

plumes and banners and banquets. In the great majority of cases the amount of money paid out for the actual expenses of the lodge, as the dues of the order, is not great; it is in the field of personal gratification that the vast unaccounted-for sum is expended. It is probable that, for mere personal gratification, aside from any real or imaginary benefits, the members of the various secret organizations in the United States will spend annually in banquets, railroad and traveling expenses, costly gifts to retiring officers, testimonials, elaborate uniforms, and rare swords not less than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars, and this is allowing but fifty dollars a year as an average for the delightful, but probably wholly unnecessary, expenses connected with the fraternities. It is quite likely the sum is considerably more than this.

Granting the highest aims for these secret orders, this statement brings forward an illustration of how the best-intended plans of men can be and are being used in inflicting injury, while all rules and professions therewith point to the contrary.

CROWNING THE OLDEST PIONEER.

The incident of crowning the oldest Pioneer, as it occurred in the Tabernacle on Thursday, is worthy of a place in song and story among the people of this intermountain country. The scene itself was divinely beautiful. The vast auditorium was crowded with intelligent, healthy, lovely, happy children. In the midst of the throng, and visible to all, sat President Willford Woodruff, the oldest Pioneer, over ninety years of age. A little girl, nine years of age, granddaughter of another Pioneer who had achieved the distinction of being called to the presidency of the Church and who has passed to the spirit world—President John Taylor—came forward, and on behalf of the children of Utah crowned the venerable Pioneer with laurel wreath, amid the joyous acclamations of the audience, as President Woodruff took up the child and kissed her. It was, indeed, a touching scene.

What a panorama view must have passed before the eyes of the Pioneers upon witnessing the incident! What thoughts must have come to the mind of President Woodruff, whose memory of events of Pioneer times is so strong and clear! Fifty years ago at the same hour, he was telling onward with a small band of Pioneers into East canyon. With him in the vanguard was President Brigham Young, ill with mountain fever. Around him were a few wagons of those Pioneers who had been detained a couple of days behind the main company because of sickness. All were footsore, weary. But all were hopeful; for that day they reached them word from the exploring party sent in advance that the valley of the Great Salt Lake had been reached. Fifty years later, and President Woodruff was surrounded by thousands of natives of these valleys of his own people, in the largest auditorium of its kind in the world, while all through these valleys there were joy, and peace, and plenty.

This same Pioneer fifty years ago was beloved, honored and trusted by

his people as a man and as a divinely commissioned Apostle of the Lord. In the fifty years that have passed, the love and respect for and confidence in him have grown and increased, and fill the hearts of those of the same generation as the Pioneers, and their children, and children's children, down to the tiniest tot that can slip his name, wherever the Latter-day Saints dwell, and with very many not numbered with the Saints as a religious community. Hence the joy when he was crowned in the Tabernacle yesterday by the children. What a beautiful example he is to the youth of these vales in his undeviating integrity, his untiring industry, the simplicity and humility of his life, and his steadfast love for the right, that have earned for him the deserved title of Willford the Faithful.

NOT BAPTISM.

With many people to whom the word baptism does not mean anything it is customary to apply the term to various ceremonies, to the so-called "christening" of ships, for instance. They speak of "baptizing" the vessels by sprinkling a few drops of wine on the bow, and in the same way the word has been employed to other ceremonies entirely different from "baptism" as possible. The general thoughtless use of the word in such a sense does not, however, justify those who know better to employ it similarly. Not only has the word baptism, looking at it from a purely etymological point of view, a definite meaning—complete immersion—but it has besides a sacred signification, the latter being, by long established usage, the only one in which it can be employed legitimately.

We believe attention should be called to this fact. The mingling of a few drops of water from the Jordan with the water of the Great Salt Lake was a beautiful and appropriate ceremony, but to call it baptism was a misnomer, just as much as if a common banquet were called the Lord's Supper. Words convey thought, and the use of wrong words are almost sure to result in erroneous thought and false impressions.

ANDREE'S EXPEDITION.

The alleged messages from Andree are causing much speculation among people interested in Arctic exploration. Fear is expressed that the aeronaut, even if succeeding in floating over the North pole, will never return again to civilization. However, similar fears were expressed for the safety of Dr. Nansen, and yet he accomplished his remarkable exploration without the loss of one of his brave followers.

It is no exaggeration to say that Andree's undertaking is the most foolhardy of the many attempted in the frozen north. Nansen's expedition is no parallel to it. The Christiania explorer based his calculations on known factors. He had a ship especially built for the voyage. He had provisions for years and, in brief,

all the aids science and long experience offered. Andree, too, has the necessary scientific preparation and undoubtedly has done everything possible under the circumstances to make the journey a success, but when the problem is to navigate the air, it is evident that very little can be done. The balloon is entirely at the mercy of the air currents. Its carrying capacity does not admit a great deal of supply. In case of an accident, it is hard to see how the travelers could make their way back to civilization before the long Arctic winter sets in.

It is not believed that the result of Andree's expedition, even if he is successful, will enrich our store of knowledge in any essential point, except as to the existence or non-existence of an open Polar sea. But his undertaking is nevertheless followed with deep interest and hearty wishes for his safe return. His fate may by this time be decided. He and his two followers may either be mangled corpses resting on the eternal ice of the frozen region, until, perchance, some of the wild denizens of that part of the world come that way and devour them; or they may at this time have landed in some desert region and are now calculating how to reach an outpost of civilization. In the latter case it may take months before they can be heard from.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

The advocates of government ownership of railways ought to find some interesting notes in reading F. W. Wilson's article in the New York Engineering News on such ownership of railways. Mr. Wilson has been to South Africa. Before going there he was an ardent advocate of government ownership. Now he says: "Since I have had an opportunity to observe for myself how this plan operates here I am entirely converted to competition, the sharper the better. A railway trust or pool, formed to obviate too sharp a competition, is a mild and amiable institution compared with a government monopoly, which is exactly what South Africa is now cursed with." Pretty theories are not always equally pleasing in practical application; and the plan of government ownership of railways under existing conditions seems to be one of that class.

THE CITY'S ILLUMINATION.

It is not detracting from the splendid work done in securing gorgeous displays for the daily Jubilee parades to say that one of the most attractive and highly appreciated features of the celebration is the illumination of East Temple street to Third South. As a thing of beauty it is indeed a joy to all beholders. But while it is delightful to the eye, the value of the illumination is far greater in its utility to the people. When it was suggested that the city pay a thousand dollars toward the expense, there was an objection that an appropriation for such purpose did not come under the head of "for corporate pur-