

The recent official report on Great Britain's liquor bill may, however show that there is considerable expense—apart from the misery and sorrow which are the effect of intemperance—attached to the use of "a little beer" in that nation. This report states that during last year the total amount spent on intoxicating drinks in the United Kingdom was nearly one hundred and forty-two million pounds sterling, or almost \$688,000,000. This huge sum means an expenditure of £3 15s., or \$18.20, per head for every man, woman and child in the kingdom—about three times as much as would supply them in bread. Of what are classed in the report as spirits, Scotland and Ireland use more than England, the average for each family of five persons being £16 5s. in Scotland, and £10 11s. 8d. in Ireland. But by its prodigious consumption of beer, England forges ahead with an average for each home of five persons of £20 7s. 6d., or £4 1s. 6d.—\$19.75—per head. The cost of nearly twenty-eight million barrels of beer consumed during the year in England alone falls just under eighty million pounds sterling. Commenting on this fact, the *London Times* says: "It must be confessed that this amount for beer is a hard figure to be proud of. It means that down the national throat there flows enough to provide the country with two navies and two armies, with the civil service thrown in—or very nearly so. It means that the beer drunk in one year would pay the national debt for three; or that, if funded for nine years, it would pay the whole debt, and leave us with no more interest or annuities to pay." In the face of these figures it would be difficult to contend that Great Britain, or any nation similarly situated, is not harmed by its consumption of intoxicants.

The safe way for parents to preserve their children from swilling the tide of intemperance is to keep them from the temptation to use strong drinks. For instruction on this matter to be practical and effective, it must be by example as well as precept. The child has no confidence in the "do as I say and not as I do" preacher. Parental watch-care should also reach to companionship with and the actions of others. An illustration of the need of this was given at a social gathering recently. There were a number of children present, to whom the hostess began passing wine. These first approached declined, as their parents had taught them that the beverage was unsuitable for them. But the hostess insisted, and induced some of the smaller children to drink, very much against their will. Doubtless the lady never had a thought of doing wrong, but the position she assumed by her action was one which no Latter-day Saint can consistently occupy.

To keep children "out of harm's way" is a most excellent method of protecting them from injury. The Lord's prayer teaches a pointed lesson: lead the children, "not into temptation," but deliver them from evil. Bring to the little ones a comprehension of the way of life by having them walk therein. For the children of the Latter-day Saints there should be no closer companions than their parents; and if that companionship is in walk-

ing "uprightly before the Lord," the children will rarely depart from it. But if parents carelessly or wilfully allow their children to go into temptation's path, sin and sorrow will be the inevitable result.

#### ANTIPODEAN WEALTH.

A news item a day or two ago made a showing of the enormous gold yield of Victoria colony, Australia. Up to the present time the seven gold-producers of the Australasian group have yielded something over 90,000,000 ounces, Victoria's part being fully two-thirds of the whole. This, for a long time, went steadily to London for coinage, but in the year 1855 the British government permitted the establishment of a branch mint in Sydney, the demands of the people interested to that end having at last amounted to a command which the royal powers that be—as is usual when Australia wants anything—yielded to, although it was the means of taking from the great metropolis much of its profit and prestige. In 1872 a similar privilege was given to Victoria, and up to 1891 the coinage there was £45,918,348, while during the longer period the Sydney mint coined £87,199,000. During eighteen years past the London coinage was still 37.38 per cent of the whole, that of Sydney 26.90, and of Melbourne 35.72.

Prior to the last decade the output of precious metals from Australia was practically all gold, but during that period extensive silver mines were discovered in New South Wales. At Sliverton and Broken Hill on the Barrier range the ledges uncovered proved to be of the most immense extent and great value. The field extends over 2500 square miles of country. The Broken Hill enjoys the reputation of being the greatest silver mine on earth, the yield for the first five years being 38,512,445 ounces! During that time the dividends paid the shareholders amounted to £6,816,000, more than two-thirds being in cash, the remainder in shares of other mines belonging to the company. The whole of this vast yield, or the great bulk of it, found its way to London. From there a great deal of it has gone to India where coinage has been free, but is not likely to remain so long.

When we reflect how very limited a portion of Australia has been explored, and how much smaller is the portion that is settled, the enormous wealth of the country is more easily understood. Its ranges swarm with cattle and sheep, its territory is nearly as vast and diversified as that of the United States (exclusive of Alaska), and the question of actual separation from the mother country—Independence it already has—seems to be one of but a short time. There is no danger of annexation to any other country being thought of in the case of such a grand empire situated so far away from any power big enough to take it; it will become a nation by itself and that, too, according to all appearance in a very short time.

There is talk of building a two-story, thirty-roomed hotel in Brigham City as soon as spring opens up.

#### THE NEW DIRECTORY.

Upon the editorial table is a copy of Polk & Co.'s new Directory of Salt Lake City. Without designing to be invidious, we are constrained to pronounce it superior in most respects to any of its predecessors. The list of names, residences and occupations is as complete as is possible, the alphabetical order in the names running entirely through them instead of only the initial and one or two more being so arranged as is sometimes the case. There are 1049 pages in the book, but notwithstanding this great number the volume is not bulky nor at all inconvenient to handle. The printing and binding are the perfection of art, and the general appearance is one devoid of apparent cheapness or haste in preparation. It would look well in any library or on any table, and its contents are as useful and well classified as its exterior is handsome. In the sense of good workmanship and careful attention to details it is a success, as we have no doubt it will be financially.

#### AN EX-EDITOR'S SATURDAY TALK.

One of the charges which have been brought against our people as an evidence of the narrowness of their views and their want of progress has been their alleged opposition to the opening of gold and silver mines in the Territory. This charge has been circulated extensively, and no explanations have accompanied it to show why there was such a dislike to this pursuit.

There is truth in the statement that for many years the people of Utah were averse to the opening of the gold and silver mines; that is, the general opinion was that it was not a proper pursuit for the people to engage in. But there were reasons, and good reasons too, for this view to be taken by them. President Brigham Young had this question to meet in the days of the early settlement. The news of the gold discoveries in California, in which some of the members of the Mormon battalion took a leading part, reached Utah at a time when the people were in dire extremity. Food was very scanty, and of clothing and many of the comforts of life the people were almost entirely destitute. Men were glad to get buckskin clothing; and in the absence of leather, of which there was none to be bought, they were glad to wear moccasins. Tobacco was worth more than its weight in silver, and in those days there were instances of its being sold by placing a piece of silver on a plug of tobacco and cutting the size of the coin out of the plug for the money. Tea and coffee were priceless; in fact, there was scarcely any to be had even where needed in cases of sickness. Sugar, and all sweetening, was so scarce that recourse was had to the grinding of corn stalks and the boiling of the juice, and extracting some little sweetening from watermelons.

This was the condition of affairs in