

EDITORIALS.

"THE DOGS OF WAR."

The Prussians have recently organized several Jaeger battalions each 1,000 men strong, recruited exclusively from professional gamekeepers and foresters who are to be supplied with trained dogs for outpost duty as sentinels. While it is questionable whether the most powerful canines could prove very serviceable in the "imminent deadly breach" in face of the present improved engines of destruction, yet there can be no doubt that as sentinels their well known keenness of sight, scent and hearing would in many instances prove invaluable to guard against ambushes and sudden surprises, especially at night. Although the Shakspearian quotation "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war," is familiar as a household word, yet the first extensive actual employment of these sagacious animals upon the tented field must be accredited to the Germans.

UNNECESSARY WORRY.

Ever since the introduction of "Mormonism" in these latter times a great many people have worried themselves about it and its adherents. They have time and time again solved the system out of existence and scattered the people to the four winds. Both have, however, survived the toughest kind of solutions for obliteration or disintegration, and have continued to exhibit a very lively aspect for a dead system and dismembered community.

What is the trouble with the same solvers just now is the matter of a leader for the Church. It is suggested by some that it would be a good time for different parties they name to present their claims for leadership. This is all very comical and very gratuitous. One of the funniest ideas on this topic is published by the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. It is to the effect that a claimant from England is about to make his appearance, and put in his "claim." That paper, however, after telling the romantic story, plays the quick advertisement trick on the public by stating that it has learned that it is a pure fiction and the claimant a myth. The tale is being caught up by other journals who pass it off as suitable reading matter.

It is remarkable that people should take so much concern regarding affairs in which they have neither lot nor part. The leadership of the Church is in most excellent hands, satisfactory in every respect to the people directly interested. The suggestions on the outside upon that subject are entirely unperogative.

A FORM OF FANATICISM.

The motive which impels two men to face each other in the mutual effort to take life, in order that "wounded honor may be vindicated," is a species of fanaticism; that is, it is not a motive which results from correct reasoning or sound logic, but is in violation of both. These fanatical notions of what "honor" requires a man to do, have led to many deplorable tragedies, but an account of an "affair of honor" which was lately reported from Mexico, illustrates a depth of fanaticism in this regard, seldom equalled. It is as follows:

"Senor Victoria challenged Senor Pedraza to fight a duel. The latter accepted the challenge, and stipulated that the duel must take place in a dark room. As he had the choice of weapons he demanded that Victoria meet him in the room, in which was to be placed 100 tarantulas of the most poisonous kind. According to agreement they would devote their energies to killing the tarantulas instead of fighting until all the poisonous spiders were killed. Pedraza, it is thought, expected that Victoria would never accept the weapons, but Victoria declined to back down and the duel was fought. All that is known about it is that it was fought in a room as dark as a dungeon. There were no seconds and no one at Tampico suspected the truth. When the doors were broken open both men were found on the floor dead, surrounded by dead and living horrible spiders."

IMPORTANCE OF ORDER.

OCCASIONALLY incidents come under our observation which indicate a lack of understanding on the part of important local officers of the Church in reference to the order of the Priesthood. When such is the case irregularities in management are also almost sure to occur, as an outgrowth of a misapprehension of the details of the organization and the relationship of each division to the others.

Our attention was directed to this subject a short time since by finding, by the minutes of a Stake Conference, that the seven presidents of a quorum of Seventies had been presented and

sustained as officers or authorities of the Stake.

The Seventies are not a local body, being general in their character, hence the First Seven Presidents, who preside over them as a whole, are classed among the general authorities of the Church. As a consequence, in a quorum capacity they are not under the direction or jurisdiction of a local presidency, and the quorum presidents are not Stake officers. When, however, they are acting in any capacity within the Stakes and Wards, as, for instance, as Elders, Priests, Teachers or Deacons, and in their standing as members of the Church, they are subject to the ecclesiastical direction of the Presidents of Stakes, Bishops, and other local officers.

It is the privilege of every officer of the Church to understand the scope, duties and functions of every office within the organization, including those higher than his own as well as those that are subordinate, that every man may stand and act in his own place and not infringe upon that of another.

THE LATEST GREAT PROJECT.

SINCE the laying of a cable across the Atlantic and the opening of the Suez canal, men have had the courage to contemplate other projects still more stupendous. The latest proposal in this line, and which is being spoken of in the newspapers as within the range of the possible, is one to lay across the Atlantic a pneumatic tube of sufficient diameter to admit of the passage through it of passengers. It is claimed that, in such a tube, by the use of such anti-friction appliances as ball bearings, etc., a high rate of speed might be attained. In other words it is said to be possible to transport a passenger from New York to London in a few hours, by means of a tube laid on the bed of the ocean.

Col. John H. Pierce, of Plantsville, Connecticut, is the De Lesseps of this scheme. He complains of a lack of means for putting into operation his submarine tubular railroad, but says he has submitted his theories to experts, who have pronounced favorably upon them. He proposes to lay his tube under water a short distance for experimental purposes, and hopes, when its practicability shall thus be demonstrated, to enlist sufficient capital to underlay the Atlantic with it.

THE BEST SOLUTION.

THE magnitude of the liquor question in American politics is being steadily increased rather than diminished. It is now a leading issue in many of the States, and in some it is the most exciting topic of the day. A large amount of space is devoted to its discussion by the newspapers, and every phase of it is being presented in every possible light.

If it were practicable to summarize all that is said upon it, and deduct therefrom a just conclusion, the judgment would probably be in favor of the high license system with the principle of local option embraced therein. High license closes the low dives, reduces the number of saloons, and tends to improve the status of those that continue, while the local option privilege allows communities where religious and temperance sentiments prevail, the right to abolish the saloon from their midst. A greater number of intelligent and conscientious journals favor this method of treating the liquor question more than any other.

A CLEAN SWEEP NEEDED.

THE efforts of the New York *World* to expose and reform the abuses at Castle Garden, have not been unproductive of good results, but much remains to be done yet in order that the maladministration of affairs at that great port of entry for immigrants may be stopped. In line with its former efforts a late issue of the world has an editorial article from which the following is an excerpt:

"The abuses at Castle Garden still continue. The railroad pool is still imposing on the poor immigrants in clear violation of law. Barney Blin, a ward politician, still runs the baggage express and collects a tax on all parcels brought into the garden. The brother of a fugitive alderman of 1854 still supplies the immigrants with beer at about double the price for which they can buy it outside. The money-changers still get an extra "shave" for exchanging foreign for American money. The gates are closed as usual against prying eyes, and the inmates of the Garden are at the mercy of employes who know the commissioners will stand by them if they get into "trouble."

The *World* demands that these incapable and untrustworthy Commissioners shall be removed and these abuses swept away. It is within the power of Secretary Fairchild to stop the crying evil within sixty days, by terminating his contract with the Commissioners and applying to Gov. Hill to name some other authorities to receive the head-moneys collected by the government

and to care for the immigrants under the provisions of the United States statute. It is singular that the apathy and dilatoriness so common at Washington should extend to cases in which immediate action is so desirable and would be so heartily approved by public sentiment. Every good citizen of New York would applaud Secretary Fairchild if he would get rid of the coarse and untrustworthy Commissioners as promptly as possible. Everybody knows that he neglects a very plain duty when he fails to do so after receiving evidence of the thoroughly bad character of the commission."

After the exposures the *World* has made of the doings of the Commission controlling Castle Garden, and the evidence which has long been accumulating of the unfitness of at least some of its members to be entrusted with authority, it seems scarcely probable that Secretary Fairchild will much longer defer action.

FERDINAND'S FAILURE.

PRETTY nearly everything that was foretold of Ferdinand in the columns of the leading newspapers has literally come to pass. What a spectacle he now presents! A carpet-bagger he cannot command sufficient authority to set the machinery of government in motion; the higher and more influential class of citizens of Bulgaria will not accept of portfolios in his cabinet, and if he fills it at all, he will present to the world the disgusting spectacle of a monarch without a title, in a land where he is unrecognized, with a ministry composed of the merest nobodies. A fine array of conditions this to call a State—a sovereign body possessing the power of declaring war, making treaties, levying taxes and being in general one among the nations of the globe! The boy adventurer finds himself almost as isolated as though he were on some one of the many uninhabited Russian steppes, surrounded with everlasting snow, the canopy of heaven and the all-pervading solitude of nature.

It is not a feeble guess that he is now sorry that he took his own counsel and rushed headlong into a position the requirements of which he knew nothing about and the consequences following which, if apparent at all, must have appeared misty through the haze of ambition and youthful exultation. Not only this, but he has shown that want of dignity and spirit as well as lack of judgment which should be as inseparable from a monarch as his very soul. At first he defied Russia and its cohorts, but finding defiance was a weak card in his hand, he changed off to humble supplication, beseeching the Czar to consent to his accepting the bauble, but the great despot would not; neither would France, nor Turkey; and then this young man, untrained in the school of statecraft, and unfamiliar with the procedure of strategists, conceived the idea of becoming another Bismarck by means of a *coup d'etat* that would in his hysterical imagination set the question at rest by reason of its suddenness and its audacity. And what a *coup* it was! The dramatic grand entrance was passably well executed, then came the business—the hard, trying, turbid affairs of state; and then the glare of the footlights, the tinsel of the costumer and the assistance of the prompter availed nothing.

His first official act was to "get even" with France by making the French resident Archbishop haul down the tricolor! After this splendid feat of diplomacy he requested a local statesman to get up a cabinet. But the powers were beginning to be heard from and nobody cared about investing in the enterprise, and no one has yet been found who will fill up this gap. In desperation he implored the Sultan to let him pay a visit in person that the Prince might express his devotion, but the Ottoman ruler would have none of it; Italy then held him off at arm's length, and no wonder he feels despondent, as a dispatch yesterday stated. Almost anybody would feel a little blue under such circumstances.

Ferdinand's overthrow is now, in the absence of some quite unlooked-for circumstance, a matter of course and of a very short time. The worst of it is that he has not shown the qualities which would enable him to go out at least as finely as he came in. When Maximilian was deserted after his occupation of Mexico, then betrayed into the hands of the natives and subsequently shot, he was all along and at the very last moment "every inch a king." There appears to be no Maximilian in Ferdinand.

WAGES ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

IN the attempt to meet complaints of low wages made by the working classes, employers often urge that the condition of the latter steadily improves. This fact they show by a comparison of the wages paid at the present time with those that were paid a hundred years ago, and even at a considerably later period.

In the year 1800 canal diggers in Pennsylvania were fed upon the

coarsest food, housed in rude sheds and paid \$5 per month in winter and \$6 per month in summer, as their wages. Now section men on railroads, a similar class of employes, are paid from four to six times as much. Mud carriers and mortar mixers, diggers and choppers, who, from 1793 to 1800, labored on the public buildings and cut the streets and avenues of Washington City, received \$70 a year, or if they wisened, \$80 for all the work they could perform from March 1st to December 29. The hours of work were invariably from sunrise to sunset. Similar workmen now are paid as much for two or three months' work, as a year's wages then amounted to. In the longer and older cities wages were higher than the above, but in Virginia they were even lower. In New York and Albany, a hundred years ago, mechanics were paid about 40 cents per day; laborers in proportion.

Employers further cite the fact that the history of those times gives no account of strikes and labor agitations and combinations, such as we have to-day, although it cost nearly if not quite as much for a simple mode of subsistence as it does now. The necessities of life have not increased in cost in anything like the ratio in which wages have advanced. Labor-saving machinery on the farm and in the factory and workshop has made it possible to produce food, clothing, furniture and other necessaries so cheaply that the prices of such articles have been kept down.

But this line of argument overlooks the principles of progress. The same causes that make it necessary to the happiness and well being of the peasant of a civilized country to be surrounded with that which the king of a tribe of savages would regard as splendor, demand that the laboring classes of to-day should have that which is in advance of what their fathers enjoyed. The poorer classes of society to-day, in the United States, are far more intellectual than the same classes were a hundred years ago. Education is incomparably more general, and with an increase of mental development has come, as the result of a natural law, a demand for improvement in the home surroundings.

We are rich or poor by comparison, and even if the condition of the laboring classes has been greatly improved during the present century, there is still as strong a contrast between the surroundings of the laborer and those of the employer as there was a hundred years ago. If wages were low then, profits were small in proportion. He is a crab-like economist who urges low wages now because they prevailed a hundred years ago.

THE HOME MISSION.

THE Home Missionary system of the Church is one of much importance. Those who are actively engaged in that department of labor should contribute largely toward the maintenance and increase of spiritual activity among the Saints. They are local evangelists and bear the same relation to the Church at home as the Elders sent abroad do to the branches scattered among the nations. They feed the sheep of Israel and should help to prevent the members of the flock from becoming strays. Every man employed in this important labor should qualify himself to efficiently discharge his duty.

In the first place the Home Missionary should be a living example of the righteous theories he disseminates, so far as relates to his practical teachings. Otherwise his utterances will be destitute of the force that should accompany them. To have their full moral weight upon the people he must be honest, sober, truthful and considerate.

We hold it to be the duty of an evangelist to prepare his mind for the performance of his important function. He should be in a position to have something to say in due season. That condition is attained by being in rapport with the Holy Spirit, without which the Elders are enjoined from teaching. This influence of pure intelligence is cultivated in two ways, by strict moral rectitude and by reading, study and reflection.

To rely entirely upon the Spirit for matter with which to feed the sheep of Christ is, however, inconsistent with the teachings in the covenants and commandments. The special function of the Spirit in operating upon the preacher is to assist him by bringing truths to his remembrance. If truth has not been mastered, possessed or comprehended it is not possible for it to be forgotten, and what has not been forgotten cannot be reinstated in the memory. On extraordinary occasions, in order to accomplish the designs of God, a man is blessed with a remarkable degree of supernatural power in that regard without any apparent effort on his part, but this is not the usual method in which the Lord operates upon His servants. He leaves something for them to do, that their powers may be developed by use, and they become centres of intelligence, from experience. As a rule, an attempt to bring forth intelligent ideas from a barren mind to store which with truth no pains have been taken would be about equal to dropping a bucket into a dry well and pulling it up with the ex-

pectation of obtaining a supply of water with which to slake the thirst of the weary pilgrim. This figure as applied to the waters of life, is decidedly appropriate.

One whose duty it is to preach the principles of truth should give his mind to reading good books and to close thought. By these means greater mental activity is produced by the effort put forth and a fund of truth is stored away for use at the proper moment, when duty calls.

Some may soothe themselves with the excuse that, being under the necessity of laboring hard, they are unable to devote time to this preparatory cultivation. But the world furnishes so many examples of men who have overcome the most formidable obstacles in the pursuit of knowledge, that it is hardly necessary to state that there are but few instances in which this apology would hold good. Most of these glorious examples have been furnished by men who have not had the magnificent incentives to encourage them that exist in the case of the Latter-day Saints. But taking the chief one as an instance that has been given inside the Church, we have but to note the course in this respect that was pursued by the founder, in the hands of the Almighty, of this work. When the Lord took hold of Joseph Smith he was an untutored and comparatively ignorant youth. He was the medium through which came the direct voice of Divine revelation, but he also personally pursued, unto the time of his martyrdom, a studious and progressive line of conduct, causing his natural powers to shine with remarkable lustre. Half an hour spent daily in storing the mind with truth will enable one who thus utilizes even that brief space of time to make astonishing progress.

It is not to be properly implied from this reasoning that the evangelists of the Church should have recourse to cut and dried sermons. This is opposed to the genius of the labors of Elders, because it eliminates a principle of power and intelligence and usurps one of the chief functions of the Holy Spirit. That influence not only searches the mind of the speaker, but also knows the needs of the hearers, and deals out a fitting portion to each, of instruction, admonition or rebuke. He who proposes and arranges beforehand what he shall say, prevents these operations, placing his own wisdom before that of the Spirit—the great universal Teacher. The man who prepares in this technical way also betrays a lack of faith, evidently doubting whether the Spirit will come to his aid. The Elders of experience have had many evidences of the power of the Holy Ghost as a searcher and instructor when they have trusted in His power. When they have been illumined by that influence they have been enabled to lay bare to the people the inmost thoughts of their hearts, so that numbers of listeners have imagined they were the direct objects of the discourse, and have so acknowledged.

A clear and forcible habit of thought is an indispensable prerequisite to expression of the same quality. As a rule, if a matter is vividly comprehended by the speaker, it will be the more clearly presented to the listener.

One of the leading aims of the preacher should be to be guided by prudence. Without wisdom the most gifted and brilliant men are in danger of injuring themselves, the cause they are presumed to represent and the people to whom they make their communications. Wisdom is the rudder that guides the ship safely toward the desired haven. The vessel that has not that directing power is minus the ability to steer clear of the rocks and breakers upon which the wind, waves and tide may drift it, and a wreck is the result. Due respect should be paid to the probable effect of that which is spoken, the spirit of the prophet being subject to the prophet.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

EVER since the act of Congress demonetizing silver became law, that precious metal has been in the position of maid-in-waiting upon gold—that is, it is so much merchandise whose value is not fixed but which fluctuates just in proportion to the demand and supply law, its worth at all times being based not upon its own merits but adjusted by that of gold, which is fixed and unchangeable.

True, this law was repealed and silver restored nominally to its former place alongside of gold at about the ratio of one to sixteen in point of weight; but the blow had been struck, the debasement had been consummated, and the white metal's status remained substantially as before the repeal, with this exception: that then, more than five dollars in one sum was not legal tender by law; now it is not by custom and common consent. It is bought and sold in the market just as wheat and railroad stocks are bought and sold, and the prices for which it sells vary as widely as those of any of the other great commodities. Yet, why should this be so? Wheat and flour and other necessities are trifled with because they have a value and functions vastly different from those of silver; we cannot live without them, or something that would answer the same purpose, and we