DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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All persons changing their place of residence should promptly notify us that we may address their papers properly.

We invite all to write us whenever they think it advisable to do so, but prefer to receive letters early in the day.

Any communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Deseret News, and not to individuals.

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THE BREAD RIOTS.

The disquieting disorder a very alarming condition at St. John's, Newfoundland, where a large crowd of unemployed men who represented that they were starving and failed to get relief loited the streets for provisions, and were driven back at the point of the bayonet by the police force. Prime Minister Greene had promised the men work in two or three days, but his listeners were not satisfied with the pledges, and were then informed that it was impossible to accede to their demand for immediate relief. The crowd next turned their attention to the looting of provision stores, and several were broken into before the officers gained control of the mob. Previous to this riot the crowd had battered down the barred doors of the ministerial chamber, the police having fared badly in their struggle to preserve the peace. Order is maintained for the time being by the presence of a large body of marines from a British war vessel, and by numbers of special police. In the face of this crisis the ministry has offered to resign. The government frankly admits its inability to cope with the situation.

This condition is alarming in more ways than one. It presents a very serious proposition to the Newfoundland statesmen, which for the present probably will be met by a combination of force and of charitable action, so that the starving workmen will have their wants temporarily but not satisfactorily supplied. It also offers a lesson to this and to other nations, coupled with a warning that unless it is heeded the results will be terrible. For instance, the number of men in this nation liable from many causes to be numbered among the "unemployed" is assuming immense proportions. They generally regard the wealthy class and combinations of capitalists as being primarily responsible for conditions that produce dearth of employment and lack of food, and when their appeals to government officials for relief are disregarded or their needs unsatisfied, the pressure of suffering causes them to resort to Jacobin methods, as in the instance related in the dispatches.

The St. Johns episode is an illustration in miniature of what has been, is, and may be in this nation. From various causes which it is unnecessary to enumerate, the laboring classes have been led to feel that they are suffering a grievous oppression. They are demanding from the government legislation in one form and another to afford relief. Thus far the parallel is complete. The next issue is whether the statesmen and politicians of this country will be willing and able to grant the requisite needs. If they are, that settles it. But the fear is that they are not, but will be as powerless as the Newfoundland ministry, should a crisis be forced, though they may not be so frank in admitting their impotency.

Should the legislators of this country fail to do something in the near future to cope with the situation, it will pass beyond their control. The laboring classes of the nation are not the serfs that many people assume them to be, nor do they possess that amount of patience under galling conditions that might be desirable from some points of view. They are patriotic and law-abiding, but when goaded to desperation they are capable of fierce anger and furious deeds. There is no immediate danger that the parallel of the Newfoundland bread riots will find a counterpart in an extended scale in the United States, but there is danger that the politicians and capitalists will gander to their own sufficiency until a situation fraught with peril confronts a country in distress. "A starving man knows no consistency" and if the government would prevent the possibility of later uprisings it will have enough to do to eliminate the causes that produce them, chief among which are illegal corruption and conspiracies and rush for the accretion of wealth in the hands of the few. Quite so, in this nation, in the St. Johns episode we have a list of the causes, precedent and outcome of industrial disquietude.

THE LAW COMMITTEE

The committee charged with the duty of investigating the affairs of the New York police department seems under its work at last to be doing something, the public are in a position to appreciate to some extent the real production that has prevailed in that city for a number of years. Certainly everybody who knew anything at all about New York police methods knew that some corruption existed, but until the testimonies were brought out before the committee, very few believed that the whole force was involved in one way or another.

The Lexow committee was appointed in January, 1894, but it was not until four months later that some definite facts were ascertained, when Police Commissioner McClave seemed unable to account for certain deposits in his bank. Then new revelations followed in rapid succession. Keepers of disreputable houses told how they had been compelled to pay for police protection and officers of different rank were accused of levying blackmail. Not only were the dealers in sin and shame the objects of the good of the guardians of law and order, but persons carrying on various kinds of legitimate business had to pay regularly large sums to escape being harassed in various ways, and promotions were sold by superiors as a source of income. One of the sensations of the investigation was the statement of one witness that the salary of a police justice was the hinge-pivot of the "green goods" business in the city. But the climax was reached when, at the final session, Superintendent Byrnes was called and admitted that the sale for the business of the District, he had been able to accumulate property to the value of $350,000 without any risk to himself. The admission was followed by a letter of resignation, instantly placed under the circumstances.

It is well if the Lexow committee might have shown the necessity of and furnished material upon which to base remedial legislation, the result will be most excellent not only in the great commercial metropolis of this country, but in other cities as well, where reform may be needed. Friends of an honest administration of public affairs will feel encouraged to wage war against corruption, and those who otherwise might have been inclined to abuse their position as the trusted servants of the people are likely to realize the danger of so doing, at least as long as the lessons of that investigation last.

THE PORT ARTHUR AFFAIR.

When certain English papers emphatically denounce the Japanese for the massacre at Port Arthur, without a word of condemnation of Chinese atrocities which, according to all reports, rival those of the cruelers in oriental cruelty, and when they maintain that the subjects of the mikado after all are but barbarians with a veneer of civilization, they lay reveal the fact that there exists a strong public sentiment in her majesty's realm in favor of the body governed inhabitants of the flowery kingdom. Why the Chinese with all their disagreeable peculiarities, and the Manchu dynasty in particular, should be entitled to the sympathy of a civilized nation in preference to the Japanese who have honestly struggled for years to come in touch with the rest of the world is not clear, unless more mercenary motives count more than everything else.

It is of course to be deplored that the atrocities of war were indulged in by the invading forces, and it would be well, if the powers that possess influence in Asia would take effective measures to prevent their repetition when the armies advance toward the Interior. Humanity demands that. At the same time, Japan is entitled to a charitable judgment. She has so recently emerged out of the darkness of barbarism that her soldiers cannot be expected to be able to govern themselves according to the rules and sentiments of European nations. All things considered, Japan has so far done exceedingly well and should meet encouragement in her efforts.

It will be interesting to see, whether the press of Great Britain will feel called upon to denounce the perpetrators of the equally barbarous outrages in Armenia, for which the Turkish government seems to be responsible in some degree.

MORMONS AND THE BIBLE.

Our attention has been directed to an article in a recent number of the *Herald and Presbyter*, a Presbyterian paper published at Cincinnati, the writer is Rev. S. L. Wishard, a secularized minister whose field of operations is in Utah, and who is not altogether unknown locally. He has been treated with uniform courtesy and kindness by the people of Utah generally, and we think will continue to be, whether or not he deserves it, for the inhabitants of this Territory have established reputation for patience and charitableness toward their maligners that is fully justified by the record.

Mr. Wishard has been describing what he calls "Utah institutions," but which are in many particulars the very reverse of the condition here, where reputed gentlemen most well know, he might be considerably save embarrassment by "Consider ye Mormons, or any more else, or any trouble or opposition the Mormons may be exposed to. He says that in Utah "there is visible tokens of the work of the reporting to the Bible and that "to most of those acquainted with us will not find a single person who care to have instruction in the world" that there is no "Science of any description to have anything to do with it in Utah" and that this science "is from Satan in reference to the Mormon system which the Bible is reformed." This Satan Satan studies it is carried!" Not one iota is "nothing to meet the social wants of the people with any elevating influence" and on remarks many other things of the character. He also gives an instance that to Mormon Persons "the Mormon people have built two large meeting houses at an aggregate expense of about six thousand dollars," and says regarding them: "This is the only means of social improvement which they have provided for their young people." He closes by saying that his work is "hopeless socially and financially," and "we are represented to the young people of Utah, by their leaders, as apostates and dangerous people."

If "apostate" in this connection is to be taken as meaning that which is a departure from truth, and "dangerous" refers to those who make false accusations, the young people of Utah would need no further proof, so far as the attitude of Dr. Wishard is concerned, that the gentleman's own utterance in The News has cut one word of advice for him at the present, and it is offered in the most charitable desire for the gentleman's good. We suggest that he make an earnest study of the Divine command, "Turn thou not least false witness," and institute a practical application thereof to himself. He will find it in the words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew, chapter 19, verse 18, as well as in other parts of the Scriptures.

Upon the subject of the expulsion of the Latter-day Saints with the Bible, the following is a short communication taken from an article headed "Mormons know the Scriptures," in a recent issue of the New York Sun, in which there has been considerable misstatement regarding the Bible and polygamy:

"In the Illinois Where the Rev. John P. Newman, now at Utah in 1851, thinking that the Mormons were an immorally ignorant class, so far as the Bible was concerned, he circulated against Mormonism in a very learned and original manner. He engaged in a discussion in the great Mormon tabernacle. The result of the discussion was very disastrous to Dr. Newman. He was so overwhelmed in the discussion the Mormon Elder afterwards published the proceedings verbatim, to show that gentlemen who, in every instance the Bible-quoting ministers seemed to make against polygamy. The Mormon Elders seemed to be against Dr. Newman at all, and never less the only that the reverend gentleman had not quite made out his case. It would seem the work upon Newman's ability and learning did not go along with it, for the very author of the evening Herald might take a lesson from his colleague. BLACK."

WHEN Mr. Gladstone says that the published statement to Lord R. that he is trying to issue a pamphlet on the Armenian question is made without authority, the papers interpret this denial as an admission that the pamphlet will appear before very long. The language of diplomacy may be framed sometimes for the purpose of concealing the real meaning, and this is evidently looked upon as an instance of that peculiarity.

ICELAND MAY be a lovely little country and a paradise for fishers and hunters, moonlit climbers and wealthy gents of leisure, but it has no inducements to offer for immigrants. The inhabitants in several districts have recently entered into an agreement with each other not to give food or shelter to any traveling stranger without reasonable compensation.

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