of this rich field for archaeological research prove beyond question that those buried there were slain in battle. The skulls are found to be broken as by blunt weapons or pierced with spears or arrows. The arrow heads are found inside the skulls or sticking into the other bones of the body. In parts of the burial ground the bodies are placed in circles, with feet together and bodies radiating from the center. A food bowl is usually found at the elbow of each warrior, evidently placed there in accordance with some religious belief. In other parts of the burial ground the bodies are found in a sitting posture. In still other places the bodies are buried promiscuously in trenches.

"Professor Walters and the scientists who accompany him believe that the battle extended over a period of two or three days.

"They hold the theory that it was between the ancient mound builders and the Maya-Toltecs, the latter being a strong Central American people that disputed the possession of the Mississippi Valley with the mound builders. This is undoubtedly one of the most important archaeological finds in the United States."

The history of this continent as outlined in the Book of Mormon suggests that archaeological finds of this nature may be expected in various places.

#### DO NOT INSULT THE PEOPLE.

The "News" has purposely refrained from taking part in the high school controversy, in the firm conviction that the people in this community know their own mind on that question and need no urging to do what they consider best for themselves and their children. Nor would reference to the matter have been made now, but for the fact that a cotemporary takes occasion again to speak of past educational conditions here in a sneering manner, leaving the reader to infer that the predominant Church has been rather opposed to higher education. Nothing is further from the truth.

The history of Utah shows that the settlers here from the very first, devoted all the means and time they could spare to the education of their children, and as their means gradually increased and the facilities multiplied, better schools were provided. The schools of Utah have always compared favorably with those of any other part of the country under similar circumstances, and always will. There is not the slightest reason for doubt on that point. Insinuations to the contrary cannot be regarded otherwise than as insults to the people.

The Mormon Church knows the value of true education. It knows that errors thrive in ignorance and in the "wisdom" that falsely bears that name, which is the twin brother of ignorance. And inasmuch as the aim of the Church is to help disseminate the truth, its leaders and members are logically interested, perhaps more than any others, in the distribution of knowledge among young and old. Opinions may differ as to the means by which the end is to be obtained, and also to what extent the people ought to be taxed for the purpose, but that is a different question.

It is the kind of talk against which we here protest that is continually fanning whatever embers there may still be in the ashes, and which threatens occasionally to revive an old controversy on lines long ago obliterated. It can do no good; it may result in disaster.