

of Miss Webster's lecture at the Baptist church of that town, and from which we quote:

"She has been a worker for the Baptist home missionary society for a number of years and is fully conversant with Mormonism of which she talked last night. Her object is to talk of the work of this society and stir up additional interest in the work. Having been among the people of that Church for a number of years she knows what she is talking about. She charged that the missionaries misrepresent their Church and the real business they had in the East was to misrepresent things as they were there. They denied that polygamy was practiced in Utah. She asserted that it was and claimed to know a city official of Provo who was at the present time living with his four wives. The high teachers in the Church did not pretend that they had given up the practice but it was their open statement that the practice of open polygamy had been suspended for a time to gain statehood. The morals of the people are not up to the standard of other states. The Church give dances and open and close them with prayer. Drunkenness is a common offense and young ladies of the best society boast of having been drunk on certain occasions. She attacked the articles of faith and said that they did not use the Bible as the foundation of their teachings. What did not suit them in the Bible was discarded on the grounds of incorrect translation. They had no Bible at all, and it was used more by the missionaries than at home. Few of the missionaries were really familiar with the Bible. In their own churches they taught from books and poems of their own manufacture. They teach that there are many gods. Miss Webster gave anything but a favorable report of the Mormon Church and its workings and she warned the people to beware of the missionaries and their teachings. Persons who heeded them would find to their sorrow, if they ever visited Utah, that things were not as they seem from a distance."

The "News" would do almost anything to accommodate Pastor Andrews or Miss Webster, both of Provo; but in the light of all the evidence thus far submitted we must be excused from admitting Mr. Andrews's charge that we have unjustly or too severely arraigned his fair co-worker.

#### CHINAS POSSIBLE FATE

To those who are conversant with the situation in eastern Asia it appears probable that the disintegration of the vast Chinese empire is among the events to be looked for in the near future, and that the occupation of Kiao Chou Island by a German force is but the first step in this direction. Japan, with a fine touch of her own variety of Monroe doctrine, has declared that Asia should belong to the Asiatics; but she has, of course, no means wherewith to carry out the said doctrine. In case the European powers proceed to divide the so-called celestial kingdom, her only course will be to insist upon her part of the spoil, and would seem to be entitled to consideration, since she was the first to demonstrate that the Chinese, though almost countless in numbers, can offer practically no resistance to an organized attack.

It is believed that the disintegration of China would meet with but little opposition from the people of the country, with the exception of the mandarins. Their influence may be strong enough to cause some local revolts, but of concerted action on the part of the population there can be no prospect. The character of the aver-

age Chinaman is such that as long as he is permitted to carry on his avocation in peace he is indifferent to what form of government he has; he cares nothing for the rulers. The inhabitants of Hong Kong are perfectly happy under British law, and the gathering of natives to places where they can enjoy the protection of an alien flag is taken as a proof that they would welcome a change from autocratic rule. Great events seem to be preparing in eastern Asia. But as yet it is difficult to foresee what the outcome will be.

#### NOT GENUINE SPORT.

Prize fighting has been pretty generally condemned by the American public. A strong demand for reform in football has been heard. Bicycle racing is now engaging the attention of the people and some of its features are held to be worse than either of its kin among the sports.

An account of the six days' race in New York last week gives an idea of what a contest of that kind is. One of the riders had been in great pain during the last twenty-four hours, but still he rode on, pursued by another rider like a shadow. Two of the boys collided and fell. They pursued the race again but had to stop once more after an hour's exertion. Then they lay on the ground half dead. The trainers, by methods of their own, revived them and started them on the arena. One of these riders again slipped off and crashed into the wheel of another rider. There were more falls before the young fellows were dragged from the track for a short rest.

The mental condition of some of the contestants became confused. One insisted that he had lost his eyes and was angry with his trainers because they refused to give him tissue paper to fill up the empty sockets with. Another was so weak that he could not stand without support. Still another labored under the delusion that one side of his head was coming off and that he would lose it unless a bandage was tied around it. The whole show has been aptly called a "continuous torture exhibition."

The following graphic description is by a Gotham writer:

"Not a face can be seen that is not like that of a galvanized cadaver; not a body that is not thin and cadaverous and pain-ridden. Yet a crowd of savages applaud the efforts of the poor objects as they circle the big building. On—on is the word! What though the bodies revolt! What if nausea comes! What though they be goaded on and on until they cry like women—forced on their wheels when they could not remain awake long enough to catch the pedal! They still made show for thousands. Half asleep, half dead, these human automatons wobble around and around. Some of the living ghosts fall and are bruised, but the trainers resort to desperate measures to keep them awake. Buckets of cold water are thrown over the lagging victims, and when these fail hired brutes stationed at different points along the track scourge the overtaxed beings with wet towels, which leave welts on their deathlike faces.

In the name of decent sport, why all this idiotic brutality! Merely for the sake of satisfying the morbid curiosity of a certain class of people and to fill the purses of those who know how to take undue advantage of that curiosity. That there are men and women who are willing to pay for the spectacle presented by a lot of young men working around a bicycle track until they become half crazy, lose the power of speech, with tongues pro-

truding and blood trickling from the nostrils, all this is bad enough for the boasted advance of our age; but to take advantage of that fact is, or should be, made a criminal offense.

The object of true sport is to develop the system, to harden it against the adverse influences of nature under which weaker organisms break down. But these objects can never be gained by a violation of the laws of nature. Transgression, on the contrary, is sure to be followed by a speedy revenge, in proportion to the offense committed, and sometimes the transgressors are reduced to irreparable wrecks. The same public opinion that protects genuine sport condemns strongly its counterfeit.

#### A SOLAR ECLIPSE.

Preparations are now in progress for scientific observations of a total eclipse of the sun on January 22 next. On that day the light of the heavenly orb will be extinguished to the spectators for a period of about two minutes. The eclipse will be total along a tract of land about eighty miles in width and passing across India in a northeast direction from Bombay to Darjeeling. Several expeditions are now on the way to this region. Among the American scientists who will be on the ground is Professor Burkhalter of the Lick observatory. He takes with him cleverly constructed instruments, and hopes to be able to photograph all parts of the corona simultaneously, provided the eclipse itself is not eclipsed by an impenetrable pall of clouds at the important moment, as was the case during the last solar eclipse in Japan.

The study of the physical constitution of the sun has been pursued of late years with a steadily deepening interest. Modern instruments have revealed facts as yet not satisfactorily accounted for. It is known that just before the moment of totality in an eclipse, huge tongues of fire are seen shooting out in space. They vary in color, being sometimes blood red, sometimes pink and sometimes multi-colored. Then the corona appears in all its glory. Bright ethereal rays stretch out into the dark sky, perhaps for a million miles or more. What are these phenomena of light? The time of a total eclipse is brief—too brief to allow anything but observation. Reflection and speculation come afterwards.

It is hoped that the opportunity for a glance at the sun's veiled face this time will add materially to the world's knowledge of the heavenly light-bearer. And who knows but that the solution of many problems of life depends on a correct understanding of his nature?

#### FROM THE INDIAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

An Indian, Simon Pokagon, states in the Forum that he is worried over the probable outcome of the government policy of feeding so many of the people on reservations. The system permits, he says, of the gathering of lazy, immoral white men who spend their time in idleness and in corrupting Indian morality. He asserts that when the white men first came to America the red men were kind and confiding; they were a block of marble in the hands of the sculptor, but they were more often hacked to pieces and destroyed than formed into works of art. Then he continues:

"It is useless to deny the charge that at times we have been goaded to vindictive and cruel acts. Some of my own tribe, however, were soldiers in the northern army during the Civil War. Some of them were taken and held prisoners in the rebel prisons,