

for bruises and sick cattle; and then, lest the dumb brutes should be injured by its application to their afflicted bodies, there is added the express caution, "to be used with judgment and skill." How strong the admonition!

In the young man's dream, how had he chosen the downward road? He had disregarded his father's warnings, had disobeyed his counsel, and when he was approaching the certain goal of mortality, found that in consequence of his errors he could not enter that haven where his parents obtained peaceful rest; in the depths of despair he implored the return of his youth, that he might choose that other way. Boys, you who heed not our Father's warning, who listen not to His counsels, which of the two roads are you travelling? Ye who are still at the brink of life, where the roads yet seem close together, which will you follow? Answer in your own hearts. And yet we have not entered the field which we are to examine, except to lay down a fundamental principle that we may find it necessary to apply many times in our research—that God our Father points the way, and imprints the character of the road at every step, through nature's laws. Those who want to know the better way will go with us as we investigate further.

PRESENT, PAST AND FUTURE.

For a few weeks past the local atmosphere has been surcharged with rumors of an impending raid upon prominent Mormons for alleged violation of the statute relating to polygamy and unlawful cohabitation. These rumors have depicted a revival of old-time activity on the part of "spotters" and informers. It has been whispered under the breath that there was in the hands of somebody or other a long list of men whose prominence and whose means, together with certain supposed family relations, rendered them appropriate objects of inquisitorial and judicial wrath. Mysterious references have been made to a fund contributed from private sources for the employment of "detectives" to aid in the promised prosecutions. The personal office and services of one or two well-known attorneys are said to have been either retained or volunteered as a headquarters for the manipulation of the crusade and as an agency for the performance of its preliminary details. Vague and ambiguous as all this is, it is about as definite as the current stories are, and it is further embellished with as many alleged particulars as to names and incidents as cupidity on the one hand and credulity on the other would seem to warrant. We hear of some who are receiving pay for services rendered in stimulating fear of spies; we hear of others who are receiving pay for acting as spies; indeed all that we do hear of in this connection is that the underlings are working for money and as much of it as they can get, while the principals claim that where they got their cash to expend in such directions and how large their supply is, is nobody's business.

It is always well to put people on

their guard against the professional blackmailer. It is also at all times appropriate to analyze the fancies which imagination conjures up—to turn upon them the searchlight of fact—where such suspicions and fears are calculated to work an injury. It is a public duty to examine the motives of trouble-breeders, and to tear away any virtuous mask behind which they may seek to conceal their features, so that honest men may not be misled into yielding credence or support to unworthiness, nor reputable citizens become associated unwittingly with a movement which they would otherwise deplore and despise. The News therefore ventures at this time to offer a few suggestions on the subject mentioned, because the moment seems opportune for assurances, advice and information to those who most desire the welfare of our Territory, now upon the very threshold of Statehood.

In the first place, it is gratifying to be able to state that there is much more of exaggeration than of fact in the busy rumors to which we have referred. Those who are liveliest in spreading them and who affect to know most of the details of the plan, have of course their own purposes to gain. It is hardly necessary to probe into these—ordinary intelligence will suggest what they are. In brief, "plunder" is the word with the hirelings, and if there are any master minds connected with them, in personal revenge and political effect will be found their ample motive.

In the second place, it is deplorable but necessary to state that the names of respected and honorable citizens are broadly used as being behind and identified with the threatened "stirring up." Some of these gentlemen are in official position, some are prominent in business life. This paper does not believe, and will not unless forced to by their own conduct, that the use of such men's names is authorized by them. For why anybody of common sense should desire—at this most important and promising period of our whole history—to inaugurate a program of such character, and play into the hands of an unscrupulous clique, surpasses human understanding. That any special affection for virtue or regard for the majesty of the law is the incentive to the proposed crusade, is too inconsistent to be accepted for a moment. Is there no immorality in Salt Lake City or Utah save that particular form charged against some of these prominent Mormons? Are there none in the ranks of the would-be crusaders themselves whose vision is rendered oblique by beams of vice and debauchery? The public may pause long for a reply—it will never receive one in the negative—and yet we do not hear of any such names on the present "list."

In the third place, malignity and prejudice, falsehood and hate, are but too plainly at the bottom of whatever of a plot there may be. A disappointed and embittered cabal has been for weeks circulating in eastern newspapers the basest untruths about local men and conditions. Utah's impending Statehood has been freely confessed as the warrant for these attacks. President George Q.

Cannon, as has been alluded to in these columns, was made the object of the most violent personal abuse. In a clipping now before us from the same New York Times, he is further charged with having "had children by his plural wives since the Church forbade polygamy"—an allegation that is wholly and absolutely false. In the same clipping occur the names of other men against whom are preferred charges, which the News of its own knowledge is able to brand as utterly untrue. Previous letters to the same paper have abounded with like falsehoods, all designed to fan into flame the old dying embers of bitterness and discord. Whatever there is of the rumored prosecutions now referred to, is clearly a piece of the same tissue and is built upon the same motives as was the now infamous correspondence. Started in hate, it ought not to prosper—it should excite the disgust of every decent man. Fortified and continued in falsehood it cannot succeed—truth will prevail.

The Mormon people in their acceptance of the "manifesto" have furnished an example of fidelity to pledges and of fulfillment of agreement entered into, such as has rarely if ever been given in the world's history. We do not know of a single instance in the record of civilized mankind where a proposition involving so much to so large a number has been carried out with such perfect good faith. It has been no less a marvel to the Mormon people themselves, than a source of congratulation and delight to people not of their faith. Everywhere have they been applauded for their consistency, their steadfastness and their courage. Men formerly their enemies have been converted into the warmest friends, and have yielded them unstinted praise. The people of the United States, from the Chief Magistrate down, have had held up before them this wonderful change in local conditions; the nation has been and is satisfied with what has been done—everybody feels that nothing that could have been demanded as an evidence of sincerity has failed to be shown. Plural marriages as an "institution of the Utah Saints" have ceased with the manifesto—this the News declares again in all consciousness and truth—the Church does not permit, and it has not performed them. Men and women are observing the laws against that feature of their religion in all conceivable honor and sincerity. Of course the polygamous families previously existing are not yet extinct. But is that a sufficient reason for reviving a raid upon them? Was it to be expected that they should be all killed off? On the contrary, all the former persuasions and arguments from men high in national affairs and in positions to control its policy, were directed to the suppression of plural marriages for the future; the past was to be condoned; existing conditions were to be recognized and made legitimate; in the natural course of things the system, it was urged, would die out within a few years if its propagation were to stop; it could not be long until the course of nature, in the age of the plural wives and their husbands, would put an end to the continuance of the "problem." The local courts,