

the Latter-day Saints to justify the assertion quoted. The Gospel taught by the Mormons embraces in its redeeming and saving powers all the races of men, whether it be Ethiopian, Mongolian, Polynesian, Indian or Caucasian; and the membership of the Church includes colored people of the Ethiopian as well as of other races. There is no occasion for misconception or evasion upon this subject, for one of the articles of faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reads:

We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

PARAMOUNT LOCAL ISSUES.

One week more, and the voters of Utah will be called to perform the important duty of selecting a State Legislature to make laws for the government of this commonwealth and to select a Senator to represent the State in the national Congress. Perhaps all realize the responsibility in making this selection; yet from the political discussions that are going on it seems that some vital local issues, paramount so far as their application in the State goes, are being relegated to the background in a way that is not up to the times. This being the case, there is occasion for the voters themselves to do some vigorous thinking for themselves in the few days left before casting their ballots.

Among the candidates for legislators in this State the silver question has been held up prominently, perhaps more so than the occasion justified, so far as the local situation is concerned, but not as to a national policy. It is an important issue—very important nationally, and in respect to the national ticket should be kept at the front. But as matters stand today it is not a paramount issue on the State legislative ticket. The point upon that has been reached and passed, so that now the overwhelming majority of candidates on all tickets—and perhaps all candidates—are what is known as free silver men and would not support an anti-silver policy. The attainment of this condition, therefore, removes the basis of discussion from the silver question as to legislative candidates—they are virtually on one side on that subject. Free coinage is still a paramount issue only on the presidential ticket in this State.

Now as to the issues that really should have foremost place now in choosing between the legislative candidates, and the policies thereof, so far as State local matters are concerned: First, we may name the subject of irrigation. The State is very lame in its irrigation laws, and it is a necessity for permanent progress that something should be done promptly in this branch. The matter was crowded upon the last Legislature, but that being the first under the new State government, it seemed to have its hands full in other directions. But irrigation laws should be delayed no longer. So far as property interests are concerned, it may be remarked that enough of these are now involved in lawsuits to pay the expense of an irrigation commission for twenty years. Of course the courts will de-

vide right, but the basis of present law is so imperfect as to be sure to result in hardship somewhere. Besides, much of such litigation and the consequent expense could be prevented by a State irrigation commission and proper statutory provisions. Again, there have been losses, through not having a State engineer's office to inspect dams and waterways and see that they were secure, enough to have borne the cost of such office for almost a generation.

Upon this point, then, the would-be legislators should be tested as closely as any of them have been on the silver question. It is as important a matter to the State as mining ever can be. The agricultural interests of the State should not be smothered up by any other; it is too vital to existence in these valleys. No man or woman who is opposed to placing the irrigation system in this State upon a firm, equitable basis, and doing it at the earliest possible opportunity, should be given a place in the State Legislature.

Then there are the home industry interests of the State. Mining is an important feature of Utah's industrial progress; agriculture is also. And manufacture stands on an equal footing with the others. The three are essential to prosperity in the State; and as in the case of agriculture, manufacture is largely associated with local legislative enactments. The home industry interests of this State need encouragement and support in a way that will be of practical effect. The sentiment of the people is strong on this point, and should find expression in having its Legislature in full harmony with that sentiment. Those persons, and those only, who uphold the manufacturing as well as the agricultural and mining interests of the State should control the policy of its Legislature. It is not a question of discussion upon national topics; it is the practical way of handling those matters which involve the very life of the State as a prosperous commonwealth, able to sustain itself and help to sustain others.

Further topics might be named in this same connection; but these will suggest themselves to the thoughtful voter when once his attention is drawn in that direction. Utah needs a Legislature that will direct its labors for the good of the whole State, of all its industries and all classes of its people, and that will do so upon the broad basis of well developed principles as they have been proved to be of force and applicability in the settlement and development of this region.

It is for the voters of Utah to provide themselves with such a Legislature. Let us have a body that is right upon paramount local issues as well as upon those of a similar nature nationally.

ARMING THE MUSSULMANS.

The imposition by the sultan of Turkey of a personal tax of five piasters upon his Mohammedan subjects may possibly mean that Abdul Hamid contemplates filling his own generally consumptive purse and at the same time ingratiating himself to his representatives throughout the country, in whose hands a considerable part of

the taxes always remain. The time is opportune for some such measure, owing to the present troubles. But it may also indicate that the Porte has come in possession of information that prompts the ruler to rally the defenders of Islam to the standard of its prophet.

The sultan probably knows that no crowd he can command would stay the progress of any modern army, but many of his ignorant subjects have a great contempt for anything Christian. And they besides firmly believe that Allah would fight for them, if necessary. Abdul Hamid would therefore be forced to war with combined Europe, or be deposed or perhaps assassinated as a traitor. This being the situation, there seems to be no other alternative for him than to raise money as best he can, buy arms and ammunition and array his hordes in battle lines, should Europe take an attitude more than simply threatening.

In well informed circles some development in the Turkish question is expected before long. The opinion gains ground that concerted action has been agreed on by the leading powers. In that case arms and ammunition will be needed.

SINGING A RECOMMENDATION.

A very general impression among people is that the man who has the happy faculty of being able to sing well has a strong point in recommendation of his worthiness; and the impression is correct. This fact ought to cause the young men of this community to accept the suggestions made in the Mutual Improvement Association conference in this city on Sunday evening, and avail themselves to a much greater extent than they now do of the opportunities for cultivating their musical talent, for the good they can effect thereby to others as well as to themselves. The value of an accomplishment in the way of being able to sing well the songs of Zion comes home especially to those young men who are called on missions, and who go abroad to preach the Gospel. Their musical ability attracts attention, and even where there is much prejudice against the Mormons, respectable people conclude that young men whose hymns are beautifully as many of the Elders do cannot be so very bad, and they are deservedly accorded a measure of confidence. Then, as the people become better acquainted with the missionaries they learn that the latter are truly servants of the Lord, working for the salvation of mankind. The ability to sing, and the cultivation of that faculty, are thus a means of accomplishing much good.

This statement regarding missionary experience is only one suggestion of very many that could be made as to the advantage of young men cultivating their taste for vocal and instrumental music. Such a course is as desirable for them at home as abroad; in their own habitations and among their everyday associations as well as in the mission field. Not all people have the best of voices for singing; but there are few who could not be made better by being taught to sing, or, if their vocal organs are not specially suited for that, at least to learn enough of music to take some part