

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

SPOILING FOR CONTENTION.

As was to be expected, the organ of the Reorganized, or "Josephite," church the *Saints' Herald*, is amazed and confounded by the "Card to the Elders" recently published in these columns over the signatures of the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, advising our Elders against entering into discussion with those who are anxious for the prominence and notoriety which a challenge and debate with them would afford. It is hardly necessary for us to republish the "Card" referred to, or to repeat the unassailable arguments and the good sense which fortify the position therein taken. Still less is it necessary to devote much space to the wandering logic with which the head of the Reorganized church (as though the term "re-organization" were not of itself a confession of departure and apostasy from the original faith!) seeks to insist upon the gratification which the Elders will henceforth deny him. Not without amusement, however, we note the peroration of his epistle. In this he gives instructions that the opportunity for debate is still to be offered and insisted upon by his followers, and if it shall be refused, they are to solicit and if possible secure from those thus declining a written statement of refusal, or if that also shall be refused, their denial in the presence of a witness! This dramatic program would seem to indicate that Reorganized challengers are hereafter to go about accompanied by a witness and a notary public—as we presume to complete the case it will be necessary to have the documents and the evidence sealed and sworn to—and that controversy they are determined to have, if not on points of doctrine, at least on the privilege of minding one's own business.

Every discerning Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will see without difficulty that in the "Card" of the Presidency he is completely relieved of the need of noticing such people in any way whatever. Surely he will have a better understanding of the importance of the labor devolving upon him than to waste any time in writing to or wrangling with those whose purpose now clearly exposed is to divert his attention from his legitimate duty and to annoy him. Their way seems to suit them, their claims seem to satisfy them; then let them enjoy them all to their hearts' content. On no account should the Elders dignify them in their bravado or humor them in their whimsicalities; but in all respects observe the counsel of the First Presidency and "leave them severely alone."

CROWDING THE S. P.

The Southern Pacific railroad has a big fight on its hands, in which it is not altogether certain that the victory will be with the monster corporation. Doubtless if its managers had had an

idea that such a conflict as is being waged could have been precipitated by refusing to give a five-cent rate from San Francisco out to Sutro's Heights, the refusal would not have been made. But in the absence of sufficiently keen foresight the step was taken at just such time when the Southern Pacific could ill afford to awaken any unusual antagonism to its plans, and Mr. Sutro has proven himself a doughty warrior in the fight. Not only did he succeed in cutting off a large share of the railway revenue to the Heights and opening the way for another road, but his action has instituted an anti-monopoly crusade which has loomed into national importance and aims a crushing blow at the railway which set the ball rolling.

It is generally understood that the Southern Pacific of Kentucky, as the great California road is termed, has a sort of blanket mortgage on the state, dictating affairs generally, political as well as financial, in the former particularly with respect to the judiciary, and all, of course, in its own interest. There have been many protests on the part of the people against the monopoly, but its bidding has been done just the same. Now the road is in a somewhat delicate situation in its relations with the general government, because of the indebtedness of the Central Pacific falling due in 1895 and the four succeeding years. To meet this situation the Southern Pacific is seeking to have passed by Congress a funding bill at the rate of two per cent for 100 years or four per cent for 50 years.

This crisis in the railway affairs has been taken advantage of in the fight against the road, and the anti-monopoly sentiment of the public has been enlisted on that side in the campaign. A monster mass meeting was held in San Francisco on Tuesday night, at which denunciatory resolutions were carried and measures adopted to carry on the war to a finish. Already the anti-railway party has checked the progress of the Southern Pacific proposed legislation by sending a lobby to Washington, and now this action is to be supplemented by monster petitions from the coast. At the mass meeting resolutions were adopted calling on the different political party conventions to "recognize the fact that there is substantial unanimity among our citizens against the exactions, the corruption, the cupidity, and the arrogance of the railroad monopoly;" asking the conventions to adopt resolutions against the proposed Central Pacific funding bills, and that the resolutions be sent to the President, the Cabinet, and members of Congress; demanding that no candidates be nominated for public office who are not emphatic in their pledges against interference with politics by the railway corporation and against its corrupt influence upon government; inviting chambers of commerce and other organizations to protest against the funding bills; providing that petitions against the bills be "circulated throughout the states of California and Nevada and the Territory of Utah and transmitted to Congress;" and that the

U. S. attorney general be requested to press suits against the Central Pacific. Then, as an addenda, is a series of resolutions commencing with:

First—That the state of Nevada and the Territory of Utah, through which the line of the Central Pacific Railroad company passes, be, and they hereby are, invited to co-operate with the people of this state in their opposition to the funding bills referred to in paragraphs 1 and 8 aforesaid.

Others call on the press, on bankers, merchants, horticulturists, farmers and citizens generally to forward the objects of the meeting, and copies of the resolutions were ordered sent to the governors of the various states and territories. Speeches were made by representatives of the Republican, Democratic and Populist parties, in which it was declared that if the government adopted the funding bills the "octopus" would enslave California for another half century, but if these were defeated "the octopus will be bankrupt, the bonds falling due within a few months cannot be met, a receiver will be appointed, and the power of the monster will be finally broken." The result of this, it was claimed, would be that "the day of liberty will once more dawn upon California." In the peroration of his speech Mr. Sutro quoted the prophetic words of Abraham Lincoln, as follows:

It has, indeed, been a trying hour for the Republic, but I see in the near future a crisis rising that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in few hands and the Republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless.

At the present time, when the sentiment of the laboring classes throughout the country against monopolistic corporations is at fever heat, the California movement may be expected to develop its greatest strength. Its proceedings thus far appear to be within constitutional limits, and in that form each succeeding step of that nature is an important factor in crystallizing the general anti-monopoly movement to definite shape and dimensions. It is a question whether it has sufficient strength and unity of action to accomplish its avowed purpose, yet the Southern Pacific is finding in it a foe of no mean ability.

THE BOOM IN SILK CULTURE.

Quite a flutter was caused in certain feminine and other minds interested in silk culture, by the brief announcement in the dispatches a few days ago that a bill for the development and encouragement of that industry had passed the upper house of Congress. While the measure is not designed to give any bounty or increase the protective tariff on silk, which under the pending tariff bill will undergo a considerable reduction and a changing of duties on some classes of silk imports