

the better; and then the writer without more ado abruptly introduces the theme which heads this article, and shows that Salt Lake City is the banner corporation on point of uniqueness with its Monday Evening club, "whose regular weekly sessions begin with a bath and end with a ball, and have a feast of sandwiches between." This organization, we are advised, is for pleasure only, and is recruited largely from the "younger element of the Mormon congregation which comprises the fashion and wealth of the city." The luminary is gracious enough to credit us with a 400, several of whom belong to this very select club.

We learn a little more of the subject than was known before, from the following extract:

The first surprise this society has in store for you, and one not easily forgotten, is the journey to its rendezvous at Saltair, on the shores of the lake. A ride on a witch's broomstick through hedges it seems to the novice. Across the salt marshes, where the scorching wind is like the poison breath of Siegfried's dragon, through the alkali of the desert that scalds your nostrils, burns your eyeballs and chokes your lungs, a crazy train of open cars and a stark mad engine rushes like the whirlwind with a roar as often thousand demons howling in concert. Not a word is spoken. No one could hear if there were. If you would voice your agony the sound is blown back into your throat to choke you by the terrible wind that takes your breath away.

Such an experience surely should have a pleasurable ending and this one has, for "suddenly the agony is over and with a wild shriek the train stops in front of a Moorish palace." Here follows matter descriptive and we plod along in anticipation of a few words more on the subject in hand. There come as suddenly as the stoppage of the train, for we are plumply assured without previous warning that Mormon women are "just like other women, only more considerate of the stranger within their gates than women of the older civilization of the East." This is very gratifying information and as we "see it in the Sun it is so." They have always been that way, no matter what stage or degree of civilization they may have occupied; but the comparison, delightful enough at this end of the line, will surely be pronounced odious at the other end.

The pleasant but not surprising statement is put forth that the maids spoken of are "very fair to look upon, in their fresh and dainty summer gowns, pretty in a sweet and wholesome style of beauty suggestive of the village girl rather than the metropolitan. A puzzling resemblance in type is noticeable and easily accounted for by the intimate family relationship. Everybody is in some way related to everybody else. The sons and daughters—and there are many, for children are as thick as roses in June, and apparently as welcome—marry and build for themselves homes in the street where their fathers lived before them. Their sons and daughters marry, too, and let their single monks around the corner to marry and inter-marry again. One needs to bide the curly member with vigilance here in this swirl of sisters and cousins and aunts." Surely, for a visiting stranger to whom all things else were the mantle of

absolute newness, this writer has a rare faculty for acquiring information! The saline breeze of the lake have quite an exhilarating effect upon the human system; but they are scarcely to be credited with such power as this!

There is much more in the same piquant vein, little inaccuracies here and there being more than atoned for by the writer's evident aim to be fair and speak the truth glowingly. He or she is evidently one of those who make the most of every situation in which they may be placed, which is not a bad disposition at all.

HE WANTS TO KNOW.

SALT LAKE CITY, Sept. 15, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

Among all classes of Salt Lake's citizens the financial situation is the all-absorbing topic, and the extent to which the majority of the City Council may yet plunge the city into debt causes many to ask, where will it end, or is there a limit which they cannot pass? At the present rate of issuing warrants and scrip the two million limit fixed by Congress will soon be passed if it has not been so already, and what then? The question is asked by some: "Cannot the city through some of its citizens go into bankruptcy, repudiate its paper, and then begin again and not go into debt?" This has been done by some of the Southern states in time of financial distress, is often done by individuals, and they do not seem to be thought any the worse of for it.

Respectfully, SEEDEE.

Our questioner is astray on some matters of detail; but, as his evident aim is to be informed, as all good citizens should be, his views are entitled to publication and such comment as will straighten out the inaccuracies without abating the vein of uprightness which characterizes at least the first of the questioner's asks.

To begin with, the limit of the city's power to incur indebtedness is not \$2,000,000 or any amount approaching that figure; it is at present \$1,654,820—a sum that was reached and passed before a warrant was issued, so that the question as to what will take place when such a condition is realized can be answered by our correspondent himself if he can find time to look around and investigate. It is not what will be done but what is being done that we are confronted with—not a matter of the future, but a matter of the present. That all issues incurring or increasing indebtedness beyond the limit fixed by Congress are what is known in law as *ultra vires* and void, does not alter the other fact that we—or those who act for us—are in a condition of "most exquisite disorder," due that to the judicious and dispassionate outlooker must bear a close resemblance to nihilism.

The question regarding the rightfulness of bankruptcy and repudiation alone would seem to have emanated from a source which unrestrainedly breeds disorder if not danger. The preceding question leaves it considerably and the writer evidently puts a proposition that he has heard, not one that he necessarily endorses. It is scarcely desirable that we add rank dishonor to vexatious imbecility. What the city owes it

must pay to the uttermost farthing, principal and interest in current money of the United States or other medium acceptable to the holders of our obligations. Not only must that part of the debt which was legally contracted be met as it falls due, but, unless stopped by operation of law, all of the debt must be paid. That states or individuals may have acted dishonestly, or even yielded to a stress of circumstances to rid themselves of obligations, is nothing whatever to us. Two wrongs, or a thousand of them, do not make one right; and whatever be our lot it must not be said that a refuge in the wrong is sought so long as there is an available dollar in money or property within the control of the municipality. That is the status we must maintain, and it is a cause of real sorrow that any idea in conflict therewith should ever have been suggested, certainly none such will be seriously considered.

As a matter of fact as well as of law, however, and leaving the turpitude of the matter to one side, our questioner is at fault. There is no such thing as bankruptcy in the United States, therefore the statement that "it is often done by individuals" lacks the essential element of accuracy. Business men sometimes make an assignment of their effects for the benefit of their creditors, but only so far as such effects pay off the obligations does it entirely release the assignor. Furthermore, the Constitution provides that no one shall be deprived of his property without due process of law; a corporation's obligations are property in the hands of the holder, and repudiation or defaultation is not law; but even this principle is subject to modification as previously foreshadowed.

Any individual or a number of them may apply to a court of jurisdiction for an injunction to either restrain the issuance of warrants or their payment after being issued. That such application would be successful in the former instance there is no doubt. As to whether it would succeed in the latter case, there might be some doubt, everything depending upon the circumstances as a whole. Courts are disposed to deal leniently with third parties who hold negotiable instruments or other transferable property without sufficient warning of its dubious character, and in accepting of a warrant now the one doing so must take into consideration the notoriety which the subject has acquired and then ask himself if a court would not be likely to consider this alone as warning enough.

WHICH IS HEATHENISM?

The *Christian Cynosure* is a Chicago publication that is a pronounced antagonist of secret societies; it also professes to be a believer in and an advocate of Christianity. Its last issue contains an article entitled "The Conversion of Dead Sinners." This consists chiefly of extracts from an editorial in the *Deseret News* of August 19, regarding baptisms for the dead and the necessity for "every individual who proposes entering into the temple for an object so holy to be free from every sentiment and desire that is not God-like," and to engage in "preparation of a nature that will lead to the work