

EDITORIALS.

EARTHQUAKE THOUGHTS.

THE St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* offers a novel suggestion in reference to earthquakes. It favors the organization of insurance companies to provide against damage done by those terrestrial shakings. We do not remember ever having heard of the idea having been advanced before. It shows the business ingenuity of the truly American mind, which tends to reduce every contingency to some sort of a financial basis, involving the mighty dollar.

In connection with this suggestion the same paper assures the public, a portion of which is already tottering over a tremulous globe, that those destructive visitations have not only largely increased of late, but their number will continue to swell in proportion to the spread and increasing bulk of population on the surface of the earth, and for various reasons are likely to be more and more destructive. The prognostication is quite a dismal one, but we believe it to be correct, we must, however, be excused for not being quite so credulous as to the alleged cause of earthquakes. Scientists are at sea on that subject while the *Globe-Democrat* jumps to a conclusion regarding it without the laborious rhodomontade of a deep and tortuous research. Whether it is caused by the additional weight of the people and their conveniences, in the shape of extensive and cumbersome cities, that cause the globe to quake and crack under the load, or whether mother earth takes this method of manifesting her disgust and consequent protest regarding the foolishness and abominable wickedness of the midge man who plays so many pranks and puts on so many airs on her surface, our St. Louis contemporary does not state. If either reason is to be taken, the second one is the more feasible of the two. If the cause of a genuine earthquake is obscure, its effect upon mankind is not difficult to imagine. It is universal, or so near being so that it may as well be considered in that light. No matter how much man may be swelled with an inflated idea of his own importance, dignity and power a moment before its advent, the instant it comes he feels as if he was small enough to crawl into any kind of a hole, so long as it is not one of those made by the shock. Then he immediately begins to take on the situation of the earth, by a species of irresistible sympathy, and quakes all over, so that it is with difficulty he is able to hold himself together.

But returning to earthquake insurance companies; they would encounter problems that have never yet met with a solution. Among these would be the fixing of the rate, which should be in proportion to the liability to the visitation. As they are totally unexpected in every instance, this would be somewhat of a poser. Then contingencies might readily arise, that would leave the insured parties in the lurch. Suppose that they should personally escape with the loss of all their possessions and the company be entirely demolished or even completely swallowed, from what source would come the insurance compensation? Evidently the *Globe-Democrat* made its unique suggestion without first considering the bearings and aspects of the subject. The making of suggestions is almost as easy as asking questions, but the putting of the former into practical operation is frequently attended with as much difficulty as answering the latter.

Speaking of earthquakes, the affect upon the minds of the people at large or the late one which gave afflicted Charleston such a shaking up, are varied. It has inspired many with a species of religious awe, and led not a few to express themselves as seeing the hand of God in it. This class is scoffed at and scorned by those who are not possessed of any reverential feeling. The visitation has been made the subject of discourse by clergymen in various parts of the country. Last Sunday the Rev. Dr. Harris, of the Delmar Baptist Church, St. Louis, preached to a large congregation upon "God in the Earthquake." In beginning his sermon he called attention first to Isaiah xxxix, 6. Within the past few days, he said, a terrible earthquake had occurred and in it he saw the hand of God. He could not separate the action of nature from the God of nature. A graphic description was given of the doomed city as it lay quietly by the sea, as old St. Michael's bell pealed 10 o'clock. Suddenly came the rumbling and the wrecking and the crashing, while the people rushed into the streets, calling upon God for help. From the calamity many lessons were to be learned. One was that homes built upon this quaking earth were not stable; heaven was the only safe place. Peter, in the second epistle, also spoke of the passing away of the heavens, and the burning of the earth. Men have God's own words as to this instability. Man in this world was constantly in danger, standing on this thin crust with lava beneath and the seas around, but with God he could stand and be safe anywhere.

The second lesson was that when these visitations came, men called upon the lord. The most prominent men mentioned his name in reverence. The Associated Press reporters had made a foolish effort to show that only negroes became pious, but in the face of death all men—tops, belies and

dudes of society, midnight gamblers and revelers—all rushed into the streets, fell before a minister or priest and confessed their sins outright. A millionaire did not care for his bonds; the belle cared naught for her dress or jewels. Men and women came from the dives and prayed to the God against whom they sinned and whom they had hated. It was a picture of the judgment. America had never seen anything so much like it. Let God march on and men bow down. "I appeal to you," he said, "not to turn from him."

In the third lesson it was learned that this world must not be permitted to forget God. That was the great danger. The Bible taught that the time was coming when the world shall end, although the late calamity might have had no significance in that direction. The Lord said he "will come in the fire, and the tempest, and the earthquake," and so he had. Charleston, no worse than St. Louis, probably, having as fair a name as any city, was merely made an example, and St. Louisans should thank God that in his mercy he spared them.

GERONIMO AND HIS BAND.

For the time being the able service performed by General Crook, a gallant soldier, is lost sight of in the achievement of General Miles, whose late campaign caused the unconditional surrender of Chief Geronimo and his sanguinary band of braves. The triumph of General Miles has been decisive as well as having been rapidly attained, and his praises are being sounded in a high key. The ovation with which he has been greeted is specially shared by the gallant and intrepid Captain Lawton, who signally distinguished himself during the arduous campaign. At Tucson the joy over the success that had been attained was in the highest degree exuberant. On the 6th the Democratic Convention, then in session, passed resolutions of congratulation and in praise of Gen. Miles and his command. The same night a mass meeting of citizens was held. Cannon boomed, rockets flew, while 6,000 people were out on the public square, listening to speeches. The meeting adopted the following:

Whereas, No event in the history of Arizona has caused such a thrill of emotion in the breasts of citizens as the capture of Geronimo and his accursed band of red-handed murderers; and, whereas, General Miles stated when he first took command of this department that he thought the Apaches ought to be conquered within six months, and, whereas, he has more than complied with the hope thus expressed; and, whereas, our warmest gratitude is due General Miles for his vigorous and sagacious policy, his courteous attention to the expressed wishes of the people, his wise and judicious selection of officers and his calm determination to succeed; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we yield to General Miles the distinguished honor of having accomplished the greatest achievement in the history of Indian warfare.

Resolved, That we feel deeply grateful for the kindly manner in which he has received our citizens and has interested himself in their welfare.

Resolved, That we tender General Miles and the officers and men under his command our sincere thanks for their untiring energy and persistent zeal in the prosecution of their herculean task; that we rejoice in their success and feel proud to add our united testimony in favor of the just meed of praise which their distinguished services merit.

Resolved, That we honor and respect General Miles as the first commander who has inaugurated the policy of the removal of the Indians from the Territory, thus voicing the universal sentiment of the people and adopting the only remedy which can secure permanent peace and prosperity.

Resolved, That in the selection of Captain Lawton for the work assigned him General Miles has added new laurels to his well-earned fame, and that the services of this distinguished officer will never be forgotten by the people of Arizona.

Resolved, That Captain Lawton has endeared himself to the people by the determination, bravery and military skill which he has exhibited in the performance of this severe duty; that his relentless pursuit of Geronimo is without a parallel, and that his ceaseless vigilance and untiring march through an unknown and foreign country during the summer season, suffering from want of water and provisions, ever pushing on and forward, regardless of every obstacle, until complete success crowned his efforts. Is a record of the most brilliant exploits and heroic endurance, which will cover his name with immortal renown.

The question now to be disposed of is, what shall be done with Geronimo and his band? In this disposition it is to be hoped that the humane sentiment on the subject will prevail, although that feeling does not appear to be the more prevalent one, there being a pretty general demand that they be put to death. Should action not be too hastily taken the more magnanimous solution of the subject—placing the Apache Chief and his followers in a position where they will

have no more opportunity for raiding and murdering—will be resorted to. His nature and training, coupled with the wrongs to which the Indian is not infrequently subjected, and which are the prolific cause of his crimes, should be given due weight in reaching a decision in the case of Geronimo and his comrades.

Geronimo and his band are thus described in a lengthy special to the S. F. *Chronicle* from Fort Bowie:

"When Geronimo came into Lawton's camp he wore a white shirt, with a black and red handkerchief tied around his head. He was in fine health and in good physical condition, and had never been wounded as reported. Natchez wore a navy blue shirt and had a white cloth around his head. He is quite a fine looking Indian and is said to be the fighting man of the band. He is a son of Cochise, and has the reputation of being as brave as was his father. The rest of Geronimo's band, numbering some sixteen women and a few children and about twenty-one braves, kept well-cooped in the brush and were only seen two or three at a time. Some of them are old men, and all are tried warriors who have passed through many Indian wars. Geronimo is a young man of 30 odd years, is a fine specimen of physical manhood, and as nicely formed as a woman. There are several boys with the band not over 15 years of age, but they are armed with carbines and are regarded as equal to any of the older ones."

When the Chief announced his intention to surrender to General Miles, he recounted his wrongs and asked Captain Lawton to do the best he could for him. Although the demand for the death of the Chief is loud, the more humane proceeding, seeing that he surrendered and pled for leniency, will probably be adopted, such as sending him to the Florida reservation. It would be more in keeping with the American sentiment toward Louis Riel, the Canadian rebel.

A KNIGHT OF LABOR EXPLAINS.

In this issue appears a communication from one of the Knights of Labor. We like the tone and spirit in which he writes. The former indicates moderation and the latter liberality. These are admirable traits, and must be recognized without reference to the nature of opinions held upon any subject.

The declaration of principles of the General Assembly is in many respects admirable, and it is a pleasure to note that when the anti-"Mormon" incongruity was brought to its attention by the more liberal minded Knights of this section, that body promptly quashed what was a most glaring infringement upon what might be termed the Constitution of the order. The action showed not only adherence to principle but exhibited wisdom. Correct philosophy and experience teaches this: That all innovations upon the fundamental principles of an organization sanctioned by itself, lead to disorder, disintegration and finally, dissolution. This applies to all systems, including governments of nations. If such infringements are dictated by prejudice, the direful results are all the more speedy; if they are deemed a necessity, even then the consequences, being inevitable, as proceeding from a given cause, are not averted.

The excluding clause of the order in reference to those who deal in or are benefited by the traffic in intoxicating liquors is admirable, while that which forbids the membership of a banker, broker, lawyer or professional gambler is suggestive of the placing on one plane of rather a singular mixture. Doubtless some professions named will scarcely relish the amalgamation. The necessity of it, however, is obvious when the nature of the order is considered. The banker and broker being antagonistic to the organization and its objects, it must exclude elements in conflict with itself. And while the lawyer is not necessarily an opponent, he is a non-producer. The Knights are essentially an organization of men who produce. The gambler being a bane of society—can have no lot nor part in it.

It is in order to endorse the truism enunciated by "Vindex" when he asserts that every organization has its proportion of cranks. That the Church is not free from that species of fungi must be frankly admitted. And in that regard it will be admitted on the other hand by "Vindex" and every other close observer upon the point, that no body, religious or otherwise, is more discredited through that medium than is the Church. Every act committed by a professed "Mormon" in conflict with his religious obligations and with the organization with which he is connected is seized with avidity by the anti-Mormon distorter and flaunted as a sample of the character of the community and their religion. The fact that such deeds are so many outrages upon the sentiment of the former and forbidden by the requirements of the latter is carefully hidden. Doubtless the Knights know to some extent the disagreeable phases of such a position, as they have occasionally been held responsible as a body for deeds that, as an organization, they abhorred and repudiated. Indeed, such instances are a matter of public notoriety. But

we are bound to say that no system has suffered so overwhelmingly from that species of injustice as the Church. Perhaps this causes our sympathy for others when placed in such a position to be more active than it otherwise would.

Our correspondent holds that the News was in error regarding the paucity of the number of Latter-day Saints connected with the Order. We are not disposed to dispute him, especially as our statement was not assertive but a matter of belief. It was based upon the fact that the genius of the religion of the "Mormons" is to subdue all the evils against which the Order was specially organized to contend. Also that it is not in keeping with their profession to mix up with the quarrels and disputes that are agitating the country. But "Vindex" strikes a spot more or less vulnerable when he points out an inducement to the working-men to identify themselves with the Knights—the presence to some extent of the grinding process of the capitalist. It would indeed be phenomenal to find a community entirely free from "man's inhumanity to man." Yet all the forces necessary to correct that and every other ill are held to be embodied in the religious system of the Saints. And whoever grinds his neighbor, whether it be because his capital gives him the power to do it, or if he be a workman and the scarcity of the article which he has to dispose of inclines him to play the part of petty tyrant, acts in conflict with his profession. Such methods are out of harmony with his religion. If he remains permanently true to it, he must sooner or later eliminate from his conduct that which it forbids.

The obliteration of the anti-"Mormon" clause—added by a few local cranks—by the General Assembly of the Knights, was a proper snub to its presumptuous and spiteful originators. Had it been allowed to remain it would have been an unsightly wart on the nose of the system. We also take occasion to repeat that while we deem it inconsistent for the Saints to identify themselves with the Order we entertain none but kindly feelings toward it, together with desires for its success in every good word and work.

THE IDAHO CONTEST.

With the question of which party is to get and hold the political supremacy in our neighboring Territory, the News has at present nothing to do further than maintain, as it always has, a desire for the better man of two contestants to win, the better of two sets of principles put forth to be maintained. The Republicans of Idaho, by means, shameful even in political affairs, have placed in nomination a man whose very name is, or should be, to every right-thinking person who knows him and his unworthy record, a synonym for all that is malevolent and contemptible in public life—Fred. T. Dubois. As United States Marshal, he used his office as an engine of oppression against a class of people who comprise the voting strength of one entire county and are largely represented elsewhere in Idaho, a people whose peaceful deportment, correct habits and thrifty condition properly constitute them the best element in the commonwealth where Dubois and his henchmen have sought to deprive them of voice, vote, influence and liberty. By going from place to place, and selecting delegates to suit him, without going through the customary formula of submitting his claims to a convention properly called, he succeeded in getting the Republican Territorial meeting "fixed" in his interest, and his nomination was therefore simply the enunciation of a previously and fraudulently matured plan. A person who thus permits political ambition to devour political honesty, if not a knave, must expect to be treated like one; and when to this is added his wolf-like rapacity in hunting down a class of people for no other reason than being opposed to him religiously and politically, he need not murmur if he now receives the treatment and the only treatment to which imported political characters are entitled. His little dodge of working up an insignificant coterie of soreheads in the Democratic ranks to join him in, order to be opposed to "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" will not, we fancy, carry with it the strength he imagines and hopes for; the bulk of the party have sense enough to see that it is only a very thin plot to seduce them into supporting a political enemy and thus elect him and vote themselves into the minority, while united they are overwhelmingly in the majority. We hope, however otherwise things may go, that Dubois' opponent will be elected, not specially that we may love him more, but that every honest man must like Dubois less.

ELECTRICITY AS A MOTOR.

An eastern journal devoted to the railway interest, in giving an engraving of a new electric locomotive, and explaining its principles, predicts that the time is near when all first class railways will be equipped with loco-

motives driven by electricity. It goes on to say that, though no electric locomotive has yet been made which is entirely satisfactory, progress and improvement in that direction are rapid and constant, and that the difficulties now in the way are mechanical, the chemical obstacles having been entirely removed. That is to say, methods for generating electricity in sufficient abundance and consequent power, have been perfected by the chemist, and now it only remains for the mechanic to do his part by constructing appliances by which the tremendous power of the electric current may be utilized for propelling machinery. Of course this has already been done to a great extent, but not on a scale large enough to meet the requirements of railway trains and the machinery of large factories.

It is but reasonable to assume that, in view of the rapid advancement that has been made in mechanical science since the discovery of Watts, the electric motor will be perfected much more rapidly than the steam engine was; and consequently predictions to the effect that electricity will soon displace steam, even in cases in which the greatest amount of power is required, may be received as resting upon a basis of probability so strong that it almost amounts to certainty.

THE POSITION IN IDAHO DEFINED.

In this issue is reproduced, from the columns of the *Southern Idaho Independent*, an open letter to the democracy of Idaho. It is from the pen of Hon. William Budge. It is a clear and capable document, and appeals to the self-interest, good sense and patriotism of those it addresses. The cause of democratic weakness in Idaho, and the act that will constitute political harikari could scarcely be more strikingly portrayed. If after fifteen years of fidelity to the Democratic Party, those whose honor, to say nothing of gratitude, is appealed to, fail to stand by their own political friends they will richly deserve the inevitable result of their turpitude—the ascendancy of their opponents and their own lasting and perhaps permanent subjugation.

Coupled with the reason for adherence to the party—its incorporation of the theory of correct government—the point made by Mr. Budge is a strong one. It should be sufficient of itself, without further appeal, to bring the Democrats of Idaho to their senses, instead of allowing the wolf to be pulled over their eyes on the anti-"Mormon" buckaroo. They cannot be untrue to those who have given them their political strength in the past and remain true to themselves and the principles they profess. The statement that polygamy cuts no figure in the contest is as true as anything that ever was stated. The fact that the Republicans have repeatedly solicited the "Mormon" votes, offering special inducements in return, not only proves this, but it leads to the inevitable conclusion, that if they can now ride into power on the popular craze they will exultantly smile in their sleeves, and justly view the Democracy of Idaho as a pack of political simpletons.

The challenge thrown out by Mr. Budge in relation to the political integrity of the "Mormons" is a sweep-er, and cannot be damaged or overturned by any answer which it might evoke. If those to whom the open letter is addressed can afford to throw aside a class of citizens whose fidelity and solidarity are beyond question, they are indeed political spendthrifts, and the people thus scurvily treated will be forced to bitterly realize that they have been casting pearls before swine. This conclusion will be inevitable, as the victims of democratic infidelity would, in the operation, be signally subjected to the reading process.

We do not believe in the event of the grand old party in Idaho according to a class of the best, most thrifty and peaceable citizens of that Territory their just and equitable rights, that the defection in their ranks, as a faction of anti-"Mormon" fanatics would seriously diminish its strength. Any way this appears to be a political certainty: That the coterie of democratic "mugwumps" would not amount to a corporal's guard compared with the strength of the vote of the "Mormons," who still have the right to wield the elective franchise, so far as any constitutional restriction is concerned. Besides, if the tender-footed faction were to see that the Party with whose principles they had broken fealty would probably be the victors in the impending contest, they would be likely to largely wheel into line. Politicians have a "strong weakness" toward a disposition to be on the winning side.

The quotation of the Hon. J. H. Hawley, and the young democracy of Boise is a happy one, as defining the only true ground upon which the party can stand and be true to itself, its own theory and what should be the lue of its practice. The test oath abomination is a disgrace. Its recognition as a binding force would be a farce performed upon the face of the Goddess of Liberty.

The declaration of the intention to stand by the right, and to set the face against attempts to deprive the people of their political rights and smother free speech, is manly and frank. We do not doubt that these ringing senti-