

EDITORIALS.

A REVOLUTION IN ILLUMINATION.

CHEAP light and cheap heat are among the great wants of the age. Abundance and cheapness, which usually go together, with good quality, are the principal conditions desired with this much wanted material. All these conditions, it is announced, have been secured. The raw material for the production of the gas is water, plentiful enough, three fifths of the surface of the earth being covered with it. Mr. Ruck of England, probably stimulated by the high prices to which coal has recently gone in that country, has succeeded in producing water gas by a comparatively inexpensive process. The gas, refined, gives an excellent light, and in cruder condition is available for heating purposes. If all is true that is said about this new gas production, it will soon revolutionize both the gas and the fuel businesses. Gas is the least troublesome of all material for lighting purposes, and if practicable would be the same for heating purposes, for with it there is no handling of coal, wood, turf, or ashes in the house, which is such a wonderful aid to cleanliness as to secure the blessing of all good housewives on the inventor.

Nature, a high and impartial scientific authority, treats of the subject and has taken a warm interest in it. Works have been constructed at Battersea Park, which are very compact, occupying about the space of an ordinary well-packed steam-engine of 20 or 30 horsepower, but capable of supplying gas to a town of 4,000 inhabitants. This process, it is stated, dispenses with twenty-nine out of thirty men required by the old process of distilling gas from coal.

Mr. Ruck separates the two measures of hydrogen from the one measure of oxygen, of which water is composed, by passing steam through incandescent coke. With the coke, fragments of iron (any kind of old iron) are mixed, the oxygen of the decomposed water attaches itself to the iron as scales of black rust, and the hydrogen, comparatively free, passes into a purifying chamber. The iron promotes the perfect separation of the two gases, the red-hot coke alone doing that work more tardily. At Battersea the charge of coke and iron does not need to be renewed for several weeks. With the hydrogen are trifling percentages of carbonic oxide and carbonic acid gas and certain sulphurous vapors. The sulphur compounds, the only objectionable ingredients, are removed by passing the gas through oxide of iron in the purifying chamber.

The gas is now ready for heating purposes, and burns with a pale hydrogen flame, streaked with a few green lines of the incandescent carbonic oxide. This heating gas is said to be made at a cost of sevenpence per 1,000 cubic feet, sufficient to boil about fifty gallons of cold water. The cost would be reduced by using the waste heat of the retort furnace to raise the steam, instead of supplying it by an independent boiler. This gas is refined for lighting purposes by being made to bubble through a reservoir containing rectified petroleum of a specific gravity of about 0.680. The refined gas is then ready for circulation and consumption, and is reported to possess an illuminating power of 16½ candles with a flow of five cubic feet an hour in an Argand burner. This purified illuminating gas costs less than 1s. 8d. (40 cents) per 1,000 cubic feet, whereas the cost of ordinary coal manufactured gas in London is 2s. 4d. (56 cents) with coal at 26s. (six dollars and a half) per ton.

A gallon and a half of petroleum will charge a thousand feet of the heating gas, and in the process the latter is increased in volume, 133,000 feet of heating gas coming out as 165,000 feet of illuminating gas.

This gas is said to be permanent, as demonstrated by severe experiments at low temperatures. It does not disintegrate nor deteriorate in passing long distances through pipes, but arrives at remote destinations with no loss of illuminating power.

If what is said of the merits of Mr. Ruck's water gas is true, it is destined to come into general use, and the sooner we have it available at Salt Lake the better.

MEN AND WOMEN AND WORK.

THIS is how the *Chicago Times* presents the woman's work and wages question on the statements of others—

"What's to hinder" women from getting as good pay for work well done as men get for the same work equally well done? This is the question which Miss Dickenson has been popping to this community. The answer which she makes is, Nothing, except woman's own lack of interest in the callings which she pretends to adopt. "Public opinion," says Anna, "makes it a disgrace for the richest man to be idle; it makes it a disgrace for a wealthy woman to work. But the great secret is that women don't want to work—they are lazy. They want to spend the money that men earn."

This opinion is corrected by a New England manufacturer, who writes to *The New York Tribune* concerning the status of the two sexes in his establishment. This man's testimony is that the females in his employ (running knitting machinery) outnumber the males largely, and that they also excel them in their average wages per hand. "Many girls," he says, "work beside of father or brother, and earn \$1.75 or more in fewer hours than the father or brother earns his \$1.50." Women are also represented among his foremen, receiving the same wages as men. This manufacturer adds:

"Good, steady, skilled female labor is scarce, and I am ashamed to say that too many American-born girls would rather depend upon the hard-earned wages of father or brother and live a life of genteel poverty than know the luxury of the independence which these bright-faced, healthy, contented mill girls enjoy, a large share of whom are foreign born, or but a generation removed therefrom."

SENATOR MORTON.

GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND, in the *Chicago Tribune*, renders the following handsome tribute to Senator Morton—

Senator Morton, with his great energies, clear sagacity, and adaptability, and solid acquirements, can be one of the leading spirits of our period, if he continues to remedy, and lighten, and harmonize affairs as he has been recently doing. He can assist to make General Grant's closing term useful and illustrious; and, so far from factious opposition, the journals who opposed General Grant's second election will probably assist with gladness in redeeming the country from its moral misfortunes, regardless of what biography is to be benefited. We have never had a President for whom the times were more auspicious than President Grant. He has nearly four years before him of such repose and security as rulers seldom possess. Nothing in his late address was more touching than the admission of the fact that sometimes his mental labor and responsibility were more than he could bear. We all know what overwork is, and if the President must labor like the rest of us, he belongs to our brotherhood.

For myself, who am about closing up five years of continuous residence here, I can truly say that nothing is more depressing to me than comment, animadversion and attack upon public officials and men in the National Legislature, but we can not escape the news, the occurrences, the facts.

Public morals in America are as bad as they can well be. We have a noble country, which Providence has charged with all its bounties and opulence. The elements which make up the country were of the most admirable on the earth. Our system of government is the most natural, the most just, and the most encouraging, on the globe. To resist the undermining of it, to challenge those who encroach upon it, like a sentinel (often exceeding his duty and comfort, and often under the sorest temptation from plunderers, amiable conspirators, and people with gorgeous schemes), have been my duty and my pains. When men like Morton resume their responsibility, and relieve mere writers of these rough tasks, let them be encouraged by the full applause of the country.

ALL ARE TALKING AGAIN.

IT does seem that Utah and the "Mormons" are destined to be and to continue to be objects of interest of more than ordinary intensity to the outside and distant public. Last winter, as long as Congress sat, the interest was warm, in fact running up to excitement at fever heat. With the close of Congress the excitement cooled and the interest abated, temporarily. The recent general Conference in this city, as usual, appears to have incited the papers and the public to a little further manifestation of interest in the progress of our citizens and a little more talk about them, much of the latter very speculative, and, as usual, somewhat predictive of the hoped for "downfall" of "Mormonism," at least the abandonment of some principles which are considered specially obnoxious.

In their comments upon the doings of the late Conference, some of our able contemporaries, in other things well informed, make some very far fetched and baseless statements. As to their speculations and predictions, they are of very little account, and every body has the privilege of making and uttering his own. If a man predicts all sorts of things concerning "Mormonism," he will be sure to predict truly in some things and falsely in others, and perhaps this remark can be appropriately applied to all speculations and predictions concerning "Mormonism." They are generally partly true and partly false, but that part of them which

is true is seldom new, and as a whole they are extremely unreliable. One thing is patent to all—the many predictions of the end of "Mormonism," up to the present, have been ignominious failures; and another thing is equally patent—the current predictions of its end are much of the same nature, made by similar characters, on a similar basis.

The *Chicago Post*, in an article which is a tissue of falsity or exaggeration, says that in Utah "from 1850 to 1860 a reign of terror was maintained, during which all Federal officers were put out of Utah at the point of bowie knives," a statement which will be news to the Federal officers in Utah during that decade.

The *Missouri Democrat*, another ably conducted and influential paper, makes the following equally curious statement, concerning affairs in Utah—"The opposition papers, whose expressions have been restrained by the Mormon authorities, are now fairly rollicking in their newly-acquired right of unlimited free speech." This, again, will be news to the "opposition papers." The fact is those papers have always revelled in "unlimited free speech," and if they have not been sufficiently slanderous and abusive, it is because they did not know how to come up, or rather descend, to the expectations of their friends. There never was an "opposition paper" in Utah that ended its brief existence without manifesting such a disregard for even common decency as to render it utterly unfit to be introduced in any respectable family. We have many times wondered why local outsiders, if they think they need papers of their own, did not establish one with some dignity and decency in it so that it would command respect among honorable people where it was known, and have some substantial claim to respectful consideration even by those who disagreed with it.

USURY LAWS.

QUITE an interest amounting almost to a sensation, was recently excited in New York and elsewhere by an attack of Recorder Hackett upon the non-execution and evasion of the usury laws, and the injuries resultant to the public. Here is the charge of the Recorder to the Grand Jury, given April 7, a refreshing bit of reading—

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRAND JURY.—I am still commanded by statute to charge you upon the usury laws. The mercantile community hopes that the Legislature now in session would conquer the ancient superstition against the free trade in money. Competition in money, in the belief of all the political economists, tends to cheapen its use. The greatest number of lenders obey the laws against usury, yet there often come periods when borrowers are willing to make their own contracts for the use of money, and then these, by the very operation of the usury laws, are forced into a limited market. However, the Legislature has refused to assent to the repeal, and the usury laws remain. It is unnecessary for a judge to explain these laws or expound their penalties to gentlemen of such intelligence as I believe you to possess; but there is an offence of which I may speak most particularly—one which is the direct result of the usury statute, and which is latterly assuming magnitude and threatening public distress. This offence is comprehended in the combination of individuals (and perhaps of some banks, through brokers and middlemen) to diminish the circulation of money in regular channels, so as to raise the percentage for its use in irregular channels, to the mutual profit of the combiners. The result of this combination is not only extortion from a needy class of speculative borrowers, but an embarrassment of commercial dealings among classes not given to speculations. In the language of our Revised Statutes, such a combination is an act injurious to trade and commerce. "At common law practices (says Blackstone) which make the market dearer to the fair trader were offences against public trade." If such offences exist inquire fearlessly into their origin, and thoroughly investigate as to the offenders, without thought or consideration as to their position and without fear or favor. The theft of one man from another may be a crime, but it is possible, by a conspiracy such as I have outlined, to tegg a community of the character, extent and importance as that in which we live. Theft of industry and of regular profits by means of immoral and unlawful machinations of capitalists or moneyed institutions—if such machinations exist—ought to command your attention much more than the ordinary larcenies of the prison calendar. Bishop, in his commentaries on criminal law, says—"It is plain that he who uses the power which money or credit gives him to play pranks upon the community is an enemy to the race, and is as deserving of punishment as the thief or highway robber."

OUR JUDGES.—This is how the *St. Louis Globe* treats a report of certain recent court occurrences in this city—

Chief Justice McKean, of Salt Lake, is reported to be insane. If it is true that he says the startling things attributed to him, he is undoubtedly crazy. For instance, he is said to have told the lawyers around him to "go home, study geometry, read the Bible and make their peace with God." This is stark madness. It reminds one of the Scriptural "Woe unto you, ye lawyers," etc. Judge McKean is not in the normal legal condition, and should no longer be allowed to agitate the judicial ermine.

And this is the way that the *Battle Creek, Michigan, Journal* speaks of another of our judicial lights, a new one—

The Hon. P. H. Emerson left the city on Monday for Utah, where he is to immediately enter upon his duties as associate justice of the supreme court of the Territory. Mr. Emerson bears with him into his new and important field of responsibility and labor, the universal esteem of his fellow citizens with whom he has dwelt for years, and who have the fullest confidence that he will achieve distinction in the sphere upon which he is about to enter. His sound judgment, clear discrimination, fine legal attainments and wide experience with men and practical affairs, warrant the very highest anticipation of his success upon the bench. The discretion required in one who holds such a position—and especially demanded in the peculiar political condition of the Territory to which he is named—he possesses to a degree which we do not hesitate to believe will signally justify the wisdom of his selection and be of eminent service to the people of Utah and of the nation at large.

ANOTHER BENEFACTION.—British inventive genius has been sharpened by the coal famine. The other day we gave an account of Mr. Ruck's system of producing cheap water gas for lighting and heating purposes. Now comes a report of another important invention in the same direction. A Mr. Wright, of Sheffield, has patented a system of producing gas for lighting and heating by passing atmospheric air through a charged battery. The air is thus carbonized and combustible gas is produced, which burns brighter than coal gas, and when mixed with air has a heating power which can melt copper wire. Details of the system, especially from an economical point of view, are desirable.

ABOUT THE "MORMONS."

RANKING among the foremost of sensational newspapers, the *New York Herald* has its lengthy say upon matters in Utah, now that another passing public interest has been excited concerning them. The *Herald* cogitates upon the formation of settlements in Arizona, speculates about the why and the wherefore, and sees wonderful probabilities for the future, including a "Mormon" advance Mexico ward. The Washington correspondent of the *Herald* reports that he called on President Grant and gives the following as "the views of the administration, with no reservation as to their publication"—

So long as the people of Utah are quiet and law-abiding they will not be disturbed, but that the administration will feel bound to uphold the authority of the Government and its Court in that Territory. If any conflict should occur between the Territorial and United States Court—what conflict might arise need not be anticipated at this time—it is enough to know that the slightest interference will be promptly checked. The peaceful relations existing between the government and the people of Utah can only be affected by their own acts. If they obey the laws there is nothing for the government to do, or that the government proposes to do, in respect to them. The only thing the government has desired Congress to do was to take away the authority given by their Territorial law to interfere with the selection of jurors; and make provision for their selection so as not to leave that power in the hands of the Mormons for jurors. The decision of the Supreme Court sustains their claim, and of course it must be respected. At present the United States Courts are comparatively powerless; they are doing little or nothing in cases of a criminal nature, and not near so much in civil cases as if the jurors could be satisfactorily selected. No serious question other than this exists, and unless a conflict occurs between the Courts there is nothing changed in the attitude of the government towards Utah. As before stated, if it becomes necessary to employ military force to uphold the Courts, or enforce the laws, it will be done.

There is no necessity to argue upon the statements in the above paragraph, because the probability is that they are false in their pretensions to be the authorized or permitted statements of the views of the administration. The *Herald* can not be relied upon in its statements, because it has been shown to be eminently untrustworthy. It will be recollected that a recent report of a *Herald* "special commissioner" of an interview with President Grant upon Utah and other matters was authoritatively disowned and denied, and the statement was sent from Washington that such an interview never took place. A report of a joint interview previous to that, also upon Utah matters, is well enough understood to have been a fabrication too. The

present report of a third interview in relation to affairs hereabout there is therefore good reason to suppose is merely the production of an "enterprising correspondent, the creation of a sensational brain, and, whether true or false, has no claims to public credence.

BEHOLD, HE PRAYETH.—Wonders never cease. Now we hear of a noted ex-champion of the English prize ring, the conqueror of "Ben Caunt" and "Deaf Burke"—"Bendigo," otherwise Thompson (William we think) by proper name, being converted and transformed into a preacher, a "champion of the gospel" instead of the P. R. His cognomen of "Bendigo," by which he has long been generally known, was bestowed upon him because of his habit of suddenly bending his neck, or "ducking," to escape "punishment" from his antagonist in the "ring." Of late years his life has been a "rowdy" one, he frequently being engaged in pot house brawls. It was only a few months ago that the English newspapers reported him fined by the magistrate for his part in a drunken row at Nottingham, his place of residence for years. Now the word comes that he holds forth to large audiences as a preacher in London. His style, as might naturally be expected, is represented as more zealous, vigorous, and energetic than refined. He must now be not far from 70 years old. It is to be hoped that he will be as effective in the "church militant" as he was among the grosser pugilistic fraternity.

"Bendigo" has not only "got religion," but he has joined the Good Templars. Lately, at a meeting, at which a number of his old comrades of the P. R. were gathered, he took off his hat and addressed them as follows—

"Well, my friends, I am still going on in the new road, and I like it very well. I shan't come among you again, I think. I have been away from God a long while, just like that cove, the prodigal son, did from his father; but he's taken to me again. I'm respectable now, and in good company, and God takes good care of me. I have been fighting for the devil for thirty-four years, but I am now going to fight for Christ till I die; then I mean to go to heaven, and I hope I shall see you one and all in the happy land."

This is in remarkable contrast to the scenes in which he figured at the time when it required nine policemen to carry him to the lock-up.

A REMARKABLE CIRCUMSTANCE.

"ALDWYN," the London correspondent of the *Sacramento Record*, has the following interesting paragraphs upon the recent ministerial crisis in England—

These two "whips" are great institutions. Colonel Taylor and Mr. Glyn, Tory and Liberal, are two of the cleverest and most important men in the House. They know every member and how he will vote, and as far as men can know, they know what influences can be brought to bear for or against any measure. Judge how active they must have been when the fate of the Government hung upon one vote, and when it was decided by them. I ask you to note the fact, that in a town of nearly six hundred members, when two votes would have saved the Government, prevented the change of ministry, and dissolution of the House, a general election, and all its cost and risk, they could not be bad. All the power, influence, offices, honors at the command of the Government could not get two votes. All their money could not buy them. I want you to think of this little. There is the evident fact before you. Mr. Glyn quarreled with one member, almost went down on his knees to another, tried Liberal after Liberal, imploring him to save Mr. Gladstone, their great leader—save the party; but they wouldn't do it.

The Tories were active and more enterprising than usual. One of the three votes of their slender majority cost them \$400. A Tory member was having a good time over in Paris. At 5 p.m. he was telegraphed from the Carlton Club to come quickly, and he came. He got a special train to Calais, a special steamer to Dover, and then a special train waiting for him there brought this idle gentleman up to the Charing Cross station in time to take a cab to the House and give his vote at 2 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Disraeli did not end his speech until Colonel Taylor let him know that the last vote was ready. A powerful government, with a majority of ninety votes, with an empire at its command, could not get two votes to save a University bill, even for a second reading, and itself from destruction, and the House from a speedy dissolution. Is there another legislative body in the world so far from personal influences? I wish there were a hundred, but I have very sad doubts if there be one.

Rhode Island abolished the death penalty forty years ago, and now is agitating for its restoration, experience having shown that it don't work.