

gress, which the shoe dealer is asked to present to his customers for their signatures, protesting against the hide duty and asking for its repeal. This Yankee shoemaker has hit upon an ingenious way of presenting a sole-stirring argument. Politicians and reformers generally appeal to the brains of the people, but he applies his logic to the opposite extremity, their feet.

SOCIAL PURITY.

In former years the social evil had no existence in this city. The rigorous maintenance of strict morality that was required of all members of the Mormon Church, to which nearly all of the early settlers belonged, proved an effective remedy for this as well as most other forms of vice. Under such conditions of social purity and innocence, parents did not deem it necessary to exercise special strictness or watchfulness in regard to the associations of their children, and young people mingled together almost without restraining supervision.

A similar condition of society exists at the present time in many of the smaller towns of the State, where inhabitants are all or nearly all members of the Mormon Church. Great sociability and the utmost freedom of association among the young and old prevail, and there is a notable absence of suspicion, and the safeguards which would result from it, on the part of prudent parents. But such a desirable social status cannot be maintained among a mixed population such as is now found in this city, and is spreading, more or less rapidly, all over the State. A change in the policy of parents and others who are charged with the care of the young, is therefore necessary.

In this city, within a few years, the social evil has made marked headway, and renewed attention is being attracted to it just now by efforts that are being made to curtail its growth and rescue and reclaim its victims. It is generally understood that the ranks of fallen women receive very few recruits from Mormon families, but the assertion has been made recently by persons in a position to express an intelligent opinion upon the subject, that such cases have not been as rare lately as they formerly were, and as it is vitally desirable that they should be.

The plain and deplorable truth is that the leaven of wickedness is spreading beyond the circles within which it used to be confined, and is affecting families every member of whom is generally supposed to be above suspicion. Temptation insinuates its slimy folds into households from which it would appear to have been effectually excluded. But human nature is much the same everywhere, and at best is weak and yielding when the pressure upon it is strong, unless it has been well fortified by a moral and religious training imparted during youth.

Modern social customs and conditions inevitably tend in the direction of social impurity; and special effort must be put forth to counteract the results that are so likely to flow from them. Barriers must be erected to hedge in the young and unwary. They must be prevented from mingling with associates who are likely to lead them into evil, and they must be thoroughly instructed and warned. Probably the very best safeguard that innocence can have is a thorough knowledge of the consequences of wickedness, and of the forms and pretenses under which it seeks its victims; but coupled with instruction and warning on these lines, an exclusiveness in social matters should be maintained that will prevent the innocent from coming in contact with any except their own kind.

The freedom from restraint which used to characterize the association of young people in this city, and that still prevails more or less in many towns in the State should be replaced by more rigid conditions. Young men should not be admitted into households where there are young ladies, unless their reputation is good and well-known, and inquiry into their habits and associates is always proper on the part of the heads of such households. Balls and social gatherings of all kinds should be made strictly select in all cases, and the reading matter placed within reach of young people should be chosen with great care. The priceless value of chastity, and the irreparable nature of the loss a young person sustains, who yields to temptation, should be solemnly impressed upon the mind of every young person. The individual who has sinned should be labored with and won back whenever possible; but prevention is infinitely better than cure.

JEALOUSY AND DRINK.

Another tragedy has been enacted, this time in the vicinity of our neighbor city, Ogden, and again a human being has been sent out of existence on earth, suddenly and unexpectedly. Again the cause is traced to jealousy and drink. Probably if complete statistics were kept of homicides in this country and other parts of the world, it would appear that more crime is due to these causes, more human blood is shed on account of these than all others combined—jealousy and drink.

Criminologists have endeavored to follow the criminal tendencies of individuals back to progenitors in several generations and to fasten the blame on the absence of training in the right direction; they have asked for a change in the legislation that deals with crime and criminals. No doubt they have done some good, but it is clear that as long as social conditions are such that by many it is regarded as a light matter to profane the sanctuary of the home, or to blunt the conscience with a poisonous beverage, there is no hope of maintaining a society pure and free for crime. Even were there no strong, inherited tendencies to violence, murder is the natural offspring of jealousy and drink.

Recently homicides committed from similar motives have been exonerated by juries. To what extent the miscarriage of justice is responsible for the repetition of the crime may be difficult to ascertain, but it can hardly be disputed that the acquittal of some whose hands are reeking with the blood of their fellow-beings emboldens others to carry out their murderous designs. But after all, it is time to wake up to a realization of the actual status of society. Social purity would give no foundation for jealousy; absolute temperance would keep reason at its normal capacity; within the sphere of purity and temperance there would be very little application of laws against any crime.

CONTROLLING THE WHEAT MARKET

Joseph Leiter of Chicago bought last fall and still holds fifteen million bushels of wheat. The quantity is so enormous that the mind cannot at once grasp its magnitude. It comprises a considerable percentage of the season's bread of all the people of the United States who do not raise their own, but must buy it. If Leiter should take a notion to ship all of this wheat to Europe, the result would be a big advance in the price in all parts of the United States.

And this is just what he is liable to do. He bought the wheat with the in-

tention of selling it again at an advanced price, and he bought so much of it with the intention of making a "corner" in it. The buyer who first offers the owner's price will take the bread stuff. The achievement of Leiter in buying so much wheat is an object lesson which shows not only what can, but what is liable to be done at any time in the way of controlling the wheat market, and it conveys a cogent moral to the farmers of Utah: Wheat is a good thing to have on hand, for the price is liable to advance greatly and on short notice.

ONE PHASE OF OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

In some quarters in this State, and particularly in this city, public opinion is a little "touchy" on the school question, and it is perhaps better for the present purpose of the "News" that it should be so, rather than that it should be calloused. That purpose is to lay before parents a few facts with a view to inciting agitation and, if possible, the discovery and practical application of a remedy for what many conservative citizens regard as a great evil, associated with the elaborate and costly school system of this city, and, though in a lesser degree probably, with the schools of the State generally.

It is complained that the education provided for by and acquired in the schools fails to fit a boy for the practical duties of life; and not only this, but that it gives him false notions of life and its real obligations. It is claimed that a boy who goes through the whole course of instruction embraced within the public school system of this city will leave the high school destitute, in a great degree at least, of the qualifications necessary to ensure his success in the struggle of life. Worse than this, his mind is likely to be prejudiced against acquiring those qualifications after leaving school.

To illustrate in a thoroughly practical manner precisely what is here meant, we here give as given to us, the facts relating to a peculiar though simple investigation which was recently made by a gentleman of this city, who has raised to maturity a large family of sons and daughters, has had a wide and varied experience in the practical affairs of life, and was desirous of ascertaining for himself the trend in the public schools of this city. He selected a certain school for his inquiries and took all the boys in it above the fifth grade. He caused to be put to each boy the question, What vocation do you intend to follow? Fifty boys answered the question, and of that total one replied that he wanted to be a farmer and one that he desired to be a carpenter, while forty-eight chose the professions. They wanted to become doctors, lawyers, dentists, architects, etc.

The noble trade of a blacksmith, the useful one of a wheelwright, the necessary ones of mason, painter, machinist, etc., were all overlooked. Not a boy of the forty-eight failed to regard with aversion all such occupations. Each of them desired some "stylish" and "high-toned" method of making a living. It might be urged that boys in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades are not old enough to fix upon their future callings in life; but there is only too good reason to fear that the selections they make while so young become more and more confirmed while they are in the high school; and that their resolution not to learn a trade, nor to become a farmer, is unalterable by the time they graduate from the State University, or some college.

If parents generally in this city desire that all their sons shall become "professional" men, then our present school system is about what is wanted;