A VIEW OF CALIFORNIA.

Editor Deseret News.

If it will not be asking too much of you, I would be pleased if you would allow me the use of a small portion of your valuable space to present a few items in connecting with an article published in the DESERET WEEKLY of the 2nd inst., entitled "The Decadence of Majesty," which is given as an excerpt from the San Francisco Chronicle.

The article referred to asks the question, "How, then, can we hope to cultivate modesty in the rising generation when it is hemmed in and surrounded by glaring and shameless immodesty?" And it might have extended the interrogation by asking, "How can a people who show by their own laws that have been enacted by their own representatives in the state legislature, which allow the Sabbath day to be openly desecrated, expect that morality would do otherwise than wane?

I have noticed, during the time that I have been in this state on a mission, that the Sabbath day is looked upon as a time for the greatest pleasure as a time for taking part in a concert, lecture, excursion or general holiday, by the great majority of the people. The saloon-keepers keep their saloons open and patronized as freely as on week days; and the youth of the state are taught to see the effect that it has on the public, as remain in the house. If the statement be true that there are 45,000 establishments in the state dealing in intoxicating drinks, and they are kept open on Sunday, how can the people expect their children to avoid such evils while the parents sustain and encourage such things by continuing to send men to the legislature to express their wants and these representatives repeatedly fail to adopt measures to smother such open violation of the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy?

If the people really want the morals of their children protected, why do they not go to work right at the root of the evil and stop it by enacting laws that are to be in keeping with the object to be obtained, and then elect officers who will see that these laws are enforced? We have to meet the old cause that our church believes in a plurality of wives, while the complaint will scarcely wind the next breath that some of the cities of California, if not all, have a paid police officer patrolling those streets that are inhabited by prostitutes and opium dens, and who is quite as prompt in protecting their dens as any other part of the city. The principal difficulty that seems to confront these haunts is that they must not keep their doors open. But they are allowed to sit at the window dressed in costumes in keeping with their profession, and solicit patronage. And the writer of this article, having occasion to pass through a street in that portion of the city of San Francisco, saw a police officer standing at one of those windows, joking with the females within, while at the same time there were boys of sixteen or eighteen years talking with others of the same class near by.

The people tell me that they cannot think with any degree of allowance upon Mormons or their religion, and at the same time they use their money to protect such institutions as referred to above. Is it any wonder that a servant of God, having the Gospel to preach to them, finds few to listen to him? The writer has met several who pretended to listen to his testimony, and who promised to investigate, and asked him to come to their home at stated times, and then ran away from home to avoid an interview.

It seems almost impossible to find any one who will listen to our testimony. If a meeting is advertised there is seldom anyone attends. Or if any at all, they don't come for second time, because our message is antagonistic to their evil practices. Religion of all denominations is at a great discount with the people here. As a result the churches are sparingly attended, and that principally by ladies. In Stockton one of the most influential ministers, a Methodist, said a week ago that he is going to leave that city because he did not get enough pay to support his family. And he does not hire help, but is very economical. On the next street there is a nice little church for sale, a notice up in front being to that effect.

It seems almost impossible to find a person who will talk on religion. If we start the subject they will talk if we let them, and all we can do is to continue our searching until we either find a righteous person or find there are none here. We noticed, while in Stockton, that music and singing on the streets did not induce people to follow the beautiful strains to a hall that was pitched for the purpose of holding "gospel" meetings in.

If it is the silver question that is causing such conditions it is to be hoped that our law-makers will come to the rescue. For if the nation throws Congress for the present condition of society, so many people will be out of quarters bad better go to work in real earnest and remedy a few of the evils.

There are five Elders in the California mission at present, and so far as proselyting is concerned, there is little to encourage them. But perhaps the morality of the people has something to do with it.

Praying that God will keep the Saints from going into the wicked ways of the present age, I remain, yours,

Your brother in the Gospel of Christ,
J. D. CUMMING.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., Sept. 4th, 1893.

A FRIENDS TESTIMONY.

For long years Mr. Thomas C. Hall of Forty-first Street, Union Hill, Chicago, considered a person that was sober remarkable. He attributed the evils such as he saw around him to drink. Particularly he pointed out the evil effects in much that goes by the name of gambling, among other things.

Last week, quite unexpectedly, he was taken aback to hearing and see and talk to a person who was not drinking, who was not gambling and who was not a wreck. Mr. Hall, therefore, wrote to the Dr. Shoop Medicine Co., of Racine, Wis., to find out the truth of the matter, and to satisfy himself that such a person was genuine. The Dr. Shoop Co. responded promptly, and Mr. Hall, who is a man of high standing in his community, is now a believer in Dr. Shoop's Restorative. He says he can now see why it is called a restorative, and why it is so called. He says he can now see why it restores men to their senses, and why it is called a nerve restorative. He says he can now see why it restores men to their senses, and why it is called a nerve restorative. He says he can now see why it restores men to their senses, and why it is called a nerve restorative