

can show a much better record of remunerative employment than otherwise would have been the case. Yet a little more of the forward movement in this line, till all classes of industry have been reached, and the good times will have come!

USEFUL AS ORNAMENTAL.

It has been generally supposed that the sunflower as a native plant is wholly confined to America, where numerous species have been discovered, and from where they have been carried as ornamental plants for gardens in all parts of the civilized world. Even the Russian sunflower, as it is commonly known, which sometimes attains a height of twenty feet and bears flowers one to two feet in diameter, is a native of tropical America. Professor Philip L. Newman, of Cincinnati, however, says that in his travels in northern Siberia he discovered a sunflower native to that country. There, where the earth is covered continually with a coating of snow and frost, the Siberian sunflower grows and blooms and falls with each succeeding year. It shoots forth from the frozen soil and grows to a height of about three feet, and when it blooms the flowers remain open but a single day, when they droop and fall.

Of course as a "professor" Mr. Newman probably was fully capable of deciding whether or not the flower he saw belonged to the genus *helianthus*, but aside from its appearance which he describes it does not seem to have much in common with the American plant with which he claims relationship for it. The sunflower here is not only ornamental, but useful, though in the parts where it abounds most in a native state it seems to be valued least. In Europe, however, it is carefully cultivated, in some of the warmer sections being raised as a field crop. Its seeds are valued as food for cattle and poultry, and for the oil they yield, which is little inferior to olive oil for many of the purposes to which the latter is adapted. Fifty gallons of oil is the product from an acre of ordinarily good land planted to sunflowers, and in that respect is a much more profitable crop than many that farmers raise. Not only are sunflower seeds nutritious for fowls and animals, but they are valuable for demulcent remedies and infant's food, being a common ingredient of each of these preparations; this of course, under a process of manufacture and not in the crude way in which Indians make sunflower bread.

There also is room for another suggestion as to quality which marks the sunflower as even more useful than ornamental, though in the flower garden the careful florist often produces with it a very pretty effect. The beneficent results of cultivating the plant are not confined to its use as an article of food consumption by man or beast or its oil in soothing emulsions. Equally valuable as in either of these are its qualities for absorbing from soil and atmosphere poisons that are a great menace to human life. There is little room for malaria where a crop of sunflowers is growing. Planted alongside of a

drain, the noxious smell diminishes, and the health-destroying vapors which often arise from such places are unknown, the elements that cause them having been utilized by the plants for their own growth. It is notable that "sunflower years" and "fever years" never occur together. These and other virtues which the plant possesses either in a growing or ripened condition might be cited as strong reasons why the ordinarily despised sunflower, which at times is regarded as a nuisance, is sufficiently valuable to be given a permanent position in the garden.

ENCOURAGING FROM TEXAS.

Elder John K. Nicholson, who has been laboring in the Mississippi conference of the Southern States mission for over a year and a half, was recently called by the president of that mission to go to Texas in company with Elder Wells, and open up a field in that state. Accordingly these two brethren recently arrived at the scene of their future labors—Vansickle, Hunt county, and the surrounding region. Elder Nicholson, in a private letter written at that place on June 25, says:

"I am pleased to inform you that I am enjoying good health and other blessings from our Heavenly Father. We have already held two meetings—one last Wednesday and another yesterday (Sunday). Both were well attended. Between 200 and 300 attended on each occasion. The people have so far treated us well, and seem anxious to hear us and have expressed themselves as well pleased with our preaching. Yesterday we received a number of invitations from different people to call on them. Mr. Vansickle has interested himself in our behalf and has been quite an assistance to us. He is a retired lawyer and is an interesting gentleman, being very sociable, and a fine conversationalist. We have had no trouble in finding places to stop at; indeed we have not yet been under the necessity of soliciting entertainment. We have three meetings appointed ahead. There is no trouble in securing houses to preach in. All that is necessary is to give out an appointment and the people turn out to hear us."

It will be observed from the foregoing that the prospects for laying the foundation for doing a good work in the "Lone Star State" are quite encouraging. At present there are but two members of the Church in the section where the Elders are laboring. One is 86 years old and the other, his wife, a few years his junior. It was at the request of this veteran that the brethren were sent into Texas.

LIKE A RUSSIAN GAME.

The dispatches today state that Japan's attitude in connection with Korean affairs threatens a crisis in eastern Asia. The intimation is that war possibly may result between China and Japan, as that is about the only procedure that would prove dangerous to both "and ruinous to general commerce," as the telegram says. It is

further announced that the viceroy of China considers the action of Japan inconsistent with international law and existing treaties, but that he will endeavor to preserve peace without dishonor to his nation. The particular act complained of is the sending by Japan of troops and a fleet to put down an uprising in the hermit kingdom.

Though the Korean king is generally regarded as a vassal of the Chinese empire, yet there is a dispute between Japan and China as to which possesses the right of sovereignty. Korea is on the mainland and because of that fact and the superior strength of the Chinese empire has been less under the influence of the mikado than of his more powerful neighbor. But the Japanese have insisted that to them the Korean king owes allegiance, and in consequence of the dispute the hermit kingdom has conducted its affairs in its own way.

Now, however, the attempt of Japan to put down the Korean rebellion is an exercise of sovereignty over that country which the Chinese do not take to kindly, and which may lead to hostilities between the nations. The statement that China will endeavor to preserve peace without dishonor to itself may be regarded as a diplomatic expression of the viceroy, Li Hung Chang, to place whatever there is of blame upon the government at Tokio. Just at the present time the prime minister of the Peking government has his hands full with the rebellion in the northern part of his own empire, but there is little doubt that when he succeeds in suppressing it he will turn his attention quickly to Korea with the purpose of destroying Japanese influence there and settling all disputes favorably to himself. Li Hung Chang has shown himself an able statesman, a wily diplomat and a vigorous executive, and as such his honor would prompt him, when his hands are free, to heroic action toward Japan rather than to adopt any ultra-peaceful method.

But the important feature of the affair is not in what China and Japan may do with each other, but in the attitude of Russia. The latter has made several attempts to gain control of Korea for business as well as strategic purposes, and if it can get the Mongolians into a quarrel, that will be its opportunity. There would be nothing strange if it should develop that Russian intrigue is at the bottom of the whole affair with this end in view. The czar is now making almost superhuman efforts to open up the great trans-Siberian route and establish a line of business communication with the Pacific coast. With that accomplished, Russian power and facilities would be greatly augmented, both in peace and war. The eastern terminus of the Siberian railway, and the present most available seaport of eastern Russia, is Vladivostok, which is ice-locked several months in the year. Less than 500 miles down the coast, in Korea, is as desirable a harbor as could be found, open all the year round. To this the eye of Russia has been wistfully turned for some time past, as shown in the several diplomatic attempts to secure Korean territory to that point. If Japan and China would get into a