

have suffered by reason of the loss will have in inducing these mothers to take a determined stand so far as they themselves are concerned against a crying evil, and in seeking to lead their sons and daughters from the lurking danger. The light and force of intelligence should be brought to bear to cause the abandonment of a pernicious habit condemned alike by the demonstrated truths of science and the Divine Word.

THE CRIPPLE CREEK HORROR.

The latest news from Cripple Creek, Colorado, is to the effect that private citizens of Colorado Springs have undertaken to act as peace makers between the strikers and mine owners, and it is said that they have been successful to the extent that a truce has already been agreed upon and prisoners may be exchanged between the warring factions. Everybody hopes this may end the trouble.

The transactions the last week in that region illustrate vividly, we think, the peculiar conditions towards which the country seems to be gradually gravitating. The miners struck refusing to accept a reduction of wages. The mine owners attempted to continue work with non-union men, but the strikers seized their arms and threatened to kill those who went to work. Powder was hurled into one of the shafts, the fuse lighted and the property destroyed. Triumphant yells rent the sky mingled with the deafening report of the blast as flames and smoke and lumber and iron shot upwards. The legally constituted authorities were called upon to protect the property and restore order. But the mad-dened crowds gathered and defied both the law and its representatives. They were ready to kill the deputies, asserting their demands even at the cost of cruel war.

The question therefore arises, is arbitration at this stage consistent with a proper maintenance of law? If the difference between the employers and employees are of such a nature that it might have been amicably settled, then there seems to be criminal neglect on the part of those concerned not to make the attempt from the very first. As it is, the miners have been allowed to carry things to an extreme that virtually bars an amicable settlement.

The mine owners and miners may arrive at an understanding as to the time of labor and the wages, but neither can wipe out the outrages committed. The blowing up of the Strong mine shaft was a dastardly act. The killing of the deputies was high-handed murder, and the criminals who were concerned in the deeds should be prosecuted and punished after due process of law. Only so can justice be vindicated and society feel safe. If these rioters are entitled to arbitration after they have bathed their hands in the blood of the representatives of the law, there is no reason why men of the Dalton and Chris Evans type should not also be entitled to an amicable settlement.

It may not be denied that the demand of the miners of \$3 per day of eight hours is reasonable for that

locality; nor that the refusal of the employers to listen to their men at first was unwise. Still they had a legal right to do so and to employ new men, if they chose to. The laborers by trampling upon the rights of their fellowmen and engaging in law-destroying acts will but injure their own cause ultimately, even if temporary victory follows them. For prosperity never attends lawlessness. Caesar may be able to carry his destruction to the point he has in view, and command the erection of a column of human beings to perpetuate the memory of his achievements, but before the monument is completed his own head, gory and repulsive, is sure to be dangling from the pole, a ghastly sight in the morning shadows. The only consistent course for the Cripple Creek miners and the one that will be for their own interest, is to deliver up the guilty criminals to the law and then settle the difference with their employers on a basis reasonable and satisfactory to all. The recurrence of such crimes should be made impossible by the miners themselves, as far as this lies within their power.

A SUGGESTION.

In the present condition of affairs there is much discussion regarding the policy and procedure in dealing with the so-called "Industrialists" movement toward the East. People look at matters from different standpoints, because of different or more or less imperfect sources of information regarding the actual conditions which exist. There is much of heated argument and many assertions pro and con regarding the intentions and acts of officers and others that have little or no foundation in fact.

The News has a suggestion to make to the Latter-day Saints, that they withhold from engaging in disputations and wranglings regarding these matters. They should be in a position to view with concern events that are progressing and to use the information gained thereby for furthering the peace and welfare of their fellow-beings. But it is unwise to descend to partisanship and heated discussions, or to become in any way parties to the contest, except as necessity may arise in the maintenance of law and order. Especially in a time like the present is it essential for the Saints to heed the admonition to "be temperate in all things."

FREE TRADER though he is, "Billy" Breckinridge's program is likely to create a strong demand for "protection for the American home." He threatens to "invade every township in his district" in his contest for renomination.

Bradstreet's agrees that "Utah is at last in a fair way to become a state;" and that "the Territory may enter upon the path to statehood before the present session of Congress adjourns."

GENERAL KELLY and his contingent, afloat on the Iowa and Illinois rivers, are in no immediate danger of arrest for walking on the grass.

CARD TO THE ELDERS.

To the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

DEAR BRETHREN—Certain parties who appear to be anxious for notoriety, and who desire to take advantage of the prominence and achieve the dignity which discussion with the Elders of this Church would give them, have sent to representative Elders of the Church challenges to hold discussion upon the doctrines and the validity of the authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. People of this kind in California and elsewhere have of late been very persistent in demanding an acceptance of their challenge—the question, for debate, as they put it, being:

First—Was Brigham Young the lawful and legitimate successor of Joseph Smith (the Seer), to the prophetic office and presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Second—And is Utah the appointed place for the gathering of the Saints in the last days, as spoken by the Prophets of God, including Joseph Smith, the Seer?

We take this public method of saying to all our Elders that we consider it entirely unnecessary for the vindication of the principles of the Church, or to prove the authority of the Priesthood of the presiding authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to resort to any such method for their vindication. We leave this for the Lord to prove and sustain, and we think it folly to submit the claims of our Church or the Priesthood to the arbitrament of man. The Lord has said, "By their fruits, ye shall know them;" and to these we can confidently point, feeling satisfied that the people who are seeking for truth and looking for the evidence which the truth always furnishes, can more readily obtain this knowledge by calm investigation and close observation than by controversy.

It is our counsel, therefore, that any Elder who may have received and accepted such a challenge take no steps whatever towards meeting his challengers, but that he leave them severely alone.

No Elder in such a position need feel that any responsibility or discredit will attach to him for declining any discussion into which he may have been drawn; such responsibility we freely assume. We wish it to be further understood that this is our counsel to all of our Elders at home and abroad.

Your Brethren,

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,

First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.