

EDITORIALS.

KATE FIELD'S FAILURE.

THE failure of the Co-operative Dress Association in New York has given a chance to the opponents of co-operation to dilate upon the alleged weakness of the system in its workings in America. Its success in England precludes any attacks on its operations in that country, but the conditions are different in the United States, and there are causes operating here which do not exist in Europe. However, the failure of Miss Field's venture argues nothing against the co-operative principle in America or elsewhere.

The capital stock of the Co-operative Dress Association was fixed at \$250,000, in shares of \$25 each. It was established with the idea that ladies could be induced to trade there, by becoming interested in the concern as stockholders and by the low prices at which it was supposed goods could be sold. Miss Kate Field, the projector, is a lady well known in the field of journalism, and has appeared on the stage. Writing frequently about the fashions, she entertained the idea that she would be successful in conducting a business in which ladies' dresses would be the chief feature. She persuaded her acquaintances of her qualifications enough to get the company started, and to become installed as the President at a good salary.

But though the lady was at home as a writer, she was entirely unacquainted with the details of managing a business in such a centre of trade as the commercial capital of this great country. Although she may be gifted with business capacity, yet she lacked some essential qualifications. Everything is cut down to such a fine point and competition is so lively that a full comprehension of the art of buying judiciously, and experience in the direction of the various departments of an establishment of that character, are indispensable to success.

In New York there are men who have become thoroughly familiar with every point and turn in the dry goods trade, and others who have by years of experience mastered all the intricacies of business management so that expenses are reduced to a minimum, while efficiency is yet secured in every department. Neither money nor smartness, nor both combined, will prove a match for the skill and tact and thoroughness developed by lively and continued competition, and complete acquaintance with the methods and fluctuations of the world's chief markets.

The laws of trade are as omnipotent over co-operative concerns as over industrial and co-operative enterprises. Good intentions and sounding titles will not alter or modify those laws. Miss Field was undersold in spite of her theories and expectations, and people favorable to the co-operative principle could not be drawn away from the cheaper markets to buy where goods were dearer, even though they held shares in the institution thus placed at a disadvantage.

Business principles must be understood and practiced in business concerns, or the establishment will be a failure in spite of all theorizing and every struggle to survive. It was the lack of that thorough training which other institutions could bring to bear which was the real cause of the failure of the Dress Association in New York, and its collapse should prove a warning to all who think of entering into competition with established concerns in any department of trade, but it is no argument against co-operation itself. For if the latter avails itself of the opportunities and engages the skill and experience which are commanded by private enterprises, there is no reason why it should not succeed and grow into greater and more powerful institutions than individual efforts can expect to build up.

CHALDEAN DISCOVERIES.

At the latest meeting of the Society of Biblical Archaeology in London, Mr. T. G. Pinches read a very interesting paper on the Chaldean cylinders, recently discovered by Mr. Rassam, in his excavations in

Babylonia, which throw considerable light upon the chronology of the Chaldean Empire. Among other records is one dating from the time of Nabonides who, it is stated, while digging under the foundations of the Temple Sun God at Sipara, forty-five years after the death of King Nebuchadnezzar, came upon a cylinder of Naramsin, the son of Sargon, which no one has seen for "3,200 years." This gives as the date of the ancient sovereign named, 3750 B. C.

There is another point which is worthy of attention and to which we especially draw notice. That is that according to this record there existed in the time of Abraham, "the father of the faithful," two highly civilized and highly cultured empires in Egypt and Chaldea; that constant intercourse was going on between them; that the high road from one to the other led through Southern Palestine, and that Abraham was a resident of Chaldea and an honored visitor in Egypt. Therefore the notion that the great patriarch was a semi-barbarian, an Arab chieftain, which was entertained by Dean Stanley and has been generally accepted by modern readers, is entirely incorrect.

Abraham, who taught astronomy in the court of Egypt, who was instructed in the heavenly science by Divine Wisdom, who was a philosopher, sage, prophet and the founder of a mighty race, must have been influenced by the culture of the two great empires which is revealed in the Chaldean cylinders, figuring as he did in both kingdoms, and those who picture him as an uncivilized and ignorant denizen of the desert, are entirely mistaken as to the status and character of the grand old polygamic progenitor of the Hebrews, who has gained the superlatively illustrious title of "The Friend of God."

THE GREAT SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

THE East River Suspension Bridge, between New York City and Brooklyn is now approaching completion, and it is intended to open it for pedestrians in March next; the carriages and car tracks will be at the service of the public in a short time afterwards. The idea of erecting such a bridge was first suggested twenty years ago, but nothing definite was done about it until early in 1867, when a company was formed to build it, the designs and details being considered and discussed until January 3rd, 1870, when actual work was commenced.

It is the largest bridge in existence. The centre span between the towers is 1,595 feet long and the total length of the three spans 3,460 feet, making it, with length of approaches, nearly 6,000 feet long. The roadway is 85 feet wide, supported by four wire cables, each 15 1/2 inches in diameter and containing 5,434 steel wires which in the four cables make 14,060 miles of wire, equal to more than half the distance around the earth. These four cables weigh nearly 3,500 tons. The total weight of the centre or river span is 9,740 tons, and it is estimated to carry up to 1,380 tons lead, making the total weight of the loaded span 8,120 tons.

The centre span is elevated 135 feet above high-water and 140 feet above low-water. The foot path for pedestrians is along the centre of the bridge, on a raised path, over 15 feet wide and from which a view can be had of the whole harbor. A track on each side of this foot-path is intended for cars, which are estimated to cross the bridge in seven minutes, to be run at intervals of one to two minutes, pulled by a wire cable, rope operated by engines at the ends of the bridge.

The outer parts on each side of the bridge, will be occupied by roadways for vehicles, wide enough for two lines of teams to pass each other on each roadway. Pedestrians will cross free of charge; but the rate of fare on cars and toll on vehicles has not been determined upon. The total cost of the bridge, including the real estate occupied by the approaches etc., is calculated will be about \$18,500,000.

It is the largest suspension span ever attempted, by modern skill, the next to the largest being at Cincinnati, which is 1,000 feet long, therefore the East River bridge is over half as long again as that at Cincinnati. Every precaution has been taken to guard against accident, or

possible contingencies, such as strong winds, weakening of wires, by large fires etc, and its completion will signalise another triumph of American skill and enterprise.

INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION.

THERE is to be an International Art Exhibition at Munich, from July 1st to October 15th, 1883. It will be held in the Royal Crystal Palace, and is to be under the patronage of the King of Bavaria. It will be composed of the collective exhibitions of States or groups of States as follows: America, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Russia, Spain and Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway. The Munich Central Committee will be in charge.

Works of art of all countries will be admitted, including painting, sculpture, architecture, drawings, and all productions of art industry entitled to attention as such. But copies (except drawings made for the purpose of being engraved), photographs and all other works produced by mechanical process, and all exhibits at a former Munich Exposition will be excluded.

The committee will defray the expenses of transportation of such works of art as are admitted by a Jury of Admission established in each country, from the point where the Jury sits, and return. A commission will be charged on sales effected. The awards will be gold medals of the first and second class. The time of delivery will be from May 1st to 31st, and the committee will not be responsible for anything delivered before that time.

We draw attention to these particulars for the benefit of our Utah artists. Further particulars can be obtained of the Central Committee at Munich, of which Hermann Arnold is the secretary. Former exhibits at that place were very successful, and there is every reason to believe that the Exhibition of 1883 will be of great public interest and of lasting benefit to art.

"EXPERT" EVIDENCE.

THE testimony in courts of justice of so-called "experts" has received many set-backs, facts, which are stubborn things, when given a fair chance, often proving that "expert" theories and deductions are absurd as well as untrue. An illustration of this is afforded by the case of William Pendergrast, who has been pardoned by the President of the United States of an offence which appears he never committed. He was convicted of passing counterfeit money, and sentenced to imprisonment in the Auburn penitentiary, chiefly on the testimony of "an expert of twenty-five years' standing." Pendergrast offered a dollar in purchase of some article and it was claimed the coin was counterfeit. When the officers who arrested him and procured his conviction applied to the Treasury Department for their reward, an investigation was had which revealed the fact that the "counterfeit" was a genuine silver dollar. This was established beyond question. So the officers lost their expected "reward," the expert lost reputation, and ought never to be relied upon again in such a case, while the convicted and imprisoned but innocent man gained the presidential pardon. How many innocent men have been condemned, and how much error has been received for truth on the ipse dixit of professional experts no one can tell, and the question is not a very pleasant one to contemplate.

THE ASSUMPTIONS OF CONGRESS.

"The Utah Commission would have the women of Utah bereft of the privilege of suffrage. Whence does Congress, having no rights or powers except those conceded by the Constitution, derive its authority to legislate on this social question in a Territory? It could not do this even in a State. It may deal with a 'territory or other property,'—but hardly with its people as a political community. Female suffrage is a humbug, but what gives Congress any power over it?"

The foregoing is from the

American Register. It touches on a question that will have to be discussed in the highest circles. It is true that the doctrine of the sovereignty of Congress over the Territories has been established, but it is carried to such an extreme and in the sense in which it obtains is founded on such a flimsy basis, that it will certainly have to be modified if not overthrown. There is nothing in the Constitution, fairly construed, that gives Congress the extraordinary and anti-republican powers which that body has assumed towards those incipient States which are called Territories. The context of the simple phrase from which the supreme power of Congress has been deduced, shows clearly that the accepted interpretation is incorrect. The people of the Territories are not the "property" of the United States. They are entitled to the privileges of citizenship as much as people who live in any of the organized States. They have the right to a republican form of government, and to a voice in the management of all their public affairs, and the absolutism exercised towards them is opposite to the spirit of American institutions and to the letter of the supreme law of the land.

As to female suffrage the Register has the right to its own opinion. But if women are persons, if they are citizens, if they can hold property, if holding property they are subject to taxation, if they are amenable to the laws, then they hold as much of a natural right to a voice in public affairs as male citizens, and woman suffrage is not a humbug, but the denial of that right is a humbug as well as an injustice and a piece of oppression, to support which no valid argument has ever been raised, the stronger sex contenting themselves with ridicule and assumption. Anyhow, the right to establish woman suffrage is vested in the Territorial Legislatures, and Congress, while it claims the power, ought not to interfere with it when once formulated into law.

A SECRET BALLOT.

THE squabble in Connecticut over the ballots cast at the late election has been the subject of considerable comment in the newspapers. It appears that the Democrats had a ticket, prepared with white letters on a black ground, while the Republican ticket was white with black letters and a black border. But the law of that State requires that the names of candidates shall be printed on plain white paper. Thus neither of the tickets was in conformity with the law; it was thought that the Democrats, who carried the election, had in reality made a big failure through their folly in the matter of ballots, but really the Republicans are in just as bad a fix. In view of the law governing the manner of voting in Connecticut the managers of both parties appear to have been guilty of extreme stupidity.

But we are not much concerned on the question as to the local effects of this dispute; we refer to it as touching on the question of the secret ballot, which is considered an essential to that freedom that is the main object of our system of government. Under present conditions it is no doubt necessary to protect the ordinary voter. Many people are placed in circumstances where political support of candidates obnoxious to employers or others having power to oppress them would result in their injury. If society were properly organized there would be no need of a secret ballot. If all people were really free they could proclaim openly their views and predilections. The fact that a secret ballot is a necessity proves that much of the vaunted liberty of the American citizen is but vain boasting.

In order to protect the voter that he may cast his ballot so that no one can discover for whom he votes, what is the best system which can be established by law? If the ballots are to be uniform in every respect save the names that appear upon them, it appears to us the liberty of the citizen is infringed upon, and room is open for those petty tricks which our experience in Utah with so-called "Liberal" double-dealers proves are competent to deceive the unsophisticated. Tickets can be framed and fashioned in imitation of others so as to delude the unwary. The Democratic ticket may

be imitated by the Republicans, and vice versa, so that it appears at the first glance to be the genuine article, while in reality it is the exact reverse of what the voter wishes to deposit in the ballot box. And every voter ought to be allowed to cast just such a ballot as suits him whether printed by the political managers or made up by himself. Therefore laws requiring ballots to be of a certain size, shape and color do not in our opinion meet the requirements of the situation.

Governor Ben. Butler, who is a clear-headed thinker and very much of an American statesman, in his inaugural address to the people of Massachusetts recommends that ballots shall be enclosed in "self-sealing envelopes of the same size, quality and color, to be furnished by the United States; then the size and complexion of the ballot would be immaterial." This is being considered, and is pronounced by many writers for the press as far preferable to the present plan of requiring uniformity in the appearance of ballots.

Now this is the method adopted in Utah. The law on this point is as follows:

"The County Court shall furnish the Judges of Elections, in every precinct, with a sufficient number of plain envelopes for election purposes, without any marks, writing, printing, or device upon them; and no other kind shall be used at any given election."

After the election of November last in this Territory, complaints were made by the so-called "Liberals" that the ballots of the People's Party were so large and those of the "Liberals" were so small that the difference could be easily detected, and they claimed or pretended to claim, that therefore the ballot was not secret. But there was nothing to prevent the grumblers from having a ballot just as large as they pleased, and the People had as much ground for complaining of the smallness of the "Liberal" ticket, as the latter had to growl about the largeness of the other.

Every voter may make his own ticket if he chooses, and have it large or small, white or colored, round or square, so long as he designates plainly the name of the candidate for whom he votes. The uniform envelope is in our view the best protection to the voter who wishes to cast a secret ballot. No one can tell unless he pleases to make it known how or for whom he votes, and he obtains full freedom as well as perfect secrecy in the transaction.

Of course the little party of discord are not satisfied. Nothing would satisfy them that is as fair to the majority as to the minority. They do not like registration because it prevents ballot stuffing. They do not like the uniform envelope because it does not open a loophole for their trickery, and in fact they do not like anything which allows the great body of the people of Utah to vote at all. Their likes or dislikes, however, do not amount to much anyhow, and we think that the present Utah plan will so commend itself to all who want fair voting and a secret ballot, that they will take bluff Ben Butler's good advice and do as we do in Utah.

[For the DESERET NEWS]

THE FUTURE OF UTAH AND THE MORMONS.

BY W. B. MAY.

The ways of the Creator are so infinite and vast that the human mind is utterly incapable of following them, and but few among the teeming millions of earth's inhabitants reach, in their short lives, that degree of knowledge and intelligence whereby they can even sense this infinitude and vastness. To such a mind atheism and its concomitant egotism indicates the smallest possible intelligence in the smallest possible space. So much by way of preliminary.

How to get rid of the "Mormons" with the mixed problems which attach to them, has been a ready subject for the pen of newspaper writers and a knotty question for our statesmen in Congress assembled. They have been driven against their own will and in the short sightedness of their enemies into what is called, inadvertently, the backbone of the American Continent, but it probably does not occur to either friend or foe that the section of country denoted by that term is really the backbone, not only of this continent, but of the whole