EDITORIALS.

A FORCIBLE RETORT.

THE New York *World* having asked the question "Where in all the world are paupers worse treated than in the west?" the Cin. *Times-Star* replies with caustic truth:

"Well to specify, they are treated considerably worse right in the city of New York, where poor people frequently starve in the midst of plenty, and where Shepherd Cowleys are permitted for years to practice brutalities upon homeless children in the very shadow of metropolitan churches. In spite of all the wealth piled up in that great city there is undoubtedly more suffering among the poor, through the negligence of the rich, than in any western territory including an equal population."

This is a buffet upon the cheek of New York journalism well delivered and well deserved. It ill becomes the writers and orators of that city to find fault with the social condition of other places in this country. The outcry raised by Gotham papers against Utah are made with a sublime oblivion to the corruptions existing in their own neighborhood, and it is amazing that they should make such an incessant din about the imaginary evils in the marriage relations of a portion of the people in a Territory numbering a hundred and fifty thousand, while the actual sevil of New York are so immense and indisputable as to overshadow entirely the supposed wrong-doings of Utah. There is probably no part of the Union where there is so much wealth and at the same time so much grinding poverty as New York; no place where there is so much "religion" and so muc hvice; and no place where there is so much boasting of itself and fault-finding of others with so many reasons for humiliation and self-reproach when viewed as others see it.

A LOCOMOTIVE THAT GOES LIKE A BIRD.

ELECTRICITY has been recently coming rapidly to the front and there seems to be no conceivable limit to its prospective domain in the field of [illegible] fact in demonstration of the power of this subtle element, which Franklin captured and Morse harnessed, is the electric railway train now running in Germany. Yet lighting must look to its laurels, for while this newly discovered force is struggling into existence, and striving for a position from which it can banish all competitors for the world's work, there comes an angry snort from the old steam horse as he takes another and swifter leap along the iron rails and sings the old refrain:

Harness me down with your iron bands,
And be sure of your curb and rein.

as with an indignant gleam from his blazing eye, he once more flings his ringing gauntlet into the arena.

The *Scientific American* recently gave a large engraving of No. 1 of the new style of locomotive engines, designed by Eugene Fontaine, with a brief account of its peculiarities. In a later issue of the *Supplement* is found a similar description of the recently completed Fontaine locomotive No. 3, with a full statement of the behavior of these engines on the road, from which it is evident that the Fontaine locomotive marks a long stride in the direction of railway speed and power:

"By a bold and ingenious change in the manner of applying the power through auxiliary drivers, a large increase of speed is obtained with a given size of driving wheel, without increasing the number of piston strokes or the amount of fuel consumed, and the speed of the train being constant, the improved method of applying the power, and the more complete development of the working force of the steam, enable the engine to haul a much heavier load than is possible with the engines in common use. Theoretically the advantage gained is nearly eighty per cent. in speed or traction above the best performance of engines of the same size, built in the prevailing style—a practical gain of 30 per cent. is deemed well within the bounds of demonstration.

No. 1 has developed a speed approaching seventy miles an hour over long distances. In May last it drew a light special train from Amherstburg to St. Thomas, on the Canada Southern Road, a distance of one hundred and eleven miles, in ninety-eight minutes.

There are few existing railways, it is true, on which it would be possible or prudent to drive a train at the speed expected of the Fontaine locomotives, owing to the instability of the road-beds and the sharpness of the curves. But the improvement of roads is being rapidly carried out, and we may be sure that any degree of excellence which the future may demand will be promptly supplied.

Obviously an improvement which will add thirty per cent to the efficiency of the locomotive, the running expense being the same, has the capacity of adding millions to the value and vastly to the capacity of our railway systems."

A later report declares that a speed of ninety miles an hour has actually been achieved by one of these engines. Think of it—a mile and a half a minute—a train at that speed would take passengers from this city to New York in about twenty-four hours! The world moves.

MORE ABOUT THE GREAT PYRAMID.

THE subject of the Great Pyramid of Egypt and its relation to prophecy and sacred history has not been much agitated of late, although many persons are deeply interested in the wonderful "miracle in stone" that stands a witness of the knowledge and skill of the ancients. But at a well attended meeting of the Ohio Auxiliary Society of the International Institute for preserving and Perfecting Weights and Measures which was held in Cleveland, Ohio, recently, papers were read by the president, which are well worthy the consideration of those who believe in the claims of the Pyramid to a divine origin:

THE GREAT PYRAMID ENTRANCE PASSAGE AND THE EGYPTIAN CUBIT.

By H. E. D.

Being deeply interested in [illegible] I hail with sincere pleasure and anticipation the announcement of a correspondent, in a late issue of the *Banner*, that Mr. Petrie has taken in hand the task of triangulating the great Pyramid's base.

Some months back I made a few notes, in the form of a letter to Professor Smyth, on a coincidence which I thought I had traced in the passage system of the Great Pyramid. It arose out of a consideration of the width of the entrance passage, which is also substantially the same in the other two primary passages, the first ascending and the horizontal. It was claimed as proof of the employment of the Egyptian 207 inch-cubit, Sir Isaac Newton specially considering it in that light. As, however, one of his principal data has been since found to be utterly without foundation, I think that we are justified in assuming that he would have hesitated before pronouncing his emphatic dictum on that point had he the accurate information we now possess. Convinced that every finished detail has some significance only brought out by purely pyramidal tests I tried to find some explanation for its peculiarly fractional dimensions on these grounds. At first I thought it might in some way be connected with a measure of the arc of the circumpolar star included in the field of vision. Realizing during the studies that the passage was commemorative, rather than observatorial, and that the segment was a constantly varying quantity, I gave up this view as untenable.

But when I came to regard it in connection with the transverse section of the three passages alluded to, I got a better result, and one which I think is the correct one. It was as follows: The transverse sectional area appears to me to have been designed to be equal to the area of a circle generated by a radius one pyramid cubit in length; thus the square of (25x2) x, 7854—1963.5.

It will be seen that Professor Smyth's mean dimensions of the height and width of the entrance passage are rather below the requirements of this hypothesis, although one or two single measures would substantiate it (vide "Live and Work," 11., page 36.) They, however furnish us with unexceptionable proof that 4,000 years under pressure, combined with the effects of one or two earthquakes, have produced a trifling amount of reduction in some places. But a better criterion is still extant. I mean, of course, the Portcullis blocks, the south end of the last one providing us with what must have been, at any rate, the minimnm size of the first ascending passage, as Professor Smyth remarks in a marginal note to his measures of the transverse dimensions ("Life and Work," ii., page 50.) He there records them as 41.3 and 41.6 British inches; after conversion into pyramid notation the area comes out 47.25x41.55,1963.-24, or within a very small fraction. Again, Professor Smyth has, I think, correctly interpreted the sum of the vertical and transverse heights as equal to 100 inches, the symbolic daystep of the base. On a slope of 26 deg. 18 min., the transverse height to meet this view should be 47 deg. 27 min., pyramid inches, and the corresponding width to produce the Pi reference, I have suggested ought to be 41 deg. 54 min., pyramid inches, or respectively within 2-100 and 1-100 of an inch in each dimension.

I take it this is near encugh even in a granite gauge to prove the correctness of both the theoretical and practical measurements.

Is it not singularly appropriate that the celestial polar pointer should be defined as to its theoretical bore by the earth commensurable unit of measure, combined with Pi in its most essentially pyramid formula as a radius?

THE GREAT PYRAMID'S VERTICAL HEIGHT.—1881.6.

By Charles Horner.

In the course of a long series of investigations not yet fully completed, I lately discovered a most remarkable, yet simple relation between the Great Pyramid's height and the mean chronological length of the Grand Gallery. This is the equation: 5813.01x103.033, divided by the cube of 10, equals 1881.6, divided by Pi or 5813 01x103.033, divided by the cube of 10, equals 598.9318; or the height of the Pyramid multiplied by the length of the granite flooring of ante-chamber, and divided by ten to the third power, is equal to the diameter of a circle whose [illegible] 1881.6.

This fact is undoubtedly of immense significance, manifestly pointing to the Gallery's length as a complete cycle, and possibly itself a unit of a yet undiscovered period of vast dimensions.

I thought this brief announcement might well follow Mr. Baxendell's recent fine contribution touching the diameters of the sun, earth and moon, and serve to accentuate Mr. Simpson's wonderful discovery of the Gallery's mean length from the marvelous measures taken by Professor Smyth. In this mighty structure are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge touching things past, present and future—the measures of the cosmos and redemption history going hand in hand, thus proving in the words of the inspired builder that the "secrets of wisdom are double to that which is!"—Job, xi, 6.

34 Sheen Park, Richmond, Surrey.

A letter from Dr. Bolles, endorsing Dr. Epsten's paper, was read and discussed. The meeting then adjourned for two weeks.

CARD OF THANKS.

Editor Deseret News:

One can scarcely help noticing how readily most people imitate an example, whether it be prudent or not. I greatly admire simplicity, and think, in some things, not a few of us are departing from that desirable style of doing things.

When one of our respectable citizens dies, there is, as a rule, a commendable amount of sympathy shown by the circle of acquaintance toward the bereaved survivors, as well as respect for the departed. This is necessarily widened according to the extent of the sphere—combined with his merits—in which the deceased moved in life. The extension of sympathy and kindness to the bereaved living, and respect to the memory of the righteous dead are eminently proper. More than this, they are manifestations that we are in bounden duty to make. But a custom has obtained place lately of which I do not see the utility, although invariably, no doubt, well meant. I refer to the publication of cards of thanks to the sympathizers by the objects of sympathy. In some cases it is quite proper to do so, but the instances are, in my opinion, exceptional and out of the ordinary way. My reason for this view is that the appreciation is or should be understood without a public expression, and those manifesting good feeling on sorrowful occasions do no more than their duty under the circumstances.

Yours respectfully,
SIMPLICITY.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 9, 1881.

DAVID WHITMER AND THE BOOK OF MORMON.

WE present below an interesting letter to the Chicago *Times*, in relation to the testimony of the last of the Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon. Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris, who, as well as David Whitmer, saw the angel who exhibited to them the plates, and heard the voice of God bearing witness to the correctness of the translation, are both dead, having maintained the truth of their testimony until the last, under all circumstances, whether in the Church or out of the Church. They were excommunicated for transgression, but returned repentant and were received into fellowship, dying with a repetition of their first testimony recorded in connection with the Book of Mormon. David Whitmer remains, but is aged and feeble. Reports have been received that he also had passed away, but we have no reason to believe that they are correct. The letter following contains some inaccuracies, which we will correct at the close of this article:

RICHMOND, Mo., Oct 14.—In the beautiful shire town of Richmond, Ray county, Mo., there has resided for well nigh a half of a century David Whitmer, known to the world as one of the three witnesses that testified to the validity and reality of the golden plates from which it has been asserted that Joseph Smith translated the "Book of Mormon," the original manuscript of which Mr. Whitmer has in his possession, which shows by finger-marks and [illegible] it has been cut into "takes"—a printer's term—that it has passed through the hands of the type-setters. As a citizen of his town he stands deservedly high, having filled the office of mayor and councilman, is a good scholar, and thoroughly posted in biblical lore. During the past two years he has been slowly declining and is now confined to his home, carefully attended to by his wife, children and grandchildren. Born in the State of New York from Revolutionary ancestors, he brought with him to the West his habits of thrift and hospitality. To the stranger or the unfortunate his home and purse have ever been open, and his name is a synonym of probity and integrity. Knowing that he was approaching the full term allotted for man's stay on earth and that the readers of the *Times* would like to hear what he had to say concerning the origin of the "Book of Mormon," I called at his residence—a plain and unpretentious frame building—was ushered into his chamber by his granddaughter and found the old patriot reclining on his bed. Upon being told the object of my visit he promptly responded to my questions, and after an hour's interview I gleaned the following valuable information from him—he speaking freely and unreservedly—in regard to the origin and rise of the Mormon Church, as well as the authenticity of the "Book of Mormon."

THE PLATES

From which the book was translated, supposed to be gold, were found in the latter part of the year 1827 or 1828, prior to the acquantance on Mr. Whitmer's part, with Joseph Smith, and he was loth to believe in their actuality, notwithstanding the community in which he lived (Ontario County, New York,) was alive with excitement in regard to Smith's finding a great treasure, and they informed him that they knew that Smith had the plates, as they had seen the place that he had taken them from, on the hill Cumorah, about two miles from Palmyra, N.Y. It was not until June, 1828, that he met the future prophet, who visited at his father's house, and while there completed the translation of the Book of Mormon, and thus he became conversant with its history, having witnessed Smith dictate to Oliver Cowdery the translation of the characters that were inscribed on the plates, said by Mr. Anthon, our Egyptian scholar, to resemble the characters of that ancient people. Christian Whitmer, his brother, occasionally assisted Cowdery in writing, as did Mrs. Joseph Smith, who was a Miss Hale before she was married.

In regard to finding the plates, he was told by Smith that they were in a stone casket, and the place where it was deposited, in the hill Cumorah, was pointed out to him by a celestial personage, clad in dazzling white robe, and he was informed by it that it was the history of the Nephites, a nation that had passed away, whose founders belonged to the days of the tower of Babel. The plates which Mr. Whitmer saw were in the shape of a tablet, fastened with three rings, about one-third of which appeared to be loose, in plates, the other solid, but with perceptible marks where the plates seemed to be sealed, and the guide that pointed it out to Smith very impressively reminded him that the loose plates alone were to be used, the sealed portion was

NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH.

After the plates had been translated, which process required about six months, the same heavenly visitant appeared and reclaimed the gold tablets of the ancient people, informing Smith that he would replace them with other records of the lost tribes that had been brought with them during their wanderings from Asia, which would be forthcoming when the world was ready to receive them. At that time Mr. Whitmer saw the tablets, gazed with awe on the celestial messenger, heasd him speak and say: "Blessed is the Lord and he that keeps His commandments;" and then, as he held the plates and turned them over with his hands, so that they could be plainly visible, a voice that seemed to fill all space, musical as the sighing of a wind through the forest, was heard, saying: "What you see is true; testify to the same." And Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer, standing there, felt, as the white garments of the angel faded from their vision and the heavenly voice still rang in their ears, that it was no delusion—that it was a fact, and they so recorded it. [illegible] day or two after the same spirit appeared to Martin Harris while he was in company with Smith, and told him also to bear witness to its truth, which he did, as can be seen in the book. Harris described the visitant to Whitmer, who recognized it as the same that he and Cowdrey had seen.

The tablets or plates were translated by Smith, who used a small oval or kidney-shaped stone, called Urim and Thummim, that seemed endowed with the marvellous power of converting the characters on the plates, when used by Smith, into English, who would then dictate to Cowdery what to write. Frequently one character would make two lines of manuscript while others made but a word or two words. Mr. Whitmer emphatically asserts, as did Harris and Cowdery, that while Smith was dictating the translation he had

NO MANUSCRIPT NOTES OR OTHER MEANS OF KNOWLEDGE,

Save the Seer stone and the characters as shown on the plates, he being present and cognizant how it was done.

In regard to the statement that Sidney Rigdon had purloined the work of one Spaulding, a Presbyterian preacher, who had written a romance entitled "The Manuscript Found," Mr. Whitmer says there is no foundation for such an assertion. The "Book of Mormon" was translated in the summer of 1829, and printed that winter at Palmyra, New York, and was in circulation before Sidney Rigdon knew anything concerning the Church of Christ, as it was known then. His attention was specially brought to it by the appearance at his church, near Kirtland, Ohio, in the fall of 1830, of Parley Pratt and Oliver Cowdery, he being at that time a Reformed or Christian preacher, they having been sent west by the Church in New York during that summer as evangelists, and they carried with them the printed book, the first time that he knew such a thing was in existense. Upon being appealed to by Pratt and Cowdery for the use of his church, he informed them that as he was endeavoring to establish the rules and get back into the ancient usages of Christianity, and desired all the light that he could get that was of benefit to his fellow-men, he would do so, and