

EDITORIALS.

A COAL FAMINE.

ACCORDING to a late special dispatch to the *Boston Herald*, an extraordinary state of affairs exists in the eastern part of Colorado and western part of Kansas, and it seems as though the transportation facilities of the railroads penetrating that region ought to be adequate to relieve the pressing fuel famine prevailing there, by bringing coal from the east if the Colorado mines are not able to supply the demand. The dispatch reproduces the statements of a gentleman who passed through the region referred to a few days ago, as follows:

"Anderson K. Hayward, of Denver, who arrived here this morning, said to a reporter: 'I have just passed over both the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and the Kansas Pacific, and witnessed some very peculiar scenes along the roads. Throughout eastern Colorado and western Kansas a coal famine prevails, and the towns and farmers are almost entirely out of fuel. The country is entirely treeless, and unless coal can be obtained, the people are obliged to go without fire. The principal, in fact, almost the only sources of supply for the region referred to are the Colorado coal fields, especially those near Canon City. The local dealers failed to lay in a sufficient supply during the summer, and when the cold weather commenced the demand far exceeded the supply. The Canon City mines are working double time, but still are unable to fill the orders that pour in.

"The farmers in the eastern part of Colorado have taken matters into their own hands, and are making organized raids upon the coal trains that pass bound for points further east. At every siding they are in waiting, and when a coal train is stopped coolly take possession and unload the coal into their wagons. The train hands do not interfere, as they know it would be of no use. At Kit Carson I saw a train of eight cars unloaded in this manner. The farmers say they will pay any price that is asked, but must have coal at any hazard.

"In the meantime the consignees are in pressing need of fuel, and send indignant telegrams to the coal company, who reply that they have shipped the coal and hold the receipt for it from the railroad. The situation is very peculiar, and will probably lead not only to civil, but also to criminal proceedings."

Evidently there is mismanagement in the matter, as there are vast coal fields lying east of the district in which this extraordinary coal famine is prevailing, and at a distance not too great to have a supply of fuel quickly transported to the point where it is wanted.

But we need not go as far from home as the region named to find a similar condition in respect to fuel and railroad management. Northern Utah and Southern Idaho have repeatedly experienced a coal famine, and that too at times when the Salt Lake market was glutted with coal, and the people of Cache Valley were clamoring for it at nearly double the price at which it was selling in this city. During the present winter Cache Valley has repeatedly and loudly complained of a scarcity of coal, at a time when there has been vigorous rivalry between the different companies selling coal in this city.

Why coal is not sent to points on the Utah & Northern, where it will bring a higher price than here, and is needed much worse, is a problem which shivering quakers living at points on the latter road, have often tried to solve. None of them have, however, adopted the summary policy to obtain relief that the farmers of Eastern Colorado are reported to have pursued.

DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY.

THE ceremonies over the remains of the Chicago anarchists, on the occasion of their reburial, were unfortunate. It would have been better had their first burial been the final one. The event of yesterday revived the old issues and bitterness, and brings once more before the whole country the terrible scenes connected with a repugnant feature of recent history.

The vehement conduct of Mrs. Parsons added a dramatic effect to the ceremonies. But even if that color had been wanting in the incidents of the affair it would have been furnished anyhow, for it graphically exists in the speech made by Captain Black, counsel for the late anarchists.

Those who peruse intelligently the synopsis furnished in the dispatches can hardly help being struck with the ingenuity and fervent eloquence of the speaker. It is a production that stamps him as an orator. Whether or not his gift to a proper use is another question. That he possesses it is beyond dispute.

That discourse was tenfold more dangerous to social order and a greater auxiliary in aiding the cause of anarchy than a hundred fiery blood-and-thunder speeches of the Herr Most strips. It was such an address

as will tend to canonize the dead anarchists in the minds of a large class of people, who will be led to imagine that after all, those men might have been sincere.

When people are thought to be sincere, even when they are mistaken, they naturally elicit sympathy. Captain Black, with the orator's instinct, made a point in attempting to establish that impression. With the same keen insight into human nature he half-admitted that their methods were open to question in the minds of many people. When he spoke in that fashion he was not addressing himself to the crowd before him, as he well knew that they were in sympathy with both method and purpose. He was speaking then to the people of the country—being aware that his remarks would be spread before them—in behalf of the memory of the dead anarchists, and putting in a plea for the object of anarchy.

Most thinking men will look upon the bringing in of the example of Christ as a parallel as grotesque to the point of absurdity. So will they view the delineation of the purposes of the lately executed men as the furtherance of the idea of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. But others who would revolt at the horrible theory of seeking to cure real and imaginary wrongs by murder and destruction will look upon Captain Black's speech as presenting a less atrocious phase of anarchism, and will consider it with more toleration. The orator lung tenaciously to the last to the theory of slurrery, which in the estimation of most men, covers a multitude of sins.

A critical examination of the parallel between Christ's mission, methods and object and those of the anarchist will show that each is the antipodes of the other. But many will not thus consider the subject, and therefore the speech of Captain Black, displaying unusual ability and ingenuity, is of a dangerous and insinuating character. It presents political and religious poison on a golden dish garnished with the beauties of oratory.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

AMONG the many customs brought from European countries that of "keeping Christmas" may be mentioned as a very prominent one and in no part of the United States is the custom more noticeable than among the "Mormons."

This is the time when free will offerings are made to those who are in need, and at no other period of the year are such gifts so abundantly and generally bestowed, all of which is strictly in keeping with this particular occasion and is highly commendable.

True we have none of that squalid poverty among us which can be found in almost every city, town and hamlet throughout Christendom. The ample provision that is made for our poor through tithing appropriations, fast day offerings, Relief Societies, etc., and the systematic manner of distribution that has so long been followed, renders squalor an impossibility among the Latter-day Saints.

"Merry Christmas," when the almost immortal "Holly" and other evergreens are used in such profusion to denote that eternal friendship so necessary to preserve the union of families, when the little boys and girls awake in the early morn to find their very largest stocking fairly groaning with the weight of presents from the ever-faithful Santa Claus; when the ardent lover, after taxing his brain for weeks to find something suitable for the object of his affection, ventures timidly to present his first Christmas gift and waits with great anxiety the result, while she in turn presents to him her souvenir in the utmost confidence. Nor are father and mother forgotten on this auspicious day, while the aged grandpa's and grandma's hearts are made glad by receiving mementoes of final affection. All such time-honored customs that are calculated to happily and cheer the hearts of individuals of every class and grade.

But it is possible for customs to grow out of customs so endeared to us by centuries of time. We can but regret the excessive use of intoxicants at those miserable carousals indulged in by some on that day, which tend to mar the enjoyment of individuals and families alike. We pity those men whose unnatural appetites lead captive their reason and compel them to worship at the shrine of Bacchus, instead of contributing their energies to promote legitimate enjoyment and pleasure, which are so desirable at all times, but more especially upon these occasions.

There is another evil, not near so flagrant as the one just mentioned, but whose influence is making itself felt keenly in some quarters—the extravagance often exhibited in making presents. Men of large families but limited means are beginning to feel the burden imposed upon them at each returning Christmas. The receiving of a present from a friend at once suggests another in return that shall at least be a little in advance in value of the one received. In seeking to excel each other in this regard year after year, we can easily perceive the tax it necessarily must be upon somebody and that somebody is generally the head of the family.

Our gifts, instead of being what they should be—simply tokens of friendship

and affection—are often exhibitions of a desire to excel in presents of a monetary value only. And this otherwise pleasurable and enjoyable period is thus marred by the reflection of a depleted treasury, or perhaps of indebtedness incurred, or still worse in many instances, a total inability to discharge honest obligations.

When Christmas comes we say—"Let the merry bells chime forth their joyous peals; let father, mother, son and daughter gather around the family hearth, made sacred by a thousand pleasing recollections; let the fond lovers pledge their vows of eternal fidelity and let friend meet friend and renew the friendship of former years. Also let those mementoes of the heart's affection pass from one to the other and be prized as sacred treasures and let the poor partake of our bounty and share in our pleasures, but avoid extravagance and vain show. Then will every recurring Christmas be hailed with a joyful anticipation that will be more than realized."

BEGINNING TO SEE IT.

It is gratifying to observe that the press of the country is gradually beginning to acknowledge the enormity of the plundering process applied to the Latter-day Saints, and to see danger to other communities in the precedent it establishes. Some of those journals on whom the light is dawning upon this subject reiterate some of the views that have appeared in the News on the same topic, in connection with other ideas they bring to bear upon the theme of spoliation. Not a few of them are much more unparaphrasing in their denunciations than we have been, the course of the News having been somewhat conservative, considering the extreme and unjustifiable measures in question. Before us now is a recent issue of the *Press*, of Winsted, Conn., which contains an article on the confiscation assault directed against the "Mormons" from which we quote:

"The day seems to be of especial peril to freedom and justice in this land. So many encroachments upon individual rights are being made in the name of the brutal and irresponsible majority that we have not room or time for proper protest. But let us call attention to the atrocious acts by which the government is seeking to confiscate the property of a portion of its most peaceful, industrious and thriving people, for no other avowed reason than that their family life is not in all respects in conformity with the customs of a majority of their fellow citizens."

"We refer to the confiscation of the Mormon associate property. Near the close of its last session congress passed an act empowering the government to wind up the affairs of the Mormon Church, and the emigrating fund company. The act declared the corporate existence of these institutions at an end and directed the attorney-general to sell the property, pay lawful claims and turn the balance over to the government of the United States, to be used for the support of common schools in Utah, exempting buildings and grounds used exclusively for church purposes, also parsonages and cemeteries. This infernal act is now being carried out. The government is robbing the Mormons by judicial process and treating them as a conquered people, whose institutions may be broken up, whose property may be confiscated and who shall in the conduct of their own affairs have no voice whatever."

"The property in question is now in the hands of the United States marshal of the territory, the marshal having been appointed by the supreme court of the territory as receiver. In other words the government has seized the property, and handed it over to one of its officials, who is empowered to dispose of it as though it were the estate of a bankrupt debtor. The luckless Mormon may look on in horror as his treasure melts away in the fingers of officialism, but can hardly help himself to resistance is treason and treason is death."

"The Mormons have religious notions differing from those of the other Christian sects, and the Utah Church of Jesus Christ is not an institution that we wish to uphold, but the present interference with the affairs of these people is none the less an outrageous attack on liberty, and the spoil that comes of it is a fat morsel to despotism that is already too well fed. Let Methodists, Congregationalists and other sectarians beware. If it is within the province of government to despoil one sect, it is equally within its province to despoil another, and majorities are fickle. The Gentile Christians may find themselves in a minority some dark morning after a revolutionary storm has swept over this country. And how will they enjoy their turn in the confiscation mill?"

"We would not be understood as denying the right of one sect of Christians to pray another sect of Christians out of house and home if they can, but when government, as in the Utah affair, takes up the matter and makes us a party to it, and uses the machinery of law, and the power of the army to help one kind of Christians despoil another kind in this country, it is time for those of us who have none of this peculiar Christian spirit to denounce the government and protest against such outrageous abuse of its powers."

"In Jerusalem, as we noted last week, Mohammedan soldiers prevent sectarian Christians from killing and plundering each other. The soldiers are impartial in their contempt for the sects. Congress in the same position, far from being impartial, lends itself to the schemes of the more powerful sectarians to destroy the weaker ones, making the victims pay the cost of their own destruction. The heathen should send missionaries to teach our government the propriety of confining itself to the simple duty of maintaining peace between the Christian sects in Utah."

ADMISSION OF DAKOTA.

THE prospect for the admission of Dakota into the Union as a State has been much improved by a convention recently held in Aberdeen of that Territory. The absence of unity among the people has heretofore presented a formidable obstacle. This no longer stands in the way. There has been a great deal of division on the subject of dividing the Territory. Now a united effort has been brought about to secure the admission of the Territory as a whole. The people assembled in the aforelaid convention have petitioned Congress to that effect. It is believed that Congress will not hesitate to vote in favor of the bill. The *Omaha World* says on this subject that there is no reason, except a political one, why the petition should be refused. Should Congress erect Dakota into a State, as it should have done before, there will be rapid progress in material development.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

WE hope it is more because of a realization of the frightful loss of life, property and stability which many of the European nations would undergo, than any considerations of policy and present gain that is causing them to use every effort within their control to put off and if possible avert the struggle which now seems inevitable. Such a contest as now looms up beyond the Atlantic means a repetition in great number and on a larger scale of the struggle of the nations at Leipsic. With such a present combination as Germany and Austria on one side and Russia and France on the other, the former taking in Italy and the latter Turkey, a general European war such as the world has never seen would surely be the result of the first hostile gun.

It would require sounder judgment and keener penetration than the average student of public affairs possesses to tell exactly what the cause of the existing situation really is. It seems to have grown up gradually, acquiring head from day to day. Fear is understood to be the restraining influence with all nations, that which prevents them from going to war for light and trivial causes; not necessarily physical fear, but that proper quality which should always temper the will and make nations as well as individuals hesitate before taking aggressive measures. But there is, to the general view, no real cause for any one nation of Europe standing in such dire dread of any other as to cause the angel of peace to fold its wings in readiness for flight; and yet that is exactly the situation abroad.

Russia has endeavored to satisfactorily explain her purpose in marshaling 300,000 troops within an hour's march of the Austrian border, but the efforts have been signal failures. When to these are added her persistent efforts to borrow such an amount of money as only nations which intend to fight require, it is as plain as is the universal light of day that her real purpose is to be in position to deal the first powerful blow as soon as the tocsin of war is sounded. Austria realizes this and is preparing for it. She will not be taken by surprise, in any event, and already has sufficient force near the frontier to at least check it and resist an advance. An assault upon Austria is, of course, an assault upon Germany, as the alliance between them is of that entangling character designated as offensive and defensive, and the latter nation is making full preparations too. Things are just in that inflammable, panicky condition that perhaps the firing of a cannon, even though it were a blank cartridge, near the line which separates Galicia and Silesia from Russia, might precipitate a conflict whose force and effect would make all Europe totter and the rest of mankind look on with bated breath, and direful apprehensions. Think of the millions of lives and billions of treasure that might be squandered as the result of one rash act on the part of a single individual on either side of that fateful imaginary line!

DEATH OF S. P. ROUNDS.

DEATH leveled its shaft at an honest and upright man when it singled out Sterling P. Rounds, of Omaha. He passed from this stage of existence at his house on the evening of the 17th, of pneumonia, after an illness of ten days. He was born in Berkshire, Franklin County, Vermont, June 27, 1828. The

founders of the family were two brothers, who came early in colonial times to Rhode Island; one removing thence to New Hampshire, the other emigrating to another New England state; progeny of both scattering over the west and south. When Mr. Rounds was twelve years of age his parents removed from Vermont to Southport, Wis., now called Kenosha. Mr. Rounds studied here for the legal profession, but forsook his studies to enter the office of the Southport *American*, where he learned the printer's trade. After having learned the trade, Mr. Rounds was offered and accepted the readership of the state office at Madison, Wis. He was afterward employed upon the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, the first daily paper in the state. He also worked in other important establishments in Wisconsin. He went to Buffalo, N. Y., and in the firm of Jewett & Co. passed a second apprenticeship. His journalistic experiences in the west were varied and extensive. He purchased an extensive plant and from it sprang the *Printers' Warehouse*, which is well known in the United States, and in which connection he is best known in Utah. He lost his all in the great Chicago fire, but soon rose again, and was successful through all the mutations of time. As is well known he held the office of public printer for some time, and it was the intention of President Garfield to have given him the place, but his death prevented the consummation of his desires, as has been claimed.

THE SEASON OF GOOD CHEER.

To an extent which has probably not been equalled for several years, a spirit of sociability is prevailing throughout our Territory. Causes that, for a long period, have tended to suppress feelings of joyousness among the people, even at seasons of the year when it is eminently proper that such feelings should be permitted to exercise a degree of sway over the minds and actions of individuals, seem to be abating in their effects. Doubtless the change is produced by the operation of hope.

As the season of good cheer approaches, the clouds seem to be lifting, and reasons for believing that the genius of liberty has not yet deserted these mountain valleys, grow stronger. Consequently a sentiment of good cheer, fitting to the coming season of festivity, is being developed and displayed. As the anniversary approaches which signifies the promulgation of the heavenly message, "Peace on earth, good will to men," it is proper that sentiments of cheerfulness and friendliness should be encouraged.

The people of our fair Territory can consistently rejoice and be thankful during the present holiday time. The winter has been mild, and the hardships of the poor have in consequence been greatly modified. Times are fairly prosperous and it cannot be said that labor has been unusually scarce nor crops scanty; that is, speaking of the Territory as a whole; and the favorable change of sentiment towards the majority class here, both within the Territory and throughout the nation, is no small cause of thankfulness on the part of a people towards whom there seems at last to be a prospect that justice will prevail.

But with all the joys of the season it is proper to keep in view an element that will give to them an increased sweetness—that of practical charity. All persons who have the "milk of human kindness in their veins," appreciate a pleasure more when it is shared by others; and he is indeed an unsympathetic and sordid individual whose Christmas dinner is not the better relished by being divided. Every rightly constituted man is happier himself when making others happy, and it is not possible to bear a stronger testimony of our gratitude for the bounties of Providence, than by sharing them with the poor, afflicted and unfortunate.

Then when we celebrate the gift of a Redeemer, made by the Father to the human family, it will be in order for those of us who are able, to bestow gifts upon others who are in need. Until a higher social and financial order than is now known among men shall be established, we shall always have the poor with us; and it is a duty we owe to humanity that we remember them, and divide with them the bounties which we have received. Remember the poor.

DUE CREDIT.

It is no more than justice to say that the management of the Union Pacific system is entitled to credit, and to the appreciative acknowledgments of the people of Cache Valley, for having placed upon the southern portion of the Utah & Northern a local train, run by a schedule adapted to the needs of the section mentioned. A passenger may now leave any point in Cache Valley in the morning, visit Ogden or this city and return home on the same day.

But the people living on the line of the Utah & Northern are in urgent need of relief in another direction. They want coal. Dirt they have, or