

and communication of various kinds, is the indispensable visitant whose presence around and about us cannot be too voluminous. Some there be who claim that the unusual quantity in the valleys where we have little use for it just now, goes to show that there is correspondingly less in the mountains where it would be useful. Investigation, we think, would hardly bear this out, while it is certain that appearances do not. The accumulation in the reservoirs is going on at a gratifying rate; and the annoyances and even hardships here below must be overlooked in the light of the good that will follow as a consequence.

A RIDICULOUS PERFORMANCE.

Those who ever read the humorous account of the "duel" between Gambetta and a fellow statesman, in Mark Twain's "Tramp Abroad," and were disposed to regard its uncouth qualities as the result of exaggeration and little else, should read the account of the "contest" between Clemenceau and Deroulede near Paris yesterday. Of course, the author drew somewhat upon his imagination, because he was not "in it" at all as he represented himself; but surely nothing depicted in that bloodless event in any particular excels in ridiculous detail and opera bouffe incident the "meet" of yesterday; indeed, we are inclined to think the latter event more farcical than even the description of the other.

Clemenceau and Deroulede have a misunderstanding, as French statesmen often do, and it goes so far that only a resort to the field of honor can satisfy them or their respective friends. The first arrangement suggested, that the parties have six shots at each other at a distance of five paces, was deemed altogether too business like by the master of ceremonies, who declared with delightful *naïveté* that it was altogether contrary to the traditions of French dueling. Of course it was! Twenty paces was the distance agreed upon, and it is a safe proposition that the man who stepped them off was not as short in the legs as is the average son of France.

A newspaper was holding its forms to give an excited populace the result of the affair at the earliest possible moment; a photographer with his apparatus was on hand to take "snapshot" views of the various stages of the battle, and a photographic reporter was there to record the dying words. The combatants had previously distributed locks of hair to friends and bade them all good-bye amid showers of briny pearls, commonly called tears. Arriving at the soil which was soon to drink the blood of one or both, the positions selected were found to be still a little too neighborly for men about to engage in a fight to a deadly finish, and five good, long, honest paces were added to the intervening space, making it say thirty yards or more. This is just about the distance that the customary dueling weapon of France will throw a bullet if the aim be sufficiently elevated, but of course no such aim was taken because these men were fighting to kill and necessarily each pointed directly at the other, whereby the death-dealing mis-

sile started out with proper intentions even if frustrated in its object by the attraction of gravitation. The firing began and continued till the half dozen shots proved for had been taker, the only visible effect being an appearance of caution on the part of the seconds, who uneasily shifted their position after the first round, not necessarily as a reflection upon the marksmanship of the gladiators but probably in order that there might be no impediment to prevent the bullet-getting as far as the weapons were capable of sending them. After the sixth shot the pop-guns were sheathed and the gory-minded combatants declared their honor satisfied.

Dueling is only a relic of barbarism glossed over with modern and genteel procedure, and the man that engages in such a contest is more likely a coward than the one who refuses to do it. This is considering it in its best estate; and while we do not wish to say the French system is the worst because the most harmless, it is the most ridiculous and undignified and therefore unmannerly. It is a most singular thing that the French soldiers are among the hardiest, most tenacious and courageous of any in civilization; that they will follow wherever they are led or go wherever they are sent; and yet that the men who will do so much and so well on the field of battle have caused dueling to be well-nigh laughed out of existence because of the utter absence of anything that looks the least bit like real fighting in the whole business.

A YOUNG TEMPEST BREWING.

If the editor of the Salt Lake Tribune is unfamiliar with the German language as it is spoken and written, he has more cause than almost anyone we know of to apply to himself the reflection that "where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise." Some days ago in a sub-editorial he alluded flippantly to the appearance and remarks of Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carl Schurz at the Reform Club dinner in New York, closing with this insulting and incorrect reference to the latter gentleman: "The gall of this 'Dutch tramp' is something sublime."

Now comes the *Utah Freie Presse*, an able German cotemporary of this city, and in a meretricious exhortation of the Tribune points out: first, that Mr. Schurz, like every other German, is not Dutch, which designation belongs only to the inhabitants of Holland and their descendants, and in truth might as well be applied to Russians as to Germans; and second, that Mr. Schurz is not a tramp at all; that the German element is one of the best and has given the most satisfactory account of itself in America; that the Tribune itself is not unwilling to enjoy German patronage, the while grievously insulting that people; and that in the future that paper may find them able to retaliate in a way that will be felt by it most acutely. There is no minding of words on the part of the *Presse*; and whether the Tribune intended any insult or not, its ears are sure to tingle when it gets the criticism in its translation. It is needless to say the German population side with the champion who in this

instance so promptly has come to their defense. They are not to be blamed for refusing to allow as a subject of editorial wit, waggonery or nickname, any reference that casts a slur upon their nationality.

AN EX-EDITOR'S SATURDAY TALK.

One of the peculiarities of our climate is that there are very few cases of sickness where the patients linger for any length of time on a sick-bed. In the most of instances either the recovery or the death of the sick person is almost the first news heard by their friends at a little distance from them. People generally work up till the last, then, like the old Deacon's "wonderful 'one-boss shay'" described by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, they suddenly go

"to pieces all at once—
All at once, and nothing first,
Just as bubbles go when they burst."

This is no doubt due, in part at least, to the stimulating nature of our atmosphere. It has often been remarked by visitors from near the ocean level that in breathing our air they felt a sense of exhilaration which they described as somewhat akin to that imparted by partaking of champagne. This characteristic of our atmosphere has the effect to make it possible to perform a day's work here without having that sense of fatigue that one would have in performing the same amount of labor in places near the level of the ocean.

It is for this reason, perhaps, that stimulants in this country have such an injurious effect upon all who use them. In other parts of the United States outside of this mountain region, men can be constant tipplers, and though the effect of such a habit may be painfully apparent, yet for years they will not entirely break down. But the cases are very rare where that can be done in this country; for men who use intoxicants do not last long, the strain on the heart and other vital organs becomes so great that they soon collapse. Besides the ordinary reasons which exist under all circumstances to induce Latter-day Saints to refrain from the use of all stimulants, there are these added reasons why they should do so—reasons which are peculiar to our altitude and climate. It is rest and not stimulation which is needed in this country in cases of physical or mental fatigue, as the effect of stimulants is to drive the machinery of life too fast.

In point of health it was a most fortunate change for the Latter-day Saints when they left the Mississippi valley and came to these mountains. Nauvoo was a beautiful region, admirably situated, yet it was unhealthy. The sickness which occurred every autumn was very general. Of course, if we had been permitted to remain there in peace, the causes which made malaria so common would doubtless have gradually been removed—in fact, the city became less sickly each year after it was settled. But still fever and ague, chills and fever, and bilious fever were very common in the fall of the year, and the young people suffered greatly from these diseases.