

ritory when it was but a part of the great desert, the journey involving nearly as much time and toll and suffering as one must endure now in going to the Klondike. They camped in a most unpromising place, they had to work long and hard to bring fresh water from the snows on the hills, wash the alkali out of the stubborn soil, lay roads across the waste, bring supplies from distant posts, build houses and establish farms and groves and gardens. They were communists in practice, each helping the others and the Church reserving a part of the results of their labor for redistribution in case of need, for the charities were impartial and munificent. Nagged by people who misunderstood them, the founder of their Church and his brother murdered by a Southern mob—the same mob that slaughters negroes every day in our own enlightened times—led about by people who deemed themselves more righteous, followed and watched by United States troops, who built a fort above their city and covered them with cannon, is it any wonder that the Mormons sometimes grew resentful and retaliated on their enemies? Yet they were by preference a peaceful folk and of a most exemplary industry. They are almost the only Christians who make abstinence from liquor, tobacco and games of chance a part of their religion; they were the only Christians who were liberal enough in their views to encourage recreation, one of their early outlays being for a theater and great organ. When they controlled their own city of Salt Lake it entertained no saloons, gaming houses or places of ill repute, and when the town had grown to be a goodly city order was kept there by two constables, while in smaller settlements the law could not be enforced by a hundred. If by their fruits we may know them, the Mormons deserve our confidence and praise. Church authority has given way in the Territory and polygamy is dead. Their doctrines can be safely preached on Long Island, or in any other place, and if people lived up to them they would be better people than they sometimes are."

PRIMITIVE MAN.

At a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Aberdeen in 1859, the position was taken by Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent geologist, that the existence of man dated back thousands of years earlier than any of the conclusions of the day had placed the commencement at. This statement he based on discoveries made in the valley of the Somme, showing the co-existence of man with extinct animals such as the woolly rhinoceros and the mammoth, belonging to the quaternary fauna.

This association has a yearly meeting at which it elects a new president. The latest event of the kind was at Toronto on the 18th, Sir John Evans being chosen as the head of the society. He is recognized as one of the most distinguished archaeologists of the age. His speech on this occasion is said to have been devoted to showing the importance of archaeology and its connection with other sciences, such as astronomy, geology and paleontology, and to a statement of the present condition of actual knowledge and his own theories regarding early man. A special interest attached to his views on the subject, as he was one of the English archaeologists who investigated the gravels of the Somme and confirmed the discoveries of other eminent men. The distinction between palaeolithic and neolithic civilization, the earlier and the later stone ages, had been made by

Sir John Lubbock. Sir John Evans confined his discussion almost exclusively to palaeolithic man, the race that used stone implements in their rudest form, while neolithic man, of a far later period, ground and polished his stone implements and weapons. Palaeolithic man was a cotemporary of extinct and neolithic man of living animals.

The speaker assumed that the beginning of the human race was in Eastern Asia, in a climate where means of subsistence were easily accessible. In this region our ancestors developed from a "lowly origin," and by reason of his surroundings and necessities acquired a taste and talent for hunting, also the means for destroying wild and destructive animals, which it is fair to assume were more numerous then than they have been of later years. As time wore on, the game became scarcer, the area occupied by man as his exclusive habitation of course broadened, and he began to assume a more normal character. Eventually the branching-out process began, the movement following that of the sun, eventuating the population of western Europe. The lecturer does not attempt to say, even to conjecture, the length of time involved in all this, but it must have been very great. He then goes on to show that the process could not have been reversed, the origin beginning in a cold climate where clothing was necessary, and gradually finding its way to a warm one where covering for the body was not indispensable.

Sir John Evans holds that the stage of human development denoted by the use of palaeolithic implements must have extended over a vast period of time if we have to allow for the migration of the primeval hunters from their original home, wherever it may have been in Asia or Africa, to the west of Europe. During this migration the forms of the weapons and tools made from silicious stones had become, as it were, stereotyped, and during the subsequent period implied by the erosion of the valleys, the modifications in the form of the implements and the changes in the fauna associated with the men who used them were but slight. And so on, from age to age, each epoch being marked by some new characteristics indicative of the slow growth and development of brain power as exemplified by improved handiwork and better customs.

It is a most abuse subject, and Sir John particularly admits that imagination must be drawn upon to some extent as an aid to scientific research. In exploring a field so remote and so vast, it is quite a reasonable proposition that without guesswork progress would be painfully slow and conclusions dreadfully unsatisfactory, while with it nothing reaches the plane of certainty or accuracy.

THE EUROPEAN GAME.

The student of prophetic history finds a most interesting study in the present diplomatic developments in Europe, because of their striking illustration of the accuracy of modern prophecy. Among the many predictions with which the Latter-day Saints are familiar is one made over sixty years ago regarding the supremacy which Russia, then classed as a semi-barbarous nation, would attain in European affairs. The present situation tells its own story as to where the Muscovite now stands.

The visits now being made among European rulers have a peculiarly notable feature. Not long since, the kaiser called upon his grandmother; but there were no felicitous diplo-

matic utterances on his part at the meeting with Queen Victoria. More recently he paid a visit to his royal cousin; and the contrast at the meeting with Czar Nicholas is of the most marked character. Now President Faure has had a good time with the Russian ruler, and an alliance is the matter of congratulation, both in Russia and France. As it stands now, Russia is with Germany on the eastern question; Russia is with France on their mutual interests; the dreibund brings Germany, Italy and Austria into a firmer alliance. In the whole combination, Russia stands at the head—is the master of Europe. All the other nations are bound to her by practically direct ties, and none dare antagonize her in a serious way.

And where is Britain? Just where Russia and Germany wanted her to be—isolated from the rest of Europe. In the condition now presented, there is scarce a situation that can be suggested where Britain must not meet the combined opposition of the other five, headed by the Russian czar. The Russian bear has its paw upon the British lion, whichever way the latter chooses to move. Now, when this isolation of Great Britain from the European powers yields its natural fruit, as it must do in a very brief time, if anyone imagines that the British nation will be made to perform the part of a monkey-on-a-stick for the entertainment of the others without giving the new European "concert" a decidedly unmusical time of it, he is mistaken. Young men of today will not be venerable sires before fur will fly in Europe. The diplomatic game there is nearing its climax.

A STARTLING DECISION.

The day's telegrams contain information that Judge Clark, in the U. S. circuit court at Chattanooga, Tennessee, has rendered a decision which is likely to create some little consternation. The case was that of a citizen vs The Tennessee River Transportation company, and the question at issue was whether a tax or a mortgage lien is paramount. The judge held in favor of the latter proposition, that is, that a mortgage claim holds priority over a tax claim and must be satisfied first. The dispatch announces that if the ruling is upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States it will mean severe losses to the several states, counties and cities in taxes.

Judge Clark's ruling is doubtless based upon the provision of the Constitution to the effect that laws must not be made that impair the validity of contracts, and that therefore a mortgage, being not only a contract but a high form of contract being under seal, cannot be disturbed by legislation. The law of Utah on this subject, and which is substantially the same as that of other states, is that the tax lies against the property instead of the individual owning it, and that no matter to what extent encumbered, previously or subsequently to the existing tax lien, enjoys priority over all other claims of whatever character. If it were otherwise, such a condition of things as that foreshadowed by the dispatch would undoubtedly prevail—property in many cases could be so involved and its title rendered so obscure that the State and subdivisions thereof would be completely baffled in any attempt to reach it or its owner and thus the tax which it ought to pay would be lost. The judge, according to the meager account of his ruling furnished, holds the tax to be a personal obligation and the property itself cannot be reached by the collector if there is any pre-existent lien upon it