

institutions of any country must finally be ground to pieces.

#### THE PRESS AND MORMON MISSIONARIES.

The instances in which newspapers in different parts of the United States show a disposition to publish fair reports, of Mormon meetings, and of interviews with Mormon missionaries, are multiplying with gratifying rapidity. Two or three cases have recently been called to the attention of the "News" in which there was rivalry between reporters of different papers in the same town, in procuring the best and fullest interviews with a Mormon missionary who had just arrived; and the reporters evidently tried to be accurate as well as enterprising, heretofore an unusual combination of qualities in members of the fraternity when dealing with anything savoring of Mormonism.

Under date of Jan. 19th, Elder Frank T. Pomeroy, now laboring in the Mississippi conference, writes to the "News" from Jackson, Miss., enclosing a clipping from the Clarion Ledger, published there, which gives a report of a conference held in that city at which were present Elder Elias Kimball, president of the Southern States mission, and Elders F. M. Lyman and M. F. Cowley of the Twelve Apostles. The spirit of the report is very fair, and it is evident that the reporter tried to present correctly the leading ideas of the different discourses. The closing sentences of the report, which is but a condensed synopsis, are as follows:

"At the conclusion of his remarks Apostle Cowley returned thanks to the community for showing courtesy to the members of the convention, saying that 'inasmuch as you give to these men, travelling without money, consideration, I dare to say in the name of the Lord, that every one who receives them will receive a blessing and every man who raises his hand against them will not prosper. They have the authority to bestow the Holy Ghost upon all who give up their sins.'

"At the conclusion of Apostle Cowley's remarks the conference was declared adjourned."

The spread of the truth and the removal of prejudice against it, will be greatly facilitated when the press consents to extend fair treatment towards its advocates.

#### QUESTIONS BY A PREACHER.

Elders W. M. Everton and Byron Carter, who are laboring in North Carolina, write to the "News" from Newbern in that state, enclosing a clipping from the Journal of January 26, published in that town. The clipping contains "17 questions to the Mormon Elders in this state," which were framed and signed by a Methodist preacher named W. Q. A. Graham of Marshallburg, and are preceded by an introduction, presumably written by the editor of the Journal. The prelude says: "The questions recall events in the past history of the Mormon Church. That history is unquestionably damnable. . . . They are an industrious people, and have built a great and splendid city beyond the desert, but their deeds have been evil." So, the Latter-day Saints, who sacrificed everything in enshrining what they regarded as the fullness of the Gospel of Christ, and fled from persecution far beyond civilization into a great desert, where "they are an industrious people and have built a great and splendid city," are a people whose history is "damnable," and whose "deeds are evil." The editor of the

Journal is very inconsistent. The very least that he must admit is that there are portions of the history and works of the Mormons that are highly commendable.

The questions are not asked in good faith. On the contrary, they are designed to convey, in the form of interrogatories, false, gross and wicked accusations against the Mormon people. Most of them appear to have been drawn from material contained in some of the most slanderous and malicious of the numerous sensational books that have been printed about the Mormons, while the vindictiveness, and utter lack of a fair, not to say Christian, spirit on the part of the individual who formulated them, is apparent in nearly every one of them.

The Elders who forward the clipping suggest that the "News" reply to the questions. An attempt to answer or to satisfy such an opponent as Rev. Graham would be at variance with the Savior's injunction: "Cast not thy pearls before swine, lest they turn again and rend you." When questions that were designedly insulting, or were the vehicles of false accusations, were propounded to the Savior, He preserved a peaceful and dignified silence; though when the occasion was appropriate, He warned and rebuked His questioners and accusers. When an Elder in the mission field should, and when he should not, try to satisfy a questioner depends upon the circumstances of each case and the promptings of the Holy Spirit; but he will generally find that there is little to be gained by devoting attention to such individuals as the author of these questions.

#### A STUDY IN SUICIDES.

Those who have made a study of the subject of suicides find that the mania for self-destruction is becoming more prevalent to an alarming degree. With regard to France it has been proven that in seventy years, from 1827 to 1897, the increase is from 5 of each 100,000 inhabitants to 26. This proportion is also said to be found in other countries. Civilization develops, knowledge increases, and wealth is rapidly accumulating; an ordinary workman of to-day is in some respects as well off as "Solomon in all his glory," while the comforts and luxuries within the reach of the wealthy classes surpass the dreams of antiquity; yet happiness is evidently not on the increase. If it were, men and women would not seek to end their own existence more frequently than ever in the known history of the race.

Some have found in this increase of cases of self-destruction an evidence that it is a malady of a contagious nature. A person of a melancholy inclination hears of somebody to whom fate has been cruel, apparently, killing himself. He reads of all the details and they are impressed on his mind. He very soon finds that fate has been equally cruel to him. The suicide now, in the diseased imagination of the pessimist, becomes a hero and the suggestion to imitate him is irresistible. One more case is added to the list.

This view of the matter, probably, is correct as far as it goes, but it does not touch on the chief cause, which is to be found in the general tendency of our age. It would be useless to deny that the material interests of individuals, and of nations, are threatening to become predominant and exclude from the domain of both heart and intellect the higher interests. Even science has in some notable instances undertaken to remove the foundations of faith by disclaiming the hope for a life after this; love of an eternal Being as the basis of morality; reverence for divine authority delegated to men and, generally speaking, the belief in responsibility for ac-

tions outside the reach of human law—all of which modern learning calls mere superstitions, unworthy the age of science. And what is given instead of these? On one hand the cold philosophy that deifies human nature with all the abnormities and defects that are but too visible to the observant eye, and on the other hand the incomprehensible mysticism revived from pagan systems of worship. No wonder that human beings enclosed between walls of doubt and mysteries, without hope because without communication with Heaven, find existence a burden. Why should people live in sorrow, in poverty, in a continual struggle for life, if death ends all? Why bear the burden, if it is not an eternal truth that the very trials of life are necessary for eternal exaltation? But it is this truth that fades out of sight more and more in our age. Alleged science puts its foggy conceptions between the word of God and the public view, and one of the results is the increasing despair that leads to death without hope.

In proof of this assertion it can be cited that statistics show that suicides are most frequent in countries that boast of the highest scientific attainments. In Protestant states the average is 190 for each one million inhabitants; in mixed states, 96; Roman Catholic states show only 58, and Greek Catholic, 40. If it is true that a tree may be judged by its fruits, those figures are a testimony against the boasted superiority of modern progress, at least in some respects.

#### SENSIBLE TALK.

Governor Shaw of Iowa is a veritable "John Ploughman." In his inaugural address, a few days ago, he told some truths in very forcible language. He said among other things:

"We are more in need now of men who can face facts than those who can advance theories; changes in civilization cannot be prohibited by law or vetoed by executive disapproval; the producer of an industry that employs ten men is as helpful to the state as the producer of wheat who feeds them; steam costs per horse power per annum \$100—he who can do no more or only what the steam engine can, must expect low wages, and no power or legislation will grant adequate relief.

The best product of the prairie is not corn, but men; the quarter section that produces a thinking man full fledged in all his powers may be said to have performed its mission; every child should be expected to rise above its environments, whatever they may be. Many will fail to do so, but not one should hear the suggestion from parent or teacher, from pulpit or stump, that he cannot rise; the father who is a dispenser of hope in his household renders better service to the state than the mere dispenser of bread; labor, capital and intelligence are jointly essential and are ever interdependent—neither can say to the other, 'I have no need of thee.' Each should have the fostering care of the state and the good will of every citizen."

C. G. Hoyt, of the Fort Hall Indian commission, has practically concluded a treaty with the Bannock and Shoshone Indians of the Fort Hall reservation for the lump sum of \$525,000. The treaty also carries a provision for the payment of \$75,000 to the Indians for the relinquishment of their hunting rights in Jackson's Hole. The treaty is the result of more than a year's work on the part of the commission. About one-fourth of the land to be sold is fine agricultural land and the balance mineral land. It is thought that the treaty will be ratified before Congress adjourns.