

five days of refreshing religious exercises, having held 13 meetings during the time, all of which were well attended. There were upwards of 60 speakers. So you can see we had quite an ingathering of elders from the various parts of the mission, all of whom, when they come to conference here, desire to speak, as you are well aware by the experience you have had here. In the evening of the 6th Brother Dean lectured on the history of the Church, the people evincing much interest in his recitals of scenes which have transpired in the early rise of the Church, and in the evenings of the 7th and 8th Elder B. Cluff, Jr., lectured on the Book of Mormon, occupying one hour and a half each evening, pointing out to the audience, on a map, which I had just furnished for the Book of Mormon class in the Sunday school, the various positions of the Nephites in their journey from the south to the Hill Cumorah in the State of New York, around which their last death struggle terminated.

The appointment of elders to labor in the mission during the next six months are as follows: For the Island of Hawaii, Elders Carl Anderson, Kalawala, Kau, Kalili and Keawe; for the Islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai, Elders Sidney Coray, J. L. Kanekapu and Kaupono; for the Island of Kauai, Elder J. Knell, Kaio and Makaula; for the Island of Oahu, Elders Benj. Cluff, Jr., Nehemia and Pono. Elders W. D. Alexander and J. H. Dean will assist me on the plantation.

In relation to the affairs of the plantation I can say nothing but words of encouragement. Rain storms have been quite frequent of late, finally terminating in a regular old-fashioned flood, completely inundating the valley and a great part of the cane field, the hills and dales looming up with a freshness that is perfectly lovely; the cane is also looking thrifty and promising. We have started an orchard in Kolu gulch at the Kalo lois, where we put out 200 mangoes trees, 110 orange and lime trees, and now we are putting out 2,000 coffee trees. We may not stay here long enough to gather the fruit and enjoy its tropical deliciousness, but we think some one may. We look upon this from this point of view. Had our brethren done the same thing 15 years ago, we of to-day would have all the fruit necessary for the whole colony, and so when you return here, say 10 years hence, you will find some of the fruits of our labors, I hope.

Mrs. Cluff has been very poorly for two months past, and is no better now.

Bro. Cluff also writes that it is the intention to build a meeting house at a cost of about \$3,000, and it is expected that \$2,000 of the amount will be raised by the next April Conference.

From Hawaiian newspapers we learn that the notorious W. M. Gibson, an apostate Mormon, who deceived the Sandwich Islanders so grossly some years ago, has purchased the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser*, published in Honolulu, and that in the arrangement he received from John E. Bush, Minister of the interior, the sum of \$5,000 towards the purchase money, and an agreement that he should have the government printing and binding for two years, the consideration being that Gibson shall support the Hawaiian Government and its policy and be always loyal to his Majesty, and repay the money advanced, in printing at fair and reasonable rates.

The man is a great scamp and will do anything for money. Persons of his stamp ought not to be entrusted with such an engine of power as a public journal, which can be used for evil as easily as for good. And should times so change as to render the support of an opposition party to the Hawaiian government more lucrative than the present policy of the *Advertiser*—which is not at all improbable, considering the agitation still in progress on the islands—Gibson would as quickly turn to the aid of the enemy, his motto being like that of Mr. Pigeon in "The Phoenix," "I always vote for the man that pays last."

PROHIBITION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

An organized effort is to be made, so we learn by private advices from Washington, to influence Congress at the coming session to establish

prohibition in the District of Columbia.

There is a constitutional provision that Congress shall have full power of legislation over the District of Columbia. On more than one occasion the power has been exercised in important cases. Congress abolished slavery there in 1861. It took away the right of suffrage there in 1874, disfranchising 40,000 citizens. In fact, the District is in some respects an experimental garden for Congress.

The temperance people urge not only the unquestioned great evils of the liquor traffic, but they claim that the problem of prohibition can be better settled in Washington than elsewhere. Admitting its partial or complete failure in Maine and other States, they say such failure has been owing to causes which would not prevail in the District. They think an Act of Congress could make a total abstinence city of Washington, although State legislation has failed to revolutionize the habits of people in Portland, Boston, Davenport or other cities.

If the report of scenes in the Senate, which came to us towards the close of last session were anything near correct, Congress itself would furnish a splendid field for the temperance reformers. We do not think they will succeed in obtaining the legislation they seek, because it is to a certain extent impracticable, and the habits of many of our lawmakers will stand in its way, but the intentions of the prohibitionists are no doubt as admirable as their efforts are earnest.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the petroleum district on the Caspian Sea there are 415 wells, chiefly under the superintendence of Americans. Fifteen million dollars are invested in refineries, which last year produced 475,750 barrels.

T. DeWitt Talmage announces that he would rather be buried in China than in Salt Lake. His sentiments on that matter are exactly our own, concerning his place of deposit, but we can't say how the Mongolians will feel about it.

Governor Wright, of the Indian Territory, is a converted Choctaw Indian. Sometimes after presiding over a political meeting of his people he calls them to order and preaches a sermon to them. Is this a "union of Church and State?"

The San Francisco *Monitor* (Catholic), makes some pungent criticism upon the disunion and antagonism existing in Protestant sects, and maintains this to be "one of the chief causes of the prevailing infidelity; serving to create a spirit of skepticism in the minds of many Christians, and to lead them away from the virtuous paths of piety into the broad road which leads to eternal ruin."

The *Golos* says that Russia, which usually exports 320,000,000 bushels of grain, will have to import some this year in consequence of the very general failure of the Russian crop. The prospects for future good harvests, moreover, are not encouraging. An insect, which has defied all efforts to exterminate it, and which has proved the greatest enemy of the Russian farmers, has made the fields its abode.

We learn from an article in the November *International* that in 1842 the Western States were in debt \$59,931,553; the Southern States \$73,340,017, and the Middle States \$73,348,072. In 1852, the first reliable report of the valuation of property, the Southern States exceeded in wealth the Middle States by \$896,169,366, and the Western States by \$1,609,759,683. To-day the debts of the two latter sections are \$45,672,575 and \$36,565,360 respectively; while the South, before repudiation, owed \$273,205,185, and to-day recognizes \$113,967,243 debt.

Since the article below on the Denver riot was written the good report has been telegraphed from Denver that the riot which occurred there on Sunday had no origin or countenance from either political party, and that the leaders or those under arrest are strangers in the city. Hatred of the Chinese was the main cause, and this feeling seems to be shared by both Republicans and Democrats in the Pacific States. The affair is none the less disgraceful that it was not a partizan outbreak, but that it was not so much more creditable to the Colorado Democrats.

Only ten days' residence in Indiana is necessary to enable a citizen to vote. It will easily be seen what an opportunity this offers for "colonization."

It is to be hoped that politicians will learn by the lessons of the campaign of 1880, the folly, if not the evil of personal defamation. Principles should be the points of controversy, and policies the objects of attack in a political struggle for pre-eminence.

The cause of reform spelling is growing, and a number of periodicals are adopting some important changes in the orthography of the language. A specimen copy of the *Phonographic Monthly* has reached us, in which many of the common words are spelled as pronounced. The sensible substitution of "f" for "ph" is one of the new features, as well as "k" for "c," etc. There are a good many inconsistencies yet, but these will no doubt disappear in time.

The annual report of the Post Office Department, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1880, is just published. It shows that on that date the postal service was in operation on 1,118 railroad routes, aggregating 85,320 miles in length, at an annual cost for transportation alone of \$10,498,986. The cost of transportation on 9,863 star service routes, aggregating 235,248 miles, for the year, was \$7,321,439. This was \$919,619 in excess of the expenditure for the same branch of the service in the preceding year, and was \$1,421,449 greater than the estimate submitted by the department to Congress in December, 1880.

Our dispatches to-day announce the heaviest vote in all parts of the north and west, that has ever been polled, and also that the election proceeds quietly. There are reports of attempted bribery, illegal registration and voting, and from South Carolina of polling places being closed where the Republicans are strongest. All these rumors have some foundation, no doubt, but they are merely election stories, and receive little notice. There will probably be some fraud and both parties will participate in it; but so far, everything promises an unusually peaceable and generally honest test of the strength of both parties.

We do not know of any work which is calculated to do more good among our young people than the Faith Series, which is being published at the office of the *Juvenile Instructor*. The second volume is poetically entitled "A String of Pearls," and consists of a number of sketches illustrating the power of faith and the manifestation of God's mercy in answer to prayer. It forms a mighty weapon in defense of true faith in the midst of a skeptical generation. Every young man and woman should read it, and older members of our Church might peruse and ponder on its contents with profit. It can be had for twenty cents.

A forcible writer in the *Christian Register* describes the Pan-Presbyterian Council as a body of men with a sad-colored expression of countenance and cadence, and a rigidity of feature corresponding with their creed. He speaks thus of their sentiments: "There seemed to be no abatement, on the whole, in the utterances made of the old doctrinal demands of Calvinism. When one member, in the course of a running discussion, reiterated strongly the dear old doctrine of eternal damnation, the applause was greater than I had heard it before. Election and predestination were the postulates of all the speakers and total depravity their tacit assumption."

New York papers and philanthropists want Utah "regenerated" and "Christianized" after the Gothamite style. Yet paragraphs like the following from the *Herald* are of frequent appearance: "The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has been rescuing some more juveniles from the misery caused by brutal parents. Hundreds and thousands of little lives could be saved from wretchedness if the alleged tender hearted public had real heart enough to inform the Society of cases of cruelty coming under their notice." New York is a "Christian" city, and yet so many thousands of its children suffer from gross parental brutality, that a special Society has to be kept in operation to save some of them from misery and murder. Look at home, "Christian" regenerators, and let the "Mormons" alone.

The health laws revealed through Moses to ancient Israel have been tested for many generations and the proof that they are divine in their origin is seen even at the present day, and in a different climate from that for which they were specially adapted. Dr. S. Gibbon, medical officer of health for the Holborn district, in his report for the past year, states that, whatever may be the cause, there is no doubt that a Jew's life in London is, on the average, worth twice as many years as a Christian's. The Hebrews of the metropolis are notoriously exempt from tubercular and scrofulous taint. It is very rare that one meets with pulmonary consumption among them. The medical officer of one of their large schools has remarked that their children do not die in anything like the same ratio as Gentile children; and in the district of Whitechapel the medical officer of health has reported that on the north side of High Street, occupied by the Jews, the average death rate is twenty per 1,000, while on the south side, occupied by English and Irish, it is forty-three per 1,000.



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