

that when the time for beginning the work of girdling the continent arrived everything was in readiness to secure a successful outcome.

Nearly fifty years have been wound off the reel of time and passed into the great gulf of eternity, and what a transformation is before us! Wilderness and sterility must be sought for to be encountered, and then only after long and tedious marches. Wherever we turn, whichever way we go, cultivation, improvement, all the means and ends of educated and enlightened conditions, highways and byways bordering on both sides and all along fruitful fields, flowering gardens, happy homes and a progressive and prosperous people. "The sound of the church-going bell" fills the Sabbath morning air where, previous to the comparatively brief span spoken of, the only sounds by man that ever cleft the reigning solitude were the war-whoops of the savage. But it was not accomplished without a mighty struggle, carried on by men who were superior to discouragements and who, if speculation or adventure had been their guiding impulse, would have faltered and then fallen back before even the beginning was half accomplished.

It is an easy matter to push forward improvements now; easy to rail at the financial depression and long for the return of "flush times" with their concomitant booms and panics. If those who so engage themselves will thoroughly store their minds with what those who made it possible for the rest of us to be here had to undergo, and contrast such experience with what we are having now, there will probably be less of faultfinding and discontent—more of thankfulness and praise. Therefore we say again that such publications as those spoken of are a means of doing good, and in more ways than one.

All honor and endless gratitude to the hardy band of men and women who penetrated the wilds and wastes which till then were undisturbed, with solitude and barrenness, the twin despots, holding imperious and absolute sway! May the record of their achievements ever remain in a conspicuous place among the archives of the nation, and their memory be kept green wherever truth prevails and justice has an abiding place!

THE STUDY OF GENEALOGY.

The study of genealogy is an interesting occupation of many Americans just now, and a host of societies has been organized to promote the work. Among these are regularly named genealogical societies, and other organizations such as Sons and Daughters of the Revolution, Colonial Dames, Holland society, Mayflower descendants, etc. A notable procedure by all of these is to secure accurate genealogies, with as much historical matter as can be procured of ancestors of the present members of the organizations. This spirit among Americans is a literal fulfillment in this country of the Bible prediction, recorded in the last chapter of the book of Malachi, of the Lord causing the hearts of the children to be turned to their fathers,

before the coming of "the great and dreadful day."

In furthering this genealogical work, several leading publications give it considerable space and attention. Foremost among journals which do this is the New York Mail and Express, which maintains a weekly department devoted to queries for family records and replies thereto, open to all who wish to use it. Recently that paper has been printing a long series of articles devoted to the history of the families and descendants of signers of the Mayflower compact, the first installment of these articles having been printed in pamphlet form by the newspaper in which they appear. We have noted in our New York cotemporary's genealogical department many items of history of direct interest to Utah families.

In reply to an antagonistic remark that is frequently made concerning the study of genealogy, our New York cotemporary points out that it is an injustice to characterize this movement as merely a society and or passing fancy. It is much more. It stimulates a desire for genealogical and historical research, a pleasing and interesting study. It leads to a proper respect for one's ancestors, and creates a desire to emulate their work for the good of one's family and country. In American genealogies it revives an interest in American history, and promotes patriotism, good citizenship and love of country. Therefore the movement that inspires thousands who are now making a study of their family history is one to be commended. In fact, every person should compile and preserve such a family record, for it may be of great value to future generations, if not to themselves.

The Latter-day Saints as a body of people are peculiarly interested in obtaining accurate and complete genealogies. It is a religious obligation upon them to perfect the record of their families past and present. Many Church members neglect this, both for the present generation and for their ancestors; but the neglect comes from an imperfect enjoyment of the full spirit of their religion in this regard. The importance to the Saints of genealogical records will increase as time goes on, but the opportunity to secure such is not likely to be better generally than it is now. In connection with this subject of obtaining such records of ancestors as far as practicable, the oft-repeated suggestion to families to perfect the record of families as they are at present, for the benefit and information of future generations, ought to be impressed deeply upon the Saints.

UNCHRISTIAN AND CHRISTIAN.

A missionary writing from Flemingsburg, Kentucky, calls our attention to a letter recently published in the Flemingsburg Gazette, and written by a person who signs himself "Galen Wood, pastor Christian church, Ogden, Utah," from which the following paragraph is taken:

Mormonism is an aggregation of Romanism, Judaism, Mohammedanism, heathenism and despotism. It is essentially foreign to American as well as

Christian institutions in spirit and character. Its adherents are predominantly foreign, imported directly from the fields of conquest to Utah. American converts, particularly, find the institution a wonderfully different thing upon reaching Utah from that they have been taught to anticipate. Even from its books one cannot get a true idea of the character of the institution. This must be gained by contact with its spirit in Zion, where it is fully and normally developed. It is destitute of spirituality, of questionable morality, emphasizes the material and the sensuous. The hand of the botch and the dauber are everywhere apparent, though in some ways consummate skill is manifested. This is especially true of the arrangement of the system to keep the people in the most abject subjection to their leaders.

This is from an alleged Christian minister, but it is a decidedly un-Christian utterance, that is, counting that Christianity enjoins speaking the truth. All persons who have actual knowledge of Mormonism will recognize at once that in every sentence uttered by Mr. Wood he hears false witness against the Latter-day Saints. His ingratitude toward the people of Ogden especially, where he has been the recipient of many courtesies, will not inspire increased affection for him. His statements are so glaringly and manifestly untrue throughout that we will not waste space in a further reiteration, but will call our readers' attention to the contrast presented in the more pleasing and honorable course pursued by a Kentucky paper, the Casey County Tribune, which suggests that it is a Christian obligation "to love the Mormons a little," and makes the following comment on a recent visit of Mormon missionaries there:

Elders Canfield, Ipsen, Pond and Marin—Latter-day Saints—ended up their labors with us on Sunday night last, and left us on Monday following, after spending near a week in services according to their faith and order, and the people were well pleased with them generally speaking. They were nice gentlemen, and conducted themselves in a way that made many friends for them in the best circles of society, and as to the doctrine they presented, removed some of the prejudice that had formerly existed against Mormonism, yet they made no Mormons in our midst, but they will find many warm friends should they return. They are our own nation's people and found their existence in one of our own states that ranks second in education, and we truly believe that our people, everywhere, should give them a cordial welcome, and exchange ideas with them in a friendly manner, that we may be benefited by them and them by us, likewise. We surely gain nothing, by discarding our fellow men, who are well up with modern times, as we might gain some useful information by their association. For the sake of courtesy and civility and true Christianity we should treat them as human, and let them not shake off the dust of their feet as a testimonial against us. We see from some of our exchanges that some of our journalistic brethren, also some of our people, are onto the Mormons with both feet, yet we feel sure there is no religion in that kind of a spirit.

On reading both these excerpts from Kentucky papers there is no difficulty in determining which possesses the more Christian spirit of the two, the