

EDITORIALS.

THE ONLY INDUCEMENT OFFERED.

PROBABLY no profession gives ampler opportunities for the study of human nature in its various phases than journalism. This fact is forced upon our attention in various ways, as a newspaper office is utilized by many people as a species of bureau of information upon an exceedingly wide range of subjects.

This is legitimate and proper, and nothing affords a journalist greater satisfaction than to hunt up and impart legitimate information that will benefit not only those who directly solicit it, but the general public. As a rule, applications of a proper character do a good purpose and serve to diversify the matter to which publicity is given. Occasionally, however, interrogations come to hand that are posers, the propositions being of a nature that "no fellow can find out," and an "easier one" has to be solicited. But even queries of this character serve a purpose, as they demonstrate the fallacy of the popular idea that editors know everything.

We wish our friends to understand that the placing of questions before us is gratifying. When no replies appear it may be assumed that either the requisite information is not obtainable or cannot be defined; that they would conduce to no profitable public purpose, or would not be expedient. But let them come along, that we may select the fittest for use.

Among the communications we receive are many from strangers abroad who evince a commendable anxiety to learn something in relation to the religion of the Latter-day Saints. Such correspondence is generally dictated by a pure desire to learn the truth in regard to the faith of a traduced community, and it is a pleasure to respond to the wishes they express.

But there is another class of communications which do not fill us with unqualified admiration for the writers. They start out with a pretense of deep sympathy for the "Mormon" people, and an ardent desire to join their community. Throughout the fact is evident that they are in the deepest ignorance in regard to the religious principles of the Saints. This lack of information at once stamps the premature desire for identification with insincerity. A person who is ready to embrace that of which he is ignorant shows one of two things—that he is exceedingly foolish or has some ulterior motive behind the profession he expresses. As a rule the motive appears toward the conclusion of the letter, which generally winds up with an inquiry regarding the material prospects of the writer, providing he should come to Utah and join the Church. Could an opening be provided with a round salary attached? People who make applications of this character do not give us sufficient credit for penetration. Their status is understood without difficulty.

Some people seem to think that the Latter-day Saints are overwhelmed with anxiety to swell their numbers without respect to the character of the additions. This is an egregious mistake. The only class desired consists of those who on investigation accept of the religion as of divine origin, and who, being honest and sincere, join the church without reference to material or other consequences, being animated alone by a love of truth. Such people do not take the step of identification imbued with an idea that by it they are conferring a great benefit upon the community for which the latter should be truly grateful. They take their chances with respect to material advantages with the balance, and are willing to bear a great many conditions that do not tend to create comfort. They expect to be subjected to the contumely and bitterness of the world, but the conviction that they have accepted of that which is more precious than wealth and the smiles of the world, sustains them.

We heartily wish that all those who imagine that the "Mormon" people are ready to rush around hunting lucrative positions for them to fill, that they may be induced to join the Church, could read this article and thus save themselves the trouble of writing for information as to how much money they can make by the act of identifying themselves with the community of Latter-day Saints. All the inducement offered is the truth. That is sufficient to satisfy every honest individual. No others need apply.

ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT.

THE making of substantial improvements and building up the city is now the leading theme. While on that subject it may not be amiss to direct attention to the fact that the vicinity of Z. C. M. I. is becoming one of the most imposing localities; in a business sense, in Salt Lake. This is certainly the case with the northwest corner of the block. The erection of the stupendous building for the conduct of the manufacturing department of the Institution is the latest contribution

to the enhancement of the location both in a business and architectural sense.

It is well understood that another structure of goodly proportions and striking beauty is soon to be built on a portion of what has heretofore been known as the Wells lot. The proposed building is to be erected by Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company, who are the owners of a west frontage of 40 feet, the lines running 165 feet to the rear. The proposed new bank building will be 40 by 100 feet and three or four stories in height. Mr. J. D. C. Young is at work on the plans and construction will be commenced at the earliest practicable date. The upper portions will be occupied as offices while it is intended that the entire ground floor will be used by the bank.

This banking company will shortly be reorganized and re-incorporated under the new law enacted by the late legislature. The capital stock will be increased and there is no lack of substantial capitalists willing and anxious to invest. We understand that Hon. Elias A. Smith, now Probate Judge of Salt Lake County, will be cashier of the institution, which doubtless has a prosperous career ahead of it.

A few more substantial and elegant buildings on the Wells corner would render it one of the most conspicuous and desirable sections within the borders of the municipality. Other structures besides the one specially referred to are in contemplation, but the projects are not sufficiently advanced to enable us to furnish the details.

THE RECENT ENGAGEMENT.

THE Booth-Barrett engagement at the Salt Lake Theatre, which closed on Saturday night, was probably the most brilliant and successful in the theatrical annals of this Territory. The three performances were of the highest class and the aggregate receipts amounted to nearly \$9,000. On each occasion every seat was occupied, besides extra reserves.

A great deal of credit is due the management for the orderly method evinced throughout in satisfying the public in relation to seats. The audiences were arranged in their places without noise or confusion, everything showing forethought and attention to details. To make more room in the auditorium the novel expedient of placing the orchestra in the wings where it could be heard, but not seen, was a happy thought, and suggests the idea that an arrangement could be constructed so the musicians could, on such occasions be stowed away under the front of the stage, from whence their sweet strains could be emitted through an appropriate opening.

The placing of firemen in the wings to prevent an alarm and rush in case of fire occurring, gave a feeling of security to the audience. The partial abatement of the high hat nuisance showed appropriate consideration on the part of the fair sex. Had the removal of the pyramidal species of head-gear been complete it would have been better still.

The management of the Theatre is to be congratulated upon the able manner in which the whole engagement was conducted.

IS IT INHUMAN?

WHEN the historian shall undertake the task of writing and grouping the incidents that have occurred in the career of the Latter-day Saints as a community during the last few years, he will find plenty of material out of which to construct a story of absorbing interest. It will bristle with facts that will, in the future, be perused with wonder and avidity. It will contain vivid illustrations of human devotion, suffering and exquisite cruelty. In these respects it will exceed many of the works of fiction the perusal of which excites sensitive readers to weep, and abhor. Scenes in which tender and devoted women and helpless children are made the victims of a misguided and merciless policy will occupy some prominence in the narrative.

Here is an instance in point. A woman with a three months' old babe is taken before a court as a witness, and declines to answer questions whose object is to discover the identity of the father of her infant. She is held to be in contempt and the court's idea of the majesty of the law is that it must be maintained by thrusting this woman into a loathsome prison, designed for criminals of the blackest cast. The life of the little one depends upon its being kept in contact with its mother. To deny this association might result in constructive murder, as without it the child would probably not survive. As a consequence the decree of imprisonment necessarily includes this little one, who belongs to a class the Savior said were of the Kingdom of Heaven. But even with the maternal companionship of the mother retained, the life and health of the little one is unsafe, its present condition being a verification of this pathetic fact. The public are aware of the character of the place of confinement.

The present officers in charge are humane, and we have no idea that they would deny any accommodations for the comfort and convenience of the tender prisoners, the institution of which they have the oversight afforded. But the difficulty is that the facilities in that respect are of the poorest and meanest description.

What is the reason for the perpetration of such acts that are, in our opinion, gross violations of the law of common humanity, which is higher in the scale of philosophy than any enacted statute? It has already been stated that the lady declines at present to tell who is the father of her child. Only this and nothing more.

It may be asked in this connection whether it is not believed she is a plural wife and that it is also believed her silence is caused by a desire on her part to screen her husband lest he be placed in jeopardy on account of his association with her. If that be admitted as a probability, it may be asked in reply whether in that case she is not acting upon an instinct that is one of the chief characteristics of a true woman's nature. He who is unwilling to admit so patent a fact connected with woman's composition is no higher in the scale of intelligence and consistency than an ass.

To a true wife her husband is all in all, and rather than place him in danger, she will confront it herself. History is full of illustrations of this complexion, and it has been a custom in all ages for the conduct of such women to be estimated as heroic.

It is needless to urge that if this woman is a plural wife, she is not a wife in the eyes of the law. The devoted woman looks out of her womanly eyes, and not through the cold, glassy eyes of the law. In such a relationship exists in the instance in point as is presumed, to her the father of her child is her husband, and to expect her to regard the relationship as severed is antipodal to the law of nature and humanity.

People may say what they please to the contrary, we contend that such cases as the one in question smack of the inquisitorial processes that belong to the dark ages the revival of which should be viewed with abhorrence. The law does not contemplate the perpetration of cruelty, and as to whether such instances as the one considered indicate that element is left to the judgment of the unprejudiced portion of the public. If it does it is in conflict with the expressed policy of the Chief Executive of this Republic, who has stated in plain terms that he does not wish the "Mormon" people to be in a position to correctly hold that the law is being vindictively administered against them.

Yesterday Dr. Joseph S. Richards kindly responded to a request to visit the child referred to in the foregoing, and found it very ill. He was prepared to give a certificate to that effect, and that to retain it in confinement in the penitentiary would endanger its life. Today Marshal Dyer stated that the issuance of such a certificate would be useless, as Judge Henderson had stated that under no circumstances would the mother—Anna E. Brown—be released unless she answered the questions to which she had refused to reply.

And so, the matter stands, in this land of free America, in the nineteenth century. What a spectacle to see a great government stretch out the hand of its mighty power, through one of its agents, to crush a helpless woman and a suckling babe!

PROHIBITION IN UTAH.

UNDER the authority of the National Prohibition Committee, a call has been issued for a "territorial prohibition mass organizing convention," to be held at Ogden on Tuesday, the 24th inst., for the purpose of organizing the National Prohibition Party in this Territory. The convention will be addressed by Walter T. Mills, of Ohio, "who comes on a special mission from the National Prohibition Committee, as national organizer for the Pacific states and territories. All citizens of Utah, who believe that the traffic in intoxicating beverages should be prohibited, are invited to take part in this convention."

The call announces that Mr. Mills "will show the logical ground for the existence of the party, describe its wonderful growth in twenty nine States, and give reasons for its prospects of speedy triumph," and describes him as "a trained and skillful organizer, full of helpful plans and suggestions." In the work of Mr. Mills, and with any local organization of the Prohibition Party he may succeed in effecting, the masses of the people of this Territory will entertain an earnest sympathy, provided the suppression of the liquor traffic by lawful and proper methods be made the object of the efforts of that gentleman and the party he may organize.

There is in most parts of Utah a strong sentiment in favor of prohibition, and if all other issues could be eliminated from the campaign to be inaugurated here under the auspices of the Prohibition Party, the latter would enjoy the support of many of the thoughtful and stable citizens of the Territory.

THERE are lots of people in for cooperation.

A SUBJECT FOR SERIOUS REFLECTION.

OVER the signature of "W." a correspondent residing in this city writes a communication endorsing the tenor of an editorial article which appeared in the News of March 16th, under the caption of "Scarce Times Ahead." He regards the subject as a fitting one for serious reflection, especially on the part of Latter-day Saints. He urges that those who have faith in the revelations which have been given, and the prophecies that have been uttered upon this subject, should manifest their faith by their works, and he shows that the only way in which they can do this is to store up grain for a time of need.

His position is that hoarded grain will yet be found more precious than hoarded gold, and he suggests the pertinent query if he who will not provide for his own household has not denied the faith, at least in part, and asks how much better than an infidel is the man who professes to believe in revelation, but refuses to be guided thereby?

He calls attention to the fact that, in certain portions of this country, there are large tracts of land whose productiveness has never been developed, and suggests that some people would act wisely by locating on those lands, and developing their fertility. Much of his letter is devoted to this phase of his subject, and he incidentally shows the advantages that will accrue to land owners west of the Jordan as a result of the completion of the Utah and Salt Lake canal, work on which is being vigorously prosecuted.

To subdue the soil and produce from the means of sustaining life, is to act in line with the spirit and policy which have characterized this Church throughout its career; and the Saints, by keeping on hand a generous supply of such kinds of food as are not readily injured by age, will be taking a course in harmony with their professions of faith, and with a sound financial policy.

AN EVENT OF HORROR.

A TERRIBLE tale of woe comes from China. Recently the earth, as if in deep disgust at the condition of her sons and daughters in that part of the globe, vented her emotion by another of her convulsive throes. The result was the splitting and cracking of her crust into chasms of diverse dimensions, in which were engulfed 15,000 of the inhabitants.

The event is full of sickening horror, the statement of which is intensified in that respect by the announcement that after the living, writhing and crushed mass of humanity was entombed streams of bloody water issued from the fissures.

These are but notes of warning to the balance of earth's inhabitants to prepare for the great day of the Lord, which is at hand. The voice of revelation has stated that destruction will come upon this generation like a thief in the night; like the advent of a whirlwind, yet how true that as it was in the days of Noah, immediately previous to the time when the earth was swept by a flood of waters, so is it in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. The people are pursuing the paths of godlessness, heedless of the signs of the times, which are but the prologue to the most gigantic and dramatic scenes that ever transpired upon our globe.

Bringing it nearer home, there are many of those who profess to be looking for the coming of the Lord who appear to be imbued with the spirit of the world and wholly engrossed in its pursuits, while as to the things of eternity they are in a comatose condition. When will the awakening come?

THE PROJECT TO SPLIT THE BLOCKS.

THE agitation urging the dividing of the blocks of this city into "vulgar fractions" proceeds apace. It came before the Council last night in definite shape, with a good many indefinite aspects connected with it. The presentation was in the form of a petition signed by 200 citizens and firms, with a plan upon which the proposed splitting process should, according to the opinion of the petitioners, be carried into effect.

A glance at the method recommended appears to be, in substance, the cutting of each block to be submitted to the slicing system into halves by running an eighty feet wide street through the centre from north to south, and dividing the lots by alleys of a width of fifteen to twenty feet, to run the transverse way between them.

If we understand the idea correctly, this method would form at least eight additional corners, and a very large increase of frontage. The fact that the original lots, in point of proprietorship, have been divided in many instances into

very small fractions, so that unless the alleys were made so numerous as to be almost interminable, besides occupying a great deal of ground, the enlargement of frontage on them would be confined to property holders whose lines are those of the lots as originally surveyed. This would render it difficult to satisfy those whose financial benefits by the dismemberment of the blocks would be comparatively invisible to the naked eye.

It is evident that an effort has been made by the projectors of this plan to compensate those who would be compelled by it to surrender a portion of their land for thoroughfare purposes to the city. Hence it is suggested that the property having frontage upon the outer line of the blocks, all around, be permitted to extend their premises fifteen feet upon the main streets now existing—certain streets named in the plan to be excepted from this innovation. The plan further offers the novel idea that the title of the portions of public streets appropriated by the property holders along the line remain in the city.

The last intention is suggestive of an obstacle. Suppose business houses extend their premises outward to the maximum line of the proposed innovation upon the street and the municipal corporation should take it into its head some fine day that it wanted that land for the use of the public, to whom it belongs? There would not, of course, be any howling on the part of the proprietors of handsome stone, brick and granite buildings? There would not be any confusion, nor lawsuits, nor any disturbance of any kind? These magnanimous men would tamely submit to the losses that would be entailed.

It may be urged that the municipality would never do such a thing. But would it not have the power to do it? If not for what reason should the title to the land-strip remain in the city. And if the power exists the improbability of an action of that character does not remove danger from the situation. As property changed hands, as it would in course of time, the disposer could not give a title to the extent of the premises occupied, and the effect would be deteriorating, that being always the case where there are defects in relation to realty.

It would have been pertinent on the part of those who offer this plan to the City Council to have given that august body some information in regard to its rights in the premises. It is patent to enquire whether it can step in and seize property by wholesale for the purposes indicated if the owners are unwilling it should. The corporation is the holder of the government patent to all of the land within the municipal limits, and decided it to those who complied with the law in relation to filing, etc. It may well be asked whether it can enter into a wholesale business of rendering its contracts with those to whom the realty was conveyed nugatory.

Is it the idea that the corporation shall not seize the property in question for the purposes defined, but purchase it from the present owners? If so where are the necessary funds coming from? Has the question of how much money it would take to purchase the necessary land and construct the streets and alleys through one of the leading business blocks been considered? If so, how much? Would it amount to the revenue of one year or more, and if so how much more?

If the means are to be obtained from the public treasury, on what ground? Is it that of public benefit? In these days who constitute the public anyway? Is it real estate speculators and a number of other classes, or does it comprehend the people generally of this city? If the project is for the benefit of a class or a few classes, why should not the wherewith come out of their pockets? Is the scheme not to render their pockets more plenteous?

It is well to consider whether or not the property owners on a given block are willing to surrender the requisite portions of their land for the purposes in question. If so they will take that action on account of it being a mutual benefit. Then it would appear to be competent for them to obtain permission to make the desired streets from the Council, and the thoroughfares would necessarily be under the regulation and control of the city.

It is easy to spread a project of paper and set up a grand hurrah boys for the boom! But when Utopian schemes are proposed, snags arise on every hand.

FALSE AND ABSURD.

BEFORE us is a sample of the usual method of treating subjects relating to "Mormonism" and the "Mormons." It is in the form of an article which first appeared in the New York Times and was reproduced in the Omaha Bee.

The subject is the Book of Mormon and the drift of it is to show that that record is a fraud.

In addition to the old and long since exploded fabrications—among them the Spaulding absurdity—used to throw discredit upon that wonderful book, in speaking of the three witnesses, it says, "subsequently all of these men renounced Mormonism and declared their testimony false."

The well known and established fact is that all three strayed from the Church, but Oliver Cowdery and Mar-