

and after July, 1888. If this is done, that 15 to 20 per cent will, as is well and notoriously known, take a leap that would exhibit the process of economizing the truth in its real colors. But we presume it is sufficiently understood now by those who have eyes to see.

There is one comfort about some things in which the public is interested. When men for a purpose make conspicuously inexact statements the averments are at once repudiated. Information in possession of the people generally causes them to decline to accept such representations as true even if they were completely enveloped in salt, to say nothing about taking them associated with a few saline granules.

### DELIGHTFUL INQUIRY.

THE investigation into the conduct of the receiver and his attorneys in the suits of the Government against the Church "drags its slow length along." It is a matter for regret that we are under the necessity, from day to day, of escorting our readers through interminable labyrinths of cattle, poultry, sheep, butter, eggs, and home-made cheese. Unless we do this, however, we can give no account of what transpires in the examination.

In perusing the report of what takes place, the idea is suggested that if the Receiver had been compelled or impelled to hunt around for and husband sheep, horses, mules, and jackasses, the probability is that he would have seized by mistake animals ornamented with various private brands. The *bona fide* owners of these brutes would doubtless have objected, and his explanation as to the proceeding on the part of the Marshal being an inadvertence would have been looked upon as too attenuated. It would probably have become necessary, under such circumstances, for him to arrest himself on charges of grand larceny, bring his case to the attention of District Attorney Peters—who is also his own attorney—and through that functionary before the grand jury, that he might be indicted.

Besides, if he had seized the products enumerated during this examination and held them in store for the benefit of this great government, the butter would mayhap have become equally as stale as the matter of which we are now speaking; the cheese would probably, in

course of time, have been mistaken for fossilized stumps of trees that existed in pre-historic times, or might have been taken for ancient grindstones. This difficulty, so far as the cheese is concerned, might have been overcome by inaugurating a lively trade in relics with the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D.C. It is more than likely, too, that the eggs would have resolved themselves into a condition that would have made them acceptable to anti-"Mormon" mobocrats, rotten egotism being the form of logic frequently employed in answering the arguments of the Elders. This might have opened up another branch of business, resulting in some profit, with the Northern and Southern States. In view of Judge Zane's deep solicitude for the school fund, coupled with his overwhelming affection for the "Mormons," it is not improbable that an industry of that description would have been to him a source of deep gratification. While the fund would have been augmented by accruing profits, the consequential respects paid to the Elders would probably have acted upon his nervous system as would a copious dose of Mrs. Winslow's soothing syrup.

Would it not be as well, in view of the valuable horticultural information conveyed by some of the witnesses in this inquiry, for the officers and committees of the D. A. M. society to be present at every session and take copious notes? The knowledge thus acquired would doubtless be useful in the making of preparations for the next fair, especially as the examination is deemed to be "a fair proceeding."

How would it do for the Chamber of Commerce to adopt a similar step for gleaning particulars with reference to the feasibility of manufacturing butter without hair, with a view to applying the principle, when perfected, to plaster?

On Feb. 6 there was some misunderstanding about the payment of witnesses, particularly those who had been summoned from a distance, and whose testimony was not wanted. The matter was adjusted after some discussion. We are pleased to note this fact, for had not this been done a number of people would have been placed under an injustice and at considerable disadvantage. Seeing that they had not journeyed to this city merely for the sake of their health, they were certainly entitled to their expenses.

We see no reason why such a disagreement should have arisen, inasmuch as it is an easy feat to cut shoe laces out of other people's leather. It should be remembered that the fund accumulated by the taking of "a large amount of property from a Church" appears to be legitimate prey. Therefore, why should there have been any trouble as to the payment of these witnesses? We are glad, on their account, that the matter has been made right with them.

As the investigation proceeds we will continue to supply the public with information relative to cattle, sheep, jackasses, mules, stale butter, mouldy cheese, and the remains of venerable deceased porkers, until the conclusion of this exceedingly pathetic drama.

### THE LATEST FREAK.

AT THIS late day and with numerous examples before the public, the person who looks for regularity, legality or ability in the proceedings of the Idaho Legislature, which expired Feb. 9 must be a very indifferent or very careless observer. Certainly no similar body has ever been organized in this country, at least not since the primitive period, when the best education was a knowledge of the country and the most useful experience continued association with its hardships and general characteristics. At such times, with the population sparse and widely separated, when the first law of nature was also the principal one of the settlers, strict conformity with established usage and thorough familiarity with the restraints and privileges of fundamental law were hardly to be looked for. How is it now, however, when the wilderness is subdued, the savages are beaten back, the face of nature is aglow with smiles, and "civilization on her luminous wings soars, Phoenix-like, to Jove," with ignorance as dense as Cimmerian midnight and recklessness such as characterizes school-boys at recess controlling the law making power of a thrifty and populous commonwealth?

If the benighted solons of our sister Territory had confined themselves to routine business and attempted nothing beyond the immediate and ordinary requirements of their constituents, their utter incapacity would not have been so strikingly manifest; but like the green-horn at the fashionable ball, they "form on" for every dance and not only make a sorry display of themselves, but get in the way of and