

EDITORIALS

HOW TO AID THE MISSIONARY CAUSE.

THE Sunday School Union made a call a short time ago for papers, pamphlets and other literature suitable for distribution by our missionaries, particularly in the Southern States. We learn that among others who have responded, Apostle F. D. Richards has placed in the hands of Brother John C. Cutler about a hundred and sixty sermons by the Presidency, Twelve, and different Elders, which he had put by from time to time in this way: After reading them as published in the DESERT NEWS, he would tear off the part containing the sermon and fold it away for future reference. As they appear subsequently in the Journal of Discourses which he receives and preserves, he is able to dispense with the News copies, and so they will now serve a good purpose in the missionary field.

We have been repeatedly informed by our traveling Elders that wherever the DESERT NEWS is received an opening is made for their labors, and that the sermons and articles which appear therein are forerunners to prepare their way. We think the plan pursued by Elder Richards might be followed by others with profit. If our friends do not know how to send the NEWS where it will do the most good, let them forward spare copies, particularly those containing sermons or articles calculated to remove prejudice and inform the public concerning our faith and people, to Brother John C. Cutler in this city, who will see that they are sent to needed quarters. Many of our brethren desire to do something towards the spread of the Gospel who are not called to personal labors in the missionary field. By circulating the printed word they can accomplish much in this direction and have the satisfaction of being workers in the great cause. If every Seventy in Israel would contribute in this way, an immense work would be accomplished.

NEW ENGLAND NOT ALONE.

THE subject of divorce is making quite a stir in the United States, as it ought to do, considering the evils which are growing out of the lax systems prevailing in many of the States. Our kind "Christian" friends who have been exercising their righteous souls over the social condition of the "Mormons," will find it far more profitable to look at home and purify the inside of their own platters, than to worry themselves about the domestic affairs of people afar off who need none of their assistance and deserve none of their pity or indignation.

New England is debilitated with the worst laxity of divorce, but it appears that other parts of this great moral republic are nearly as deep in the mud as Maine and Connecticut and Massachusetts are in the mire. Pennsylvania particularly has not much to boast of in this direction. The Philadelphia News, commenting on the application in New York for divorce by a woman who had quarreled with her husband over naming the baby, it says:

"In Pennsylvania, and indeed almost everywhere in the United States, divorces are easily obtained, and obtained 'without publicity,' which is an important consideration.

We have in Philadelphia a batch of divorces granted every now and then, which in point of numbers should be sufficient to startle the community. There are no public proceedings had in these cases. The parties do not even appear before the courts, but an examiner is appointed in whose private office the testimony is taken, and it is then submitted to the court in writing. If there is sufficient technical evidence to ask for divorce under the law the judges have no alternative but to grant the decree, and thus hundreds and thousands of persons are divorced upon slight reason who would never have been divorced at all if the way were made more difficult and more public."

We are of the opinion that our eastern friends will find, on close investigation of their own affairs, that they have irregularities within their own borders, of much deeper importance to themselves and the nation than the plural marriage of

a few "Mormons" in the vales of Utah. Easy divorce with its bogus polygamic consequences, is only one of the causes of social corruption in communities which pride themselves on their purity, and point the finger of scorn at the Latter-day Saints, who would die before condescending to such iniquities as are common in the centres of "Christian" civilization.

TWO EXCELLENT ENACTMENTS.

MONTANA has recently passed two very good laws, which will no doubt have an excellent effect. One is as follows:

"Any person who shall after the passage of this act, sell, barter, give, or in any manner dispose of, any firearms or ammunition of any description whatever, to any person under the age of sixteen years, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction, shall be fined in any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the county jail for any term not exceeding three months."

This is aimed at a great evil, but the enactment given below strikes at a still greater evil. Under a previous statute, the parents or guardians of minors were required to notify saloon or gambling-house keepers not to permit their boys to resort to those places, in order to make the keepers thereof responsible. Now this restriction is removed, and one source of pernicious education will be measurably dried up in Montana. This is the other new law:

"Any person or persons who keeping a saloon or dram shop, or gaming house, or other place of resort wherein intoxicating liquors are sold by retail, or games of chance are played, shall permit any minor to resort or stop therein, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof in any court thereof of competent jurisdiction, shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the county jail not less than one nor more than thirty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

Other Territories and States will do well to follow the example of Montana in both the directions above indicated.

NO BARBARISM ABOUT IT.

In spite of anti-polygamy laws and frequent fulminations from executive authorities in this country and in other lands, it appears that Mormonism is still a vigorous and lively "twinkling eye."—*Cincinnati Times-Star*.

Mormonism is no more a "twin relic of barbarism" than is the *Times-Star*. Polygamy is properly designated as such since all civilized peoples have tabooed it as they have forbidden slavery; but Mormonism is not only the latest religion, but it is the only new and distinct religion America has given to the world.—*Washington Critic*.

The *Critic* is right. The "twin-relic" term is a taking phrase, but it is not applicable to "Mormon" plural marriage, which bears no more resemblance to the polygamy of barbarism than modern monogamy does to the single marriages in savage tribes. It is no more a relic of barbarism than is eating, and not so much as is devouring the flesh of animals. It has no essential connection with slavery, but promotes the freedom of woman as well as man. It is amusing to hear the nonsense indulged in on this subject by people who know nothing about it, and pitiable to read the lies told by those who wilfully misrepresent it for the purpose of deceiving the public.

The *Critic* speaks correctly on the "new and distinct religion which America has given to the world." The marriage relations which it has established are only a part of the system, and are not its chief distinguishing feature. It is a return to first principles. It is the Christianity of Christ re-established. It promulgates the original doctrines of the Apostolic Church, administers the same ordinances, confers the same spirit and enjoys the same blessings, gifts, unity, power and authority as the institution organized by Jesus of Nazareth and His ordained ministers. It is new to the world in this age because modern Christendom is a departure so wide from primitive Christianity as to be essentially different.

There is another thing about it. It

is possessed of a vitality and force which cannot be destroyed, or subdued. And the very means adopted by its enemies to suppress it, serves but to intensify the fires of zeal and the lively energies which burn within it. As sure as the sun shines and the truth illuminates, it is the religion of the future that will survive and supersede all human creeds, bring mankind into harmony with the great Creator, extinguish barbarism and establish true and universal civilization.

WOMAN IN MEDICINE.

THE unreasonable prejudices which once prevailed against "female doctors" are fast passing away, with other obstacles to woman's progress and usefulness. Utah can boast of several lady physicians, whose skill and peculiar fitness for attending on their own sex and on children, when suffering from ailments peculiar to them, cannot be denied. Most of these ladies settle in this city and perhaps all find plenty of practice. However, there are portions of the Territory outside of the capital where able lady doctors and nurses are greatly needed, and if it would not be considered impertinent on our part, we would suggest that some of them could find a more profitable and useful field, both as active practitioners and teachers of others, in country towns where medical skill is at a premium.

We notice the following in *Progress*, of March 24th, a paper published in the City of Brotherly Love, which shows that the movement in favor of woman doctors is advancing:

"The graduating ceremonies of the Women's Medical College, at Association Hall, Thursday, March 15th, it being the occasion of the thirty-first annual commencement, were attended by a large assembly of ladies and gentlemen. There were 35 graduates, of whom 16 were from Pennsylvania. In the graduating class Vermont, Michigan, Illinois, Oregon, Massachusetts, Missouri, Utah, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New York, District of Columbia and Palestine had each one representative. Connected with the college is the Woman's Hospital, and on Wednesday evening, the 14th, it held its first semi-annual commencement of the training school for nurses. Diplomas were given to nine nurses who had completed the two years' course of training. Of these nurses were three from Philadelphia, three from other parts of the State, and one each from Cincinnati, New York and Illinois. A notable incident of the college commencement was that a lady of wealth and high social and ancestral position, and eminent for her piety and philanthropy, should have chosen to take her degree with the younger students. She matriculated in 1853, was one of the original incorporators of the Woman's Hospital in 1860. Her daughter has been for some time past a student in the hospital. However opinions may differ as to woman doctors, there is abundant evidence that they are very much in earnest. The Woman's Hospital is a noble institution, and its instruction of nurses not only fits women for duties for which they are specially suited, but accomplishes a great public service. The lady to whom I have referred has had long practical experience in the profession which she has now formally adopted, and has endeared herself to thousands by her constant care for others and the thorough unselfishness which characterizes her nature.

The lady here specially referred to is the wife of General Thomas L. Kane, well and favorably known to the people of Utah as a gentleman not afraid to stand up in the face of popular fury, to speak in defence of a people unjustly blamed and inhumanly assailed. We find the annexed in the *Public Ledger* of March 15th under the head of "A Distinguished Graduate:

"Among the ladies who will graduate from the Woman's Medical College to-day will be Mrs. Kane, the wife of General Kane, and for years the Lady Bountiful of her neighborhood, in McKane county. Mrs. Kane has for years been interested in the study of medicine, and with her practical knowledge was accustomed to be frequently called in as adviser in sickness in and around the then new settlement of Kane. She now receives the diploma which gives her formally the title she has earned both in the class-room and the service."

We congratulate the lady on her graduation and think she has done wisely. Her diploma will be the acknowledged evidence of that fitness for the position she has chosen to occupy which has been demonstrated in her kind administration, but is now placed beyond cavil. No person, male or female, ought to be permitted to engage in the responsible calling of a physician without some recognized proof of capability for the position. We need more woman doctors and nurses in Utah, but want them all to be really qualified practitioners, not mere tyros or opinionated feminine quacks. Our lady physicians in this city have duly graduated and have the documentary evidence of their collegiate studies and training, and they are doing an excellent work. We fully agree with the sentiment thus expressed by Prof. Parish at the ceremonies above referred to: "Away," said he, "with the fallacious reasoning that woman may with propriety devote her capabilities to the study of the lily or the rose, the spider or the beetle, but cannot study man, the noblest work of God."

MORMON AND GENTILE INTER-MARRIAGES.

THE *Oakland Independent* has the annexed paragraph:

"A. S. Hill, the man who escaped from Salt Lake with his wife's money last Monday, has not been heard from. The sum taken was \$12,000 instead of \$9,000. It is not easy to define his church relationship—the Gentiles claiming that he is a Mormon, and the Mormons that he is a Gentile—but agree that he is a scoundrel."

Quite a mistake. We know of no "Gentile" who claims that Hill is or ever was a "Mormon." If there had been the ghost of a chance to say so, the news of his villainy would have been telegraphed all over the world, with comments on the tendency of "Mormonism" to marital infidelity and dishonesty. If any person belonging to the "Mormon" Church, or the son or daughter of such a person commits any improper act, our logical opponents point to it triumphantly as the natural result of "Mormon" influence and teaching. If we were to adopt the same rule, using it the other way, we should say that Hill's perfidy is the natural outgrowth of "Gentileism," and one of the fruits of "Christian civilization." But we will not descend to such a depth of folly and stupidity; that kind of reasoning is only fit for anti-"Mormon" incorrigibles.

Hill's course, however, ought to serve as a warning to women and girls belonging to our Church and people. They have been advised not to marry with "outsiders." In nine cases out of every ten those who have disregarded this counsel have had cause to regret their mistake. As a general rule it is better for all people to marry only those of their own faith. So-called "Liberals" hoot at this, particularly when applied to Latter-day Saints, but the best minds of this and other ages have come to a similar conclusion.

There are special reasons why the Latter-day Saints should observe this rule. Many of them are under sacred covenants with the Almighty in reference to marital connections. All are within the purview of the Divine injunction to Israel, repeated, in substance, in this age to the people of God: "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son." In olden times the prediction was that the Gentile influences would in such cases usually prevail: "For they will turn away thy son from following me that they may serve other gods, so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you and destroy thee suddenly." The Almighty declared to ancient Israel, if they intermarried with the Gentiles, "They shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish off this good land which the Lord hath given you." With but very few exceptions this has been fulfilled in the experience of our maidens and widows who have followed their own headstrong will, or the persuasions of evil advisers, to disregard the counsel of heaven on a matter that is of the deepest importance and that affects the welfare of men and women in time and eternity.

There are as honorable men and women outside our Church as with-

in its portals. We do not cite Hill's perfidy as any general rule to use against non-"Mormons." We are not so unjust or senseless as to apply the false logic of our opponents to their own case. The numerous cases of "Gentile" iniquity, barbarity and villainy which might be pointed out, are not to be employed as arguments against all "Gentiles." If a "Methodist" preacher goes to the bad, that is no proof that Methodism is evil. And unless it can be shown that "Mormonism" teaches or encourages wrong-doing, it is the very poorest kind of reasoning as well as the meanest kind of injustice, to charge the sin or crime of an erring "Mormon" upon the society whose rules and counsels he has violated.

But it is unwise, to say the least, for Latter-day Saints to intermarry with those who are not of their faith, whatever may be their morals or religion. We say nothing now of those everlasting considerations which are really of the most vital import, affecting the status of the parties "while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures," and which are revealed in the word of God concerning celestial or eternal marriage, but claim that for even this present life, with its cares, responsibilities, temptations, and adverse influences, the greatest happiness of the greatest number will be best assured by avoiding that condition which the ancient Apostle described, as being "unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Look around, young men and young ladies, among those who have given no heed to this kind of advice, and see how many really happy and abiding unions have been formed. Where you can find one, ten, aye a score can be pointed out which have resulted in neglect, desertion, betrayal, disgust, separation or misery in some extreme shape.

We do not care what epithets anti-"Mormons" may apply to us for these warnings. We know that we are giving sound advice when we say to our people, of both sexes, do not marry with the "Gentiles." This applies to the moral, sober and respectable non-"Mormon" whose antecedents may be known, as well as to the unsteady person of loose habits, and the plausible stranger whose history is shrouded in clouds of uncertainty. Israel should wed Israel. And that our young ladies may not feel that they are compelled to reject this advice or remain in solitary spinsterhood, let the young men who have hitherto avoided the cares and responsibilities of family life, fulfill the first great commandment and become men in the full sense of the term, which they never can be in unprofitable and ungenerous bachelorhood. And do not forget that true marriage is not a mere civil contract, or to be entered into until death, but an everlasting covenant, to continue throughout all duration sacred and indissoluble.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

This morning Frederick Hopt, alias Welcome, was sentenced to be hung by the neck till he is dead. The execution is to take place on the 1st of June. This will be satisfactory to the public. That the convict deliberately murdered John F. Turner no room is left for doubt. We do not suppose that the prisoner's counsel, who have done all that was possible to save him from the punishment due for his awful crime, entertain any belief that he is innocent. Yet having succeeded in one appeal to the court of last resort, it is not unlikely that they will endeavor to take another. Sheriff Turner has passed through great trials in his repeated endeavors to fasten the legal responsibility for his son's tragic end where it certainly belongs. It will be shamefully unjust if he is compelled to pass through this ordeal for a third time.

Hopt chose hanging as the mode of his death. This we believe will be the second hanging in the criminal history of Utah. Other condemned persons have preferred shooting. The early statute of this Territory in relation to crimes and punishments provided that the culprit could be hung, shot or beheaded, as he might elect. The penal code passed in 1876 repealed the law in which this provision was made, and merely fixed death as the penalty for murder in the first degree. But in 1878 the Act on Criminal Procedure was passed, in which it