

of the new unit made some grave miscalculations. A more rational proceeding, it has been suggested, would be to measure the axis of the earth, which is a straight line and the base line, so to speak, on which the globe is framed. Dividing this line in five hundred million equal parts each would be about half a hair's breadth longer than the present inch. Twenty-five of these might be given a convenient name and serve for a longer unit, thus giving a system of measurement with all the advantages of the metric system and based upon a more scientific foundation. It is not at all impossible that the meter system at some time will be subjected to some such revision.

PRESIDENT WOODRUFF'S BIRTHDAY.

Ninety-one years ago today, March 1st, in the country village of Farmington, now called Avon, Hartford county, Connecticut, was born the man who now presides over the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in all the world and whose great age and mental and physical vigor are incontestable proofs that God has been with him to bless and preserve him for the great work he has done and is still doing. When the shocking accidents that have befallen him at different times, by which almost every bone in his body has been broken, the great hardships he has endured, and the numerous severe and dangerous attacks of disease from which he has suffered, are all recalled, his preservation in the health of body and mind which he enjoys today becomes still more marvelous.

Ninety-one years! What wonderful things has Wilford Woodruff lived to see! Since he, as a boy, in charge of a grist mill, spent many an hour of the silent night in meditation and prayer, desiring that he might live to hear the voices of apostles and prophets, he has seen the rise and growth of the work of God to its present eminence and dimensions; he has witnessed the development of the steamboat, railroad, telegraph, telephone and electric light and dynamo; he has seen this nation, rent asunder, hover long on the brink of destruction but given at length a further lease of life through its adherence to true principles; he has seen great wars, and the evolution of mighty events that, in the nature of things, must lead to greater wars.

Within the span of his own life, he has seen the whole world move swiftly on, from stage to stage, towards that doom and destiny that await this earth and its inhabitants. Nations have risen and fallen in his time, and great changes have been made in the maps of both hemispheres since he was a school boy. Estimated by what he has seen and experienced, it could be said, perhaps without exaggeration, that his life has been as long as were those of some of the ante-diluvian patriarchs that were measured by centuries.

In his wonderful old age he finds himself in daily attendance upon the duties of his calling, the possessor of the unbounded respect of his fellow citizens who are not of his religious views, and of a love and reverence too strong and deep for expression here, from tens of thousands who look upon him as their spiritual leader. His life is an open book, full of lessons of faith, patience, humility and devotion, and of the fruits that follow the practice of these virtues in the life of a Latter-day Saint.

Today, in many lands and languages prayers to God are being offered, expressing heartfelt thanks that President Wilford Woodruff has been spared so long, and the fervent desire that his life may be preserved yet many years. With the Saints in all the world the

"News" ardently joins in the wish that the aged veteran may live as long as life shall be desirable unto him, and that health and peace may abide with him until the end!

NO LAWLESSNESS WANTED.

Whatever may have been the motive of those men who enacted the role of Whitecappers at Monroe on Friday night last, they acted without due authority of law if not in direct opposition to it and were to that extent at least clearly in the wrong. The worst part of such proceedings is that the odium does not rest exclusively upon those who so demean themselves, but is cast upon the community in which they live and each individual has to bear his proportion, which is what the average citizen of this law-abiding State would prefer to be absolutely free from all the time.

In the Southern States, immediately and for several years after the war, an organization having for its object the terrorizing of the negroes was maintained under the name of the Ku-Klux Klan. It was shown as defensive matter that the late freedmen as a rule had no other conception of freedom than immunity from all kinds of restraint or responsibility and that the operation of the law was not searching enough or fast enough in most cases to either prevent or adequately punish such offenders. This was to a great extent true, but it remains a fact that about all the Klan succeeded in accomplishing in a moral way was their own degradation to a level with those complained of without in the least diminishing the evils complained of. So must it ever be. There is no better or safer place than that in which the law with awful, silent and majestic power has full sway. It is sometimes perverted, now and then goes beyond the proper mark and again falls short of it; but let every citizen be made to comprehend that it is his sword as well as his shield when properly invoked and practiced, and these mistakes will then grow less from time to time and eventually exist only as rare occurrences a long way apart.

We want no Whitecappers, Ku-Klux or vigilance committees in Utah.

A LESSON FROM THE SOUTH.

The Chamber of Commerce of the town of Huntsville, Alabama, is an organization that seems to be bent on filling the purpose and measure of its creation, and it has a secretary who may properly be called a hustler from the start-off. Under date of the 27th of January he writes to one of the best-known wholesale merchants in this city and State in the following breezy and inviting strain:

Are you flurrying on the removal of your plant to the South? If so, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce invites you to come and investigate for yourself the superior advantages this city offers for textile manufacturing:

1. Exemption from taxation for ten years, both municipal, county and state.
2. One of the best inland cotton markets in the South. (Fifty thousand bales per annum.)
3. Cheap coal, from \$1.35 to \$1.50 per ton.
4. High-class native white labor in abundance, no labor organizations, hence no strikes. Wages one-third less than in the East.
5. Sixty-six hours per week standard working time.
6. Fine railroad facilities, two competing railroads making low rates. Average freight rate on manufactured

goods but five-sevenths of the rate on cotton to Eastern markets.

7. Abundance of water at no cost.
 8. Free site given for locating here, with side tracks and water furnished free of expense.
 9. We represent that the unparalleled success of our three large cotton mills here is sufficient evidence of our great advantages.
 10. We have the enviable reputation of being the most healthful locality in the South.
 11. Our city has 15,000 people and all modern improvements.
- Write us if you are interested, and we will be pleased to make you a proposition.

In the foregoing invitation and argument are some inducements which the Chamber of Commerce of this city cannot offer, and would not want to if it could. But there is a suggestion of get-up-and-work and a fine flavor of enterprise accompanying the letter that will be received with a positive relish by those of Salt Lake's business men who believe that their own semi-slumbering city has the best resources and prospects of any spot on the continent. Huntsville, Alabama, may not be all that its promoters say it is, but if it does not make a winning its Chamber of Commerce cannot be charged with the blame. Salt Lake City is all and more than its citizens claim for it; but — it would be unkind to carry the comparison further.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF VICE.

The "News" feels a profound respect for men and women who devote their time and talents to the reclamation of the sinner. That person who persuades the victims of temptation to leave the paths of vice and the society of the vicious, to walk henceforth in the ways of virtue and associate only with the virtuous, is a savior and redeemer to the extent to which these good works are carried. If these results are accomplished without the doing of harm to offset them, the methods by which they are produced ought not to be condemned, even though those methods may not conform to established or conventional rules or notions.

But in the pursuit of a laudable object it is often easy to do more harm than good; and there is a question whether a too free discussion of vice, its haunts, its features, its prevalence and its attractions, before mixed audiences, embracing both sexes and all ages and conditions, will not produce more evil than benefit. The "News" seriously questions the propriety and the beneficence of such meetings. They are not very likely to lead to reformation persons who have actually entered upon the practice of wickedness, but they are likely to bring prominently before the minds of many persons not familiar with vice, portrayals of it that stimulate a curiosity and a desire for further personal investigation, that often lead to fatal results.

As a rule a young man pays his first visit to a gambling den, and to a worse place, not out of a determination to do any wrongful act, but merely out of curiosity; and the less this propensity is excited, regarding the subject matter here indicated, in the minds of those not yet initiated in the ways of sin, the better. Particularly should the unguarded discussion of such subjects, in the presence of mixed assemblages of young people, be avoided. In relation to a certain class of evils it may be truly said that ignorance is a protection to innocence.

What careful, thoughtful parent would wish to have a daughter, who is nearing or has just passed the verge of womanhood, yet retains the stainless