

As regards the leadership of the new Robledist party, I do not want it. Robledo has been very wise in proclaiming himself the leader ad interim only. Circumstances alone can decide who will be the leader."

The thought of Weyler at the head of a military expedition against the United States is probably inspiring to the souls of a certain class of Spanish patriots; but for their own sakes it is to be hoped that the more sober among them will remember that his tactics as displayed in Cuba would be entirely unsuited to the American Republic. First, he would have trouble in finding a place suitable for a trocha behind which to entrench himself; secondly, it would be wholly impracticable to reduce the people here to a condition where they could be starved to death; thirdly, it is doubtful whether he would be able to approach our hospitals near enough to set fire to them, not to speak of the impossibility of getting inside and butchering the sick men, women and children; fourthly, it would also be impracticable for him to assume the editorship of the press and the control of the telegraph offices. It is needless to enumerate all the obstacles and distinctions that would here confront a genuine Weyler campaign, but enough are in evidence to warrant his friends in Spain in using their influence to restrain his patriotism to some extent. There are any number of gentlemen in the United States who would be perfectly willing to meet him half way and pay the respects due to a soldier with the record he has made for himself; and that fact would seem to obviate the necessity on his part of planning any extensive campaign at all in the United States; any desire he may have for martial honors need not be made the occasion for anything more than a personal expedition.

It is not known that General Weyler's warlike attitude has depressed American securities in the foreign market to any perceptible degree; nor has it created the least sensation here, or anywhere else. The reason for this may be that Cervantes' hero, Don Quixote, is so well known in the world that even his ghost can but excite derision.

#### WHY ABUSE THE PEOPLE?

Professor Stewart is correct in saying that the schools of Utah today are something to be proud of and also that the maintenance of an excellent public school system always has been the aim of the people of Utah since the days of the first settlements in these valleys. No matter what the circumstances of the people were, whether starvation stared them in the face, or Indians threatened to blot them out—whatever were the ups and downs incidental to the planting of civilization and the emblem of liberty in this intermountain region the best possible education of the children was among the first concerns of the people. No matter what is said to the contrary by those who seem to regard it as their peculiar mission to belittle the works of the Pioneers, impartial history will give a verdict in accordance with truth in the matter.

In the meantime it may be well to point out that it would be just as generous, and just as much in accordance with facts to ridicule the first colonial settlers in America on account of their primitive efforts in the direction of schools, and literature in verse and prose, because these fall below the modern standard, as it is to insist that the early educational facilities of Utah

were "wretched" because the present ones are better in many respects. The cases are very nearly parallel. In both the question was of laying the foundation for a future structure and while doing so to wield the trowel with one hand and the sword with the other, figuratively speaking. The State of Utah, like the Temple of Nehemiah, was built in times of trouble.

The people here are patient and long-suffering, but it is difficult to see how continual sneers and vilification of the noble Pioneers and their immediate descendants can aid in maintaining good will and cordiality between the different classes of people, believed to be essential for the best interests of all.

#### SOME VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital statistics for Massachusetts present several points of general interest and public concern. During the forty years from 1846 to 1895 the marriage rate has declined noticeably, a fact accounted for by higher standards of living and a sharpened struggle for the necessities of life. There has also been a decline in the birthrate during the same period. Among the native-born it is shown to have fallen from 19.49 in 1850 to 16.58 in 1895. Among the foreign-born population the rate remained about stationary, at about 50 per thousand inhabitants, or double that of the native-born population. This calls attention to the fact that the native population of Massachusetts seems to be gradually dying out, since two children to each married couple does not offset the deaths.

Another fact is the increase of so-called illegitimate births in the state. The statistics on this point are not complete but the conclusion arrived at is that the ratio has risen from below 10 to 20 per 1,000 births during the period covered by the statistics. In Europe the ratio generally speaking is much higher.

The population of Massachusetts has nearly doubled during the forty years, but two-thirds of the increase is due to immigration. The death rate has increased, noticeably in the manufacturing cities. Infantile deaths bear a direct relation to the ratio of married women employed away from their homes.

Some of these figures are of interest as bearing more or less directly on the immigration question. The statistics for Massachusetts are said to be the most perfect so far obtained from any of the states. They should be compared with those of others, and it would probably be found that they represent conditions quite general in the East.

#### INDEPENDENT TURKEY:

The sultan of Turkey seems to be determined to take advantage of the present diversion of the attention of Europe to the affairs of eastern Asia, and the attitude of the Porte justifies the uneasiness felt by European statesmen. Rumors are out that the Turkish government has concluded that it is time to resent interference by the Christian powers in the affairs of the empire, and those rumors are supported by recent utterances of the official press. The Malumat, regarded as the organ of Achmed Djelladin Pasha recently said that the solution of the Cretan problem would be an easy one. Order would be established and commerce and industry flourish, if Europe would allow the Turks to go forth from

the walled cities in which they are enclosed. The foreign admirals had instructions to restore order, but they have done nothing. It remains to leave the island to its legitimate owners and for them to accomplish what the powers have failed to do. The paper continues:

"We are undoubtedly able to conquer Crete as we did Greece, although that country had so long been preparing for the struggle. If the misery has increased in Crete, it is the fault of Europe. The olive plantations are burnt down, the insurgents have perfected themselves in murder and theft; they have burst the military lines in order to steal cattle and made Europeans and Mussulmen targets for their bullets. And this condition is due to the so-called European concert! It is indeed high time that the owners of the island, make an end of all this. The intervention of Europe in Crete must have an end."

It is believed that the anxiety of the Porte shown lately to bring the negotiations with Greece to a conclusion is due to the fact that the Cretan question is to be brought up and treated in accordance with views here set forth. It is also believed that the Turkish government will not meet any serious obstacles. Austria is said to have signified her intention of withdrawing her cruisers and troops from Crete, and the other European powers will undoubtedly follow suit. After the Grecian question is settled, they may have no further interest in the Cretan developments.

Judging from all this Turkey is about to endeavor to assume a more dignified and independent attitude than she has had since the Crimean war. The victory over Greece has roused the Mohammedans to a sense of importance. This may have a direct bearing on the contemplated settlement of Palestine by the Hebrews; for they are more likely to obtain the needed concessions if the sultan feels that he can act independently without first being under obligation to listen to the contradictory counsels of the various cabinets.

#### MORMONISM IN MAYBOLE.

From newspaper clippings received it appears that a correspondent of a Scotch paper, signing himself "Pro Bono Publico," rehearses the old story of the Spaulding manuscript and gives a discourse on polygamy in order to prevent Mormon missionaries in Ayrshire from pursuing the labor of converting the people. Elders A. G. Adamson and James McKnight reply in the same publication to the misrepresentations of their antagonist. Among other things they say:

"The gentleman is about twenty years behind the times with his information regarding the State of Utah and Salt Lake City and its people. Utah is the most prosperous state in the Union, Salt Lake City is the most beautiful city in America. The people are the happiest and freest in the world. Ninety-five per cent of the Mormon people are the owners of their homes, with beautiful orchards and farms producing more than they consume. Their motto has always been: 'Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,' and all other things have been added unto them."

A common trouble among the enemies of the Church is that they attack it with weapons once perhaps formidable enough to look at but now rusty, broken to pieces, antiquated and harmless. And yet they wonder why Mormonism remains as powerful as ever!