

eed as rapidly along the road to the consummation devoutly to be wished as is possible under all the circumstances.

STRANGE EVENTS.

The "News" recently published a brief paragraph relating to a strange freak of lightning in Ohio. It was given in a semi-humorous way because, as it seemed at the time, the story was quite improbable. It is not related in that vein by the man who claims to have had the experience, however, whose name is William Arndt and who resides in Van Wert county in that state. It is altogether about as strange and incomprehensible a thing as has been recorded in late years. According to his statements the events took place one day in August last. A thunder storm had passed over just before noon and the clouds had broken up and nearly all dispersed to the southward. The sun was shining brightly and all uneasiness relating to the storm had passed with it, when all at once a terrific clap of thunder occurred and the earth trembled as if in the throes of an earthquake. Mr. Arndt had a flock of forty sheep a short distance away in a pasture and they had huddled together under a big maple tree in the field while the rain was falling. They were still there when the great thunderclap broke the stillness succeeding the storm. Eighteen of the sheep were black. He found that every one of them had been killed by the strange lightning, while not one of the other sheep was injured. Each dead sheep had a round hole in the back of its neck, around which the wool was burned away. The killing of the eighteen black sheep was the extent of the damage done on his farm, but on an adjoining farm a flock of sheep was standing in a circle, and every sheep on the outside row was killed, twenty in all. None of the rest was hurt. On another farm a flock of sheep, among which was a big black ram, the only black one in the flock, was in a pasture, huddled about the big ram. The ram was found dead in the field with a burned hole in his neck, and his black fleece had been turned as white by the shock as that of any sheep in the flock.

As if to add to this chapter of phenomena, it is related that on another farm some two miles away, there were six horses in a barn, standing in a row. The horse nearest one end of the barn and the third and fifth horses in the row were killed by the same shock; the chain of the sixth horse was melted and fused into a solid mass, and metal elsewhere was similarly treated, but there was no mark to show where the lightning entered. While we may not be so much mystified at lightning out of a clear sky just after a heavy storm—because perhaps of the elements of which the fluid is formed having remained in the air after the storm passed—how are we to account for so much apparently intelligent discrimination being practiced by the fantastic destroyer? It is a question for the scientists to answer and to them it is respectfully referred.

PRESIDENT McKINLEY'S POLICY.

President McKinley, in his speech at the Jubilee banquet at Chicago on Wednesday, Oct. 20, emphasized that the war with Spain was commenced solely for the purpose of putting an end to oppression in Cuba. He also held that in our present situation duty alone should point out our responsibilities. He said:

"The war with Spain was undertaken

not that the United States should increase its territory, but that oppression at our very doors should be stopped. This noble sentiment must continue to animate us, and we must give to the world the full demonstration of the sincerity of our purpose. . . . Territorial expansion is not alone and always necessary to national advancement. There must be a constant movement toward a higher and nobler civilization, a civilization that shall make its conquests without resort to war and achieve its greatest victories pursuing the arts of peace. In our present situation duty and duty alone should prescribe the boundary of our responsibilities and the scope of our undertakings."

In this he will have the hearty support of the great majority of the people. It became our duty to respond to the appeal of oppressed Cuba, and duty alone will dictate our future course, now that victory has been won.

A GODLESS AGE.

The author of "Life Without a Master" makes the following observations relative to the Christianity of the present age:

"So far as Europe and America are concerned, this is emphatically a godless age. Such enlightened countries as France and Germany make scarcely any pretensions in the way of Christianity, and as far as America is concerned, her efforts in the same department are largely made up either of pretense or show. The Christian people, so-called, of the present century have only one day to devote to religion—and only a small portion of the day

Business takes precedence over everything of a devotional character, and what little there is done in that line is left chiefly to women and children. Grown-up men have no time to waste for such purposes—unless it be when they have retired from business pursuits, or when, on account of ill health, they expect to survive but a short time. Business men seldom have time even to pray, especially so long as matters go along prosperously with them. They might call upon God for help in case of a cyclone or some other desperate emergency, but except under such rare conditions as these, they feel that they have no occasion for the intercession even of the Supreme Being. People have gradually drifted, for a hundred years or more, into a very worldly way. Indeed, ever since the advent of that valiant and noble defender of the cross, Martin Luther, religious sentiment has been more or less on the decline. Martin meant it all right enough—no better Christian man than he has ever lived, provided we measure his conduct entirely by his own standard. Martin only intended to introduce some improvements in theology, but as a direct result of his teaching, Christianity was cut loose from its moorings and it has been drifting ever since. As long as the pope and the priests were allowed to decide what the people should believe and what not, things went along smoothly and pleasantly enough, but when people were given the Bible to read, and they were allowed to construe its passages according to their own individual interests or fancy, confusion followed, and matters have been growing worse ever since—or in other words, faith in the Bible and its teachings has been growing weaker and weaker from day to day down to the present time.

"But this godlessness of our age is decidedly phenomenal. In the history

of this world, going back not only hundreds but thousands of years, there is no record of anything like it. Even today, outside of Europe and America, the case is entirely different. The Mohammedans who are spread over Asia and Africa in such immense numbers, are emphatically a devotional people. They believe in God, and therefore they worship Him—they worship Him not only daily but hourly. The same is true of the Chinese and of the native people of India—though, of course, their idea of God is not like ours. But it is well to bear in mind that when the quantity of religion is so excessive, the quality is apt to be inferior."

SUNDAY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN.

Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a Sunday school kindergarten training school in connection with the Latter-day Saints' college, in this city. The movement is worthy of all encouragement. The importance of kindergarten or infant classes in the Sunday school cannot be overestimated. The directing of the manifold activities of little children is one of the most difficult tasks of the teacher. It requires some degree of natural aptitude, and considerable special training. The object of this training is to enable the teacher to direct the spontaneous activities of the child, so as to avoid waste and friction, every motion and word having its full meaning. This will be found particularly valuable in the Sunday school, for the religious element naturally enters into kindergarten work. By no other method can implicit faith and confidence in God be so well inculcated in the minds of children.

We therefore commend the kindergarten training class to the favorable attention of Sunday school officers throughout this Stake. Every effort should be made to foster it. We think no ward in the Stake can well afford not to be represented in the class.

CAPT. STOVER DEAD.

A long and eventful career was that of David B. Stover, who relinquished this life at an early hour this morning. He has been a continuous resident of Utah for a greater length of time than many men and women who were born here and have good-sized families of their own in our midst. He made his advent with the command of Colonel Connor, of the California and Nevada volunteers, as chief quartermaster, in 1863, at which time he was getting along toward middle age, being about forty years old. He was mustered out in 1866 and went to mining shortly after, making Stockton, Tooele county, his headquarters and where he remained until a few months ago, when he moved to this city. His mining exploits were not highly successful and the end found the old veteran as he had lived for many years, in indigent circumstances.

Captain Stover received his commission as such from President Lincoln, but he had previously been a lieutenant in the American army of invasion and conquest of Mexico. He could relate off-hand more interesting reminiscences of that struggle than are found in any history of it, and do it much more entertainingly. To hear him speaking of events of the Mexican war as though they had occurred last month or last year and reflect that it took place more than half a century ago, while the narrator was still a fairly active man whose real and apparent