

joy. If anything could modify the horrors of the cyclone's work it was and is the spectacle of those within reach hurrying on such means of relief as they could. It is enough to cause a thrill of joy to the just to contemplate the near approach to godliness which our race can compass when it is influenced in that way. How different from the other condition—how irreconcilably opposed is one to the other!

The strings of the human heart, like those of the harp attuned to melody, if touched by rude or unskilled fingers produce discord and dissonance; and all the education of all the centuries since savage man mingled freely with wild and ravenous beasts has not made it otherwise. In an instant all that was gained is shown to have been as superficial as the clothing he wears, it is thrown aside, and again we have the ungovernable savage fierce as the fiends of darkness and thirsting for the life-blood of humanity.

SCANDINAVIAN SAINTS.

The Latter-day Saints are greatly interested in the matter of securing genealogical information, as the importance of possessing a complete family record is fully appreciated by them. Sometimes the circumstances have been strongly averse to the obtaining of such records, and progress in the work has been slow and expensive. This has been the case to a considerable extent with those Saints who have emigrated from the Scandinavian countries or their children who have been reared here.

Recently, however, the door has been thrown wide open for the acquiring of very desirable information in this respect. Mr. Peter Hansen, local Danish consul, has interested himself in the subject, for the benefit of his fellow countrymen who reside here, and his labors have been attended with a success that is truly gratifying. He has been enabled to gain access to records that heretofore were unknown to exist, or were thought to be unattainable, and information of great value has been thus obtained. More of the same character is within reach.

The Scandinavian Saints in Utah should be wise in time. The door is opened wide upon a vast and fruitful field for genealogical research, and the opportunity should be taken advantage of before it passes away. There should be no need to dwell upon the importance of this matter to those who desire a record of their progenitors; a mere suggestion as to how and where this wished-for knowledge can be obtained should be sufficient. Mr. Hansen is in a situation to be of material assistance in this regard. His address is 267 Seventh East street, Salt Lake City.

A WORD ON PURITY.

We are informed by a correspondent that some of the people of Fountain Green have been gravely discussing the question whether three-fourths of the world's population who marry do so with the "impure motive" of in-

dulging their passions. At last accounts they had not yet come to a positive decision, and wanted the DESERET NEWS to settle the question.

Speaking generally, we should say that discussing men's motives in any transaction or vicissitude is a profitless occupation, unless, indeed, the arguer's "motive" is to perpetrate a scandal upon some person or institution whose actions without such discussion might not afford any basis for arraignment. We feel perfectly safe in saying that "three-fourths," or ninety-nine hundredths for that matter, of those who "indulge" the somewhat prevalent passion for impugning motives, not only stultify themselves in every case, but by the circulation of error not infrequently become responsible for serious wrong.

But leaving mere speculation entirely out of the discussion and referring judgment to simple questions of fact, the query, repounded, we think, can be disposed of in very few words to the utmost satisfaction of any thinking person. Proceeding upon the general axiom that the only proper evidence of "impure motive" is impure or dishonorable conduct, we would ask: First, what are the obligations of marriage which could be construed in any way to affect the question at issue? On the part of the man there is a pledge in the usual and formal ceremony of marriage to cherish and protect his wife and children; in other words he promises to supply the wants of the home and be a constant protector of the family against adversity, so far as he is able. These are serious obligations, and it would be preposterous to assume that any rational being would look upon such a contract as trivial while entering upon it in good faith. The only legitimate question in the premises for discussion is, therefore, whether three-fourths of such pledges are made dishonestly. As before explained, the only safe guide to the question is the actual conduct of men. Do three-fourths of the married world regularly and deliberately violate the pledges of matrimony in the line indicated? If in a short time or with the first opportunity after marriage a man deserts his wife or a wife her husband, without sufficient cause, it is evidence of bad faith in the contract, showing with much certainty that the relation was entered into for simply a temporary gratification or by reason of a fleeting whim. If, being in the marriage relation, a man gambles away his earnings, or squanders his means in profligate extravagance by pampering his personal cravings and absorbing for his own appetites and desires that which belongs to the wife, children and home dependent upon him for support, such a man may be justly charged with bad faith in his marriage contract. Without multiplying examples, suppose that all whose conduct in married life betrays some such palpable evidence of dishonesty be classed together as having married with "impure motives," while over against them are classed those who to all outward appearance have fulfilled their marriage covenants in the line indicated to the best of their ability, for the motives of a man who does this cannot be im-

peached. Does any one believe that such an exhibit would stand as 3 to 1 against the purity of the marriage contract?

But we more than suspect the presence in this "discussion" of the transcendental fallacy that the carnal passion itself is a pollution under all circumstances. If by pure marriages is meant only the matrimonial union of persons who believe the animal desire to be a sin, there is no question to be decided. Such morbid exaltation is a rare article in this mundane existence, which, if we understand the plan of nature, was designed quite as much for man as for the rest of creation. When it is established that passion is synonymous with sin, we shall find ourselves the inhabitants of an awfully polluted world. From the humblest organization of nature all the way up to man, nothing with life has escaped the sin. This universal attraction of sex is quite as pronounced and emphatic in its way in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom. Among all the secret laws of the organic creation which have been revealed or discovered, none is so conspicuous as the law of sex. It rules everything that is of earth but its rocks. We should say, therefore, to these mistaken seekers for perfection, that if they would be pure in the way they propose, the sensible course is not to imitate the gods, for that would lead them a thousand times deeper into the "abomination," but to apply to some practical chemist and have themselves dissolved and returned to the form of some beautiful, lucid, shining, glorious crystal, probably a diamond, from whence a portion at least of their bodily organism may have originally been created. They will then be "pure."

Briefly: In the anxiety to be chaste one should avoid, if possible, impeaching the "motives" of the Creator.

SUCCESS THE WONDERWORKER.

The first dawn of the realization that France without the guiding hand of Richelieu was in a perilous condition, came to Louis XIII when an attendant read to him the latest news by courier from the frontier. Said the latter as a preface to his information—

"My liege, one short month since the Duke de Braganza was a rebel."

"And is so still," said Louis.

"Nay, sire, not so; he has been successful."

A volume could not say more. It required but the master hand of a Bulwer to give the situation its most realistic and most potent reproduction. Reclining on a chair and with the shade of impending dissolution cast upon him, sits the only man who could cope with the conspirators who have overcome him and won the king to their fatal purpose at last. The old prime minister realizes that without the intervention of Providence he can do no more and France is lost. The quoted words sound to him like the forerunner of a crisis which seals the record for his country's weal or woe, and that a few moments may tell the tale. The conspirators are exultant—Braganza is no longer a rebel but a patriot because he succeeded; so may they soon be patri-