

EDITORIALS

THE IMPERFECT COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM.

THE late President Brigham Young on several occasions expressed his disapproval of the common school system of this country, and showed that in its present, imperfect condition it unfitted the young for the labors and duties of common, working life. He advocated the blending together of industrial and intellectual education; wished boys to be taught trades and the best methods of manual labor as well as book learning, and girls domestic duties, and the way to sew and cook as well as the "accomplishments."

For this he was berated by his enemies as a foe to education. He was repeatedly represented by mendacious reporters as claiming that, all a boy needed to learn was "how to saw off the end of a board or handle a hoe," and all that a girl should be taught was "how to sweep the floor, make bread and boil the pot."

And because the present leaders of the Latter-day Saints advise the people not to send their children to schools taught by persons opposed to their faith; but to employ teachers who are sound in doctrine and morality as well as in secular learning, they are misrepresented as opposed to education.

In looking over the March number of *Scribner's Magazine* we notice a pithy article on industrial education, from which we have made a few extracts, because they embody similar ideas to those entertained by our late President and many of his brethren, and touch pertinently on the point under consideration. They are as follows:

"Quarrel with the fact as we may, it cannot be successfully denied that the influence of common schools has been to unfit those subjected to their processes and social influences for the common employments of life. The lad who has made a successful beginning of the cultivation of his intellect does not like the idea of getting a living by the skillful use of his muscles in a mechanical employment. It does not account for everything to say that he gets above it. It is enough that he likes the line of intellectual development in which he finds himself, and has no taste for bodily labor. So he goes further, or, stopping altogether, seeks some light employment demanding his grade of culture, or tries to get his living by his wits. * * *

Now if the money spent in education really unfits the great majority for the work of life or rather fails to fit them for work, why should we go further in this direction. * * *

We have made a sort of God of our common school system. It is treason to speak a word against it. A man is regarded as a foe to education who expresses any doubt of the value of it. But we may as well open our eyes to the fact that in preparing men for the work of life, especially for that work depending upon manual skill, it is a hindrance and a failure."

If it were not for immigration, this country would suffer severely from a lack of skilled artisans. The tendency of the general American mind is towards speculation, trade, commerce, politics, the so-called "professions," anything by which a living can be made without continuous bodily exertion, or riches be arrived at by sudden leaps instead of plodding industry. The prevailing system of education cultivates the intellectual without developing the physical, and often without training the moral or cultivating the spiritual faculties. The results are beginning to be felt, and will be more fully experienced in the future. Indisposition to labor, unfitness for skillful work, disregard of moral obligations, and skepticism and agnosticism are the natural fruits of the system.

It will be found on close investigation that among the army of tramps with which the country has been infested and perplexed, few have ever learned a trade, and that if they have, in most instances they are ready to labor when opportunity is afforded. The criminal statistics of the country will show that the same rule applies to the inmates of jails and penitentiaries. Education, as the word is commonly used—signifying book learning—is not an antidote to crime. The learned criminal is the most danger-

ous of his class. The majority of "jail-birds" can both read and write. The common school system as at present constituted does not make people law-abiding, moral or reverent.

The leading men among the Latter-day Saints are as strongly in favor of general education as any men living; and those who state to the contrary either make a great mistake or are guilty of gross intentional falsehood. But they see the weakness of the existing system, and the necessity of radical changes being made in it, before its establishment as the settled school policy of the Territory, supported by the public revenue. As the representatives of a divinely revealed religious system, they desire to see the children of its votaries trained up in its theology and spirit, and this cannot be done under a system which bars out the denominational, and indeed is opposed to anything religious in its teachings and tendencies.

This is a subject requiring close and grave consideration. Our children ought to be trained up to become useful citizens of this great country, ready for the labors, duties, trials and responsibilities of actual, every day life, with a cultured sense of moral obligations and the necessity of truthfulness, honesty, patience, kindness, forbearance, perseverance and integrity, and an awakened spiritual nature which will thrill at the touch of the Divine Hand, and respond to the whisperings of the spirit which guides into all truth and brings the soul into harmony and communion with the Great Father of all.

This is simply impossible under the present coldly intellectual, mind-cramping, brain-stimulating but body-neglecting and soul-starving educational system that is so much vaunted in "the greatest country under the sun." If Zion cannot produce something better than that, we need not look for the fulfillment of the glorious promises made to the children of the Saints, the heirs of the "new and everlasting covenant."

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.

LAST evening about 8 p. m. there was observed leading toward and entering into Z. C. M. I. group after group of chatting, laughing men and youths, who seemed to be bent on some uncommon errand. Curiosity pressed inquiry, and discovering that it was a general meeting of the employees of the Institution, speculations were indulged in as to the purpose of the gathering. Were the clerks on strike? Or was there some unexpected failure or prospective collapse of this mammoth house of the West? Neither question seemed necessary, but there was certainly something unusual in progress, and the point of gathering proved to be in the great carpet room of the establishment. There, pleasantly filling a beautifully upholstered easy chair, was observed the genial president of the Institution, Horace S. Eldredge, Esq., while at his immediate right was seated Secretary Webber, and Assistant Superintendent John Clarke, and all around were those engaged in the several departments, each one evidently anxious to find out the meaning of the meeting.

President Eldredge arose and said he had called the brethren—the employees, together to have a quiet chat in regard to matters in which each one was interested, namely, the mutual relationship sustained by and towards each other and toward the Institution. He referred to the early closing movement, and said that while unwilling to be a party to any outside compact, he yet wished to give every one the largest opportunity for recreation consistent with business necessity, and the expressed feelings not only of the Directory but of the Stockholders, all of whom had claims upon the time and courtesy of their clerks, for the preservation of those interests which they had confided to them. He suggested certain arrangements calculated to promote these objects, and expressed the warmest interest in, and satisfaction with those whom he had called together. Reference was also made to complaints entered by some in regard to the manners of some of the clerks, and while not disposed to accept as true all this criticism, he yet suggested kindly the necessity for attention to customers, irrespective of dress or social position, and urged that as the co-operative store existed for the benefit of the people, all

should seek to please and increase the number of its patrons, and so give to it the highest character possible to any mercantile establishment wheresoever it might be.

The Superintendent then called upon his assistant, Mr. John Clark, who in choice phrase and with the same kind, yet earnest manner, pointed out where each department could be improved, where individual action could aid the department, and how by this unity of thought and action, the prestige of the Institution could be not only maintained but increased.

The Treasurer and Secretary, Mr. T. G. Webber, at the solicitation of the Superintendent, then arose and endorsed by his unqualified approval all of the suggestions made as far as he had experience, and said he indulged the hope as he had the faith that any evil or mistaken course or unbusiness like practice or method, only needed pointing out to be at once and for ever abandoned.

Supt. Eldredge then expressed his concurrence in all that had been said, and invited an expression from any who felt disposed. Some two or three responded, and the motion was made, seconded and carried, "That we endorse and will put into practice the views, suggestions, and counsel to which we have listened, and that we will study each in our special departments, the interests committed to our care, leaving to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent the regulation of our hours of business, our holidays and recreation, inasmuch as they have exhibited sympathy for and interest in us and in our families, etc." The meeting was then, with the blessing of the Superintendent, dismissed.

With such an interchange of thought and sentiment, so unusual in business circles, and yet so much in keeping with our faith, every one present was more than satisfied, and many expressed the wish, that such meetings or reunions could be more common, as they would not only be productive of better acquaintance and better feelings, but business interests would be fostered and enhanced, confidence in and respect for the officers would be increased, and many possibilities might grow from the creation of sympathy, fellow feeling and brotherhood between employer and employed, which in all society at this period of human experience, seems really most desirable. And it is believed that if men who employ others, either in a mercantile or other capacity, were to come occasionally into more immediate relations with them, to indulge in a little freedom and exhibit a plainer sense of social equality with and personal interest in their servants or employees, with an occasional quiet chat on personal or business matters, prospects, etc., many a suggestion could be had which would be invaluable to the employer, and the opportunity of expressing opinions by a "common clerk," would awaken a warmer interest than that which today is only born of wages or given for bread and butter.

There is no real hostility here between the two classes. But there is an apparent distinction, and a little unbending by many an employer would secure him illustrations of devotion and personal interest which are beyond the power of gold to purchase, and he would find himself wielding the key which unlocks the secret springs and fountains of the human heart!

"HAZING."

THE interest in the Whittaker case has scarcely subsided, when another sensation connected with the West Point military academy has drawn public attention to that establishment, and to a custom which is a disgrace to every educational institution in the country where it is permitted to continue.

On the morning of the 4th inst., Beaumont B. Buck, a young man twenty years of age, who had been appointed as cadet from Dallas, Texas, and who was studying at Highland Falls Academy, a place two miles from West Point, and where prospective cadets prepare themselves for examination, shot and seriously, if not fatally wounded John G. Thompson, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio, a student for the same purpose at the same academy.

The circumstances which led to the affair were briefly these: As is the custom at most colleges, a series

of practical jokes, commonly called "hazing," was played on young Buck, who, hailing from Texas, was not disposed to put up with that kind of treatment without resistance. After various annoyances had been resorted to, a plan was laid to let down a rope from the window above the room where Buck slept, pass it through his window, fasten it to his bed clothes and haul them away in the night. Buck had armed himself with a club, and when a fellow student named Allston entered his room stealthily, as he says, to warn Buck, but as the latter supposed to help in hazing him, Buck laid him out flat with the club, and loudly threatened the whole gang. He afterwards boasted to some cadets that he had "cleaned out the whole set of suckers."

This was soon noised about, and learning that Buck had a pistol in his trunk, the students "possessed" themselves of it and determined to make him withdraw his statement. Young Thompson, a fine, handsome fellow, nineteen years old, accosted Buck, and telling him what was reported, demanded that he "take back" what he had said. Buck immediately drew a pistol, larger than the weapon abstracted from his trunk, and fired at Thompson, the ball, of 32 calibre, entering just above the groin and passing right through the body, coming out at the back.

Thompson was cared for at once, and Buck went to the office of Squire Avery and gave himself up. He was taken to Newburg jail. The young man is described by those familiar with him as ordinarily quiet and inoffensive. He is tall and slender, of dark complexion and not dangerous in appearance. His father is President of Dallas College, and the young fellow has a gold medal won for his oratory in competition with the pupils of several Texas colleges. He thinks when the whole affair is investigated that he will be exonerated from blame.

Now, while the shooting was doubtless unjustifiable, no young man, it appears to us, should be censured for resisting by force the indignities practised at colleges under the name of hazing. It is a cowardly, dastardly attack of the strong against the weak. The pranks said to have been played upon Whittaker are samples of the treatment experienced by new arrivals at institutions where youths are trained for the highest professions in the land. Whether Whittaker committed the "outrage" upon himself or not, that is the style of procedure called hazing. If the college authorities cannot put a stop to it, and protect the students from the insults and indignities of bullies and brutes, who can reasonably blame the outraged youths, if they resort to extreme measures for self-protection? Not a single excuse can be made for hazing but many can be offered for manly self-defence. The cowardly practice should be put down at once and forever.

INCIDENTS OF "MORMON" HISTORY IN MISSOURI.

THE following particulars, in corroboration of historical narrations by the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Apostle Parley P. Pratt, have been furnished, to be presented to the Church Historian, by a resident of this city who, in his childhood, was an eye witness to many of the thrilling scenes described, and who remained in Missouri until 1861, when he came to Utah with his mother and sisters, his father having died some years previously. As some names are given not previously recorded, and the incidents referred to are of great interest to the Saints, we publish, by permission, the communication in full:

May 23, 1880.

Bro. Joseph F. Smith.

Looking over the life of Joseph Smith and that of Parley P. Pratt, as published, brings to my own mind many of the scenes described and the parties figuring in them in that dark day of Missouri. Though but a child, they still remain indelibly stamped upon my memory.

Speaking of the arrival of himself and fellow prisoners at Richmond, from Independence, page 216, Parley says: "Troops were paraded to receive us, which as we approached, opened to the right and left, thus forming a long avenue through which we passed, into a block house,

and were immediately put in chains." Hyrum Smith, speaking of the same place on leaving for Liberty, after the close of Judge King's mock court, page 238, says: "A large wagon drove up to the door of our prison house, and a blacksmith entered with some chains and handcuffs, with orders from the judge to chain us together. This he proceeded to do, putting the irons upon us. We were then ordered into the wagon and drove off for Clay County." The name of this blacksmith, which is not given, was James S. Ball, as bitter an enemy as the cause had, so far as he was able to be. He had several sons, one of whom, his eldest, Marion, was killed in the late cyclone in Richmond. He himself was killed, I heard, in one of the battles of the late war.

I will relate an instance which came under my own observation. When about 11 years old, on the evening of the 4th of July, I think in 1847, there had been a celebration, a big barbecue. Ball had had a drunken fight, and was afterwards parading the streets with some of his backers, boasting of his fighting prowess. Myself and a cousin—son of the Widow Walton, whom Parley speaks of as the first to open her house for him to preach in in Toronto—were on the street together. Ball happening to get his eye upon us, and knowing our relationship to the cause, shook his fist at us, and gave vent to the following language: "I rivetted the shackles on old Joe Smith and Parley P. Pratt and others, in yon house yonder"—pointing to the house in which they had been incarcerated—"and, damn you, I can whip you." The building referred to was a low, one story log cabin, two or three rooms in length, and stood across the street immediately north of the north-west corner of the public square, and at the time I speak of was used as a carpenter shop.

This was not the jail described by Parley (page 255), in which he afterwards spent the winter and spring, after having been separated from Joseph and Hyrum. The latter stood near one block east of the northeast corner of the square. I visited it in my boyhood from having heard a similar description given of it by my father, he having served a term in the same place, under an order of the same, then circuit judge, afterward Governor Austin A. King. This building was a log pen 16 or 18 feet square, made of hewn logs, 12 or 14 inches square, and about two stories high; the entrance was a rude stairway on the south side, leading to the upper story, the door being near the south-west corner, which opened into a narrow passway, extending along the west side. Opposite the door, on the north, was a small hole to give light; this was all the window in the building. From this upper entrance a ladder descended into the dungeon below, where the prisoners were kept. The ladder was drawn up and let down, I suppose at the keeper's pleasure. This building was torn down and a brick one built in its place, which was afterwards torn down and a rock one built on the east end of the public square, which may be standing now for aught I know.

Austin A. King's unwarranted, one-sided, Jeffries-like extra judicial course is now a matter of history. He was known politically as a Benton Democrat, and from the time of the expiration of his term as governor, to which he was elected in 1848, (like his file leader, Thomas H. Benton, from about the same date) there was scarce an election but what his name was in the field, a candidate for office, but he was always beaten. Finally he ran for county representative, against a farmer scarce known at the time, politically, and was badly beaten. The township constable, a little man by the name of Gibson, then told him that he wanted him to just make one more race, that was to run against him for constable, let him beat him, and then he wanted him to quit. His place of residence was about two miles, a little east of south, from Richmond. He died in 1870.

On being taken from the Richmond jail, for Columbia, in Boone County, (page 263) Parley says: "Mr. Brown, the Sheriff, entered our prison with a fierce and savage look, and bidding us hold out our hands, coupled us together in pairs, with irons locked on our wrists, and then marched us out." This was Benjamin J. Brown, afterwards Sheriff for several terms, also representative to the State Legislature. I was well acquainted with him. He was not so bitter in his feelings in after years as were many others