

ception, the farmers could have rain for their crops whenever they wanted it. After the hard-working scientist had captured fourteen full-grown thunderbolts and stored them away for future use the police of Hungary interrupted his labors and sent him to jail.

These alleged rain-makers seem to be not in the least overcome by the utter failure of their plans and workings so far, and evidently think that with persistence the missing link in the chain of natural science necessary to success will be developed. Meantime the unthinking—and a good many who are not unthinking—of the populace are disposed to weaken in their faith regarding the experiments; that is, those who ever had any faith in them are doing so, and rapidly joining the other class where the salutation of each announcement of failure is the quite familiar one—"I told you so!" But still the experiments go on and will probably continue so long as the appropriation lasts. We are advised by one of the more facetious that on Saturday last General Dyrenforth, untroubled by the prospect that it would rain presently without his aid, filled a balloon with a hydrogen-oxygen mixture and sent it sailing up into a black cloud, where it exploded, precipitating a heavy shower, which presently turned into a steady and long-continued drizzle, which leads to the conclusion that while the explosive balloon is a great deal more honest than the lightning trap, it still remains to be proved that the rain-making powers of the former are superior to those of the latter.

There are a good many places in Utah that would be converted from unproductive wastes into fruitful fields if the golden secret sought by Dyrenforth and claimed by Melbourne could be attained and its principle applied. The idea that concussion would bring aerial moisture to its vicinity was caused by the fact that it has been known to rain quite copiously on a battlefield just after a severe battle; but this has not always been the case by any means, and it would seem as if the conditions overhead must be propitious, in which event the rain would come sooner or later anyway, the concussions having but the effect of hastening matters a little.

SPEED THE WORK!

It is to be hoped the movement initiated by Mayor Baskin to have a People's railroad to one of the coal fields will take root and grow without delay. It is here to be noted, to his honor's great credit, that he has done his full part toward preventing rascality and fraud in the dealings of the combine, and been foremost on all occasions when securing decent treatment to the people was the object in view; it was, therefore, peculiarly fitting that he be the head of a movement looking to the complete emancipation of the public from the increasing thralldom in which they have been held by the unscrupulous monopoly for years. Let him go ahead, and there will be a movement to sustain him such as will amount, in effect, to unanimity.

There is no serious difficulty in

which a community may be involved but what there is a way out of it, and the coal question hereabout is the most serious one that has beset Salt Lake City of late years. The article spoken of is one of the prime necessities of life; it is absolutely indispensable. Time was when none was used here, but that was in the days when business was sluggish and our young men had ample time during the summer to get together a winter's supply of wood from the canyons, which they invariably did. A revolution in this respect has taken place, and revolutions do not retrace their progress or reverse the motion of their wheels. It no longer pays to haul wood when doing so requires the hard labor of a man and two horses for perhaps three days to get one or two cords, each cord obtained putting the supply so much farther away and higher up, the question thus becoming one of how long the accessible supply will last; and the amount for which the wood will sell when obtained represents no more than a fraction of what it has cost in toll, wear and tear and property involved. Besides, to use wood requires one to be constantly replenishing the fire, some one else to be continually reducing it to proper dimensions, and in cold weather a cord of wood worth \$10 would last about as long as the hauler was in bringing it. That is too primitive a condition for us now. The three days spent in hauling a cord of wood applied to teaming in the lowlands would bring at least as much and, under proper conditions, would buy enough coal to last a frugal family all winter. That is the difference, and is of itself a sufficient reply to the remedy against the coal sharks suggested by a friend yesterday, that we "freeze them out" by returning to wood for fuel. We can't do it, you know.

No, we must have coal, a thousand tons a day for six months to come. As the business is being conducted now, the profits accruing to the railroads and the combine cannot fall far short of one-half of the whole amount received, which would foot up the enormous total of at least \$2,500 a day! A railroad to Coalville or any other available point would reduce the price of coal from its present figures say forty per cent, thus saving the people \$2,000 a day and, by keeping the market supplied, could count on at least \$1,000 for itself besides! Is not such a showing all the inducement that could be asked?

The suggestion that the People's road intersect the Utah Central at some convenient point—say Kimball's ranch—is a good one, for the reason that most of the grading is already done and could be purchased cheaply; the iron, ties and rolling stock could be easily obtained and laid and the road be pouring coal into our midst on decent terms and at living rates all around before the season was half over. It only needs a master spirit in the lead, backed by sufficient capital to complete the road; this would be so slight comparatively and the profits upon the investment so large inevitably, that the enterprise should arise from its paper bed and walk forth fully materialized at once. Let the agreement between all concerned and with any

other company whose rails or a part thereof may be utilized, be a stub-and-twist, copper-riveted and brass-bound one, so that once freed from the clutches of the combine we may thenceforward and forever after be free.

It is a condition, not a theory, that we have to deal with.

THE BOOK OF MORMON.

An article, headed "Criticism of the Old Testament," appears in the October number of the *Edinburgh Review*. In it the author asks, Are Christians justified in the belief that honest criticism and diligent inquiry into the difficulties avowedly connected with sacred writings tend to strengthen the faith in their divine genuineness and authenticity? This question he endeavors to answer by laying down the proposition that the Biblical books must be viewed from Calvary as the central point of sacred history, in the same manner as our part of the universe must be viewed from the sun and not from the earth as the center of this planetary system.

"Viewed in this way," we are told, "the Bible becomes the most interesting of all books. It is no longer a magical and infallible oracle verbally and syllabically inspired; but a perfectly veracious and divinely simple record of the growth and development of God's church—from the beginning down to the apostolic age—describing in full its successive essays in organization, its failures and its victories, its achievements of saints and heroes; giving in perfect good faith its legends of Jonah and his whale, of Balaam and his ass, of Samson and his lion; and weaving in many lovely myths and dreams and poems—the angels' ladder, the rainbow covenant of hope and peace for animals as well as men, the garden of sweet innocence and of sad primeval fall."

About the proposition here laid down, very little need be said. It seems to contain contradictions of very glaring nature. The author evidently feels concerned about the difficulties in the Scriptures and therefore tries to turn the whole structure upside down so as to hide these from view. But in so doing, he still finds that the records are "not infallible" and yet "perfectly veracious"—presenting, it seems, a difficulty still more unsolvable than any which he removes. For, how can a record be at once fallible and perfectly veracious? One more instance of the helplessness of modern theology.

Incidentally, the author states that the Book of Mormon is "beneath criticism," and this groundless statement should, for the sake of truth, be emphatically contradicted.

The trouble is, the world refuses, as a general rule, to read the Book of Mormon with a view to honest criticism. It has become almost an axiom with the so-called scholars of the world that that sacred record cannot bear close investigation. It has been viewed through the hazy mists of prejudices and denied a fair, impartial hearing. It has been doomed, among the thousands of Christian confessions, to the same fate to which the Bible is subject among the infidels. Nothing is more strange than this. For those who accept the Book of Mormon invite investigation and maintain that if this record must be rejected, the Bible must be rejected, too. And if one is ac-