

continent; and the mastodon of the western hemisphere is commemorated as a living creature only in the traditions of some of the Indian tribes and the record we have of ancient America. The elephant, a still existing congener of the mastodon and the mammoth, is rapidly diminishing in numbers and contracting its range. Forty years ago Sir Samuel Baker stated that it was easy to bag a score of these noble animals in a single day in the island of Ceylon where now they have almost ceased to exist; and even in India the wild elephant is becoming a variety. The object lesson in Africa in the same period is still more eloquent. The animal is practically extinct nearly as far south as the great Nyanza region, and for five hundred miles from the English and Dutch South African colonies the elephant is rarely met with. Ivory hunters have devastated these regions, and that from Zanzibar for at least five hundred miles west from Lake Tanganyika; while in the new and a few years ago rich ivory field at the mouth of the Congo, the precious tusks are becoming more difficult to secure every year. It is estimated that it takes a hundred thousand elephants annually to supply the world's demand for ivory, but at the rate affairs are now going, the present natural source of supply will be almost gone in another half century.

With each decade the lion, the camelopard and the zebra, which once swarmed over the whole continent of Africa, are becoming more limited in numbers. For thousands of years their chase by the negro race failed to destroy them, but in the last half century the civilization of the white man has done terrible work to this end.

In North America the buffalo, or bison, which was so plentiful on the plains when Utah's Pioneers wended their way to this land, has almost entirely disappeared. A century ago, and even within half that time, there were countless herds from the Great Lakes to northern Mexico. The Indian had hunted them for centuries to satisfy his natural wants, but it took the skin-hunting and the bloodthirstiness of the white man of the present century to effect the great destruction. Here and there in the United States a few are met with, and in British America the depleted herds are being rapidly hunted to death. The European bison is undergoing a like process of extermination, which is now almost complete. Five centuries ago it existed in great numbers in the forests of central Europe, and was looked on as royal game. Now it is found in a native state only in the wildest regions of the Caucasus. One herd in Lithuania lives by imperial protection in a great preserve, just as a herd of British wild cattle are now preserved in Chillingham park.

The beaver, which at one time was plentiful over all North America, is now found in scattered colonies only in the Lake Superior region and in the states of the Pacific coast. It is exterminated already in British America by the Hudson's Bay company trappers and hunters. Beaver fur in the required quantities could no longer be furnished to the world's markets, so the commercial demand has fallen off materially,

and this may give the animal an opportunity to partially replenish its numbers. The peccary and the bear, and other animals hunted for skins, are likewise growing rare.

Creatures of the sea are disappearing in similar manner. At the time when Utah was settled, the California sea-elephant, the largest of the seals, measuring in some cases twenty-five feet in length, was exceedingly abundant on the Pacific coast. It was mercilessly pursued for its oil, a single specimen sometimes yielding two hundred gallons. The animal has grown so scarce that it is now rarely seen. A similar fate has befallen both Atlantic and Pacific walrus. The arctic sea-cow has disappeared in the last hundred years, and the seal is fast following the same road.

Thus the work goes on, causing one to wonder whether the time is not comparatively close at hand when only domesticated animals and wild ones that are kept in menageries will exist on the earth.

A BATCH OF THIEVES.

Montana's skirmish with official thieves has come early. But if it only succeeds in making its cleaning day thorough, the expense may be for the best. Some of our older states have neglected themselves in this respect so long that little short of a grand conflagration in official quarters can ever restore their ancient innocence. Scamps in office, like weeds on the farm, have a power of reproduction much superior to that of the useful article, and however harmless in the beginning, their universal tendency is to overrun the premises.

Montana seems to possess, along with her full proportion of speculators and other creatures in office, a wonderful promptitude in self-protection. Twenty-one indictments, according to the reports, have been returned in a single county, covering pretty much every variety of popular misconduct in office. This is a startling card for one exultant. But the more the merrier, so long as the champions of public weal can hold a good working majority who have the grit to carry out their program. Sometimes it happens that the penitentiary list takes in the larger division of the public service, and the people are then in a fix sure enough. The honest man, though not always the most brilliant, is after all the most profitable investment a state can make. We have yet to learn of such officials being a drug on the market.

STAND UP, DR WISHARD!

Has anybody hereabouts ever heard of the "Reverend Doctor Wishard, syndicate missionary to Utah?" According to his own story, told before the Presbyterian Ministerial association at Pittsburg on the 6th inst., he has been "laboring for eighteen years among the Mormons." A special dispatch on the subject to the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* declares that "Dr. Wishard shows a very dark picture of present Mormonism." He narrated an instance in which an official, whose duty it

was to prosecute polygamists, "was told by the head of the Mormon Church to let the matter drop." This official confided to the missionary that polygamy was as much a tenet of their faith and as religiously indulged in now as in the days of Brigham Young. Furthermore, the intelligent and discerning Dr. Wishard asserts that the Mormon pretense of giving up their political [we wonder what that means?] and polygamic ideas is now being uncovered, and the old spirit of opposition and hatred toward everything Christian is as bitter as ever it was. He continued with much more of the same strain, and finally sat down amidst perspiration and great applause.

To attempt to bring this sort of trash and this breed of speakers to the direct plumb line of truth, is usually a thankless task, for there is always an avenue of "misquotation" and "reporter's blunders" open to the offender. In the present instance there is the additional difficulty that the speaker is more than ordinarily mythical; he is so obscure that one needs but to think of his "eighteen years' labor among the Mormons" in order to measure with fearful accuracy his ability and activity. Still, even an insignificant person ought to be furnished an opportunity to set himself right. It gives the NEWS pain to be forced to believe that any gentleman of the cloth, be he great or lowly, must lie under the dreadful suspicion that he is spilling his high silk hat by making a speaking trumpet of it.

WITHOUT VOUCHING for the authenticity of the following telegram, we can agree with an eastern contemporary in thinking it tells its own tale, and also in the comments upon it:

"WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH OFFICE, September 15, 1893.

"Mr. John Mitchell:—Your dispatch, dated today, to Jesse Mitchell, Amelia county, Va., is undelivered. Reason—Party was lynched this morning.
"C. W. DANBEY."

This is coincident of one of Playwright Hoyt's stories of how a western sheriff was called upon to apologize to a widow for lynching her husband by mistake. The sheriff said to the poor and sobbing wife, "Madame, the laugh's on us."

A MAN of average weight, (say 150 pounds) who is worth his weight in gold, would be valued at about \$45,000, and a ten pound baby, though often valued by the mother at millions upon millions, according to its weight would only be worth about \$3000. The weight of a million dollars, standard gold coin, is one and two-thirds tons. A million dollars in silver would weigh about twenty-six and three-fourths tons. The same value in subsidiary silver coin should weigh twenty-five tons, while a million dollars in nickels would be about one hundred tons.

FROM THE states where elections were held last week, Democratic governors are slow in giving forth thanksgiving proclamations.

IT IS the lunatic believed to be harmless, like the gun believed to be unloaded, that is doing the damage. Dangerous lunatics are kept locked up,