

care little who pays the bills or if they are paid at all, so long as their personal tastes and comforts are supplied. In all these cases, no matter what the excuse or seeming justification in some of them, there appears to be no escape from the fact that the sound advice has been ignored and a wise rule of prudent conduct departed from.

The ethics of this part of the proposition need not now be discussed. But there is a phase of it that requires honest and earnest attention. That is, the payment, or arrangement for the payment, of the obligations that have been incurred. There should be no thought of seeking to evade prompt settlements because those to whom the money is due are not in need of it. The creditor's circumstances have nothing whatever to do with the case; it is the debtor's own circumstances that he should consider. That it would have been very much better to consider them before those of other people had been drawn upon may not be doubted. But the thing to do now is to devote thought not to regrets but to giving satisfaction. If actual payment in full or even in part is utterly impossible, there is at least one many course open: to seek the creditor, place him in possession of all the facts and signify a willingness to pay as soon as possible, making the matter as substantial for him as he may desire by some means which bring the obligation back to every legal and moral standing. In the absence of a settlement, this is the very least that should be thought of.

Above all things let no man be so dishonorable and dishonest as to avail himself of the technical protection which is reached when, through tardy performance of an obligation or no performance at all, the debt incurred passes the stage at which the law will assist in collecting it. With a man of honor a debt unpaid never "outlaws." No member of the Church can expect that a resort to such a trick will absolve him in the eyes of God or his brethren from the fulfillment of that to which he has pledged himself. The man whose word is not his bond, who permits the statute of limitations to figure in his business affairs at all, is straying wide from that uprightiness which is so indispensable a factor in the department of a Saint and a gentleman. Though ten or twenty or fifty years overdue, a just debt is still a debt; and he who does not so regard it and have the wish and determination to pay it, is dishonest at heart and is unworthy the fellowship of the Saints.

These observations refer to other times as well as the present holiday season; but they appear to have a peculiar fitness just now. "For an act of justice, all places are a temple and all seasons summer." Let us begin the New Year aright and see to it that we keep that way as we and it progress together.

News has been received of the suicide of J. M. Bacon, a wealthy resident of Sioux City, Ia., at the Sanitarium, near San Diego, Cal. To melancholia is attributed the cause. He had been there one week and became despondent. He got a pistol from the night watchman's satchel and blew out his brains.

LIVELY AND DEADLY.

Those who have been disposed to doubt the genuineness of the gold discoveries in San Juan, or to question their extending very far, will probably find something to fashion a different opinion from in the latest news from that quarter. A rich mining district exposed all at once to the eyes of the greedy world means a strife, bloodshed and miscellaneous crimes until things become tolerably settled and the law has a chance to be felt; and that San Juan has engaged in a "scrimmage" recalling the memorable days of '49 in California, '59 on the Comstock and '69 in White Pine and Pioche will be received by a great many as the best of evidence that the "precious stuff" is there in great abundance. Indeed, there is not wanting the showing itself that such is the case, for in Denver and its surroundings, where it seems some such news as that reported has been looked if not longed for, it is received with "savage glee," and parties are outfitting and equipping rapidly for the new Eldorado in our southwestern confines. Yes, San Juan must be a great gold country; its "baptism in blood" removes every doubt.

One man killed outright and a dozen or more wounded—several of these fatally—ought, according to the rule of proportions, to put the Utah diggings a long way ahead of the Black Hills, perhaps abreast of Alder Gulch, Montana, in the early '60's, with a fair prospect of being much more lasting and thus scaling up close to early California. We believe that none of these started out with any such sanguinary showing as that already recorded for San Juan; but perhaps the greater proximity of courts and men capable of making arrests and determined to do it when necessary, may make some sort of difference in our case. It may not be altogether agreeable to the professional and amateur murderers, thieves, robbers and scoundrels of high and low degree, who are always early on the ground to, have the time-honored custom of plying their vocations without let or hindrance while the camp is green interfered with, but it is tolerably certain that their wishes in the premises will not receive much consideration. The establishment of a graveyard at an early date and rapid accessions thereto following after, is a recognized fetish in certain mining circles, and the slaughter of men for no meretricious offense than claiming ground which the shooter wants is by many—sometimes the majority—looked upon as a necessary procedure, more effectual and less expensive than going to law. It is to be hoped that they will be made in this case to understand from the beginning that such methods do not create exemption from the workings of the courts, they only get the perpetrator into law more surely, more inextricably and more expensively.

We hope the men engaged in the terrible affray at San Juan will be promptly arrested and held for trial if it takes the whole power of southern Utah to do it; no matter if such procedure does give the camp a "black eye" and set its booming proflivities

down a few notches in the scale. We shall not object to having all the wealth that can be gotten out of the auriferous gorges of our Territory, for this is useful and the times are ripe for such production; but in no other respect can a revival of the customs of the early days in such places be tolerated. The strong hand of the law is over every part of the Territory and let it be enforced; let the perpetrators of crimes be made to understand on the first provocation that the excitement occasioned by the supposed or even actual presence of an abundance of gold cannot be received as justification or even in mitigation.

BYGONE DAYS.

Old conditions are constantly disappearing and new ones continually evolving in our midst and all around us. In an unfrequented back yard in this city stands what was once looked up to with even greater respect and admiration than are now accorded a \$40,000 Pullman palace car—a Concord coach. It used to lurch along over the wild and at times dreary roads behind four spauking horses, with nine persons or more inside (when filled) and an indefinite number outside, and was at once the most elegant, commodious and expeditious method of travel in the far West. Its day is past, its occupation gone; and neglected, unattended, unwept and unsung it awaits the last stroke of the ravaging hand of time.

Henry Culway gave to a reporter of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* the other day what was regarded as a sufficiently interesting item to justify publication and comment, to the effect that the cowboy is becoming extinct like the buffalo, the prairie wolf, the painted redskin and the highway robber of the plains. "Civilization is as hard on the cowboys as it is on the other animals enumerated," said he. "The cowboy, however, has been largely a myth. He has been existing in the imagination of eastern writers just as several very fine Indians were turned out by Cooper. There are many herders, but from them the cowboy who is pictured by the common imagination was evolved. Texas produced the herder and the cowboy. Texas produces all there is left of him yet. I have seen the cowboy element as it actually exists—never totally depraved, but always wild and dangerous. The dangerous cowboy is rapidly disappearing."

Mr. Culway is mistaken in one respect: Texas does not produce all there is left of the cowboy, but it does produce and retain more of him than any other part of the country does, or perhaps all of it combined. There is still a goodly quantity of this unique department of the *genus homo* left in Wyoming, and some few in Montana, Colorado and parts of Kansas and Nebraska, but their day is well-nigh spent and, like the stage coach, they are looked upon more as a reminder of the past than a factor in the economy of the present. Utah never had many and now has none. Truly, we are whirling away from the past at such a pace as makes one almost giddy to contemplate it.