

Lack of Confidence.

The condition and prospects of trade are subjects of universal concern. The promises of the earlier months of the year have not been kept, and the present outlook into the future gives but little relief. There is no panic; no financial crisis; no scarcity of money, food or clothing; no general sickness; no apprehension of war; no fear of rebellion; no political excitement; no sweeping conflagration; no desolating storm or inundation; in short, no menacing hand is lifted in any direction. Why then should there not be a bustle of activity on every side? Why are not our thoroughfares thronged with moving produce and merchandise, and our ships, canal boats and railroad cars filled with outward and inward freight? Why is not every willing hand actively employed at remunerating wages, and the homes of the laborers filled with plenty and peace?

It is worse than idle to deceive ourselves. There is no widespread and substantial prosperity. We can find no class of manufacturers, merchants, agriculturalists, artisans, or common laborers, who are steadily earning a profit, or have full and contented employment. Every device or shift by which money is made, or a stipend gained, seems to be temporary, and hence all business affairs are very much unsettled. The merchants are not overstocked with goods, but they are trying to loan their capital on call, or take a turn with it in some speculative venture, rather than to employ it in gathering an assortment of the wares in which they deal. The consumers take hold still more sluggishly, and purchase only for immediate necessities. Everywhere there is a sense of depression, and discouragement to activity, an attitude of waiting without any foreshadowing of the form or character of the relief to be expected.

There are no lack of theories for a solution of this mystery; but all that have any substance in them point to one fact: the people have no confidence in the present financial foundation. It will not help the situation to say that in our paper we predicted this long before it became a matter of history. This country will never be wholly re-established, in competition with other nations, until we embody in the fundamental law the great rule of equity that a promise of payment is only fulfilled when the creditor receives the weight and value promised. When a man before the war promised money to his creditor, he meant by it, if he was honest, not what a future Congress might declare to be a legal tender, but the actual coin of the weight and fineness then current, or its accepted equivalent. Our Supreme Court, at first, solemnly pronounced the inviolability of this promise, and all true men breathed more freely. But that august body was re-organized, and the new majority reversed this decision. After this, our government thought to save the Treasury from the injury to our national credit sure to result from such a falsehood by inserting in its bonds a promise to pay "in coin," but even this would not do. The lenders of money in Europe saw the promise, but they urged that it too might be kept to the ear and still broken to the hope. The Treasury might pay in gold coin, but in pieces of a weight or fineness below the present standard. Thus, to avoid the consequences of its own folly, the Treasury was compelled to prepare a plate for its bonds in which the promise to pay in gold coin of the weight and fineness now current is conspicuously inserted; and only then could our government borrow money at five per cent. per annum.

This is the shadow that hangs over the business of the country today. It is the question which every man who has capital or enterprise, asks himself with only a hollow echo for answer. If he invests, what shall he receive in payment? It is the unsettling solvent that puts everything connected with the material interests of the country out of proper shape and consistency. For future answer we must guard the spirit of trade and enterprise from the apprehended danger by embodying the true principle in the very text of the Constitution. For the present there would be instant relief if the printed lie, now a "drug" in the market at two per cent. per annum, was left to find

its level by its own weight. We suppose that nothing final can be done before the gathering of Congress, but the preliminary steps should be taken at once. Public opinion should everywhere be formed demanding the total and unconditional repeal of the Legal Tender act, to take effect on a certain day not many months thereafter. This should be settled in the convictions of the public mind, so that it may take the shape of law the moment that Congress assembles. With this shadow removed, the sunshine of a true prosperity may once more break over all our land, and every vital interest respond to its quickening beams.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Aug. 27.*

Correspondence.

The Situation in England.

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 19, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

I give you a few items of my personal experience and observation since I left Salt Lake City. I enjoyed myself very much on my journey to this land. All along the line of railway I was courteously and respectfully listened to when engaged in conversation upon our principles of religion, or upon the country we live in, or replying to questions respecting the person and character of President B. Young. I found a very liberal spirit manifested towards us as a people, and many manifested considerable interest in the solving of the "Mormon Problem." However, the majority were in favor of nonintervention, but were willing for us to manage our domestic concerns our own way. They deprecated congressional interference in either our religious, social, or municipal affairs, and denounced special legislation as being a very dangerous precedent to establish in that land.

My journey across the Atlantic was equally pleasant, and I think I am safe in saying that in some cases I was enabled to remove a little of the erroneous views which many of my fellow passengers had concerning us as a people.

I have now been in this land since the 29th of June, and have had some little opportunity of seeing the people and the country. I am laboring in the Liverpool Conference, which is now very extensive. Geographically it extends north to Barrow-in-Furness, Preston, Blackburn, Burnley, Over Darwen, and some portion of Cheshire. The Saints are scattered too through three or four counties in North Wales. The Isle of Man is also included, so I have quite an extensive part of the country to travel in. I have visited the majority of the Branches in the Conference, and have invariably found the Saints pleased to have the Elders visiting among them. My own personal experience in this respect has been very gratifying. Some of them I find very poor indeed, in fact receiving parish pay, yet even in their poverty they hang on to the work and look forward with great anxiety for the day of their deliverance. Many of them have been in the Church for years, some for thirty-eight years and upwards, and they tell very interesting reminiscences of the Elders in those early days. Bro. Brigham, Bro. Heber and Bro. Hyde are very prominently mentioned in Preston and the surrounding country. The Saints point out the places where the Elders lifted up their warning voice, and proclaimed the Gospel in these latter days, and tell of the wonderful success they met with. But, oh, how changed now! The Saints are few and scattered—one family here, and another there, where large and flourishing branches formerly existed, and among the people of the world there seems no disposition to investigate any system of religion. To me it seems that the Spirit of the Lord is being gradually withdrawn from the people, and they are giving way to the spirit of infidelity and disregard for anything sacred. I view with sorrow the great change, for it seems to me that I can see a great change among the people. There seems more drunkenness, more crime and misery, and certainly more poverty than when I left upwards of fourteen years ago, and this among all classes of society. Another sad feature, especially for the rising generation, is the great intemperance of the women, and this seems to be increasing.

Another feature I notice, and

I have asked all classes of people for information on the subject, which is this, that although the working class have been much better paid than in years gone by, they are no better off at the week's end. The answer is invariably the same, that the price of everything consumed by a family, not only food and clothing, but rent and taxes, coal and gas, has increased more in proportion than the wages, and the people themselves say they are poorer than when the price of labor was lower. Very many industries have not recovered from the high price charged for coal, and some begin to feel the dull times in America, and look forward with some anxiety for the coming Winter, and not wholly without cause.

One reason for the indifference manifested towards all kinds of religion is the partiality shown by the ministers of the various sects in visiting the members of their churches. The poor are left to themselves in their poverty, and no interest is taken in their spiritual or temporal welfare, but the rich can be visited, no matter what their general characters may be.

Another very prominent cause for this religious indifference is the tendency of the dissenting churches to what is known as high church principles, and they have incorporated in their forms of worship Catholic notions and ideas, such as candles, confession, and other features of Roman ritualism. Some churches have taken out the private pews and introduced plain benches or forms, and the people are expected to pay their penny every time they go to church. This last innovation seems to have given the greatest offence and made the people very careless and indifferent. In this we can see the hand of the Lord at work among the people. They have rejected the true plan of salvation and are satisfied with these empty forms and outside show, pomp, and parade.

In view of these things, then, to say that I prize more than ever my faith and my home in the mountains but expresses very faintly my real thankfulness and gratitude to my Heavenly Father for restoring the Gospel and Priesthood again upon the earth. And oh! could those who are now gathered with the church only appreciate their privileges that they could and do enjoy, they would cease their murmuring and complainings and be thankful all the days of their life, for I prefer the peace, the quietude, and the general good feeling that prevails in our mountain valleys to the hurry, bustle, and confusion that exist in these lands. Could the brethren contrast the peace and good feeling generally found in the workshops of Salt Lake City with the drinking, swearing, envy, and jealousy so prevalent in the shops of this country, they would feel thankful and appreciate the change.

And what shall I say to the sisters? They think sometimes their lot is hard, no doubt; but if they could view the women of this country, as I view them, their little troubles would appear insignificant and would never be mentioned by way of contrast with the troubles of the women of this country. Very, very many have drunken, dissolute husbands to contend with, others brutal and lazy men, and many of them wilful and disobedient children, and thousands of them are compelled to work hard to sustain themselves in any way and keep a shelter over their heads, and are obliged to be content with a home and surroundings that, to my mind, the poorest in Utah would be ashamed of. They have other evils to contend with, which I need not mention, but which seems to me to be sapping the foundations of thousands of what might be happy homes, but perhaps I have said enough. Let none think this picture overdrawn, for most assuredly this is how I view these things. I had some pride for my country before I saw it again; but now that is gone, and as I feel at the present time, money would not hire me to make my home in this country and bring up my family. With these feelings no wonder I love my mountain home, and it is only for the hope that perhaps I may be enabled to do some good while here in these lands that reconciles me at all. And when I think of our poor brothers and sisters in these lands, how they are hoping and praying and many of them striving hard to emancipate themselves, and denying themselves of nearly all that goes to make life comfortable, I think if

those who have comfortable homes and are doing well in Utah would spare a little more to the P. E. Fund, especially if those who have been helped by its means would make a good effort, many of the poor Saints could be helped away.

As far as I am aware, the brethren are doing their best and endeavor to be as economical as they can, that the burden may be light upon the Saints who are left, for it seems like the gleaner after the harvest is done.

I have visited some few of my relatives. They seem to have no interest in anything that pertains to my mission, but I preach to them whenever I have the opportunity.

WILLIAM B. BARTON.

POLITICAL SITUATION OF FRANCE.

The National Assembly of Versailles, having adjourned till the 15th, I purpose to lay before your readers, briefly, my own ideas on the situation in France, and the numerous parties, or rather civil factions of its Assembly. It is a well known fact that the French nation is rent by several irreconcilable parties, of which the principal are the Legitimists, the Orleanists, and the Imperialists, styling themselves Conservatives, and the Republicans, including the Radicals, the Red Republicans or Communists, and others. All these parties and their subdivisions are represented in the National Assembly. Three flags, the white, the tricolor and the red, are on the field, each one having a leader, its adherents, its political tenets and tendencies.

But in spite of this inextricable competition for power, there are in reality only two great contending parties, namely the partisans of the divine right, or legitimists, and the promoters of the dogma of the national sovereignty. The legitimists profess that France belongs by divine right to the Count de Chambord, the last living representative of the Bourbon dynasty. Henri the Fifth, in case of his restoration as the legal king of France, would proudly proclaim, as did Louis the fourteenth—"I am the State," in other words, "All political authority belongs exclusively to me." In case of such an emergency, the first act of Henri the Fifth would, in all probability, be a declaration of war with Italy, in order to restore to the Pope his lost temporal kingdom.

I will state here, *en passant*, that in my opinion, the Count de Chambord, by his last unwise manifesto to Frenchmen, has lost for ever any chance of ascending the throne of his fathers. The young son of Louis Napoleon and the Count of Paris, the latter a grandson of King Louis Philippe, are now the two only pretenders to the crown of France.

To return to the National Assembly: it is an historical fact, well established, that the mandate which its 750 members received from their constituents was by no means a political one, but simply to make an honorable treaty of peace with Germany, in order that its victorious armies might evacuate French soil as speedily as possible. After the shameful fall of the second empire at Sedan, no regular government existed in France, and it became of the utmost importance to nominate an able statesman to extricate the country from its awful condition. M. Thiers, a well known ex-premier, and minister of King Louis Philippe, was elected by acclamation president of the National Assembly. Under his skillful management, five milliards of francs (a thousand millions of dollars) were paid in three years to Germany, the most stupendous war indemnity mentioned in ancient or modern history, public order was restored everywhere, the French army was reorganized on a tremendous footing, and, finally, France was delivered from the presence of the invading German armies.

This being accomplished, had the Assembly possessed a right sense of its mandate, it would have dissolved immediately, to be succeeded by a national convention, and then this new, fresh Assembly, having been legally elected with this political mandate, would have organized a monarchical or republican form of government. Thiswise course would have satisfied every good citizen. Unfortunately, the present Assembly, trampling under foot every sense of duty to its constituents, has openly usurped the constituent au-

thority; but being composed of numberless small gangs of white, tri-color and red demagogues, they neutralize the designs of each other by their incessant plots and counterplots. They are only able to overthrow, from time to time, a set of unpopular ministers, or to reject a rational bill, but they are, and will remain to the end, unable to found any definite and strong government. Hence their scandalous political wrangles, which attract the attention of the whole world; hence also those laughable royalist attempts to restore an absolute monarchy, which always falls to the ground.

The Conservative members of the Assembly, possessing but a very small, unreliable majority, feel dreadfully afraid of losing their legislative power. By the result of a number of partial elections, they are well aware that the great majority of the French nation are positively republicans. What then will be the final result of this antagonism between the present Assembly and the people? The ablest European statesman is unable to foresee this result. The future fate of France remains a perfect mystery. Why? Because the French problem is far more complex than any other European question. Since the great revolution of 1789, the perpetual duration of any form of government is a moral impossibility. See how this great nation accepted with enthusiasm the first republic, then the empire, then the destroyers of the empire, then the Bourbon dynasty, then again the empire, then the citizen-king, then the second republic, then over again the empire, then the third republic; and all this in less than a century. What other nation could, in so short a time, have experienced every form of despotism and every reform of liberty, and yet remain in possession of the fullness of its life?

I was twenty years old when I predicted the revolution of July 30, 1830. I was residing in Paris when I clearly foresaw the downfall of King Louis Philippe. But the French problem is now so very complex that I scarcely feel disposed to venture any prediction as to the final result of the fierce antagonism which exists between the National Assembly and the electoral body. The Septennate of Marshal MacMahon is but a political trick of the white radicals; it will soon vanish away before the will of the nation. To conclude I will say that the great revolution of 1789 is still living and progressing, and I am fully convinced that it will finally triumph over all its opponents, and will establish a French Republic upon a sure foundation.

LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN

LITTLE ROCK, 8.—The Constitutional Convention, yesterday, completed the new constitution, which was signed by all but seven members. Resolutions deprecating and denouncing outrages in the State, and demanding equal justice to all, without regard to race or color, and pledging themselves to sustain the laws and inviting immigration to the State were adopted.

NEW YORK, 8.—Edmund Yates has written a letter denying the accusation that he caricatured, in his latest novel, American celebrities whose hospitalities he accepted while in this country, and saying that the six months that he passed in America were the pleasantest of his life.

A Rome letter says that in progressing with its liquidating of the church property, the government commission take action which shows they are determined to cut nearer and nearer to the bone and leave those formerly well fed and fat little else than a grim skeleton. The establishment of the Propaganda was last week made to feel, for the first time, the pressure, and at the first turn of the screw brought a auction block of fine property of Montalt's large villa or palace, in an admirable situation above Frascati. All sorts of protests were put in, both by the directors of the Propaganda and by friends connected with the foreign establishments in Rome. It was knocked down at three hundred and twenty-seven thousand francs. The Propaganda will receive annually a sum equal to about eighteen thousand francs as a benefit from this investment in the public funds.