

to close his days in comparative poverty. The appearance of Saturn in the sign of Scorpio is a warning to him not to trust in Wall street. The luminous bodies also threaten some disaster to his children, and indicate that he has secret enemies.

Depew made his appearance in the world, according to the same authority, under most favorable stars. His fortune is not a fleeting one, for it will continue throughout his life. Senator Hill owes to the stars a witty, ingenious and talented mind and, had it not been for the undue interference of the little planet Mercury, in the affairs of the distinguished senator, he might have been a profound scholar, and capable of any undertaking requiring great ability. And then Mars and the moon are responsible for more peculiarities in his character, "making him disposed to desert his benefactors," it is said.

Breckinridge, too, owes his peculiar career to the planet Herschel, which spoiled all the beneficent and concerted efforts in his behalf by the sun, Jupiter, Mercury and Venus. As to his prospects of election to Congress, it is written in the stars that he will be defeated, for Saturn, the old mischief-maker, has bobbed up again and is silently conducting the campaign on the opposite side.

It is passing strange that in this advanced age and among a nation foremost in scientific knowledge, people are still found with the courage necessary to publish such statements as the results of scientific investigation. But it is equally strange that there are quite a number of people who believe in the miserable charlatanism. If the planets and stars in their various positions are the means whereby the character of human beings is formed and whereby their acts are controlled, where is then personal responsibility? Or possibility of reform? Or justice? Not only a Breckinridge, but any common law-breaker, a thief, a murderer, would be justified in charging his crime to the evil influence of Saturn or Herschel or Mercury, and supposing that to be true, why should he be punished, seeing that he was but an unfortunate victim of the stars? If a man should throw a brick or a barrow from a high scaffolding, killing a child playing below, he would be as innocent of murder, as would the falling brick, which might have the same effect. Both were for the time being helpless, forced by a natural law towards their destiny. In the same way, if by some astral force, men are led to be and act, then clearly the execution of justice as understood among all nations is but a farce.

Astrology is the child of the ignorance of mankind. It leads to the doctrine of fatality and is therefore antagonistic to both philosophy and religion.

FLOGGING PRISONERS.

An official return of the cases of official flogging of prisoners in England since 1876 has just been issued. This class of punishment is under a law passed in 1861. During the past eighteen years there have been 359 floggings. The maximum number in

any one year was in 1893, when there were 46 cases. With the exception of two for garroting, all the punishments were for robbery or assault with intent to rob. Of the 359 cases, 288 were in London and Lancashire, 121 being reported from the central criminal court, 117 from the Liverpool assizes, 22 from the Manchester and 7 from the Lancaster assizes. Yorkshire had 31 cases during the period covered by the report, Derbyshire two and Cheshire one. The majority of the criminals were men over 20 years of age. In the entire list there were only seven youths under 17 years old.

It is shown by comparative tables in the report that the infliction of the punishment on vicious cases of assault and robbery had a direct tendency to reduce offenses of that nature. During the few years preceding 1893 it had been customary to imprison offenders of this class only, but in that year there was a revival of the use of the "cat" officially, and a very great falling off in the number of crimes in the class to which it was directed. This is taken as proof that the thieves who otherwise would resort to violence against intended victims, themselves are in such serious dread of the bodily pain that comes with flogging that they are very slow to risk incurring such punishment. This hint is one that might be available elsewhere as a suggestion of how to deal with those who engage in unlawfully beating and bruising their fellowbeings.

BEGINS THE WORK.

In another article, the News has something to say on wheat gleanings as a means to aid in providing some of the necessities of life to those who are out of employment. On this subject Elder Angus M. Cannon, President of the Salt Lake Stake, issues the following timely and important call:

To Bishops and Leading Members of the Various Wards of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion:

No doubt most of you realize the necessity before us at the present time of providing against suffering and destitution on the part of the people during the approaching winter season. If due diligence and foresight are shown by all concerned, it is hoped there will be no occasion for any to go hungry, poorly clad, or illy-provided for; but if there is carelessness or neglect in this matter it is probable the situation will be most distressing.

Whenever hardship and suffering appear imminent, it is our duty to guard against them as far as practicable, with the means that lies within reach, in order that unnecessary privation may not come upon the people. And that all available means may be made effective at the present time to this end, unity and earnestness of action is needed in those who have had experience in managing local affairs in the community.

One of the great necessities for the poor will be a supply of bread. Attention has been called to the fact that there is a great amount of wheat wasting in the fields that might be saved by gleanings. I have been recently called upon by brethren in this county who state that this is the condition from the east to the west mountain, and as far south as Bluffdale, and who report that the farmers are willing for gleaners to enter their fields.

This process has proved valuable in times past, and may be made so today; and an invitation has been extended to unemployed men and boys, and women and children so far as practicable, to glean in the fields and garner the staff of life which may be had for the gathering. Following the gleanings of wheat will come the gathering of fruit and digging of potatoes, when many can be supplied in this way.

You are therefore requested to give such aid as lies in your power in this matter. Gleaning parties can be organized of those who are willing to work, and whose conduct will be such that all will proceed with due consideration for the rights of each and of other persons, and these can be directed to various districts, with a note in the hands of the one placed in charge, so that their character and responsibility will be known. And when these people are in the districts where there are wheat fields they can be given free access thereto, and have extended to them such courtesies and conveniences as are consistent with the situation among those desirous of doing good to their fellowbeings.

You will understand readily the general plan suggested. The detail must be left with you, as occasion requires. But it is urged that you assist in every consistent way those who are willing to help themselves in the present financial and industrial depression.

Your brother,

ANGUS M. CANNON,
President of Stake.

Thus the work is begun in Salt Lake county among the Latter-day Saints, and a plan instituted which can be carried through to success. It now remains for those who are to be the beneficiaries in this wise movement to avail themselves of the opportunity offered. It is hoped the unemployed and those in need will not be slow in performing their part.

THE TACOMA, Washington, *Ledger* tells of a find of coke in a coal mine at Carbonado. A miner, working upward through one of the coal chutes, struck his pick in the roof, and was surprised at a considerable stream of water rushing down upon him. The water continued to run for some hours, and it was thought a hidden lake or river had been tapped. The opening was widened, when the water soon drained out, and it was discovered that many years ago a surface fire had burned out the upper portion of the vein, which is tilted at an angle of about 45 degrees, to a depth of about 70 feet and for a distance of nearly 200 feet. At this point the tilt of the vein made a sort of even, in which coke had been formed. Then, apparently, the rainy season had come on, and quenched the fire. In succeeding years the earth had closed over the great gap made, and above it several very large trees, one of which is said to be at least 500 years old, had grown. As the tree could not have been there when the fire was burning without being destroyed, it furnishes evidence that the coke, which proved to be of the first quality, was at least five centuries old.

The Phoenix (Ariz.) *Republican* says: A story was circulated on the street yesterday that a well known freighter named Baker had been drowned in a canyon known as the Box, on the Hassayampa, between here and Wickenburg.