

best things are not always said regarding absent subjects of conversation and when self seems to enter largely into the general transactions of life, the following rule of seventeen years ago could be profitably considered and acted upon:

"We will treat our families with due kindness and affection, and set before them an example worthy of imitation; in our families and intercourse with all persons, we will refrain from being contentious and quarrelsome, and we will cease to speak evil of each other, and will cultivate a spirit of charity towards all. We consider it our duty to keep from acting selfishly or from covetous motives, and will seek the interest of each other and of all mankind."

No one will claim that there is any great improvement now, compared with former times, in the degree of adherence to the divine command to keep the Sabbath as a sacred day; consequently the rule of the reformatory period referred to on this subject would be a theme of profitable contemplation.

"We will observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, in accordance with the revelations."

Considering the real profession of Latter-day Saints, there is in the community a degree of pride—exhibited by pretentious displays, extravagance and various social pyrotechnics—that is, to say the least, perplexing, to use the mildest word applicable to the situation. Therefore, surely nobody could consistently find fault with the reproduction of the annexed wholesome rules adopted years ago for the regulation of the conduct of people claiming to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

"We will be simple in our dress and manner of living, using proper economy and prudence in the management of all entrusted to our care."

"In our apparel and deportment we will not pattern after nor encourage foolish and extravagant fashions, and cease to import or buy from abroad any article which can be reasonably dispensed with, or which can be produced by combination of home labor. We will foster and encourage the producing and manufacturing of all articles needful for our consumption as fast as our circumstances will permit."

WHY MERCHANTS FAIL.

In the New York *Dry Goods Economist* a discussion is being carried on as to the question of business failures. In a recent issue Mr. John Field, postmaster of Philadelphia, publishes his views on the matter. He says that for years he has made a careful study of the question, and in his opinion sixty per cent of the business failures in the United States may be attributed to inexperience, extravagance and negligence, twenty per cent. to dishonesty, ten per cent to speculation and ten per cent to misfortune.

Mr. Field is evidently what might be termed a crank on this subject. Having a hobby that man is naturally wasteful and extravagant, he picks out among his acquaintances and friends all failures of that class, but sublimely ignores the others.

The Bradstreet Company issued a

little brochure on this very question a short time since. It was the result of an investigation by 100,000 agents, extending over an area of 3,800,000 square miles of territory. The total of business failures last year, according to this authority, was 14,000, and so perfect is the Bradstreet system that ninety-two per cent. of these were foreshadowed in January, 1891, and classed by that agency as "doubtful." In this category "the unfortunate man" does not figure. Bradstreet does not carry sentiment into his statistics. He traces to lack of capital, and trying to do much business on limited capital, 66.6 per cent. of last year's failures. To inexperience, extravagance and negligence he attributes only 16.5 per cent., while Mr. Field makes it sixty per cent. for these causes.

This is an evidence of how a well-meaning man may mislead himself, and it also shows how baseless the theories or opinions of the wisest of men may be unless supported by data of some tangible and material type.

GRIPPE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The ravages of the gripe in Great Britain are fearful. In one part of the country a sort of panic prevails. A Royal commission for the purpose of investigating the causes and prevention of influenza is talked of. The president of the London College of Physicians, the president of the Local Government Board and Lord Salisbury are urging the appointment of the commission.

On the 15th inst. the Protestant Alliance commenced a week of prayer at St. James' Hall, London, asking God to stay the scourge. The death rate in London for last week was appalling. Of the police in London 2500 are sick. Many of the schools are closed. The Gresham Life Assurance Society has paid out more money already on account of the influenza than it did on account of cholera in 1843.

Along the River Thames the disease manifests itself in a peculiar manner. The victim is first troubled with a repulsive blue-tinged mucus running from the nose. At a later stage the mucus becomes dry and occasions intense pain. Later the nose swells, in many cases to three times its normal size, when it bursts, leaving the patient with a horribly disfigured face.

DANGER IN GUM CHEWING.

ABOUT two weeks ago, Mrs. Mark E. Lennon, of 315 Montrose Av., St. Louis, Mo., was chewing gum. Suddenly she screamed, saying she had bitten her tongue. A sip of water allayed the pain. She felt nothing more until past midnight, when she awoke and declared that she was being choked. On examination it was discovered that a large white spot surrounded the mark made by the incision of the teeth. The tongue kept swelling until the unfortunate woman was unable to utter a word. The swelling extended down into the throat, breathing was so impeded that a silver tube had to be inserted to keep her from choking.

The doctors assert that blood poisoning, caused by the gum, is the cause of the trouble. For two weeks the patient has endured the most excruciating pain. The poison has now manifested itself in her leg, and the chances of recovery are doubtful. It is believed that the confectionery with which some kinds of chewing gum is manufactured contains some poisonous ingredients.

JUSTICE TO UTAH.

The New York *World* of Feb. 14, 1892, has the following editorial on Utah's claim:

"The demand of Utah for admission to the Union as a State is much too earnest and pressing to be ignored. It must be considered and decided by the present Congress.

"By the census of 1890 Utah had a population of 207,005. This is nearly half as much again as the population of Delaware, more than half as much again as that of Montana, one-third more than that of North Dakota, two and a half times that of Idaho, nearly four times that of Wyoming and nearly five times that of Nevada.

"Utah's population is a rapidly increasing one, too, and is founded upon enduring industry, chiefly agricultural. It is a population of strong men and women who have conquered unusual difficulties in converting a desert wilderness into a populous and productive commonwealth.

"So long as the Church to which four-fifths of the population belong held and taught and practiced polygamy there was reason enough to deny to the Territory the autonomy of Statehood. So long as that Church asserts its independence as a governing hierarchy superior in authority to the civil power, the admission of Utah was out of the question.

"But these pretensions of the Mormon Church have been utterly abandoned. It officially repudiates polygamy as a doctrine and its members have abandoned polygamous practices. It no longer pretends to civil power. As for the soundness or unsoundness of its religious beliefs, that is a question of no more secular concern than is any other in theology.

"Here, then, is a populous Territory whose people are as clearly entitled as any others in the country to the self-government which can only come with Statehood. Unless some valid reason can be urged for keeping the Territory longer under tutelage its further exclusion from the Union of States must be counted a wrong and an injustice.

The New York *Press* commenting on the same subject says:

"The United States Federal officials in any given territory know a good job when they see it—none better. The United States Federal officials in the Territory of Utah have fat places, good salaries and an excellent chance to improve their financial conditions, and it is not their intention to lose any of these. So they have met in convention, and resolved that Utah doesn't want to become a State, but wants to remain a Territory, and to continue to be governed by the United States Federal officials. * * * But, all the same, it would seem to be a good thing for the Democratic House of Representatives to give Democratic Territories as good a chance to become States as the last Republican Congress gave to the Republican Territories."

The annexed are extracts from an editorial in the St. Paul, Minn., *News*: