

and He will see to it that the reward follows. And they who are made partakers of the blessings of the Gospel obtain full recompense for every good deed they do and can perform.

The suggestions made do not relieve any Elder, be he returned missionary or not, from embracing every opportunity within reach to do good by corresponding with friends; nor do they afford any excuse for failure to keep agreements or promises made, and which should be strictly lived up to. But they may cause some of those in whose behalf mention of the subject is made in the letter referred to, to consider whether or not they have not been too exacting, and have given way to a spirit of complaining against those whose message to them was only one of peace and good will and who are toiling constantly and faithfully in another part of the vineyard to which duty has directed their steps. It is no doubt a source of comfort and pleasure for those in far off lands to receive letters occasionally from returned missionaries, and the latter should be so mindful of their trust and friendship as to extend that comfort; but if missionaries who have been in some fields were to attempt to correspond with all who desire it they would have barely time to earn the paper and stamps necessary. And in some cases correspondence is neither wise nor profitable, and is better dropped.

It might be well on occasions for missionaries abroad to use their influence against any tendency to complain at those who have been in the field, and who in one or another respect may not have come up to some individual standard. Any direct counsel or advice on this feature, however, is the province of those who preside in the various departments, therefore we will not presume to offer it. But we will say, especially to Saints who have gathered here, that they can accomplish much in spreading the Gospel by writing to friends in their old homes and by that means disseminate correct information on the aims, labors and condition of the Latter-day Saints; and to returned missionaries, that where they have promised to write they should keep their pledge, and generally they should occasionally send letters and papers to friends and acquaintances, and thus materially aid the cause which they have espoused.

DISESTABLISHMENT.

It is not to be wondered that the church party in England, as related in the dispatches, is entering upon a vigorous campaign against the proposal of the present government to disestablish the Anglican church in Wales, as the success of the proposition virtually means the ultimate extinction of the state church. As it is at present, the Episcopal church in Great Britain is sustained by state taxation. Whether the taxpayer be a member of the dominant church or not, he has to contribute to its revenue. The basis of the agitation against this condition is that it is unjust to require nonconformists to support a church with which they have no affiliation in matters of worship. On the other hand it is claimed

that a state church should derive sustenance from the state revenue, as collected by tax on property, independent of individual ownership, and that the abolition of the present state church means a reinstatement of papal influence in Britain.

If the present government policy of disestablishing the church in Wales should prevail it is not difficult to foresee that the same step must be taken in England, and then the Anglican church will be in the same relative position to the state finances as are all the dissenting sects. This, it is urged, and with good reason, will mean a practical breaking up of that church, as the ritualists and high churchmen, who now compose a very large part of the organization and are its wealthier members, naturally would drift into the Roman Catholic church, while the low churchmen would be left to distribute themselves among various sects, thus placing the Roman Catholic instead of the Episcopal as the dominant church in Great Britain. Thus it is easy to see why the Anglican organization fears disestablishment and will exert all its powers against it.

But among government leaders there are those who care less for church interest than for political preferment and patronage, and though most of the chiefs of the political parties in Britain are Episcopalians so far as church membership is concerned, the result actually rests with the voters. Hence a vigorous campaign is being instituted among these. There would be no hope of the state church advocates gaining their point were it not for the fact that the influence of the Romish church is greatly feared in England; for the combined chapelgoers, or nonconformists, greatly exceed in number the members of the English church, and their votes in conjunction with the Catholic element could settle the matter quickly. But the anti-Catholic cry heretofore has held the dissenters back lest they would jump out of the frying-pan into the fire by having Romish domination even without taxes as a more objectionable feature than Episcopal domination with taxes; for the latter church does not attempt to restrict the religious liberty of the individual.

There is a large element, however, including a fair proportion of Episcopalian members, who believe that Romish church domination is no longer the menace it was once regarded to be, but that with the state church disestablished the government would be perfectly safe from Papal influences. In support of this view it is urged that the Britishers will get along quite as well as the Americans have done, and that free religion all around will be an improvement upon the present condition, and abolish the objectionable tax feature. If the advocates of disestablishment can confirm this view in the minds of the voters so far as the church in Wales is concerned, the existence of a state church in Great Britain is likely soon to be a thing of the past.

BACILLI AND SUNLIGHT.

Judged by the recent demonstrations in science, as set forth by Professor Frankland in the *Nineteenth Century*, the large amount of sunlight which

Utah enjoys is to be credited with much of the healthfulness which exists here, as it is effective in destroying the bacilli of disease. It has been a popular notion that the rays of the sun promote the increase of bacteria and, consequently, fermentation, putrefaction and decomposition; and scientists commonly have held to this theory, notwithstanding the fact that there were numerous evidences to indicate a contrary effect.

It is the attempt to reconcile the popular theory with facts which has led to recent investigations into the influence of sunlight upon bacteria, and which has brought the demonstration of an opposite view to that formerly held. This demonstration is that sunlight has a fatal effect upon bacteria, especially when acting in conjunction with the oxygen of the atmosphere. It was shown that liquids that become tainted or ferment in the dark remain entirely sound and sweet in direct sunlight.

Professor Frankland says the investigations made suggest possibilities of future knowledge and achievements of almost incalculable beneficence to mankind. He cites the experience of two German scientists who recently spent the whole night, from sunset to sunrise, on the bank of the Isar, near Munich. Every hour they dipped up some of the water of the river and ascertained the number of bacilli in a drop. Early in the evening there were only a few—eight or ten in a drop. But they steadily increased in number, until just before it began to grow light at morning they were most numerous—perhaps thirty in a drop. With the return of sunlight their numbers began to diminish and continued to do so all through the day. It already had been observed, he says, that in certain English rivers bacilli were about three times as numerous in winter, when days are short and often dark and cloudy, as in summer, when days are long and more sunshine prevails.

The learned professor goes on to say that not only does sunlight thus destroy or at least check the multiplication of micro-organisms, but it is especially baneful to those which are noxious to human or animal life; and when it does not actually destroy them it has the extraordinary effect of radically changing their nature, so as to make them innocuous or even actually benignant. The deadly anthrax bacilli are killed outright by exposure to sunlight in normal atmosphere. Dr. Palermo, at Naples, exposed the bacilli of Asiatic cholera to sunlight for three or four hours. Finding them still alive, he administered them to a guinea pig. At the same time he administered to another guinea pig other similar germs which had been kept an equal time in the dark. The latter animal died of Asiatic cholera in about eighteen hours. But the former, charged with the sun-cured bacilli, remained perfectly well. Not only that, but it had actually gained immunity from the disease, so that subsequent inoculations and dosings with the most virulent cholera microbes had no effect upon it. Exposure to the sun's rays had thus not only destroyed the disease-producing powers of the microbes, but had made them active