

EDITORIALS.

ONE of the most remarkable of the many remarkable letters which are published about Utah and the "Mormons," appeared recently in the New York Evening Post. The writer boasts of the unusual opportunities which he had of gaining an insight into affairs here, and becoming acquainted with leading citizens—a common boast with this class of persons. The extent of his facilities can be estimated when it is known that he was in Salt Lake City one day. But then, if Anna Dickenson can obtain material enough during a stay in this city of one or two days to make a thrilling lecture about the "Mormons," a newspaper correspondent is no credit to his profession, as the world goes now, who cannot in twelve hours, obtain material enough for a two-column letter. Dr. Vincent was here a few hours a short time since, and just after leaving the city he told a gentleman that he saw a man who knew a man that had killed thirty persons, because they were so stubborn that they would not join the "Mormons." The gentleman to whom he related this could scarcely credit at first that he was in earnest in saying that he believed such a transparent lie as this. But the Doctor assured him that he did believe it, for a "Federal officer" had told the story to him. After that who could dispute it? He had visited Utah without prejudice, but he left convinced, after hearing this fabrication, that all the bad stories he had heard about the "Mormons" were true. If this correspondent of the Post had only met with this Federal officer, or some one with no more regard for truth and honor and with an imagination equally fertile, he would have had no difficulty in filling up a few columns in an ordinary newspaper. There have been Federal Judges here who could keep a correspondent busily employed writing stories of this kind, if he wielded as facile a pen as Dumas pere, and it may be questioned whether the class is extinct yet.

The correspondence to which we allude is remarkable for the ignorance which the writer displays of the subject upon which he treats, and the circumstances which surround a people in settling a new country. Considering the immense quantity of good land there is in the United States, he thinks President Young made "a mighty poor land speculation." Someone told him that if irrigation were stopped for ninety days, not a tree, shrub, or vine would remain alive in the country. Then the soil is full of stones, and fuel and timber are so distant and difficult to procure. President Young took his people, he says, a thousand miles through a desert to settle them in a valley where every acre must have cost them, he should say, in labor or money to get it ready for agricultural use, not less than one or two hundred dollars, when in Illinois, Iowa or Missouri better farms, ready made, could be had in those days for a dollar and a quarter an acre, without the untold hardships which had to be endured to come here! This he calls a huge blunder. To prove that it was, he dwells upon the appearance of the city. After so long a period of hard work and unceasing industry the city has the temporary look of a new settlement! The tabernacle, which he calls an admirably arranged but ugly building, is roughly plastered, and the seats, or pews as he calls them—models of comfort in their shape—are unpainted! The magnificent organ, "the second in size only to the Boston organ, and far sweeter in tone than the organ in Plymouth church," has "a case very well shaped, but of shabby stained pine!"

These, forsooth, are very weighty proofs that the removal of the people to these valleys was a blunder! Western men, accustomed to settling new countries, will appreciate such proofs. This correspondent, just from New York, expected, probably, to see stores such as line Broadway, and houses like those on Fifth Avenue, excellently paved streets, gas and water in every house, a frescoed and elaborately finished Tabernacle, and a mahogany-framed organ, and all this in a little over twenty years! Because all these improvements were not visible, then the settlement of the valley was a blunder! This is a specimen of the style of many correspondents. They may never have been out of the sound of the chimes of Trinity church during their previous lives; but they come West, and they feel warranted in assuming the most lofty style of criticism upon subjects concerning which a boy who had not reached

his teens, who resides in the place which they visit, knows far more than they do.

In alluding to land in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, and contrasting it with land in Utah, he shows an unpardonable ignorance. He seems to think that the whole country was open before President Young and his people to select from, and that his neglecting to make such selection in fertile States and without crossing a thousand miles of desert, was another evidence that he had committed a blunder. In fact, he says that polygamy was the only reason of the seclusion of the "Mormons;" if it had not been for that, every State was open to them, and their industry and thrift would have been welcomed in Missouri, Iowa, &c. This will not only be news to all well-informed Americans, but to the "Mormons" and the old residents of Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. They certainly will not be able to recollect that polygamy was the cause of the expulsion of the "Mormons" from their States; and if they accept the correspondent of the New York Evening Post's history, they will be under the necessity of re-writing their histories. The "Mormons" will also be under the same necessity; for, according to their recollections and records, polygamy was not assigned as a cause of persecution, as in Missouri it was not believed in by the Latter-day Saints, and in Illinois was only believed in secretly by a few; and, moreover, before leaving the States, President Young and his associates addressed letters to the Governors of the various States asking for an asylum, or the privilege of settling within their borders for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Polygamy, therefore, could not have been the reason why they did not grant this request; neither did industry and thrift make them welcome anywhere. There was no alternative, then, but the desert, though it involved a long and weary journey and one or two hundred dollars' worth of labor and money to make an acre of ground suitable for cultivation.

We can inform the Evening Post why the "Mormons" came to this valley. It was because of the existence of such creatures as its correspondent, whom Providence for some inscrutable purpose permits to be connected with the press. The Scribes and Pharisees crucified Jesus. They were the prototypes of the editors and preachers of the present day. The Savior is not here now, or the tragedy of Calvary might be re-enacted; but in His absence, His followers are not forgotten.

On the 16th of June, 1846 his holiness Pope Pius IX was elected to fill the pontifical chair, hence to-day is the 25th annual anniversary of his reign. It is said that only one or two of his predecessors have had as long a reign as he, and to-day will no doubt be celebrated throughout the Catholic world with becoming honors.

The career of the present Pope has not only been unusually protracted but also unusually chequered. In the revolutionary times of 1848 he was compelled to seek refuge in exile; the people of the Pontifical States proclaiming a republic. The Catholic powers interfered in his behalf, and in 1850 he was re-instated in the possession of his temporal power. Before his exile his holiness was remarkable for his liberal tendencies; but after his restoration no such tendencies were manifested by him, and with the spread of republican and liberal principles in Europe the discontent of his subjects increased, until, finally, by a plebiscite, or vote of the whole, they abolished his temporal power in favor of Victor Emanuel. This event occurred a few months ago, and only a few weeks after the doctrine of papal infallibility had been declared by one of the grandest councils ever held by the Romish Church. Viewed in every light the reign of his holiness has been as remarkable as it has been lengthy. An exile, then proclaimed infallible, and finally, the church, through him, for ever deprived of temporal power.

It will be remembered by many here, that soon after the outbreak of the late Franco-Prussian war, General De Trobriand, commander of the post at Camp Douglas, left on a furlough to visit France, his native country. He arrived at New York a few days ago, on his return, and was interviewed by a reporter of the World, on the present condition of France, and his opinion as to the form of the future government.

The General is credited with saying that everything in the way of politics in France at the present time is a quicksand, a treacherous mixture of traditional ideas, private interests, prejudice and irrational theories. He is of the opinion that the government which will finally grow out of the present state of things, notwithstanding the fusion of the Legitimists and Bonapartists, will be Republican. This, he regards as the only hope for France, for had any one of the offshoots of royalty, any real prospect of success in his efforts to gain the crown, the others would join with the republicans to defeat him. The government of the late Emperor he considers the worst France ever had, and there is not the slightest probability of the restoration of Imperialism.

The World says the General will report to his command in Utah, July 1st.

In yesterday's issue we published a new cure for cancer, the application of a plant from South America, known among the natives of Ecuador by the name of Cundurango. The revelation of its virtues came about through the desire of a woman of that country to poison her husband. She mixed some of this plant with his food. The husband, suffering from internal cancer, was in agony; the good wife knew that the Cundurango was an active poison. What better could she do than to administer an eternal cure and by shutting off his supply of breath, end all his troubles and her own at one blow? But the man got well and his recovery set people to thinking; and the upshot was a diplomatic communication from the American representative at Quito to Secretary Fish, setting forth the novel circumstances of the case and suggesting an investigation of the medical qualities of the plant which cures poison by poison. It is now asserted that it is a sovereign specific for ulcers and scrofulous affections, and that a practitioner in Washington has sent his assistant to Ecuador to collect the healing balm and the Interior Department has provided a ward in Columbia Hospital for the purpose of testing the new cure, while the Medical Society of the District of Columbia has appointed a commission of five physicians to apply the test.

THE PRESENT year is likely to be memorable, if not terrible on account of the devastation committed on the crops by insects of various kinds, which are making their presence felt in many parts of the country. The eastern papers announce the appearance in Illinois of the seventeen-year locust, a powerful insect about an inch and a half long, with black wings spreading about three inches, and margined with yellow. It can leap much further than a grasshopper, and its ravages are so destructive that a district of country over which it has passed looks as if it had been burned. The last year these pests visited the country, it is said, was in 1854, that season was also remarkable for excessive heat.

The Chicago Tribune predicts immense damage this season from the locust in the North, the hessian fly in the southern wheat fields; the chinch bug in the west, and the poisonous potato bug, which it says is all over the country. To these may be added the grasshoppers in some parts of Utah, Nevada and California. Alarming as the preceding may seem, there is every probability that a large surplus of all kinds of grain and vegetables will be raised; but the aggregate loss arising from this insect invasion will no doubt foot up to many millions of dollars.

DIAMONDS.—Those of our readers who are possessed of the "gem of gems," and we hope they all are, may be interested in knowing how to estimate their value. They are invariably valued by the carat, which is four assayer's grains, and multiplying the result by the price of a single carat. The price it will thus be seen, increases in a multiple proportion to the weight. The actual price of a small rough diamond fit to be polished is about £2 per carat. One of two carats is worth, therefore, 2x2=4x2=£8; one of four carats, 4x4=16x8=£128. The value increases both by size and color, both for cut and uncut gems. A set diamond may be detected by placing wax on its back. The lustre of a true gem will not be affected by this operation, while the spurious brilliancy of paste imitations will be totally destroyed by it.—Ex.

Z. C. M. I.

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