

ing or manufacturing on a large scale have the benefit of wholesale orders, the larger the better for them and the middlemen too. There is not much risk in this; estimated as such transactions usually are, there is none at all, since woolen fabrics are not perishable or subject to many of the deleterious influences that other products are affected by. Let us do a little more for ourselves and, by degrees at least, grow out of the habit we have fallen into of looking for relief from business stringencies to agencies elsewhere.

PULPIT POLITICS.

During the proceedings of the Baptist convocation at Denver, Rev. S. G. Adams of this city, as we are advised, reported "eight Boston missionaries in Utah, and more discouragements to the square mile than on any other spot on the globe." Utah, he said, is the seat of every "Boston-batched ism from Unitarianism down," and all overshadowed by the "best organized monstrosity," on the face of the earth. He boldly claimed that polygamy was still prevalent, and its friends only concealing it in hope of statehood. The Christians of the Territory did not want statehood, and he begged the society to oppose it in the East. All of which is very peculiar coming from an avowed evangelist and therefore one whose professions are the spreading of the truth.

The isms of this Territory are, like the people thereof, "overshadowed" by the Federal government. Whether the reverend prevaricator had this in his mind or not, he came as near to truth in pronouncing it an organized monstrosity as in some other things he said. And by what authority does he speak for the Christians of the Territory? Is his egotism, like his disposition to falsify, so abnormally developed that he fancies that only those who look at things as he does are Christians? If so, he is to be pitied more than despised, because such an affliction is a disease, ineradicable and not often susceptible of modification by any agency of man. But for the false impressions which such persons create abroad and the groundless prejudices which would die but for their stale and musty falsehoods, they would not merit so much as a mention and would certainly never receive it in these columns at least.

CAPITOL HILL.

We venture to say that not one-half of the people of Salt Lake City are aware of the transformation that has been wrought on what used to be called Arsenal Hill since the city gave and the Territory accepted a tract of land on that slightly bench for capitol grounds. The figures to show what this transformation has cost are not at hand, but there is no risk in saying that not one dollar of the sum has been mispent. The grounds whereon the future capitol building will stand have been made a thing of beauty, the lawns and terraces are of the greenest and most velvety, the shrubs and flowering plants of the thriftiest and most beautiful, the trees

and appointments throughout of the tastiest and most graceful. Irregularity of shape does but give greater scope for ingenuity of arrangement, and while the present is in all respects admirable the future may be anticipated as simply idyllic. Running at an angle across the flat below may be seen the last crumbling remains of the Spanish wall which in the days of Indian depredations completely encircled the city; and the contrast between the old and the new is fruitful of meditation and hopeful thought. The view of broad valley, winding river, silent Lake and snow-clad mountains is at once a feast for mind and eye, and a source of renewed gratitude for the goodness of the land we inhabit.

It is to be hoped that in the near future the capitol grounds may be thrown open to the public, to the end that the broad driveways and pleasant walks may be enjoyed from closer acquaintance. We understand that such a move has been favorably considered by those having the matter in charge, and that as soon as the flowering plants shall have taken on their belated coloring the gates will be unlocked. This decision is to be applauded; public property deserves to be appreciated in other ways than from the outside of a high iron fence, no matter how ornamental.

THE COMING VISITORS.

As will be seen by a telegram elsewhere in these columns the distinguished party of gentlemen from the East who were to visit us in a few days, have postponed the trip for the present but they may be along later in the season. They are members of the United States Congress and stand high in the councils of their respective parties. The people of Utah are best acquainted with two of them, one by personal association, the other by reputation—Charles J. Faulkner of West Virginia and David B. Hill of New York, both Democrats and both men of sterling qualities and far-reaching ability. The former is known to the political world more through the wonderful endurance and matchless tact exhibited by him in opposing the so-called "force bill" when that measure was before the Senate, his speech being, we believe, the longest continuous one made before that body in late years, if not the longest altogether. Senator Hill is certainly one of the most acute and capable politicians in the country, a man of considerable attainments and wonderful directness of purpose. He has built his own structure unaided until by his force of character and qualities of leadership he could command such assistance as he required. The other members are Senator Platt of Connecticut and Chairman Washington of the House committee on territories, both of whom we know of and hope to know more.

The object of the gentlemen's errand is to ascertain by direct information what the political and general status of the territories is, with special reference to their fitness for statehood at the present time. It is understood in advance that their investigations will be non-partisan and

for no special political design. The work in hand should thus be easily disposed of, as it would only amount to a determination of a few questions, these being as to population, education, present and prospective resources, and the disposition and ability to maintain republican methods. It should not take the committee very long to ascertain thoroughly as to all these, but of course they will be more or less beleaguered by the Philistines determined to pour their tales of manufactured woe into the visitors' ears whether willing or unwilling, and thus a great deal of valuable time will be taken up with irrelevant matter. If the hostiles do not begin their opposition to statehood with the building of the mud wall around the site selected for this city and point to it as evidence of a desire to fence out the United States, we shall be surprised; and if, continuing, they do not present a verbal panorama embracing within its incongruous unfoldings every act of violence and lawlessness growing out of unsettled conditions and disordered society as long as the same lasted, it will probably be because the committee don't care to listen to it, realizing that they are here to learn as to the *now* rather than the *then* of the case, however fascinating in its occasional terrors the latter might be if judiciously arranged and skillfully depicted.

Whatever the outcome of the visit, if it shall yet take place—whether it shall result in all the territories being upreared into the more dignified and responsible position of political sovereignty, or whether as usual Utah shall be counted out and all the others be favored as indicated—let us hope that whatever is done will be the result of a full and unforced conclusion unanimously agreed to; or that if, through prejudice or captiousness there should be opposition to whatever the majority may agree upon, the reasons therefor may plainly appear. Let facts and facts only be given to the world, and then whatever be the conclusions of individuals the Territory's position will still be honorable and influential.

THE WORD "AGNOSTIC."

A correspondent asks the following questions: "When was the word agnostic first used and by whom, and what does it really mean?"

To commence with the last question, the word agnostic is Greek, derived from the verb *gignoskein*, to know, and the privative particle *a*, corresponding with the English un or in, in words like unwise, inhuman, etc. According to its derivation, the word would therefore signify one who is without knowledge. It is applied, however, to one who professes to know absolutely nothing but what has been actually demonstrated and is in this sense only another name for a certain class of infidels.

The word *gnosis* is found in the Septuagint as a translation of the Hebrew *daah* and also in the New Testament and denotes a full knowledge of the ethics, ritual and tenets of revealed religion. Paul mentions it among the spiritual gifts. Later it lost this signification and was applied to the so-