

pire, and also upon the so-called Christian churches. The complete failure of both has rendered it necessary for the sovereign to take the matter in hand himself. Of course there is not much prospect of permanent success attending his efforts, because the evil he seeks to eradicate is of too long a growth and too deeply rooted to be cured by a spurt incited by alarm at the hideous character of the situation.

The action of the German Emperor ought to induce us to look nearer home. No person who reads the daily journals of this country can avoid the conviction that our own country is nearing the edge of the vortex which threatens to sap the foundation of the German commonwealth. The daily record of crime involving, in the hosts of cases, the most revolting immorality, is appalling. And why should there be any disposition to dispute the fact that vice is increasing? The progress it is making is not by slow strides either. If "virtue exalteth a nation," by parity of reasoning vice must degrade it. If the stream of popular immorality continues to swell it is only a matter of time as to when the point of consequent overwhelming disaster will be reached.

Nearer still we are compelled to come to a central point, by the contemplation of the moral status of some of the leading cities of our own Territory of Utah, with chief reference to Salt Lake. Drunkenness and licentiousness have increased the last year and a half at a rate calculated to fill respectable people with deep concern. The situation was bad enough a year ago, a few months after the "Liberal" party had assumed the reins of government in this city. The city had retrograded so rapidly in that brief time that mass meetings were called by clergymen of different denominations for the purpose of protesting against the growth of vice and demanding that the officials enforce the laws. These ministers were, however, shorn of their strength—they had, almost without exception, combined with the worst elements of society here to place in office the very men whose criminal negligence and connivance had produced the result they professed to deplore. One of them—a prominent Methodist—in his speech at one of these meetings, remarked, almost in despair, that it had never before been necessary in the history of this city to call a gathering of the nature of the one he addressed. Thus he unwittingly paid a high compliment to the comparatively moral administration of municipal affairs in Salt Lake previous to the advent of the "Liberals" to power.

His statement was also in the nature of a well merited rebuke to the existing government, on account of its being largely responsible for the increase of lawlessness and vice, which has robbed the municipality of its previous high moral character.

What is wanted as a means of stemming the tendency of the tide toward immorality is not a spasmodic spurt of virtuous energy, but a determined and protracted war against growing evils in our midst. Every available force should be employed in such a work, which we regret to say is sadly needed in our once peaceful and moral city of Salt Lake.

FAMINES OF THE PAST.

ACCOUNTS from Russia give a woeful picture of the famine stricken districts. A dispatch says that at one place a woman killed her three children, and then hanged herself, because a rich neighbor refused her assistance. Hundreds of men are going around in organized gangs raiding mansions and farms, and robbing freight trains. The mortality among children from sickness and hunger is said to be horrifying.

Naturally enough with this dreadful condition existing in Russia, newspapers are dwelling somewhat on the subject of famines as they are detailed in history. The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* devotes considerable space to the great famines of the past. The first one mentioned is that of Egypt as recorded in the Old Testament. The first famine which profane history takes cognizance of occurred in Italy 438 B. C. Thousands of persons driven mad by want threw themselves into the sea, or killed themselves in other ways. In Egypt a famine prevailed 42 A. D. Rome suffered terribly from a famine in 262 A. D. The details of this are accurately and exhaustively recorded. They are horrible to read.

The first famine which history deals with as having occurred in the British Islands took place in England 272 A. D. The people tried to subsist on roots, grass and bark of trees. Scotland was visited 306 A. D. and suffered severely. In 310 A. D. it is estimated that 40,000 persons died in England from famine. In 450 A. D. a famine prevailed all over Europe. Parents ate their children. In 789, 823, and 954 A. D. famine prevailed in England, Scotland and Wales.

There were general European famines in 1016, 1193 and 1195. Dogs, cats and vermin were common articles of food in these years, and even cannibalism became

quite common. England alone had serious famines in 1251, 1315, 1336, 1348, and 1565. General famines prevailed in England, France and Western Europe in 1693, 1748, 1789, and 1795. Ireland does not appear in famine records until 1814, then in 1816, 1822, 1831, and 1846.

But for famines of colossal proportions one must go to Asia. In 1838, 800,000 persons died of starvation in northern India. In 1860, 500,000 were carried off, and in 1860, 1,000,000 persons died in Bengal and Oressa. In 1868, 1,500,000 died in Rappootana, and in 1877, 500,000 in Bombay, Mysore and Madras. But China, in 1877 and 1878, stands first in numbers of all recorded famines. It is said that 9,500,000 human beings perished.

It is conceded that as transportation facilities improve the possibility of fearful famines diminishes. And the only countries now where great disaster is likely to occur from loss of crops are Russia, Persia and China.

CORRUPT JOURNALISM.

THE complaint of the Santiago correspondent of the London *Times*, about the false news sent from Chile by American reporters, is not unfounded. The rush for the first place in the journalistic race and the struggle for "scoops," often lead the lively news gatherer to the lines of invention, and he supplements a paucity of facts with big patches of fiction. The story of the blowing up of the "Baltimore" was, no doubt, a reporter's romance, without truth and without reasonable excuse.

There are so many fabricated items of alleged news telegraphed all over the civilized world, that doubt is cast upon the entire service of press dispatches. Everybody here is familiar with the falsehoods that for many years were sent over the wires concerning Utah affairs. And every now and again lying dispatcher cause a temporary sensation, unsettling people's minds, agitating the money market, and often causing business disasters. A dispatch will come in the morning only to be contradicted in the afternoon, and the papers which print them are often wrongfully blamed, either for publishing false news or for filling up their columns with contradictory telegrams.

We view this falsification of news, like the preparation of bogus "interviews," as positively criminal. The perpetrators of these infamies ought to be severely punished. There should be a law in every State and Territory to reach such cases. The law of libel does not meet