

A RAILROAD CLEARING HOUSE.

RAILROAD managers, officers and stock holders have long and anxiously sought for some means of preventing railroad wars. The pool was the most effective means of doing this ever devised, though far from perfect; but the principle of pooling is antagonistic to public policy when applied to railroads as well as to business enterprises of any other sort. A railroad pool is a trust, having the same odious features that are common to most other trusts, and is forbidden by the inter-state commerce law.

Railroad managers are compelled to depend upon the honor of rival managers to maintain rates agreed upon; but experience proves such a dependence to be extremely unreliable. A tariff sheet may be prepared and formally adopted by rival roads, the honor of whose managers is pledged to the maintenance of the same; but the hope of gain rises superior to business integrity, and secret reductions, rebates, or other advantages are given to shippers. The facts leak out and war follows. Rates are cut, and strenuous efforts are put forth by one road to overreach or undermine another. Nothing can be plainer than that a lack of honor is the cause of railroad wars; a fact which, by the way, is a severe reflection upon the moral status of a strong element in our nation.

A substitute for honor is wanted. Stockholders who invest money in railroads want some guarantee of a dividend stronger than the integrity of railroad officials. Treachery has honeycombed the mighty fabric of railroad industry in this country. The pool is prohibited by law, and probably always will be, its principle being adverse to the public good. Leases by one road of the lines of rivals have been resorted to in many instances, but this method is not practicable in the great majority of cases. The fact is, the question of railroad rates and wars is one of the gravest of its class that at present demand attention in this country.

A mammoth plan for the solution of the whole problem has been suggested, though we have seen no detailed statement of its proposed organization and practical workings. The scheme is a railroad clearing house. The general idea contemplates a central authority having a specified jurisdiction over all of the roads in the country willing to join in the system. This central authority would establish tariff schedules, receive reports from each road, credit each with the work done by it and remit to it or collect from it such balances as might be created. The stupendous nature of this scheme can scarcely be realized without reflection. In the magnitude of its proportions it is only surpassed by the organization of the general government itself, and its financial operations would far exceed those of all of the departments of the general government combined. The books of a railroad clearing house, having such a supervision over the earnings of a large majority of the railroads of the United States as to require it to keep records of them, would probably show figures not equaled in any other one establishment on earth, not excluding national governments.

The power exercised by the men intrusted with the management of the clearing house would of necessity be enormous; and it would be authority in no wise dependent upon the people, nor would it be responsible to them to any degree. On the contrary it would be the concentrated power of a class of citizens whose interests are adverse to those of the masses—bondholders. That such an organization would be able to wield a mighty influence on national legislation is obvious, and the direction in which that influence would tend is equally plain.

The deliberate efforts now being made to perfect such a plan and put it into practical operation, may be regarded as ominous to the welfare of the Republic. But where can a substitute for honor, the lack of which has led to the suggestion of such a scheme, be found? And how shall the evils resulting from that lack of honor be met? Such a combination would be an accumulation of dishonor in the aggregate, consolidated for protection against its own constituents. The disease would still exist, and the remedy would be a great deal worse than the malady.

HIGHLY PROPER.

GENERAL HARRISON, among other things, has a keen sense of the proprieties of a situation. This has been illustrated on many occasions, but more particularly during the campaign, when he was thronged with callers every day, Sundays perhaps excepted. On one occasion a lady acquaintance, undoubtedly acting in the interest of a newspaper, called on Mr. and Mrs. Harrison and had a very pleasant interview with them, but offensively took notes at every available stage of the conversation. At last the General interferred, saying—"Your good sense and the fitness of things should convince you at once that to come into my house and take notes of me, my family, and surroundings is a direct insult, and I can allow nothing of the kind." The presumption is that those notes were not used, or if they were

the particular incident above quoted was omitted.

It is a good thing when a man holds his family affairs above such considerations as being freely circulated in the public press. There are too many who would permit their households to be turned inside out if such means they could gain notoriety and advancement, and it is gratifying to know that the coming President is not one of them.

THE REASON WHY.

A CORRESPONDENT states that a large number of United States prisoners who were released from the Utah Penitentiary in 1887 did not receive from the U. S. Marshal the allowance of \$30 provided for in the United States statute and applicable in such cases. The reason for non-payment given at the time was that the requisite funds were not on hand.

Recently an announcement was published that the marshal had received funds with which to redeem certificates of jurors and witnesses who performed service in United States cases. The correspondent asks whether these funds cannot also be applied in the payment of prisoners who did not receive the stipulated \$30 at the time of their discharge.

On inquiry we learn that the funds in question cannot be thus applied, for the following reasons: The deficiency bill for expenses of the year ending June 30th, 1887, was presented to Congress but not passed by that body. The deficiency bill for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1888, was, on the contrary, not only presented but passed by the National Legislature. The fund now being disbursed by the marshal can only be applied on expenditures for the year specified.

The deficiency bill for expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1887, will be again presented at the present session, and as soon as it shall be passed and the money appropriated the demands spoken of by our correspondent will be met.

CLEVELAND'S POPULAR MAJORITY.

The final returns from all the States show that President Cleveland has the great popular majority of 118,328 over General Harrison. It has been known for some weeks that he had a majority with the people as individual voters, but the exact dimensions of it have not before been published in Utah. Following are the tabulated returns by States:

HARRISON.	
California.....	7,030
Colorado.....	12,613
Illinois.....	21,881
Indiana.....	2,948
Iowa.....	31,721
Kansas.....	80,150
Maine.....	23,252
Massachusetts.....	31,466
Michigan.....	22,611
Minnesota.....	36,635
Nebraska.....	29,004
Nevada.....	1,400
New Hampshire.....	1,834
New York.....	14,335
Ohio.....	19,561
Oregon.....	6,763
Pennsylvania.....	79,321
Rhode Island.....	3,439
Vermont.....	28,404
Wisconsin.....	21,271
Total.....	474,571

CLEVELAND.	
Alabama.....	59,813
Arkansas.....	27,210
Connecticut.....	336
Delaware.....	3,411
Florida.....	12,902
Georgia.....	60,003
Kentucky.....	28,098
Louisiana.....	54,270
Maryland.....	6,411
Mississippi.....	55,380
Missouri.....	25,701
New Jersey.....	7,149
North Carolina.....	13,627
South Carolina.....	52,923
Tennessee.....	19,264
Texas.....	163,762
Virginia.....	1,530
West Virginia.....	1,000
Total.....	592,890
Plurality.....	118,328

THE SPIRIT OF CONTENTION.

EVERY spirit that sweeps over the world has its influence among the Latter-day Saints. It affects most powerfully those who have not wholly weaned themselves from the world and its vanities, and who do not take the Holy Spirit for their guide. This is one indication by which the grades of saintship are indicated. The closer a man cleaves to the genius of the Gospel, the further he is apart from the spirit of the world, which means selfishness, pride, ambition, lust for wealth, and reaching downward to evils still more repulsive and degrading.

The observant member of the Church of Christ needs no more testimony of the fact that whatever spirit animates and sweeps over the world also affects the Saints, than the evidence of his own senses, combined with that spirit by which the signs of the times are discerned. He has but to reflect a moment upon the boom craze and the inordinate grasping after wealth at the

sacrifice of consistency, not to say principle, that a short time ago swept this nation and permeated even the ranks of this community, who profess to have abandoned the world's vanities and wickedness. The Latter-day Saints have been admonished to beware of delusive and insinuating spirits, many of which are now abroad in the earth.

In this connection it may be well to speak of one particular spirit that is creeping over the face of the globe—the genius of contention and strife. It has crept along so insidiously that the people scarcely perceive its growth. Let the observer keenly scan the condition of the inhabitants of this planet, in any capacity—international, national, or domestic—and he will conclude that war in all the phases of life already exists in its incipient stages. Never were the elements of all classes of people and affairs more antagonistic to each other than now, and the end is not yet, for the existence of these contentions fatten upon that which feeds them; consequently a climax is inevitable. The culmination means actual strife of a gigantic order before which all similar conditions in the history of our planet will pale into insignificance. The present is but a prelude to the future condition predicted by Joseph Smith—that not many years hence and peace would be taken from the earth.

Seeing that this spirit, whose power and presence are being already eruptively indicated in myriads of ways, prevails, what is the duty of the Saints in this regard? It is to avoid the spirit of contention in every form. Those who do not take this prudent and proper course will get into trouble. Exhibitions of querulousness beget in others the spirit which prompts them. This is probably more true today than in the past, because of the prevalence of the disposition to divide, split asunder and to encourage and engender feelings bordering upon antipathy. Every man and every woman should guard against being a peace-breaker even to the smallest degree, and should pursue the role of the peacemaker. To those by whom peace is produced, peace shall return.

Those who observe the signs of the times from a Gospel standpoint will understand the genius of these few words, and the wise will understand. We live in a great age, and there is a strong reason for taking the ground that events of unparalleled magnitude are at the doors, and it becomes the Saints to be wise, that they may not be moved in the hour that is approaching.

HENRY M. STANLEY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the contradictory reports regarding Henry M. Stanley, enough is known to create grave apprehensions for his safety if not his life. He is, if alive, in a country that is dark in more ways than one. There are no aids to progress or research, and an expedition taken from the very heart of civilization and set at work there is proceeding on a hazardous if not utterly useless undertaking, no matter whether the valiant explorer and his command be alive or not, the truth of this conclusion is demonstrated now beyond question. His objective point was the ancient of enlightenment and Christianity established in the jungle far in the interior by Emin Bey some years ago. This venturesome man, with a self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of progress and improvement, had succeeded in making his way far into the interior and with the little native force he had gathered around him established a colony, which slowly and steadily grew as it brought in the savages and converted them to the ways of peace and advancement. But it was one thing getting there—another thing getting away. Hostility was behind him in Egypt, a treacherous foe aided by the sterility of nature lurking all around him, supplies and communication cut off, and there he is or was. It is probable that he has been taken, and if not a captive has been released by the hand of death; and as it was with him so with the little band of colonists who remained with him.

Naturally the civilized world could not afford to neglect him, and naturally the choice of a man to lead the hope, forlorn or prosperous as it might be, was the only one who had been successful in interior African exploration and come back alive—Henry M. Stanley. Our readers are well enough advised of his expedition, of the circumstances attending it, his embarkation and his route. And that is about all that is definitely known regarding him. Nothing of an authentic character has been received from the expedition since it left the Congo River for the Aruwina and got some distance up the latter, presumably then in the mythical region giving rise to the River Nile. Rumors have been abundant; in fact "dispatches" have been frequent, all or most of them well supported by apparent facts. But just how reliable they were is shown in the number of times they have had Stanley killed, the frequency with which he has penetrated the intervening space from where formerly heard of and Emin Bey's colony, and was even then enjoying its measurably hospitable conditions, and so on. It is this utter lack of reliability in reports from that source that even now tinge the darkness of the news with the gleam of hope—the certainty that everything from the Dark Continent is uncertain until verified beyond question.

THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY-MAN.

A DISPATCH in yesterday's NEWS gave the particulars of an interview with Mrs. Bolles, the wife of the notorious California highwayman who for a decade or more has robbed stages under the pseudonym of "Black Bart." The lady does not share in the odium attaching to her husband's name, being respectable and apparently well thought of generally in the community where she resides—Hannibal, Mo. But her estimate of the man is, wife-like, wide of the mark. It seems he has promised to be with his family on Christmas next, and the reader may conclude for himself how nearly he will keep the promise by being informed that his capture would be followed by a reward for the captor and a life sentence at San Quentin for the captive.

There is a dash of romance—the morbid, lurid kind—in Black Bart's career. He would never have a confederate or assistant, in which he showed shrewdness, as there was then no chance for treachery. With the aid of a pair of powerful field glasses he would sweep the country in all directions where there were stage roads, and when he saw a stage coming without an armed messenger, would post himself near the road and donning a long mask would appear at the proper time and make the driver stop the team and throw up his hands, the persuasive influence being a cocked and well aimed double-barreled shotgun. The driver would then have to dismount as would also the passengers, and he and they would be ranged in a line while the highwayman took all their valuables and everything worth having in the mail pouches and treasure box. To ladies he would invariably return their jewelry and a little money, but the luckless males were allowed to depart with empty pockets. He was captured at last and sent to the San Quentin penitentiary for a term of seven years, which he served out. He became a very useful fellow in the prison, being a man of natural ability and aptitude. He took to chemistry and mastered it, theoretically and practically, during his term, and emerged from his long penal servitude well equipped for making an honorable and comfortable living. This was on the 23rd of January last—less than eleven months ago—and for some time past he has been wanted worse than ever. He has, it is estimated, bagged a fortune since he got out, and it is as difficult to get a trace of him as it is of the Whitechapel murderer; indeed, with the exception of the wide difference in the enormity of the crimes, their methods are very much alike.

Mrs. Bolles charitably believes that her husband is engaged in mining in some secluded place, and that he cannot emerge into the world because detectives are everywhere on his track. Of course she is not posted on western life; but she might know that mining is not a cause for the employment of detectives anywhere, least of all in California. She would do well to cultivate a regard for him as nearly as possible, and begin to look upon her husband as a man unfit to bear her and her children's name. A highwayman is one degree in crime below an assassin as a rule; but in order to be the former successfully, it is necessary to be the latter also when the occasion requires it.

ABUSES IN ALASKA.

UTAH knows what a territorial form of government is; but nothing is so bad that it might not be worse. Accounts that come from Alaska make it appear that that possession of our nation is being worse governed than any of the other territories have ever been. Statements made by missionaries and travelers, respecting abuses which prevail in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, are shocking, and an account of the gross and criminal immorality they portray are scarcely fit for publication.

In 1870 Congress conferred upon the Alaska Commercial Company the exclusive right to take a certain number of seals annually from what are called the seal islands off the coast of Alaska. The franchise was to continue twenty years, and embraced other provisions which have had the effect of conferring great power upon the corporation named. Indeed the natives are at its mercy to a certain extent, as all the supplies they receive are obtained from it.

The natives are docile in temperament, and the white men in the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company, of whom there are a large number, practice horrible outrages upon them. The wives and daughters of the natives are violated, and often kidnapped and carried away for purposes of the most immoral and shocking description, death frequently following, in a few weeks or months, the treatment they receive.

The condition of the natives is far worse now than when Alaska belonged to Russia, and many of the native chiefs have joined in a memorial to Congress, praying for relief from the tyranny and wrongs which are being inflicted upon their people. A few days ago the Senate adopted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Interior for official information relative to conditions in Alaska, and it is to be hoped that Congress will afford speedy and effective relief.

PRISON LABOR.

LABOR organizations in New York State for a long time insisted that the working man was injured and oppressed in consequence of the competition of prison labor in many lines of manufacture; and by means of the political influence they were able to exert they secured the passage of what is known as the Yates prison law, under which convicts are not allowed to manufacture commodities as formerly. Concerning the operations of this law, the Springfield Republican says:

"The Yates prison law, passed at the dictates of labor organizations, is already having its effect on the 3500 convicts in New York State. The officers of the prisons at Sing Sing, Auburn, and Clinton agree that their charges are actually suffering for something to do. Jail surgeons testify that sickness has increased, and the wardens have devised disciplinary measures to keep the restless men in bounds. The convicts, who first look forward to an easy time, were the quickest to beg for work, and the trivial duties allowed are eagerly sought after. The superintendent of Sing Sing says that 30 convicts can do in two months all the work the law allows, and nearly 1,500 are suffering from the enforced idleness there. Meantime the labor party men themselves have been forced to admit that the Yates law is not perfect. All they wanted was to remove competition, and they think they can devise some means of keeping the prisoners busy. Apart from the convicts, the taxpayers, who are assessed half a million additional to keep the prisoners in idleness, have some rights, and the subject is likely to be an issue at the next assembly.

There is something repugnant to genuine philanthropy and true statesmanship, as well as the spirit of Christianity, in the idea of dooming a man to hard labor, in the confines of a prison, for a term of years, the toiler feeling all the time that no reward is in store for him; but that society is extracting what it can from him in the way of skill and strength by way of revenge. The prisoner is a slave, and reducing him to that condition physically is not likely to elevate him morally. Nor is the feeling rankling in his breast, that he is being made to suffer the long lasting revenge of a power he is unable to resist, conducive to a genuine reformation of his character. No doubt some such arguments as these had weight in seconding the demands of labor agitators that prison manufactures should cease.

On the other hand, to compel prisoners to pass in idleness the weary terms of their punishment, is perhaps to inflict upon them suffering as severe as hard labor. Much of course depends upon the natural disposition of the individual, but many men would far rather work than be idle, wages or no wages. A plan which would obviate, at least in part, the objections to both hard work and idleness, might, it would seem, be framed, and carried into practice among prisoners of even the hardest classes. Let them be allowed wages, either in time, to be subtracted from their terms, or in money, or both; and make it, to a certain degree, optional with them whether they will earn the reward or not.

Society will lose nothing in the long run by the exercise of philanthropy towards prisoners. Kindness will melt a hard heart when severity would not make it more strong. It is gratifying to note that the tendency of our times is in the direction of a more humane and enlightened policy in the treatment of persons whom society, for its own protection, is compelled to keep in confinement.

A WAY OF HIS OWN.

SENATOR RIDDLEBERGER, of Virginia, is a man with a very peculiar temperament. It is not long since he committed a violent contempt of court in the State he represents, and was fined and sent to jail for his pains. Nearly every time he participates in a Senate debate he creates a commotion and sometimes has to be suppressed. A notable instance occurred on Thursday last, when he broke into a debate twice and was threatened with removal by the sergeant-at-arms. He seems as unique in his general deportment as in the Senate he is in his politics, being a kind of third party in and of himself. He possesses unquestionable ability, but has at times a questionable way of using it.

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 12.—A woman named Isabella Lorenzo was stabbed to the heart and instantly killed by her stepfather, named Jack Logarbo, this evening shortly after 6 o'clock. Logarbo was jealous of his stepdaughter's husband, Joe Lorenzo, and had a grudge against the girl on account of her marriage. He was in the habit of whipping his wife, and this evening, when he found that supper was not ready, he threatened to beat her. Isabella interferred and a quarrel ensued. Joe Lorenzo tried to get his wife out of the room, but before he could do so Logarbo picked up a kitchen-knife and stabbed the woman below the left breast. He ran out of the house and escaped. Both men are Italian laborers. The murdered woman was of Irish descent and about 17 years old.