

rights and wishes of the many, and that degree of wholesome public spirit and patriotism which sinks selfishness in the aim to assist in all that pertains to the general welfare and prosperity.

THAT COMET AGAIN.

That a considerable element of the public should take genuine alarm at the "comet talk" now going on is not a matter of surprise. Such things have occurred from the beginning, and all the subsequent light of revealed truth and scientific research has not entirely eliminated this form of superstitious credulity from the human mind. But when learned and experienced professors contribute their mite toward the current by suggesting the probability or possibility of grave results, as we are advised is the case in two or three instances, it is an occasion for real surprise.

While all is not known regarding cometary science—as a matter of fact but very little is known—it still remains that the knowledge regarding the solar system that has been added to our mental possessions in modern times is vast indeed; and by this and other means we know that such a thing as a collision in a system where the slightest derangement would upset everything and plunge us into chaos, is not only quite out of the question but a reflection upon the great Source of this infinite and majestic work. Just fancy a vast globe like the one on which we live performing its diurnal evolutions and pursuing its grand march about the source of light and heat, both but especially the latter at a velocity which we cannot conceive of, never varying or swerving a hair's breadth from its unmarked path and never gaining or losing a second of time at any period or in any age, being subject to great disturbance if not demolition through a lack of harmony or proper arrangement in some other feature of the system! Fancy again seven other principal planets, some larger and some smaller than this, with numerous satellites and innumerable minor figures in the sun's retinue, all controlled by the same immutable, immaculate law, and yet in danger of being pushed out of their orbits and thrown into the utmost confusion and calamity—as would undoubtedly be the case if the earth were to suffer a serious perturbation—by a vapory visitation from the depths of space!

It is observable also that the astronomers do not agree, and when this occurs the same question arises as in the case of doctors under similar circumstances—who is to decide? One announces that the comet is approaching us at a rate of speed that would utterly disintegrate anything having solid substance in its formation; another has it scampering away from us like a deer that has been shot at and missed. Probably both are mistaken, for, while astronomy is a correct science and astronomers are oftener right than wrong, it still remains that when they enter the domain of conjecture in their field—as they must to some extent when dealing with objects so remote, so tenuous and so erratic—they

are as apt to be misled at times as other people are who rely upon mere appearances of things. But assuming the former to be the correct position, there can be nothing to cause alarm because, as shown by the News yesterday, by the time the comet reached the place where we are, or rather were when the observations were taken, we shall be many millions of miles further along in our endless flight through space; but even setting this aside and admitting for the sake of discussion that the comet were actually to place itself on terms of intimacy with our planet, surely a body so diaphanous that stars can be seen through it would not be likely to plunge through as comparatively dense an envelop as our atmosphere; the effect in such case would most likely be that the visitor, greatly aborn of his appendage, would be deflected at once in his course and finally what was left of him proceed in several directions at a tangent off into the endless ether out of which he came. It is not very long since a comet was observed completely involved with Jupiter's satellites, and finally it disappeared without having produced the slightest derangement in the regular motions of either the planet or its moons; this, among much other evidence, goes to show what flimsy stuff comets are made of and how little we have to fear.

TOO FIGURATIVE.

There has been much reason for complaint at the erroneous ideas which prevail concerning the people of Utah, and especially the Latter-day Saints. A large measure of the responsibility for these ideas belongs to those who willfully misrepresented the people for a long series of years; but whatever there may have done, all the burden does not belong to them, albeit there is no evil intention chargeable to others who should bear part of the load. Some of those who have possessed the most friendly and affectionate feeling for the people of Utah have given expression to language, and it has been repeated again and again, which, while it pictured the inhabitants in a lovely form to the speaker's mind in his figurative declaration, yet conveyed a different and wholly erroneous impression to the minds of others. An illustration of this our attention is called to a letter from a Utah man to a newspaper in a neighboring state, in which some untruths about the Mormons are refuted. The letter contains the following expression concerning the Latter-day Saints:

A handful of people serenely couched about with majestic mountains in a little rosy valley.

The words quoted may sound very pretty to poetic ears, but the trouble with them is that they are not true. The Saints of Utah are not a handful in comparison with the rest of the state, where they are a vast majority; neither are they such a small handful in the nation, as their settlements reach from Canada to Mexico, and they are numbered by hundreds of thousands. And their being "couched" in "a little valley" is a still worse comparison.

There is no "couching" about their industrious life; they are up and at work, and pretty busily, too, most of the time. As to the "little rosy valley," they occupy hundreds of valleys, many of which are far from being "little," and none were "rosy" until they became so under the hand of Mormon thrift. Such expressions as we have quoted are altogether too figurative to suit the circumstances, and in the kindest feelings and with deep earnestness we ask our friends to cease them at once and speak of us in plainer and more direct terms.

AN OLD OHIOAN.

W. W. A., writing in a late issue of the Cleveland Plaindealer, gives the following reminiscences of a man who by name and reputation is known to thousands of our readers, though there are now but comparatively few who saw or knew him personally. The stories as to his fear of assassination are of course mere rubbish; and the odium which is spoken of as having attached to him because of his identification with the "Mormons," must have been chiefly galling because the connection was severed, for he was restless, unhappy and unsatisfied until he again sought to renew his membership. W. W. A. says:

I notice in one of the recent letters of "L. E. H." on Mormons and Mormonism a reference to Oliver Cowdery, one of the early leading lights of the Mormons, and I think a co-author of their Bible. After Cowdery left Kirtland he came to Tiffin and commenced the practice of the law. He was a small, quiet and retiring man, and I remember as a boy of fifteen years the rumors that prevailed against him in Tiffin.

He seldom left his house at night and the windows of his residence were always closely curtained and his doors constantly locked. It was the current impression there that because of his desertion of Mormonism he felt that he would be assassinated. He presented himself as a candidate for prosecu'tor attorney, but the stories about his previous connection with the then odious Church compelled him to withdraw his name. He left Tiffin some time afterwards, went to Elk Horn, Wis., and became prominent in politics there, editing a paper. But the Mormon story followed him and destroyed his prospects. It was said that despairing of success in politics or business outside of Mormonism, he returned to its creed and affiliated thereafter until his death, with the religionists of that faith.

A LETTER has come to President Woonruff's office, asking when the Sublett Cut-off was first traveled by immigrants. Inquiry is also made for a copy of the first guide of the route between Winter Quarters and Salt Lake City, which was published by the late William Clayton. Information on these points will be appreciated if forwarded to President George Q. Cannon, at the office of the First Presidency, Salt Lake City.

IF SOME of these Spaniards who keep up the agitation in Spain against the United States were sent to Cuba, their surplus energy might be made available, or their warlike ardor be cooled till they could not like reasonable beings.