

by the national legislature regarding the worthy characteristics of the community known as Mormons, or Latter-day Saints.

### OUR EDUCATIONAL STATUS.

The NEWS is in receipt of the fifth annual report of the superintendent of public schools for Utah—Hon. Jacob S. Boreman. It was submitted to Congress on the 17th of last month, accompanied by the explanatory statement that a number of reports from county superintendents did not reach him till late in the month, hence the delay in its transmission. It occupies twenty pages of printed matter and goes largely into statistics. A tone of evident fairness prevails wherever comment is made, and the information generally is free from bias and undoubtedly correct.

From the report we learn that the number of children of school age had advanced from 66,009 in 1891 to 73,359 last year; of the former 53,044 and of the latter 52,532 were of Mormon parentage, the remainder, of course, being non-Mormon. This indicates a very healthy growth, and when to it is added the additional fact that schools and appliances generally have more than kept pace with it, the showing becomes doubly gratifying. The report closes with the statement that altogether the outlook is very encouraging in the educational matters of the Territory, to which we can all subscribe.

Utah already stands well to the fore in point of education among the communities composing the United States, and that with increase of population it shows no diminution in the ratio of scholastic advancement is a condition of things of which we may justly be proud.

### A DISAGREEMENT.

The NEWS and other papers have made mention of some exceptions taken to strictures upon the life and character of Andrew Jackson and other great Democrats by Mr. John M. Zane in a recent lecture in this city. We did not hear what Mr. Zane said, but are satisfied of one thing—you might as well tell a mother her baby is an ugly little wretch, or tickle the hind legs of a mule with a briar, or make a slighting remark of Ogden in the presence of a citizen thereof, as to use anything but respectful language regarding "Old Hickory" where the average Democrat can hear it. The memory of the warrior-statesman is enshrined and the pedestal occupied by his image is so high and so firm that nothing Republican can climb the one or form anything like a proper estimate of the other—if our Democratic friends are to be believed. As we look at it, they are partly wrong and partly right; Jackson was a great man and a faulty one, his good points outweighing his bad ones but not altogether obscuring them.

Now we have the brilliant editor of the *Courier-Journal* finding fault with President Cleveland and making of Andrew Jackson an exemplar wherewith to show up the former's shortcomings.

Mr. Watterson thinks that in the matter of the New York senatorship Mr. Cleveland did not act as Jackson would have done. His interposition," the editor further remarks, "did certainly lack the firm hand and decisive purpose of real leadership." A Boston paper friendly to the President-elect hereupon comes to the rescue, saying that "it may be that the kind of firmness and decision that Col. Watterson has in mind were not called for right at that time. We see no lack of firmness and decision in Mr. Cleveland's course. It is rather aggressiveness and chivalry, shouldering that his critic seems to want. There are cases in which a point is best gained by letting people who are opposing it have their way for a time, though these tactics, we are aware, are, in most instances, a sealed book to the Kentucky editor."

Politics makes strange bedfellows, and it also makes unaccountable likes and dislikes. The foregoing is simply a case of two political doctors disagreeing—one revering the dead, the other the coming President, both having good ground to stand upon and both as seen having vulnerable points.

### THE OBSERVATION PARTY.

Our city officials now on a junketing trip—or, it may be more proper to say, tour of observation—to the Pacific coast seem to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. Doubtless they fully anticipated doing so when they started out. Indeed, it would be difficult to do otherwise in the midst of such generous hospitality as that accorded them at San Francisco and elsewhere. For such kindly courtesies to its official representatives, Salt Lake returns its grateful thanks.

We believe our office holders to be recipients of more than sumptuous dinners and views of curious scenes and strange places. We think they are acquiring information of what others have done and are doing in building up great and prosperous municipalities. And we hope they will make use of the knowledge gained to the advantage of our citizens.

Of course we do not anticipate that when they return they will expect our humble city to put on the airs of metropolitan San Francisco. Our municipality really cannot afford any money wasting for the sake of style. The taxpayers have had more than a share of that already. Nor is there a large cash balance to use in making experiments. But there is opportunity to improve the manipulation of public affairs, both as to economy and effective service, and we trust that our traveling delegation have obtained ideas that will be of practical utility in this regard. If they have, then whether it be an improvement in street grading and in the operation of the sewer system, or the adoption of a plan to remove unsightly and dangerous electric wires to an underground conduit, the citizens will be satisfied that the junketing was of lasting benefit to the public. When the officials return, let them have a fair chance to give the city the advantage of the increased knowledge gained through their opportunities and by their powers of observation.

### A WEALTHY BOOR.

On Saturday last the Salt Lake City officials now visiting the Pacific coast were guests of Adolph Sutro, in San Francisco. In the course of a speech, the host made allusion to the Mormon people. Here are some of his expressions:

Almost fifty years ago the Mormons settled at Salt Lake, and during all that time have had full sway in Utah Territory. Many and persistent have been the efforts in Congress to have the United States government send troops to Utah to force the Mormons into subjection to the laws of the United States.

Their fanaticism was of a religious character, under which they no doubt committed many wrongs. But, after all, most religions are more or less based upon superstition, and polygamously inclined people may be found among some of the most civilized nations.

It was probably a fortunate circumstance that the United States never used force, for it would have led to bloodshed and made martyrs out of the Mormons."

Non-Mormon and Mormon citizens alike in Salt Lake, blush to think that there was not one among the city's representatives who had the courage to call down the impudent and insolent speaker who thus offered a gratuitous insult to the people of Utah. The officials may have been pleased and dazzled by Mr. Sutro's wealth and wine, but by quietly submitting to his uncalled-for remarks they have not gained any respect from the people whose taxes pay their official salaries and expenses.

### PROVIDE FOR THE POOR.

The dispatches from Great Britain bring information of the severe weather there this season, and state that among the poorer classes in the large cities the suffering is intense. Multitudes of children go barefooted when the temperature is below freezing point. Pawn shops are packed so full of furniture, clothing and bedding that they will take no more, so that what few articles the starving poor have left they cannot dispose of for food. Many men are beyond work if they could get it, and when they do find an odd job are so weakened by hunger that they are exhausted with a few minutes' exertion. The desolate houses of the sufferers echo with their groans, and the people are crowded together with as little room to spare as possible.

These few sentences transmitted by cable tell a harrowing tale of privation, yet they give but a faint idea of the destitution and misery experienced by tens of thousands of people during the inclement winter; a misery which, although alleviated by milder weather in the summer season, is not wholly relieved by even a moderate supply of the necessities of life.

There is not space within the limits of this article to relate how men, women and children, homeless, hungry and cold, seek in gutters and dirt-heaps for food to appease their cravings, or to recount the sufferings of an army of poor in the laboring classes of London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Belfast,