

of education for Indian children and there are a large number of persons of national reputation, embracing editors and clergymen, who are committed to the recommendations of the Lake Mohonk conference, and who will bring their personal influence to bear upon Congress with a view to securing legislation in line with the plan adopted by that body. It is, therefore, probable that the United States Government will, at an early date, place in operation a system of education designed to lift the American Indian out of the depths of ignorance in which he has lain so long.

GEORGE L. WOODS.

THE telegraph informs us that George L. Woods, who was appointed Governor of Utah in 1871, is dead. We remember him well. He was a man given to much public speaking. He appeared to take delight in listening to the sound of his own voice, a pastime that only a few seemed to take pleasure in besides himself. His was a strong voice, rough and rasping. It was not soothing as the gentle zephyr which sighs and wails through the valleys in autumn, but crashing and tearing, like a cold blizzard as it rushes through the canyons on a December day. He had good points about him, but lacked the soft, sympathetic quality which, when associated with native reserved force, renders a man strong among his fellows. He was inclined toward politics, but was too gustfully forceful to make headway in that field.

JUST AS WE SAID.

NOT many days since the San Francisco *Chronicle*, which rarely misses an opportunity to manifest foolish and unreasonable bitterness toward the "Mormon" people at the expense of truth, published an account of the suicide of a depraved wretch, named William Martin, in a low "dive" in that city.

The fact that Martin was formerly a resident of Utah was sufficient ground to cause the *Chronicle*, without a peg of evidence on which to hang the assertion, to attribute his beastly course and final self-murder to the attitude of "Mormons" toward him. The assumption was, however, idiotically absurd on its face. The theory of our distorting Coast cotemporary was that Martin had married a "Mormon" Elder's daughter, and that the opposition

and bitterness of his father-in-law had driven the poor profligate to debauchery and finally to suicide. This method of manufacturing depraved characters is so novel that the *Chronicle* should at once proceed to patent it.

We stated at the time that a thousand chances to one Martin never could have been spoiled any more than could a rotten egg. He was in all likelihood clean gone before he married at all, as men do not reach the lowest level of villainess and abandonment at one downward leap. We also ventured the guess that his having been married to the daughter of a "Mormon" Elder was unadulterated fiction. And so it turns out.

It is learned, from a source whose reliability cannot be questioned, that the widow of the late William Martin is the daughter of a resident of Manti who is not a member of the Church. In fact none of the family are Latter-day Saints. The same informant states that any one who wishes to take the trouble to enquire can find out from residents of the town of Provo, where Martin is known, that this alleged victim of a "Mormon" father-in-law's harshness, was an unmitigated rogue and swindler.

We would suggest to the *Chronicle* that if it cannot find anything less childish through which to throw mud at the "Mormon" people, it let out its abuse in that line by contract to something or somebody with a vein of ingenuity.

CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE ZANE.

THE dispatches state that the Senate has confirmed the appointment of Charles S. Zane as Chief Justice of Utah. All things considered, the selection might, to say the least, have been a great deal worse. We have somethings against him, but a good deal in his favor. About the only objectionable features of his administration of the law, as we have remarked on other occasions, are his extreme bias and severity in the treatment of "Mormons" accused of infractions of the Edmunds and Edmunds-Tucker acts; yet even in that line his course has not been worse than that of other judges on the Utah bench. Among the points in his favor is his wide knowledge of the law. Indeed we have never pretended to say otherwise than

jurist. While pursuing what we have always held to be an extreme, not to say cruel, course in a line in which he very likely presumed he was sustaining the general government, it is to his credit that he has also endeavored, in accord with sound law, to uphold the local government as well. Taking it all in all, a much worse appointment than that of Chief Justice Zane might have been made.

SPANISH AMERICA ADVANCING.

MANY of the readers of the *DESERET NEWS* feel a peculiar interest in the countries of Central and South America. Having obtained a knowledge of the past history of those portions of the world from a record which was prepared anciently under the direction of the Almighty, and brought forth in modern times under the same auspices; and having gleaned from the same record a forecast of the future of those countries, they watch developments therein with expectant anticipation.

The year just closed has witnessed a rapid onward march of events in many portions of Spanish America. One of the most important of these is the formal adoption of a Pact of Union—an instrument corresponding with the Articles of Confederation under which the United States of America were first organized—by a congress representing the five republics of Central America. Three of them have ratified the instrument, viz.: Guatamala, Salvador and Honduras; and at latest advices Costa Rica was ready to enter the Union, provided Nicaragua will also do the same. The last named will not be likely to long resist the solicitations of her four sister states and near neighbors to join them in a union which can hardly fail to be productive of great benefit to all.

It may be taken as a foregone conclusion that Central America will soon be brought under one general government. If this shall be accomplished in time, a congress chosen by the five States under the provisions of the Pact of Union, will assemble next August at the capital of Honduras, and will choose, by lot, from among the presidents of the five States, one who shall be president of the confederation for the term of one year. Each president of a State will succeed, in an annual rotation, to the office of chief magistrate of the confederation, until ten years have elapsed. In