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**UTAH TO THE FRONT.**  
Recent census figures on the "liter-  
acy" of the population of this country  
are encouraging, although we still are  
behind Germany, Switzerland and the  
Scandinavian countries. For, as pointed  
out by a Colorado contemporary, if it  
were not for the colored population in  
this country, the percentage of lit-  
eracy would be much higher than it is.  
An "illiterate" person, in the sense  
in which census authorities use that  
term, is one who is over 9 years of  
age and is unable to write in any lan-  
guage. A recent report stated that in  
1900 there were 6,180,000 such persons in  
the United States. This is 106.6 in 1,000.  
But since 1890 material gain was made,  
for, according to the census of that  
year, the illiterates amounted to 133.4  
per 1,000.  
The report gives some interesting  
facts. One is, that there is more ill-  
literacy among women than among  
men, and that the proportion of illiter-  
ate children is greater in the country  
than in the cities. This is, of course,  
as might be expected, since the facili-  
ties for attending school are so much  
greater in the cities. A somewhat sur-  
prising fact brought out in the report  
is that in the country as a whole there  
is a lower degree of illiteracy among  
children of foreign born parents than  
among those of native parents. The  
proportion in the one case being 8.8 per  
1,000 and in the other 44.1. This, the  
report says, is due to the concentration  
in the cities of the children of foreign  
extraction, where the educational  
facilities are best. It is not far from  
another fact, that the children of  
foreign-born parents feel more keenly  
the necessity of school education than  
the other children, since without a  
very good education they are nearly al-  
ways placed at a disadvantage in the  
modern competition for the material  
things that help to make life enjoy-  
able.

According to the report, Utah is now  
the second state in the Union in lit-  
eracy, Washington being the first. In  
that state only 1.8 of 1,000 native white  
children above 9 and under 15 years of  
age, is an "illiterate." Utah comes a  
very close second, with 2.2 per 1,000, be-  
ing only a small fraction behind the  
leading state. Other states well to the  
front on this roll of honor are: Massa-  
chusetts, 2.3; Oregon, 2.4; Wyoming,  
2.7; Idaho, 3.9, and Rhode Island, 6.2.  
Illinois comes 25th on the list, with 6.9,  
and Maine is the 30th with 13.8 per 1,000.  
These figures should be compared  
with those of some other states in the  
Union. Texas has 61; Kentucky, 74.7; Ar-  
kansas, 110.3; Tennessee, 116.4; and North  
Carolina, 166.1 per 1,000. It is high  
time to discontinue the habit of refer-  
ring to the "wild and woolly West."

It is especially gratifying to us to  
notice the high place on the educational  
scale occupied by Utah. This is an  
other irrefutable proof of the utter  
insanity of the wild howls the detractors  
of Utah, as so many folk flounders,  
are uttering, as if the entire re-  
gion were cursed. Thinking and re-  
flecting persons will certainly see the  
utter impossibility of maintaining high  
educational standards except under fa-  
vorable conditions, such as obtain  
where freedom and virtue rule, as is  
eminently the fact in Utah, in spite of  
the incessant work of the enemies.

**SANTA CLAUS.**  
The real Santa Claus was, many cen-  
turies ago, a venerated bishop of Myra,  
a city in Lycia. According to the leg-  
end, he was named Nicholas, which  
later became St. Nicholas, the modern  
popular form of which is Santa Claus.  
Many pious myths center around this  
historical character of the fourth cen-  
tury. One is to the effect that im-  
mediately after birth, as soon as he  
had had his first bath, he stood up  
erect in the tub, clasped his little hands  
together and devoutly "thanked God  
for his being." Another states that  
from the first he abstained from nourish-  
ment on Fridays, that being the fast-  
day.  
Another legend has, perhaps, a tangi-  
ble historical foundation. As bishop  
of Myra he made it his concern to ex-  
ercise a watchful care over his flock.  
One day he found, to his horror, three  
young girls who were to be sacrificed  
to a life of shame because their father,  
an impoverished nobleman, could not  
provide the necessities of life for them.  
To save them the bishop went secretly  
to the nobleman's home and threw in-  
to the window, at the feet of the eldest  
daughter, a purse of gold, sufficient for  
a marriage dowry, thus insuring her  
an honorable home. Some time later  
he did the same kindness for the sec-  
ond daughter. When the bishop came  
on his third errand of charity, the fa-  
ther surprised him and falling prostrate  
before the saint, exclaimed: "O, St.  
Nicholas, servant of God, why seek to  
hide thyself?"  
From this incident, it is said, the  
Christmas giving dates. After his  
death news in the convents imitated

his example by making secret gifts to  
their friends. The young ladies soon  
learned to expect these presents from  
unknown sources, and after a time the  
custom grew of placing silk stockings,  
with a petition to St. Nicholas, at the  
door of the abbess's room at night. In  
the morning the stockings would be  
found to contain gifts.  
Such is thought to be the origin of  
the custom of ascribing Christmas gifts  
to the benevolence of St. Nicholas. It  
is another illustration of the enduring  
power of that which is good. Deeds  
of charity, of unselfishness, remain for  
ever, while the works of self-glorifica-  
tion perish with their authors.

**"LAND OF JERUSALEM."**  
A critic has thought himself justified  
in ridiculing the Book of Mormon be-  
cause certain authors of that sacred  
record refer to Jerusalem and sur-  
rounding regions, as the land of Jeru-  
salem. If, he argues, the Book of Mor-  
mon authors had not been destitute of  
geographical knowledge, they would  
have known that Jerusalem is a city,  
and not a "land."  
The fact is, that if the would-be  
critic had not, himself, lacked en-  
tirely the qualifications of a just critic,  
he would have known that Jerusalem,  
even today, is not only a city but also  
a "land." That name stands for the  
city, but also for the "pashalik," or  
government district, of which it is the  
capital. It would, therefore, even now  
be perfectly proper to speak of the  
"land of Jerusalem," i. e. the Pashalik  
of that name, just as it is proper to  
speak of the State of New York, as  
well as of the City of New York. The  
Book of Mormon authors seem to re-  
fer to the entire region, at one time  
known as Judea, under the name of  
"the land of Jerusalem."  
An author on this side of the globe,  
centuries ago, when communication  
between the different parts of the  
world was not what it is today, and  
geographical knowledge, consequently,  
was far from general, would be per-  
fectly justified, if writing about some  
event in that part of Palestine, in say-  
ing that it happened in the land of Jeru-  
salem, since that term necessarily con-  
veyed a more distinct geographical  
idea than the name Judea, to readers  
not familiar with the political division  
of the country, but familiar with the  
name of the famous capital. Such  
substitution of one name for another,  
when technicalities are of less impor-  
tance than the communication of im-  
portant truths, are often made, and  
properly. Judea is thus made to de-  
note the country that belonged to the  
tribe of Benjamin, as well as the part  
allotted to Judah, and sometimes it  
means the entire country of Palestine.  
Not uncommonly people in the Old  
World will speak of England, though  
they mean the entire United Kingdom.  
Such peculiarities are not uncommon  
in the literature of the various ages,  
and they are sometimes of great value  
to the competent, honest critic.

**AGAIN THE FIGURES.**  
Calling names does not change the  
fact, shown by the Utah Auditor's re-  
port, that considerably over half of the  
\$550,000 appropriated for the water sys-  
tem, still is available to apply on new  
contracts. Only \$377,363.23 had been  
contracted for up to Dec. 15, and of this  
sum, only \$173,304.79 had been dis-  
bursed, leaving a total on hand of  
over \$675,000, to use a round figure. We  
reiterate this, because it is very plain  
that the malicious canard about the wa-  
ter money having been squandered, is  
being put forth at this time for some  
dishonest purpose, which later on will  
be fully unveiled by the conspirators  
themselves. The taxpayers should guard  
their own interests. At present it is  
sufficient to note the audacity with  
which the falsehood is proclaimed, that  
the water money has been recklessly  
spent and the city made bankrupt.

**FOR "OLD KENTUCKY."**  
The Louisville, Kentucky, Com-  
mercial club, at the suggestion of a lady  
of that state, has decided to have a  
"home-coming" for all Kentuckians re-  
siding abroad, who may have time and  
means to spare, to make the trip. The  
reunion will take place next June,  
the dates being from 12 to 17 inclusive,  
and a celebration on a large scale is  
being planned.  
In the invitation sent out, it is stated  
that there are over 600,000 natives of  
Kentucky now living in other com-  
monwealths of the United States. The  
Louisville Commercial Club does not  
expect to receive a complete list, of  
all these, but it has placed on foot a  
plan whereby it hopes to procure a  
large percentage of the number. They  
have already collected a list of several  
thousand, including names from every  
State and Territory in the Union, and  
eleven foreign countries.  
We take pleasure in bringing this to  
the notice of former Kentuckians in  
this region, and trust many of them  
will be able to make the trip, and en-  
joy the excellent program scheduled.

The High School girls in bloomers!  
What a blooming sight!  
In inaugurating their strike the Rus-  
sian agitators have made a striking  
success.  
When the demand for coal is strong,  
you get "slack," when the demand for  
it is slack, you get lump.  
And it is only a short time since ex-  
Governor Odell declared "the era of  
peace and good will is here."  
Ex-Governor Odell must be an An-  
archist, else why has he thrown a bomb  
into the state camp of his party?  
It will be a circus to see the divine  
Sarah playing in a circus tent. And  
doubtless it will give her one of the sen-  
sations of her life.  
It might aid in solving the natural-  
ization problem to require applicants to  
bring a certificate of character from  
their last employer.  
Long ago Longfellow foresaw the ac-  
tion of the railroads on the pass ques-

tion, for did he not issue the warning,  
"Beware the pass?"  
What with holding a place on the  
Panama canal commission and the pres-  
idency of the Clover Leaf railroad,  
Theodore P. Shonts is in clover.  
It is not to be wondered at that an  
Oregon weather observer has been ad-  
judged insane. Half of the predictions  
of weather observers are as crazy as  
crazy can be.  
Marquis Ito says he seeks the hap-  
piness of Korea and the Koreans. It  
is to be feared that the Koreans look  
upon his idea of happiness as the frogs  
did on the boy's idea of fun.  
Baron Rioo Reuno, Brazilian min-  
ister of foreign affairs, refuses to accept  
the explanation made by the German  
minister regarding the Panther inci-  
dent. The refusal is doubtless based  
on the fact that the explanation was  
"made in Germany."  
W. J. Bryan has cabled from Hong  
Kong declining Acting Gov. Ide's in-  
vitation to be his guest during his stay  
in Manila, for the reason that he comes  
as a newspaper representative and not  
as a private citizen. Is it syndicate  
or some particular paper?  
The messenger whom Mr. McCurdy of  
the Mutual Life sent out to find Andrew  
C. Fields has failed in his search, al-  
though he is said to have "searched  
every sandhill in California." It is  
too bad that such great efforts should  
meet with such poor reward. Why not  
try advertising in the want columns of  
the newspapers?  
Emperor William endeavors to follow  
the "rules of life" laid down by his  
favorite physician, as follows: "Eat  
fruit for breakfast. Eat fruit for  
lunch. Avoid pastry and hot cakes.  
Only take potatoes once a day. Don't  
drink tea or coffee. Walk four miles  
every day, wet or fine. Take a bath  
every day. Wash the face every night  
in warm water. Sleep eight hours  
every night." Long life to him!  
Miss Anna Held when told of the  
story that William Ellis Corey, pres-  
ident of the United States Steel corpo-  
ration, had threatened to make revela-  
tions involving actions by Pittsburgh  
men which took place at a banquet at  
which Miss Held sang, unless the men  
ceased criticizing Corey, said she re-  
membered the dinner perfectly. Then  
she added: "Yes; there was a dinner  
given by Henry Frick in the Duquesne  
club, Pittsburgh. When I arrived there,  
which was late in the evening, many of  
the guests were drunk. They were ex-  
cessively noisy. I sang 'Won't You  
Come and Play With Me?' One man  
removed his coat and shouted 'Cer-  
tainly.' Before I got away from the  
place my clothing was torn." So this  
famous dinner is to go down in history,  
along with the Seelye gorge and the  
Cambion feed.  
**RECENT PUBLICATIONS.**  
Harpers' Weekly for December 15  
opens with an illustrated story by  
Thomas A. Janvier, entitled "The Hol-  
up." This is followed by an illustrated  
story in verse, "Her Jewels and Her  
Pete." A slightly heroine is an-  
other illustrated story by Will N. Har-  
ben. There are some full-page illus-  
trations and some other features ap-  
propriate for the season. The story of  
"The Evolution of a Vase Industry" is  
continued.—Harper & Brothers, New  
York.  
The December number of National  
Magazine opens with a statement by  
Mayor Edward J. Kane of Chicago,  
concerning the street railway dead-  
lock in that city. He calls attention to  
the fact that the voters in the spring  
election expressed their preference for  
municipal ownership, but that the will  
of the people has met many obstacles  
that at present seem insurmountable.  
He is nevertheless confident of the  
future. "Affairs at Washington" are  
as usually interestingly discussed, by  
Joe Mitchell Chaplin. Frank Put-  
nam gives a brief statement of the  
November elections. The number is  
well filled with verse, fiction and es-  
says, and the departments are well  
supplied with interesting reading mat-  
ter.—444 Dorchester Avenue, Boston.  
The December number of the Arena  
has a great many interesting features.  
Among them is a portrait of Count  
Tolstoi in his prime. "Uncle Sam's  
Romance with Science and the Soil,"  
is the title of a paper by Frank Vroom-  
an. George M. Allen discusses the  
"Economics of Mosses." Edward W.  
Bemis presents a characterization of  
Mayor Johnson, one of the strongest  
leaders in municipal progress in Amer-  
ica. There is further a poem and a  
L. Demar, a clever cartoonist, and some  
of the products of his art. The number  
has several little stories and many  
other features of great interest.—Broad  
Street, Trenton, N. J.  
The December number of Office Ap-  
pliances, a monthly magazine devoted  
to the interests of makers and users of  
modern office devices, has some very  
practical suggestions and excellent il-  
lustrations for the benefit  
of the class of readers for which that  
magazine is specially intended. A spe-  
cial supplement goes with this number,  
in which "The Knockout" is defined as  
an offspring of failure and envy. The  
public is advised not to listen to him,  
but to hit him in the place where his  
brains ought to be.—Republic Building,  
Chicago.  
The National Geographic Magazine for  
December opens with a very inter-  
esting article on "The Paraces of In-  
dia," by William Thomas Fee, U. S.  
consul general at Bombay. "China and  
the United States" is the subject dis-  
cussed by the Chinese minister to this  
country. Space is also given to a pa-  
per on the Panama canal, by Theodore  
P. Shonts, chairman of the Isthmian  
commission. "Russia in Recent Lit-  
erature," is the subject of General A.  
W. Greely, chief Signal Officer of the  
United States.—Hubbard Memorial  
Hall, Washington, D. C.  
The January number of Pearson's  
Magazine for December opens with a very  
excellent publication. The cover de-  
sign is suggestive of a typical January  
day. The opening story is entitled "The  
Star," and is a page from a detective's  
flux. It is beautifully illustrated. "The  
Power of the Press" is another very  
strongly illustrated article, by David S.  
Barry. Other features are "For the  
Sake of a Nickel," a story, Edwin  
Hjorkman; "George Harris, Suburban-  
ite," by Charles Bartlett Loomis; "A  
Sailor of Fortune," by Albert Bigelow  
Paine; "Shark Hunting," Weatherby  
Chesney; "The Great Investment Vi-  
ctor," by Henry M. Hyde; and "The  
National Ravages of Alco-  
hol," by Rene Bache. There are only a  
few of the many good features on the  
list of contents.—2-29 Astor Place, New  
York.

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ient safety razors ever made.  
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A \$8.50 Coat for.....\$5.66 A \$11.00 Coat for.....\$7.33  
A \$7.00 Coat for.....\$4.65 A \$12.00 Coat for.....\$8.00  
A \$7.50 Coat for.....\$5.00 A \$12.50 Coat for.....\$8.33  
A \$9.50 Coat for.....\$6.33 A \$15.00 Coat for.....\$10.00  
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Nine and a quarter acres floor space, including roof gardens and basement.  
Power house and all machinery located 600 feet from Hotel.  
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Pasadena, California  
The grounds comprise seventy-five acres of beautiful lawns and flower  
gardens, and a very fine golf course. The hotel has 275 rooms and 125 bath-  
rooms. It overlooks the whole San Gabriel Valley, with a magnificent view of  
the Sierra Madre mountains. It is reached by both lines of the Pasadena  
electric cars, the Santa Fe, Southern Pacific and Salt Lake routes.  
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