

## EDITORIALS.

## THE HELIOGRAPH.

ONE of the many useful productions of scientific thought is the utilization of the sun's rays in telegraphy. The instrument in use for this purpose is called the heliograph. The word is derived from *helios*, the sun, and *graph*, to write or describe. It is a circular mirror, made to revolve on a horizontal axis, and can be so adjusted that the rays of the sun can fall upon any desired point of the mirror, so that flashes of various lengths can be transmitted at long ranges. By means of an understood code of signals, regulated by long or short flashes to correspond measurably with the dots and dashes used in some systems of electric telegraphy, messages can be sent and received where the ordinary methods of communication are absent. Its signals can be recognized without a field glass at a distance of fifty miles.

As a military telegraph the heliograph is of great benefit. General Roberts was able by its use in Afghanistan to flash signals from Khoat to Baunee, sixty miles distant. It is not altogether a new idea, but it has been much improved during the past few years, and in mountainous regions, in a clear atmosphere, could be used to very great advantage.

## THE LION AND THE BEAR.

THE British Lion and the Muscovite Bear are still indulging in their chronic growls of mutual distrust. Poor little, half-civilized Abyssinia is now to be made a party to the quarrel. The rampant lion is erecting his mane and roaring a little extra by reason of certain supposed "Russian intrigues in Abyssinia intended to produce complications injurious to the position of England in Egypt," whilst the *St. Petersburg Gazette* very candidly remarks, "The active intervention of England in Egyptian affairs gives great importance to the new attitude of Abyssinia. King John seeks closer relations with the Russian empire. This change is all the more remarkable inasmuch as King John was an old friend of the English, and supported them energetically in their war against Theodore. It is evident that the King nor the people of Abyssinia are too well satisfied with that western civilization which has brought them so many deceptions."

As an evidence of how deep is this undercurrent of mutual dislike between the two nations, it is stated that a short time since some Russian officers were staying at a hotel in Egypt. A band serenaded them and closed with "God Save the Queen," as was their usual custom. This the Russians regarded as an insult; they sent for the host and energetically remonstrated. The host promised that "if his excellency" would give the band an idea of the tune of the Russian hymn they would gladly do their best. This offer was not deemed satisfactory and the whole crowd of officials left the caravansary. How these "Christians" do love one another!

## POVERTY AND MENDICANCY.

UTAH is not the only place experiencing an unusually severe winter. England, France and other European countries are also affected by the arctic wave. In London, Paris, and other large cities several persons have been picked up dead in their most crowded streets; they had had the life frozen out of them in the midst of the din and bustle, the hurry and excitement of these marts of commerce and centres of fashion, and, surrounded by multitudes of their fellow-creatures, had passed away unknown and uncared for into the mysteries of the unseen world. Most of these European nations, (England especially,) are ill prepared for the severities of winter. Trade has been dull, wages low, and pauperism has woefully increased. The amount of suffering amongst the British poor is far beyond the average. Nor does

there seem this year to be that generous response to the appeals of benevolent societies that the unusual crisis would, under ordinary circumstances, develop. The benevolent instincts of the public have been so outrageously imposed upon by bogus institutions, badly managed benevolent societies, the misapplication of funds and by private frauds, that the wells of charity have been measurably dried up and the worthy poor consequently suffer.

The class of professional beggars are a rapidly increasing body. Their ingenuity would provoke a feeling almost akin to admiration if the object sought to be obtained was not so despicable and the injury inflicted on the deserving poor was not so great. Attention has lately been drawn to some of these artistic dodges by certain London papers, a few of which we here relate. One "artist" (who by the way has lately retired from the profession) would start out each morning suitably attired to make a picture of genteel poverty. He would go to one of the most crowded centres of London, say the Strand or Cornhill. Watching his opportunity, he would involve himself in the crowd of passing vehicles and fall as if knocked down by the horses. He was little and lithe, and so adroit by long practice that he would go within a hairsbreadth of death and only receive just as much damage as suited his purpose. Of course the sympathy of the crowd was excited in behalf of the woebegone object, and he limped off with many substantial tokens of their kindly feelings. Next day the dodge would be repeated in some other locality, the chief actor therein being now disguised as an unfortunate, half-paralyzed old woman.

Another trick often played with success is for a boy and girl to get into a pretended row in the street. The boy quickly dodges off, the girl yells, then bursts into tears, an anxious crowd gather, they listen to her sad tale. Her mother has just sent her out with the last shilling they had to buy some bread for her half-famished little brothers and sisters, the boy has stolen it, mother is sick, cannot earn any more. What shall she do? etc. The sympathetic by-standers, as a rule, quickly make up more than the pretended loss, and the weeping girl glides off with the plunder. This effective scheme is slightly altered by the supposed victim making night the hour for the venture. She obtains a candle and gropes in the gutter for the "lost shilling" which she has unfortunately dropped, and which neither she (nor any one else) can find. The old rigmorale is recounted and she usually moves off with substantial evidences of the credulity or sympathy of her hearers.

The bottle trick, (not that which conjurers perform) is also a paying one. A feeble, sickly looking creature crawls along in the neighborhood of one of the hospitals toward the close of the hours appointed for dispensing medicines to out-door patients, at the right moment the victim "trips up" and falls heavily. A groan, a crash, and a stream of something that looks and smells like "doctor's-stuff" covers the surrounding pavement. The tableau tells its own tale, but few words are needed. The trick, if artistically performed and to an appreciative audience, pays abundantly.

The above examples of ingenuity, spent for a very bad purpose are perhaps sufficient. To the residents of Utah they bespeak how widespread is the misery, how deep the degradation that would give rise to impostures such as these. Yet the citizens of such places are asked for sympathy for poor, poor miserable Utah and her down-trodden thousands, who never witness in her mountain fastnesses kindred scenes to these.

[COMMUNICATED.]

## THE DUTY OF LABOR.

ONE of the first duties of labor is to understand its creative and accumulative power. It is capable not only of taking the raw and crude materials of nature and fashioning the same into articles of use, but in that transforming process it gives value by imparting of itself; and whatever may be the excess of this value over and above self-sustenance and the replacing of the original material, &c., is the accumu-

lation of so much condensed or concentrated labor, which men call capital.

So then every laborer contains within himself the ability to become a capitalist, in a comparatively small degree, perhaps, but decidedly enough to establish the idea and fact. Many working men would laugh at this and yet at the same time they are investing labor or its proceeds, capital, in many directions, the very thing which they consider they are without. It is this surplus product of labor which becomes a house, an orchard, a farm, the supplier of social and domestic needs and fancies, many of which are useless, and some extravagant, and a good deal of that character which when thus invested becomes dead where wisdom and a more judicious method would have continued its life and made it possess the power of continuous increase.

All that is necessary for this is to invest in some creative direction; possibly the business from which it was received can absorb it, or some other man's business needs it, and he could use it so as to pay a fair interest on its investment; or a few who are thus accumulating can combine their surplus and do it in some channel that would give practical self-help.

The first efforts at co-operation in England were of this simple character. A few men believing that shopkeepers were making large profits out of their spendings, combined to buy at wholesale and distributed the same in the evening to each other, so by and through their own efforts they saved the profits of probably two or three middlemen, and had these men been of one business, similar investment, with economy and patient increase, might have made them all their own employers. Yet there are thousands, probably millions of these creative laborers, who are all the time (particularly if any co-operative enterprise is suggested) crying upon capitalists to give them employment or to give them assistance, when they have been and are the very creators of that capital which they invoke.

As a personal experience of some, when first seeking employment in this Territory (in what was an individually untried field of labor), the conclusion was soon reached, "If it will pay Mr. — to employ me, it will pay me to employ myself." But how few artisans think of this, how few reasonably intelligent workers have the industrial force to become their own employers, particularly our late arrivals, or those who crowd so large a city as Salt Lake? The early history of this community in the light of the present shows abundantly that outward pressure has been stronger than inclination, for had hundreds of those who are now well-to-do immigrated in this time, they would forever have waited for employment from others, instead of employing themselves and enjoying independence.

The inference from this is that while many are looking to the general authorities of the Church, some to their local authorities as Bishops, etc., and others to our prominent capitalists, there are many branches of industry which could be commenced and made successful by simple combination, without appeals to or assistance from any of the above, although their countenance and blessing may be highly desirable.

Farming could be, in very many cases, co-operative, with great advantages, so could sheep and horned stock herding. The latter business needs revision almost everywhere. Fifteen to twenty percent (for six months) is far too heavy as a herd bill, and outrages usury every time. Self defense, by combination, should remedy this. Those who have stock to herd should unite upon the best man, and in giving him employment they would protect their own substance. Saw mills and grist mills are both legitimate fields for combination, and have been more or less of that character. Silk, flax and sorghum farms would be better as the growth of co-operation, for in these needed industries, when left to individual effort, we can far too often assert that "what is everybody's business, is nobody's." The establishment of factories, foun-

dries, tanneries, shoe shops, are all laudable, and the latter could be commenced with but little of so-called capital or money; the former being on a larger scale, and requiring more or less of imported material or machinery is in rather a different position. But any way, even these can all be created, and with wise control and intelligent explanation, could be the property of the masses, as well as the opening for a very large amount of their own labors and the labors of their posterity. But whenever effort is made in this direction, the ring and clique spirit must be ignored, even authority must not usurp the mastery or expect to be all in all. There is quite a large proportion of material in all our settlements and colonies which, while it brooks no assumption, is passive and obedient to the genial spirit of lead and rule, and in the conduct of all co-operative industries, the man who creates his capital by labor, or the furnishing of needed material, is as much entitled to his voice as the contributor of a similar amount in cash, and all reasonable hopes of success in any direction must be based upon the fact that the best available intelligence is enlisted and placed to fill its legitimate position, in preference to those who have only the claim of relationship or influence.

There is no better season than the winter to have open labor meetings, in which the outlook could be canvassed and in which discussion and suggestion would awake that interest which is often dormant because of conclusions that no scheme or plan is plausible or necessary, or can be successful, unless devised and made public through the authorities.

The increase of our population and the necessity for providing them labor is laying heavy upon the hopeful hearts of the masses, who see in enforced idleness only demoralization and apostasy, and this very feeling seeks expression, it longs for its opportunity, and the future interests of our commonwealth really demand the prompt action and best and brightest thought of every elder who looks for any believers in the temporal salvation and independence of Israel.

## OUR DELEGATE AND HIS AC-CUSERS.

A FEW weeks ago a committee of women in this city, calling itself the "Ladies' Anti-Polygamy Society of Utah," prepared and signed a memorial which its officers forwarded to Washington, praying, among other things, for the expulsion of Hon. George Q. Cannon from the House of Representatives. The language of the document in one place is, "George Q. Cannon is married to four wives, although he cowardly denied it before a committee of a former House, lives with them openly, and introduces them as such." It is to the one point concerning a previous "cowardly denial" that we wish to refer in this article. We have heard it stated and occasionally admitted, that persons who acquire a habit of romancing and garnishing their stories with falsehood, eventually become, through so frequent a repetition of them, apparently believers in those statements themselves.

We are disposed to take this charitable view of the action of the memorial signers in this instance, for the false statement to which they affixed their names, has been repeated time and again until it has become stale and sickly. Its authors repeat it with the most unblushing effrontery, until one is almost led to think that they hope by their persistence and audacity in affirming it, to cram it into the minds of their hearers and fasten it there as a fact. Then they have become so accustomed to the utterance of lies upon the subject of "Mormonism" that even when the bare truth would serve their purpose better they cannot confine themselves to it, but embellish their stories with the most improbable and ridiculous additions. Specimens of the sensational and baseless reports from this Territory, of the most simple and commonplace matters have been clipped from eastern and western exchanges and republished in the columns of the NEWS,

whose readers therefore are able to judge of the character of the authors. It is a matter of some satisfaction, however, to know that the promulgators of these falsehoods, in their unholty zeal against "Mormonism," generally overshoot the mark and the reasonable, thinking people of the country have about come to the conclusion that no reliance can be placed upon these reports which they consequently pass over unnoticed.

Of all the falsehoods which have been circulated by our enemies, none is more utterly untrue and none is more easily disproved than this about Delegate Cannon's denial of having more wives than one. *George Q. Cannon at no time and under no circumstances ever denied before a committee of the House of Representatives that he was a polygamist or that he was the husband of more than one wife.*

The writer of this article knows this, not only from the Delegate himself, but from actual, personal residence in Washington City, covering months at a time, during more than one session of Congress, when this case was fresh in the minds of members and others. It was generally understood, both in and out of Congress that Mr. Cannon had more than one wife. The fact was mentioned frequently in the public journals, and was variously commented on, and at no time was it ever contradicted by the gentleman.

When George Q. Cannon was served with a notice of contest by the contestant for his seat in the 43d Congress, one of the main charges brought against him was that he was a polygamist, the husband of four wives. The contestant mainly relied upon that charge for the successful issue of his contest. He was charged with the commission of certain acts "in open and continued violation of the law of God, man, his country, decency and civilization," to which he offered a general denial, the charge being false in fact, and an answer to it being legally necessary. The counsel of the Delegate-elect took the ground that no legal advantage should be thrown away by their client, and that as the contestant had made a number of charges, the bulk of which were wholly or in part false, the burden of proof should be thrown upon him, and that no admissions should be made by them for their client, Mr. Cannon. With this in view they made their denials as broad as they could be in truth. As may be imagined, this line of defense was not very pleasing to Delegate Cannon's enemies, but it was not the intention that it should be. It left them too much to prove, which they were unable to do, and as a consequence they have never been satisfied with the wise and perfectly honorable method adopted by the contestee. They now endeavor, as they have repeatedly attempted before, to misrepresent Mr. Cannon's attitude on that occasion, and bring up the old charge of "cowardly denial," when, in truth, there was only no legal acknowledgement.

Our Delegate's position before the Committee on Elections in that contest was that his domestic relations had nothing to do with his right to a seat to which he had been elected. Whether he had no wife, or had only one wife, or had more than one wife, whether he had no offspring or a numerous offspring, neither qualified nor disqualified him for the position of delegate. He possessed the Constitutional qualifications, and he claimed that neither the committee nor the House, acting alone, had power to change them nor to add new qualifications. If he had more wives than one there was no statute of the United States which made ineligibility to office a part of the punishment for polygamy committed in the Territories or elsewhere. Occupying the position therefore that an examination into his family affairs was outside the province of the committee, he maintained silence before them, respecting his domestic relations, neither admitting nor denying anything. His enemies were at liberty to prove anything the committee chose to listen to, but he invariably said he would not countenance such proceedings either by producing witnesses or by cross-questioning those opposed to him. And his position was wisely chosen and well maintained.

The axiom, never to do what your enemies want you to do, is no less true in political warfare than in battles upon the tented field.