

me, after spending less than a week in Salt Lake City, to speak too positively upon any conflicting points. But I am bound to say that I have found among the Mormons quite a number of highly intelligent and attractive people. I was received and greeted with the utmost kindness by the heads of the organization; other members spared no pains to render my stay interesting and agreeable—carriages and friendly guides were at my disposal, and also seats at the theater (which was built by Brigham Young and is ruled by Mormon delegates). My letter of introduction asked for such courtesy as they could show a stranger who had traveled many miles, but I was in no way prepared for the generous reception accorded me. My wishes were anticipated, any questions were freely answered, and everything possible done to show me that I was in the midst of an active, vigorous, sensitive and kindly community.

As a letter upon Mormonism without some reference to polygamy would be incomplete, I may say that inquiry upon this point led to my being assured that it is now neither recognized nor practiced.

CLAIM JUMPING.

Several days ago Mr. W. H. Low of Beaver was arrested on a charge of trespassing upon the Neptune and Mermaid mining claims in the Indian Creek district, and brought before Commissioner C. E. Norris of the former place for trial. He was found guilty and fined \$25, which he did not pay, preferring to take his chances on an appeal to the district court on the ground that the question of title to the property trespassed upon was in issue and by reason of that fact the commissioner had no jurisdiction.

The case has been spoken of as one of jumping, and this leads the *Utonian* to remark that there is no such a thing as jumping a claim nowadays, for if a man makes a mining location and complies with the United States laws and the laws of the state, that claim is his in spite of anything or anybody, and anybody else that does work on that claim will get his labor for his pains; but if he is careless and heedless in writing his location notices and building his monuments, he is likely to wake up some morning and find himself "in business," for there are men who in all business affairs as well as in mining take advantage of technicalities to help themselves along, and the district spoken of "as she looms up in the near future, will be no exception to the case, for every day brings in old miners and prospectors who understand the law thoroughly and will take advantage of it."

There is a good deal of sound sense in that homely phrase, and the same lesson might be observed with advantage in many other places and cases in life. If it is not everything to have the beginning exactly right, it is a most indispensable thing; it is the neglect of the foundation as to beginning of a mining or other transaction that gives the lawyers so much to do, and our Beaver friends ought to realize this before their budding Golconda has fully bloomed.

IN NINE out of every ten outbreaks among the Indians it will be found that a white man's whisky or a white man's raceality is the first great cause.

A NATIONAL DISGRACE.

The liberation of Ferdinand de Lesseps and his associates in the Panama scandal, is at once a cause of pleasure and regret to the enlightened and unprejudiced among mankind—pleasure because they should not be imprisoned, and regret because the slowly disappearing fact that they were imprisoned is made vivid again. It is well-understood that what was designed as a humiliation to the men spoken of has reacted upon the nation which sought to inflict it, and the outcome of an individual scandal was a national disgrace, the burden of which is in nowise lessened because of the men's release, for it was the expiration of the term by limitation and not the sober second thought of the government that caused them to be freed.

Some men by their achievements and learning become so great and potential among their fellows that they are above the commission of such offenses; they move in a sphere which calls for grandeur of action and which can receive nothing else; and the atmosphere of such a plane is not productive of crime or triviality because offering no suggestion of or incentive to it. Who could, for instance, imagine Thomas A. Edison stealing a pocketbook, Chauncey M. Depew figuring in a prize fight or President Cleveland crawling over the fence to avoid paying his fare at the gate of a baseball game! With just as much reason can we conceive of a petty act or any theft being planned or consented to by the master mind which cut a month's time out of the calendar of oriental traffic and presented it as so much imperishable capital to the world of commerce by plowing a mighty furrow between two great seas! Such minds are oftener than otherwise worse than useless in dealing with finance; they can compass great projects, conceive of mammoth enterprises, and be as innocent of the practical means by which such achievements are to take shape and finish as though they were the minds of little children. And when men of that class get beyond their depth and fall because of a miscalculation as to the cost, to accuse them of crime therefor is itself criminal; and when such a charge is followed up with prosecution and punishment, it becomes a disgrace for the world to take note of and hold the authors morally responsible.

Besides all this, Lesseps and his associates caused no havoc that they did not participate in to the fullest extent. It is true that a great many people lost their all in a financial way in the fiasco, but so did the men who were persecuted and imprisoned, and a great deal besides—they lost honorable reputations, their hopes in life, their families' prospects, the great returns which must have been theirs with success. It is a sad thing for those in humble life whose savings were ruthlessly squandered, but they have something left to be thankful for, the others have not; with the former all may be retrieved, with the latter everything but the mere fragment of a miserable life is gone forever.

LEO'S POLICY.

The News has previously noted the movement which is on foot to unite the various oriental Christian denominations with their great sister church whose capital seat is Rome, and the conference to be held in Jerusalem this year. It is now learned that the pope has appointed an official to represent the Vatican at this meeting. One of the objects of the conference is to see what can be done by way of evening out the differences in the liturgies of the various Christian bodies, and it is safe to say, that if the pope can show himself somewhat liberal with donations and generous in allowing the leading prelates to retain their present power, the obstacles in the divergent rituals and conflicting doctrines will prove surmountable.

There are a great many different churches in the East. The most important one, except the Roman, is the Greek with its various divisions. There is the branch that is governed by the "most holy archbishop of Constantinople," who has a hard struggle to keep the Slavonic Christians in subjection. The Alexandrian branch is governed by the "blessed and holy patriarch of the great city of Alexandria." Antioch is the seat of the "blessed and holy patriarch of the city of God" and Jerusalem of the "blessed and holy patriarch of the holy city of Jerusalem, of Palestine, Syria, Arabia beyond Jordan, Cana Galilee, and holy Zion."

All these branches of the Greek church, which together with the Russians and Greeks are considered orthodox, might probably listen to reasonable propositions for a union with Rome. They all recognize the supreme authority of a general council, instead of the pope, but the trouble is that there has not been such a council held during the last thousand years, and nobody seems to know how it can be convened, a fact that leaves these churches practically without any supreme authority at all. It would therefore not seem impossible to convince their leading prelates, who live in the midst of Mohammedan enemies, that it would be for their benefit to acknowledge the supremacy of Rome. The Russian and Hellenic branches, on the other hand, would probably not yet be prepared for the proposed union. They have kings to command and need no pope.

Then there are the Copts, most numerous in Egypt. They are descendants of ancient Christian churches in that country, and claim to have been converted originally by Mark, whose Gospel is still extant. Most of them are independent, but small sections have already joined Rome. Generally they hate other Christians with all the strength of ignorance and bigotry combined.

Many of the Oriental churches are descendants of the Thomas Christians, a sect which is first found in India. They claimed to be the converts of the Apostle Thomas. Several attempts have at various times been made by Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits to convert them to Rome and as early as 1599 a union was partially effected which, however, was again disrupted. There can at present be no serious obstacle to their joining Rome again.