

region in which they are circulated, and it is partly to place him on record, and partly to show our readers what agencies the adversary employs to oppose the truth, that we have given space to the foregoing.

Any attempt at either satisfying or silencing such a person, by any amount of explanation or evidence, would be utterly hopeless; but the "News" will here take occasion to say that it is a far greater trial to the Mormon Elders to travel without purse or scrip than it is to the people among whom they labor to have them do so. They do not do it for a livelihood, because nearly every one of them leaves a comfortable home and profitable employment to enter the missionary field. Again, those who extend hospitality to them, in nearly all cases feel and express themselves as amply repaid for so doing. Lastly, the preaching of the Gospel without purse or scrip is one means the Almighty has directed for proving the world prior to the judgments that are to precede the second coming of the Son of Man.

WEAKNESS OF SECTARIANISM.

The Interstate Civic-Philanthropic conference closed its week's session at Battle Creek, Michigan, on Saturday night. During the week some notable papers were read, relating to the moral, physical, political and religious state of the world. The discussions of the various questions were not confined to a national view, but embraced the state of the whole world, especially the civilized portion. There were some very direct statements regarding the drift of society toward a condition that requires a radical change in order to check social degeneracy. To end the six days' meeting of the conference, there was presented an address by Rev. S. Herrin of Chicago, on the topic "How to Drain the Social Sewer," in which the preacher, who is secretary of the conference, made these remarks:

"The social sewer is the greatest evil of today. In Christianity should lie the cure, but the organized Christian church is a failure. The present church does not touch the greater evils. Plans to heal wounds must be as broad as the wrongs are. In a Chinese city are twenty-seven Christian sects, but paganism does not know they are there. In Michigan only one man out of a dozen goes to church; still many more are moved by the Spirit of Christ who are true Christians, although supporting no sect. Despite adverse criticism no church is doing a great philanthropic work today as the Catholic, yet masses and sermons will never accomplish what is needed; churches burdened with debt cannot easily help others. Intemperance is thriving despite efforts of the church. More beer and whisky are being consumed than ever before. The W. C. T. U. was organized and sent a thrill through the land, but it has gone into political trickery and will never put down the traffic. The Y. M. C. A. meant to do good, but is worldly. It ought to be buried. It is a corpse; as a philanthropic movement it is a fraud, though as a club it is entertaining. There are quarrels over the officers, but no real good is done."

There will be many who regard Mr. Herrin's statement as inadvisable, and even erratic, but there will be none to dispute successfully its accuracy, especially with reference to what he calls "the organized Christian church." His charge, in effect, is that that church is apostate from the real work of Christianity; and the fact that the great bulk of the people take

the same view shows that Christendom is about converted to its own apostasy from the primitive Christian Church, which was the reverse of failure in its touch upon the greater as well as the lesser evils. But the discovery of the departure of the alleged "organized Christian church" is not a new piece of information to this century, for nearly four score years ago, away back in 1820, a divine messenger came from the heavens and declared the universal apostasy of Christendom, and the fact that the professing Christian sects had "a form of Godliness, but deny the power thereof." The enlightened world, religious and otherwise, is coming to a realization of the truth of the divine declaration referred to, and will grow rapidly closer thereto from this time on. The inherent weakness of sectarianism is becoming apparent to all thoughtful minds.

SILLY PREDICTIONS.

The New York Mail and Express is one of the few prominent papers of the country to get excited over the address of President Woodruff, in favor of purity in politics, delivered at the recent general Conference of the Mormon Church. Under the heading, "Mormon Aggressiveness," it says:

"Events in Utah are rapidly fulfilling the prediction, frequently repeated in these columns, that sooner or later the Mormon Church would usurp the civil institutions of that State. The latest and most ominous evidence of this desperate purpose appears in the proceedings of the semi-annual Conference of the followers of Mormonism now sitting in Salt Lake City. Wilford Woodruff, President of that body, who, by virtue of his office, is accepted as an oracle of Divine authority, in a sermon to 12,000 members of the Church yesterday, uttered this momentous admonition:

"God Almighty requires you to unite in your Temple work and unite in your politics. You should unite to elect your city council and also all your State officials. You must put aside your Democracy and Republicanism and as Latter-day Saints unite."

"The meaning of these words is unmistakable. The Mormon vote is to be cast as a unit in Utah politics. The interests of the State are to be subordinated to the interests of the Church. The right of the individual to form party affiliations in accordance with his conscience is to be revoked. Liberty of action is to give way to political slavery, and the vast power of the whole sect of Latter-day Saints is to be used as a single force to promote the interests of Mormonism."

The Mail and Express knows better than to carry on like that. It is too well posted on Utah affairs to give forth such predictions and utterances in honesty or sincerity. It is only too willing to be deceived and to deceive its readers, respecting the Mormon people or their doings. It has shockingly garbled the words of President Woodruff, and has attributed to them a meaning and significance never intended by the speaker.

No intelligent person in Utah expects or desires to see the Mormon vote "cast as a unit in Utah politics," and certainly President Woodruff never counseled nor contemplated such a thing. There is far less danger in Utah than in some other portions of the Union of the interests of the State being subordinated to the Church; the right to form party affiliations is as sacred in Utah as it is anywhere else in the world, and is being exercised with a vigor uncommon even in Gotham politics. If there was as little danger in Greater New York of

political slavery as there is in Utah, there would be far less need of reform there than exists.

"The vast power of the whole sect of Latter-day Saints is to be used as a single force to promote the interests of Mormonism," is a forecast that has been issued by some scribbler or other every few days during each political campaign that has occurred in this State since its admission into the Union, and the persistency with which it is indulged in, notwithstanding that it has been made so often with never a symptom of fulfillment, is something amazing. The constant failure of the prophecy ought to be sufficient proof of its total lack of all reliable inspiration; and there can only be added the stale assurance that it can never come to pass in the way or sense intended by the Mail and Express.

NO HEELERS EMPLOYED.

Repeatedly within a week the assertion has been communicated to the "News," by political workers of the respective parties, that the supporters of the non-partisan movement "are just as bad as we are"—that is the expression used—because they are employing heelers and rounders to secure votes for the non-partisan ticket.

It is a very common thing for petty offenders to say to the witnesses against them: "You are just as bad as we are." But this is always regarded by intelligent people as a very flimsy and a very contemptible defense against a charge of wrong doing; in fact it is usually held to be tantamount to a confession of culpability. Not only this, but a culprit who defends himself by accusing his accusers, is commonly deemed quite capable of bearing false witness.

But allowing all this to pass, and coming at once to the accusation that is being made against the non-partisan movement, the "News" unhesitatingly declares that it is not true. No heelers nor rounders nor strikers have been, are being, or will be employed in behalf of the non-partisan ticket. The precise definitions of the terms "heeler," "rounder" and "striker" have not been determined by the lexicographers. They are as yet slang epithets, and are often used interchangeably and indiscriminately. But in general they mean persons who go around among the delegates to a convention, or the voters at a primary, or of a precinct, and secure support for candidates by bribery, or by secret promises or exchanges of votes, or by secret combinations, or by promises of office or employment, or by any other of a multitude of illegitimate methods known to disreputable ward politicians in American cities. The epithets given imply that the individual to whom they are properly applied is the tool of a person of a stronger mind, and that he has agreed to do dirty work for that person, for some improper consideration. It is not uncommon for "heelers" to work for candidates on the promise of the latter that, if successful, they will use an influence to prevent the former from being interfered with in some unlawful pursuit.

A person who tries to obtain votes for himself, his candidate or his ticket by argument and persuasion, or the exercise of personal influence, but who refrains from bribery, bargains, trades and methods that are condemned by highminded and right-thinking people, does not deserve either of the epithets referred to.

It is the purpose of the non-partisan movement to purify the methods by which candidates are placed in power, as well as to secure good candidates and good government through them.