

is causing considerable concern to the reflecting citizens of that part of Northern Utah. Well they may, for the blackening blight of the liquor traffic is already nipping the freshness and innocence of the young by its pernicious influence. The opening of these gates of sin by strained construction and in opposition to the expressed will of the people is a disgrace, little short of a judicial outrage. The only thing to be done now is to stem the stream of intemperance as effectually as possible with all the available means at hand.

Our esteemed contemporary the *Journal*, a sturdy champion of sobriety and good morals generally, offers a suggestion which we endorse with unreserved heartiness. It is to the effect that the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations, now generally organized for winter operations, should make a special stand upon the subject of temperance and exert all the influence they possess in keeping the feet of the youth in the path of sobriety. The idea is a good one, and will doubtless commend itself to those to whom it is offered. It is strictly within the province of these Associations and in harmony with their aims.

Unfortunately, Cache is not the only locality where the demon of intemperance threatens to extend its malign influence, and engulf the young and unwary in the vortex of ruin, fed by its insidious strides. It is to be hoped that the recommendation of a special stand on the side of sobriety and in opposition to the traffic in liquid intoxicants be generally adopted. As to the methods to be adopted to carry out this mission, the young men themselves are endowed with sufficient intelligence and tact to enable them to adapt their operations to the character of the circumstances with which they have to cope. In the meantime we wish them God speed in the good work, and hope that in whatever popular action may be taken on the subject when the next Legislature shall assemble, the youth of the community will constitute a conspicuous factor in the demand for legislative remedies in the interests of public morality.

RAILROAD PERPLEXITIES.

RAILROAD matters are getting into a state of chronic agitation all over the country, owing to the intense competition that prevails. Nearly every region where a solitary line formerly operated and made business pay is now threaded by one or more others anxious to secure the trade. We doubt if there is any enterprise of another class in which more powerful struggles of men and means are exhibited than in railroad building and operating.

All efforts to patch up and maintain an understanding regarding rates where a considerable number of companies are interested appear unavailing. The late meeting of agents and representatives of different roads in San Francisco has fallen short of its object, one company represented at the gathering having recently declared that they would not be bound by anything that was done.

In this locality the undercurrent battle continues, and all efforts at an understanding between the two main competing lines—the U. P. and D. & R. G.—have amounted thus far to but little, an amicable settlement being apparently as far off as ever. Railroad men here are constantly on the stretch after business, and their positions are no sinecures. Every once in a while something transpires that creates a ripple of excitement among them, as was the case yesterday, when the D. & R. G. announced to certain merchants a freight rate from the Missouri River to this point of fifty cents a hundred. This threatened downward leap was followed by an intimation from Mr. McConnell, that if it were carried out, the U. P. would establish a twenty-five cent rate.

We understand that the action of the D. & R. G. is the result of a proposal from them to the U. P. to pool the profits of the two roads being declined. It was probably thought that a tremendous reduction would bring the U. P. to their terms.

There is a good deal of discussion as to the general effect of sweeping

freight rate reductions, some inclining to the opinion that it will be detrimental, while others take an entirely opposite view. We are inclined to believe as a whole that the result is and will be during its continuance beneficial. The consequent cheapening of goods of general consumption must be a local saving aggregating a considerable amount, and there is not much fear of shippers generally losing to any great extent by the fluctuations. This is not likely to be the case as long as it is to the interest of the railroads to see that they do not. The greatest, if not the only losers, are the railroads themselves, and the great public feel a good deal like the woman whose life partner was engaged in a determined struggle with brain—"Go it bear, go it husband," she exclaimed.

The question of future peace or war between the rival roads will probably soon be settled. The leading officials of the U. P. Company were expected to arrive in this city this afternoon, when it was understood a consultation between the two companies on the subject would be held and a decision reached. The three points to be deliberated upon are a settled rate, pooling, or warfare.

A JOKE FROM GOTHAM.

THE New York *Tribune* indulges in some very weak talk about a statement lately made by Prof. G. K. Gilbert to the effect that one of these fine days Salt Lake City would be shaken to smithereens by a tremendous earthquake. The *Journal* named actually places the Professor on the missionary pedestal in this fashion:

"We trust he will flood the Territory with his views on this subject. Not that we condone earthquakes, or would wish to see Salt Lake City transformed into a sepulchre and the rest of Utah shaken into a howling waste. But we really would like to see the Professor make such an impression upon the Mormons as should scare them into repentance and consequent clean living. A sharp rain of fire and brimstone is understood to have put a stop to wickedness in two well-known cities of another age, Sodom and Gomorrah. Perhaps the prospect of an earthquake might do as well by Utah. Go on with your missionary work, Professor. It is not the first time that science has gone hand in hand with reform."

This talk about scaring the most courageous people on the continent is supremely absurd, and the hope of bringing a community like this to repentance and cleaner living, belongs to the same piece of cloth. But for the presence of non-Mormons in Salt Lake City, bagnios would have no existence, and drinking dens would be extinct institutions. A Gotham journal talking about cleaner living in Salt Lake City, is one of the most gigantic jokes of the season. Let that city of smut wash her face before proffering soap to the comparatively pure capital of Utah.

But let Professor Gilbert go on flooding Utah with his views and see whether he cannot get up a scare like a hurricane. We apprehend that all the panic he would create wouldn't have the effect of producing the spectacle of more than nine-tenths of the "Mormon" population fleeing to other parts with their coat tails floating rearward in the breeze to get away from the predicted crash of matter. They don't get terrorized to any appreciable extent.

PUNISHMENT OF MURDERERS.

It is estimated that not more than half the perpetrators of murders committed in the United States during the last ten years have been punished. The keen criminal lawyer succeeds in causing delays until the public forget the enormity of the crime committed by the client, and sympathy turns to the unfortunate prisoner. It is then an easy matter to show that the accused had exhibited numerous eccentricities, and the jury are led to believe in his insanity. He is turned loose upon the people with no fear of the law before his eyes, and probably to find fresh victims. There is a growing feeling in favor of the pro-

position that a man who murders while sane forfeits his life, and one who kills another while in a state of insanity forfeits his liberty. If this were put into effect public safety would be subserved, and the number of lynchings that are of oftener than daily occurrence in the country greatly reduced.

THE SETTLEMENTS SOUTH.

NOT having visited the Salt River and Gila River Valleys, in Arizona, we are under the necessity of depending upon reports of those familiar with that part of the country for a basis on which to rest an opinion of its merits or disadvantages for settlement. In the main, the descriptions partake of the rosy hue, and when applied to the facilities in their crude, undeveloped state, probably the picture is not overdrawn. But for a new settler to be satisfied with his situation and circumstances in any new country, it is necessary for him to have the genuine qualities of the pioneer. In viewing his surroundings he should be able to see the possible future arising, by well-directed industry and intelligence. He must be able to grasp this not as a mere dreamy theorist, but in an intensely practical sense, allied with a sturdy resolution to extend his best efforts in changing a rugged and apparently forbidding present into a budding and blooming hereafter. Those who attempt to settle in a new country without being of this character and frame of mind, generally make up the class who float into new places and float out again, leaving it to others to reap the benefits of whatever labors they may have performed during their temporary stay, and when the country is developed in after years they are left to the sad reflection of what "might have been" had they been more persistent and far-seeing.

We cannot help being satisfied, as far as we can be without a personal inspection, that the Salt River and Gila valleys, and much of the contiguous region have before them a bright material future, and those who gain a foothold now will reap the coming reward. This opinion is based upon the universal understanding, so far as we have heard, that all the constituent facilities of wealth are there in considerable profusion—a fine climate, good land, plenty of water, abundance of timber, while mineral riches exist in the bosom of the earth. It takes no greater stretch of mind to see a future picture of plenty and prosperity arise out of these resources by the application of intelligence and industry, than to be able to grasp the fact that a comely architectural structure can be erected from an accumulation of all the necessary building materials by the introduction of skillful labor.

There are numerous other parts of the country besides that designated that are in the incipient stages of settlement, and where the facilities are probably as plethoric as there, but our attention has been directed specially to it by verbal and written descriptions. There are a number of men on the land there of proverbial energy and they naturally desire to see the country developed, which can only be done by an influx of the right kind of population. Probably the element of the greatest service and which would reap the harvest of their earlier labors would consist of young married men with their families, who have not yet established permanent homes in other parts more thickly populated and have not promising prospects of deriving a competency. Industrious people generally, however, whose resources are narrowed down in the more thickly settled parts to a small limit, especially those acquainted with farming, might find it advantageous to make a fresh start on a broader basis, where they would have more room.

People who float from one place to another because of a restless inclination are not a desirable element in a new country, nor an old one either for the matter of that. The useful and fruitful settler is one who possesses, among other good points, excellent staying qualities, and who is not easily discouraged by forbidding appearance. When he sees an undesirable condition he must be of that sturdy metal that will cause him to go to work with a will and change it for the better.

The settlements of the Salt River and Gila valleys are now emerging out of the embryotic period and taking on some of the conditions of advancement. They are now in want of the merchant, to keep within the community means that is spent in outside towns; school teachers are beginning to be more in demand, and desires are expressed for the presence of persons capable of teaching the "divine art," while intimations are already indulged in to the effect that at no distant day that indispensable adjunct of modern civilization, a newspaper, will be a necessity.

The Latter day Saints are acknowledged to be unexcelled as developers of new countries, their presence changing barrenness into bloom, and they constitute the hub of material progress in this entire region. They are averse to conflicts with men, but are at home in going forth to conquer and subdue the crude elements of nature and rendering them useful in supplying the wants of man. They are constantly, under the divine blessing, turning comparative sterility into fruitfulness.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The war among the doctors has broken out again in New York. It is a battle between the conservative and the liberal allopathists, and the contending forces appear to be terribly in earnest. They are giving each other bitter medicine in big doses.

Says the *Sacramento Record Union*: An effort is being made to bring influence to bear upon Congress to pass a national divorce law. It should be defeated. It is true our State laws need harmonizing, and should be reformed, but the Federal Government should not be the medium of it.

The Island of Chios, the chief scene of the recent great earthquake in the Levant, is particularly interesting to historical students and literary men from the fact that it is the reputed birthplace of Homer. It was also the scene of the Turkish massacre of Solo, which sent a thrill of horror throughout the civilized world during the Greek revolution.

An influential journal says, that the effect of speculation on legitimate business may be judged from the fact that experienced men in banking and other business: both in the east and west, unite in the opinion that none of the large failures in the United States need have taken place if they had abstained from speculations apart from their own special business.

"The generous hopes and wishes of true friendship need to be infused into our benefactions to make them warm, living, and growing influences upon humanity. We need to broaden our sympathies, to expand our powers of affection, to take to our hearts not only a few congenial spirits, but all those who need the warmth of our sympathies and the uplifting hand of true friendship."

In France another anti-German, crusade is being inaugurated. The word is being passed around among the large manufacturing establishments that the Germans must go. The continuous friction, the result of the most determined hate, will probably reach its culminating point before long in an extensive and bloody war, which will set Europe ablaze and make radical changes in the Old World map.

Some cheap restaurants in Brussels have palmed off dog flesh for mutton on their customers. A dog butcher at Molenbeck had a monopoly of the trade, as his father had before him. The police caught him in the act of delivering a joint weighing twelve pounds at a restaurant in the Place des Renard, and on search being made at his house several dogs were found waiting there to be killed.

"You must not yield to customs but, like the anvil, endure all the blows until the hammers break themselves. When misrepresented, use no crooked means to clear yourself. Clouds do not last long. If in course of duty you are tried by the mistrust of friends, gird up your loins and say in your heart, I was not driven to virtue by the encouragement of friends, nor will I be repelled from it by their coldness. Finally, be just and fear not."

A clergyman had a favorite and very intelligent dog, who committed a grievous fault one Sunday

morning. His master, on returning from church, "did not beat him, but took hold of him and talked to him most bitterly, most severely. He talked on and on for a long time in the same serious and reproachful strain," and the dog was so deeply impressed with his own total depravity that he refused all food, pined away and died in the course of a day or two. This story is told in the *London Spectator* by the reverend gentleman himself.



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(Continued.)

CHAPTER II.

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