

chapel—to dream of past dissipation and future triumphs to the accompaniment of the monotonous voice of the preacher who discusses the religious and social questions of the moment. But even this becomes wearying as the dreary days of Lent drag on, and what was at first a pleasant pastime became a dreary duty. When the enthusiasm is at its height, the various denominational churches are crowded. But after a time the novelty wears off and the church worship that was fashionable is relegated to a back seat until another season calls it forward. Such periodical piety is a parody on religion—a training school for hypocrisy. It is the fashion of the day—much of earth and little of heaven; clinging to a spasmodic form of godliness which is in itself ungodly, because it denies that power of godliness by which alone religion is made a permanently practical rule of life.

ONE KNEW, THE OTHER DIDN'T.

We have made reference already to the reflections cast upon the younger states and territories by President Cleveland, in his remarks before the Presbyterian home missions board at New York on March 3, in which the chief executive assumed that in what he was pleased to call "the newly settled portions of our vast domain" there was less of the religious and moral predominating than in the crowded East. The President no doubt voiced the general belief among religious people to the older states, but his prominence in a national capacity drew special attention to his words, and his ill-advised expressions have been sharply criticized in some quarters—perhaps even more sharply than the occasion warranted. If the President has paid attention to those criticisms, and has remembered the remarks of a speaker who followed him and who received little notice in the telegraphed report of the proceedings, he must have felt that among his audience there were some better informed on the West than himself, because they knew by personal observation something of this part of the country. The Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage followed President Cleveland, and said in his references to the West:

You must remember that it is only about 7 o'clock in the morning of our nation's life. Great cities are to flash and roar among what are called the "bad lands" of the Dakotas and the great "Columbia plains" of Washington state; and that of which we put our schoolboy fingers on the map and spelled out as the "great American desert" is, through systematic and consummate irrigation, to bloom like Chatsworth park and be made more productive than those regions depending upon uncertain and spasmodic rainfall.

Mr. Talmage well understood what Mr. Cleveland did not: that the social and industrial conditions of the East furnished as much opportunity for the "hot and stubborn warfare between the forces of good and evil" referred to by the President as did anything to be found in the newer portions of the country, where poverty and vice, and moral turpitude in the higher ranks of society, have not yet gained such

weapons of control as are almost made a necessity in the older and more thickly settled sections. Rev. Talmage must have learned this by personal observation in his travels west; and Mr. Cleveland's lack of information on the matter suggests that no man is fully qualified to be President and to deal fairly with all the people of this great nation until he learns something by personal observation of the whole country. Every President ought to be required to make a visit to each state in the Union during the first year of his office. If President Cleveland had done so, it is not likely he would have made the remarks which have called forth adverse criticism from the West because of their injustice; for where the Rev. Talmage learned better, President Cleveland certainly would have done so in journeying to the Pacific coast.

OLD AGE OF GREAT MEN.

The National Popular Review gives a long list of men who have retained their mental vigor and activity to an age where most mortals show a decline. Chevreul, de Lesseps, Gladstone and Bismarck head the list. Pius IX, although living in turbulent times and suffering from much mental anxiety at times, reached a high age and retained full possession of his faculties to the last. The dramatist Crebillon composed his last dramatic piece at the age of ninety-four. Michael Angelo was still at work on his large canvases at ninety-eight, and Titian at ninety still painted with the vigor of his early youth. General Melar, an Austrian, was in the saddle and active at eighty, and might have won the battle of Marengo but for the arrival of Desaix. The Venetian Doge Henry Dandolo, in the eleventh century, lost his eyesight when young, while on an embassy to Constantinople, but notwithstanding this disadvantage, he rose to the highest offices in the state and conducted several wars with great success. At the advanced age of eighty-three he besieged and captured Constantinople. Fontenelle was still vigorous at ninety-eight, and Newton at eighty-three worked at the solution of philosophical problems before him. Cornaro enjoyed better health at the age of ninety-five than at thirty.

These and many other cases that can be mentioned may be exceptional, but they seem to indicate that the intellectual activity of human beings may go on notwithstanding the falling strength of the body, and that with living in conformity to the laws of the Creator even the body may be kept in a comparative state of preservation very close to the century mark.

UTAH'S SEMI-CENTENNIAL.

We are fully aware that the suggested Inter-mountain Semi-centennial Exposition in Utah in the summer of 1897 will require marked executive ability to make it successful from a financial as well as an artistic point of view, and we are firmly convinced that the State has the talent to accomplish this desirable end. Know-

ing the resources of the State and the patriotism of the people, we have no hesitancy in expressing the opinion that united, intelligent effort would leave no room for failure. We appreciate the suggestions of many who have taken a friendly interest in the enterprise, as to the difficulties that may interpose; the consideration of these is vitally essential, for such difficulties must be met and overcome, and there is no use concealing their magnitude or belittling the energy and means necessary to subdue them. Hints and propostions as to site, plans or special features also are very acceptable, hence we give space to the following with pleasure:

SALT LAKE CITY, March 9, 1896.

To the Editor:

If my recollection serves me correctly, the suggestion for a semi-centennial inter-mountain fair, to commemorate the entry of the Pioneers into the valley of the Great Salt Lake in 1847, originated with the DESERT NEWS.

It was a happy thought and one I am proud to say that receives the endorsement of our State Legislature. Every person I have spoken with is in full accord with the proposition.

From a commercial point of view, there is no movement in the nature of a fair that would attract more people to our city than this one. Tens of thousands from all the states and territories around us would come here. Grand musical festivals could be held; everything of historic value connected with our own and neighboring states could be placed on exhibition; also relics of the early struggles of the first settlers. There could also be a gathering together of all the living pioneers of the inter-mountain states. Such a historical object lesson could be presented that would live forever in the minds of all who might attend; and with the manifold attractions of our metropolis, Salt Lake would be the Mecca for pilgrims from all over the Union.

Each state and territory should have its own building—tasty, representative and inexpensive. Our commissioners should visit all the governors west of the Missouri river and get them interested in the movement. All of them could contribute to make this historical fair interesting and attractive.

No eight-by-ten place will suit such an aggregation. We must hold our fair where there is plenty of room for the buildings, an abundant water supply, plenty of shade trees, and a chance to produce attractive places for flowers and garden spots. The location must be accessible from all points, with perfect sanitary arrangements. The landscape gardener must be a genius. Every possible use must be made of the natural surroundings to make everything beautiful to the eye. In fact, by adopting some of the least expensive features of the Columbia Fair we could have something unique, that will represent western energy and skill in a complimentary manner.

There is one spot near Salt Lake City which, in my judgment, possesses all the features necessary to make the exhibition a success as to location. It is easily reached by street car lines. It has a pretty lake, where boating and other aqueous sports could be enjoyed. There is an abundance of good water, and plenty of room for the erection of temporary buildings. Plenty of trees and other facilities are already in place, that would make it just the site wanted. I refer to Calder's Park. I have no interest in recommending it, only on the grounds of its adaptability. Possibly the owners may not be willing to rent it