

Brigham Young, and there is more in it than many people understand. At the same time he advocated stern justice in punishing the villainy of the savages when the due claims of mercy had been satisfied.

We hope this cruel war is really over, and that a wiser, more humane and more consistent policy will henceforth be pursued in the nation's treatment of the primal owners of American soil.

PUT THE BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS

THE investigation as to the disfigurement of the body of Richard M. Johnson ought to be very thorough. The relatives, as might be expected, feel profoundly indignant at its condition, the hasty burial and the indecent manner in which the corpse was consigned to the rude coffin. Whatever blame attaches to this should be placed where it belongs. Our evening contemporary states that when the death was discovered in the jail, the body was taken to Joseph E. Taylor's. This is a singular mistake to be made by one who heard or read the evidence of the undertakers that handled the body. The inquest has been held at Mr. Taylor's, but he has no business connection with the Coroner, and had nothing to do with the disgraceful interment. The Coroner has his office with Evans & Ross, and it was to that firm that he sent the body when he concluded that no inquest was necessary. We do not think the *Times* intended this injustice to Mr. Taylor, and when it perceives the mistake will probably make the necessary correction.

THE "VARIETY" LICENSE.

SOME indignation has been manifested by the variety theatre people and a certain circle of sympathizers, because of some of the remarks made by speakers at last Monday night's law and order meeting regarding that unsavory concern. It appears that some of the gentlemen who addressed the gathering, notably Mr. Libby and Mr. Wanless, went to some extent beyond the facts in adverting to the question of the liquor saloon in the basement of the variety show. There is no doubt however, that this was done unintentionally. They had not only been informed that the saloon had been opened and conducted without a license after one had been denied by the Council, but that the den was still in full blast, while the question was pending in the courts.

It is denied that the saloon is now in operation, and probably this is correct, and that is, we presume, where the gentlemen to whose remarks exception

has been taken were in error. There is no denial, however, of the fact that after the refusal of the Council to grant a license the saloon was opened and conducted, although it probably has been closed since. The proprietor was arrested on a charge of violating the liquor law. Should this point be proved on the trial, the action of the Council will be shown to have been eminently proper. This contravention of law would show that the applicants do not belong to the class legally entitled to a license; or at least it ought to show that since that occurrence they have no right to such a permit, having vitiated whatever claim they may have previously had. The speakers of Monday evening were evidently right so far as an act of violation of law was concerned, although not correct in asserting that the criminal offense was continued after the arrest of the parties concerned.

At the first meeting of citizens interested in bringing about an enforcement of the laws in this city and the keeping down of the causes of vice to the lowest practicable legal limit, Mr. Wanless stated that a concern which had been practically vomited out of Denver had found official favor here. Probably his knowledge in that regard renders him somewhat more intense in stating his position than he would otherwise be. He is, however, remarkably clear and vigorous in his enunciations, and gives evidence of a deep interest in the subject in which he is taking an active part.

INCREASE OF MURDERS.

It is claimed that the people of this country live under the benign influence of Christianity. That this pretension is for the greater part mere profession, unsupported by the genius of peace and meekness is apparent by one fact alone—the appalling increase of murders. The record kept for the year 1890, by a single American newspaper of the murders reported in its mail and telegraph service, furnishes terrible proof upon this point. It shows a total of 4,290 murders committed in the United States during the twelve months. This would amount to 357 per month, or a daily average of twelve for the entire year.

The rapidity with which crimes of a violent character, fatal in their results, have increased is shown by the figures of former years, which are as follows: In 1889, 3,567; in 1888, 2,184; in 1887, 2,335; in 1886, 1,499; in 1885, 1,808. It should be kept in mind that there were doubtless many crimes of this character that never reached the columns of the newspaper which took the trouble to

keep the record and compile the statistics. This is a fearful exhibit.

The causes of these tragic occurrences for 1890 may be classified as follows:

Quarrels.....	2184
Liquor.....	485
Unknown.....	404
Jealousy.....	396
By highway men.....	217
Infantile.....	167
Resisting arrest.....	149
Highwaymen killed.....	74
Self-defense.....	67
Insanity.....	59
Outrages.....	25
Duel.....	1
Strike.....	1

RUSSIAN NIHILISM.

PUBLIC opinion in America is being attracted to the political condition of Russia. The presence of Stepniak, the much talked of Russian nihilist, in the United States at present, adds to the public interest in the matter. George Kennan, the newspaper correspondent, has done a great deal by his writings and lectures in illustrating the situation in Russia. But his testimony was entirely ex parte, because he has dwelt solely on the brutality of the ruling classes there. Judging from his accounts the Russian people are governed on the principle of a vast slave estate. But the Russian officials in their treatment of the Jews are as brutal and intolerant as any despotism could be.

Stepniak is a pronounced Nihilist. He made his escape from Russia by almost superhuman means. He is now on a lecturing tour in the United States. His object is to expound what nihilism is and what it demands.

Etymologically speaking the word nihil means nothing. In its adoption by Russian politicians it has a history. The Russian writer Turgeneff wrote a novel entitled "Fathers and Sons." Bazaroff is the hero of this novel. And as Turgeneff believed that "every positive principle before it can conquer an ascendancy for itself must begin with negation," he made Bazaroff the mouthpiece of his philosophy.

In the novel Bazaroff is made to deny everything, including love, law, heaven, earth and religion. Bazaroff is asked by an interlocutor for a second denial of religion. He gives it calmly and says: "What we want now is to have everything abolished, and then leave things to form themselves naturally, without impediment, spontaneously."

To this the interlocutor says: "Then you are a Nihilist." This in brief is the history of the word. It was first uttered in a political sense about twenty-five years ago.

Though Stepniak defends Nihilism as merely comprehending in its demands freedom of speech, liberty of