

from hell, as a result of the work of Christ, is the great feature of the Church restored. One naturally follows the other in the economy of the Almighty. And this is the great and marvelous work commenced in the name of the Almighty by Joseph the prophet. It will continue until "at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

ANTS—AND AN APPROPRIATION.

Hon. J. Sterling Morton no doubt has a clear idea as to what he wants to do with the agricultural department now that he has it—but the great public is as yet permitted to share very little of his confidence. The one development of his activity to which everybody is prepared to make acknowledgment is a determined endeavor to "lop off"—in other words, to dispense with the benefactions and ornamental parts of the bureau, and incidentally to cut down expenses. The wall that went up when he discontinued the practice of furnishing each Congressman with a few hundred or thousands of packets of garden seeds for distribution among his constituents, will not be speedily forgotten. In parentheses, the same rule of economy prevented said Congressman from practically keeping up his private greenhouse or flower-garden at government expense. Then came a reduction in the size of the annual edition of the "Agricultural Reports"—a publication that has furnished the foundation and framework of more alleged jokes than the mother-in-law. Formerly a convenient and ever-abundant medium for kindling his winter fire, the Agricultural Report now-a-days is deemed a rare prize by the farmer who is lucky enough to get it; while the garden and farm seeds, formerly so plentiful, now come not at all.

But lest the foregoing instances of economic drift should be deemed sporadic, the secretary has been relieving the monotony of the hot weather by probing deeply into the cost of governmental bug-study, and has come out plumply in favor of stopping a few of that kind of leaks. He discovers, for instance, that the mere study of the habits of ants costs the government \$40,000 per annum. The question naturally arises, has the ant any habits that a Federal office-holder can study with profit? Mr. Morton evidently thinks not—at least during present hard times; and the forty thousand dollar duty of watching the most industrious of creatures—the example being in no way contagious—is to be abandoned. So also with the investigation of the features and attributes of that interesting young thing, the bird-house. After all the money that has been spent in studying the likes and dislikes of this particular insect, the fact remains that no governmental experiment has succeeded in emancipating him where he has been doing injury, or transplanting him—say to the English sparrow—where he might do good.

No need to weary the reader with a

recapitulation of all the whims and notions that the practical secretary of agriculture has already manifested or holds still in reserve. But if the agricultural department is not going to be allowed at its own sweet unrestrained will to explore anthills and put a revenue stamp or other government brand upon bird-houses—above all, if it is not going to be run in the future as a sort of eleemosynary seedsmen—what under the shining stars is the department going to be good for?

THE ANTARCTIC CONTINENT.

During the present century the vast African continent has been opened up and is now being prepared to receive the overflow of the population of the earth. The next century may, possibly, add another continent, much larger than Europe, to the habitable part of the globe, and that in a region where hitherto, it has been supposed, ice and snow hold their eternal reign.

Interest in the Antarctic continent has been revived by the reports of a Norwegian explorer, Borchgrevink, who has visited those deserted latitudes. According to his statements the whole unknown land is surrounded by a wall of ice; yet the temperature is comparatively mild, owing to the presence of warm streams and volcanic activity, a very satisfactory explanation, when it is remembered what the Gulf stream is doing in that respect for the coast of Norway. The lowest temperature encountered by Borchgrevink within the Antarctic circle was 25 degrees above zero, and it ranged as high as 46 degrees during January and February. The barometer always indicates calm, beautiful weather.

On landing on the continent the explorer found abundant vegetation in a rich soil. But of still more importance is the discovery of fabulous wealth in the form of minerals and precious stones. On Colman Island the compasses were deranged by the minerals in the neighborhood. Specimens of rock from this place were shown to the delegates to the recent Geographical congress in London, and among the samples were garnets picked up near the shore. They were lying around loose, and the conclusion has already been formed that the interior of the country, for the supremacy of which fire and ice are still battling, may be the storehouse of wealth to quantities unheard of anywhere else on the face of the globe. And the conclusion is not altogether imaginary, for it is more than probable that the brilliant auroras seen in those regions indicate the presence of enormous mineral deposits.

The Norwegian explorer is the first man, as far as known, to set foot upon the Antarctic continent, an event important enough to be recorded in the annals of the world. He left Melbourne, Australia, in the whaler *Antarctic*, September 20, 1894. His diary makes note of a large albatross that took refuge on the vessel October 18 in a terrific snowstorm. On November 6 they had reached 58 degrees and 42 minutes south latitude.

The great ice barrier of the mysterious continent was then sighted fifty miles away. They entered the pack ice December 7, and about that time they

saw many "blue" whales, white petrels and sea's.

Some of the seals taken were marked with big scars and scratches. A like phenomenon was noticed half a century ago by Ross, who supposed that the wounds had been inflicted by sea leopards. Borchgrevink does not coincide with this opinion, but does not venture any explanation of his own. In some cases the wounds extended far into the blubber and even into the flesh beneath.

On December 14 they reached Balleyn Island, in latitude 66. This island was crowned with lofty mountains, whose peaks, shrouded in mist, towered two miles into the sky. Two days later the ship was moored to an immense floe of ice.

On Christmas Day the Antarctic circle was crossed, and thirty-three days later Cape Adair on the mainland was sighted. The height of the cape was estimated at nearly 4,000 feet, a large square rock of basalt rising abruptly with perpendicular sides.

Near by was a bay, in the neighborhood of which twenty glaciers were counted. One of them was covered with lava, beneath which a thick layer of snow, the latter resting upon another layer of lava, and that again upon the surface of the glacier.

On January 23, the whaler *Antarctic*, was again at Cape Adair, and a landing was made on a peninsula that ran into the bay, terminating in a long pebbly beach. Then the explorer landed and gathered some specimens of animals and vegetation.

The description of the country is necessarily brief, merely a glimpse of it having been obtained, but it seems that all the theories formerly held concerning the South Pole must be abandoned. Instead of a barren continent sleeping under a cover of never melting ice, the view of a country with all the attractions of climate and natural resources is presented to the world. The interest of scientific men in this *terra incognita* has been awakened, and the result will undoubtedly be explorations to find out what treasures nature has stored up in her mysterious recesses behind ice walls.

AS SEEN BY "THE OUTLOOK."

A New York paper, *The Outlook*, of August 17, has an item concerning Salt Lake City, the burden of which is that "metropolitan vices" are displayed in this beautiful mountain region and that municipal reform is needed. The paper says:

Salt Lake City is already displaying metropolitan vices. A subscriber sends us the account in a local paper of an investigation now going on, disclosing that a prominent firm had sold to the city for \$54,000 furniture that any private citizen could have bought at retail for about \$30,000. Such, at least, was the testimony of the principal witness—a former employe of the firm selling the goods. Our correspondent writes: "There is no question about the need of municipal reform in Salt Lake City. This firm presented the city, when delivering the furniture for our new public building, a \$1,000 frame for a picture of Brigham Young." This five per cent rebate to the Church on stealings from the