

## THE NEW LINE BETWEEN SALT LAKE AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE San Francisco *Chronicle* of May 30th has the following editorial on the proposed line of railroad between Salt Lake and the Pacific coast:

"The San Francisco and Great Salt Lake Railroad company, which was incorporated on Thursday, began active operations on Friday by filing a complaint in the Superior court of Contra Costa county to condemn a right of way through the Moraga grant for the new railroad. The complaint specifies the purposes of the incorporation and its general route between San Francisco and Stockton, and contains, of course, a particular description of the land sought to be condemned.

"This action is an indication that the new railroad is not to be one on paper merely, nor one incorporated for the express purpose of being sold out to some already existing road. When a corporation goes into court with regular legal proceedings to obtain a right of way it is certainly fair to presume that it will use the right after it obtains it.

"We cannot expect the directors of the new company to make all their plans public at present. They want, of course, to build the road as cheaply as possible, and it is right that they should not put themselves in a position to be forestalled and hampered by speculators in land who might buy ahead of them and compel them to pay fancy prices for the land necessary for the use of the road. The people of the State are very anxious to have the road built, but that would not prevent shrewd individuals from making money out of the promoters of the road if opportunity should offer.

"It is quite possible that the eastern end of the new road may make connection with some existing line, thus completing a transcontinental system. There are a number of roads which have discussed extension to the coast, but the very territory which the new road is planned to cover, that is, Utah and Nevada, has proved a stumbling-block. If the gap can be bridged by a California company the problem will be solved.

"What is the city going to do in aid of the new undertaking? Has all the anti-monopoly sentiment evaporated, or has it been merely talk for talk's sake? Here is an enterprise which gives every indication of genuineness and vitality, and now there is a chance for those who have done so much talking to get in and do something. This is one of the many cases in which actions would speak louder than words."

## A BRITISH OPINION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The *Literary Digest* of New York reprints from *Blackwood's Magazine* an article on "civilization, social order and morality in the United States." The British writer is rather caustic in his criticisms of this country and her institutions. In a former article he tried to prove that the corruptions of republican government had resulted in the United States, "in widespread despotism and anarchy," and that by political and electoral corruption the freedom guaranteed by the constitution had been nullified. In his present article he tries to show that by reason of political environment, social order and social morality in the United States are at a very low standard.

The contention is made that even in

a commercial sense British royalty is less expensive than American elective administration. It is admitted that the expense to the nation of a President is very meagre as compared with that of England's sovereign. But the indirect cost of presidential nominations and elections cause enormous waste of time and money, bring on demoralizing habits, and because of unscrupulous personalities threaten the internal peace of the nation. It is also said that because of the general abuse of free speech and a free press by irresponsible citizens the finer susceptibilities of character have been deadened and the moral tone of the people lowered. Furthermore, it is stated that the laws and institutions of the Union and of the several States favor law-breakers and debtors.

It is charged that two-thirds of the people of the United States are wholly devoid of religion, that atheistic missionaries are to be met on every hand, that a majority of the professed Christians are in fact idolaters, that the good and bad are thrown together, and finally that we have no "society" in the proper sense of the term. The comparison between the alien-born inhabitants and natives is somewhat original to say the least. It is said that while the former excel in quaffing the flowing bowl and in pugilistic performances, the latter excel as bank wreckers, railroad swindlers, shotgun murderers, and breakers of trusts. The marriage relation is also touched on and the statement volunteered that it is exceedingly loose.

The following extract from the article will give a fair idea of its general tenor:

"The boys and girls grow up like half-broken colts and fillies. The girls are often so perverse as in 'pure cussedness' to delight in skating upon all sorts of social ice. Many break through and socially drown, while others have to retire until their dirty linen is washed and dried. These may have another chance and may even do well; but, as a rule, they may be considered as of the demi-monde. The stories of the unfortunate inmates of disorderly houses reflect unfavorably upon the unrestrained intercourse of the sexes, especially when girls are budding into womanhood and have not mature discretion and strength of will. The demi-monde finds very many recruits from the ranks of divorced wives. Owing to the unconventionality of society, a great number of black sheep of both sexes are found in the best society circles. Social frauds are very numerous. Many little girls are outraged by human fleas; many older girls and women are likewise victims. It may pretty safely be asserted that no other country shows such a record, even in proportion to the number of inhabitants. There are more murders in the United States in one week than in the whole United Kingdom during one year. The number of suicides is awful, and reveals the fact that the country is full of suffering humanity, hopeless and driven to despair."

The article though dictated by prejudice and political bias yet is worth perusal. There is a vein of truth in it, notwithstanding the writer looks through partisan spectacles. The fact is crime is increasing all the world over, and England exhibits her share of the swelling torrent.

There are evils political, social and moral both in England and in the United States, but their removal or

amelioration will not be effected by recrimination or by charge and counter-charge. It is the duty both of the American and English educator and philosopher to point out these evils and to suggest remedial methods. The political, industrial and moral interests of all the English speaking people are now more or less interwoven, and what elevates one nation of them will have a beneficial effect on all the others, and vice versa.

## CEREALS IN THE WEST.

ACCORDING to the report of the last census the total area in cereals in California in 1890 was 3,813,000 acres, as compared with 2,562,000 in 1889. The wheat growing area increased by over 1,000,000, and the barley by nearly 230,000 acres. There were in 1889 2,841,000 acres in wheat, yielding nearly 41,000,000 bushels. In barley there were 816,000 acres, yielding 18,000,000 bushels. Indian corn, oats, rye and buckwheat have also been grown but in small quantities.

In Colorado the total area in cereals in 1889 was 351,000 acres, as compared with 116,000 in 1879. The corn area increased from 23,000 acres in 1879 to 120,000 in 1889. Wheat and oats also show corresponding increase in area. Barley, buckwheat and rye, though grown, are far from being staple articles.

In New Mexico the total cereal acreage in 1879 was 104,481, in 1889 only 61,340 thus showing a decrease of nearly one half. There was a slight increase in the area in oats and rye. On the other hand, the decrease in barley, corn and wheat represents 68.24 per cent of the total decrease in cereals.

In Arizona the total area in cereals shows a decrease of 578 acres for the decade 1879-89. Buckwheat does not appear among the cereals at all, and only 29 acres of rye. There were about 1500 acres of oats, 4,300 acres of corn, 6,224 acres wheat and 10,644 acres of barley in 1889. Maricopa county alone reports over one half the wheat and about three-fifths of the barley products of the whole territory.

## A PIOUS FRAUD.

A SHORT time ago Mr. Elliot F. Shepherd, proprietor of the New York *Mail and Express*, was in this city and sought an interview with the First Presidency of the Church, which was granted. He conducted himself respectfully, and at his request the principal doctrines of the Church were explained to him, in which he manifested much interest and appeared very pleased and thankful for the attention shown to him.

His return for these favors is a tirade of nearly four columns long in the *Mail and Express*, every paragraph of which contains at least one untruth. It is designed, not to report the information obtained in the interview with the First Presidency, but to interview himself, give his own crude opinion on matters of doctrine which he does not understand, and reproduce stories with which some unscrupulous "Liberal" stuffed him and which he greedily swallowed.