

## EDITORIALS.

THERE be things which are good servants but bad masters, and it is a trite saying and a patent fact that fire is one of these. Perhaps nothing is more startling, more shocking to the nerves, than the cry of "fire," except it be the sensation of an earthquake, for an earthquake imparts a thorough consciousness of the utter vanity and insubstantiality of things sublunary, a conviction that nothing earthly is to be relied upon, even the great globe itself is nervously startled from its propriety, rocking and reeling to and fro like a drunkard, who has sold his soul to one of these bad masters, which bad master has taken rude possession of his bargain. One may escape from fire, but escape from earthquake is exceedingly dubious, to run from it is a very difficult thing, and to put oneself surely and certainly outside of its influence is a problem insolvable, possibly save and except by going "up in a balloon," and balloons are not always on hand, nor constantly convenient for instant use. Moreover, between earthquakes and balloons, many people would be thinking of two evils which would be the least to choose.

But if fire be not the worst of bad masters, it is sufficiently bad to justify all reasonable precautions against its assuming the mastery. In this arid climate, and especially in a dry season like the present, precaution is less easy but more imperative. This city is largely favored with artificial streams of water in most of the streets, though naturally the water is scantiest when our needs are the sorest. Yet, supplemented by the system of reservoirs and pipes contemplated to be constructed by the municipality, there will be little cause of complaint for lack of water in most parts of the city, more or less easily available, in case of conflagration.

Every fresh case of fire is another urgent inducement to "hurry up" with fire-engine, engine-house, equipments, and efficiency of fire brigade, each of such class as, in the wisdom of the local powers that be, shall be most appropriate to the circumstances of the city and to the times. All these observations are applicable, in a degree, to every city, town, and settlement in the Territory.

As to precaution in building. We cannot say we ever were favorable to the mushroomy, canvas-town style of architecture, nor has it been adopted, worth mention, by the bona fide citizens of Utah, only by speculative "transients." One serious fault of lumber, lath and plaster, and similar slight methods of building is their great combustibility, an objection applying also to shingle roofs, although there are ways and means of reducing the combustibility. But the general substitution of tiles or slates for roofs, however desirable, does not appear to be a matter of early promise.

One thing commendable we will say for our citizens—notwithstanding the rushing up of divers structures for the hurry of speculative and commercial purposes, and the wedging in of such structures as tightly together as possible, the gingerbread style of architecture is not in favor with them. Their tastes run decidedly in favor of more substantial and durable construction. Salt Lake City is really the best laid out city, having the most spacious streets, and its houses are the most substantially and securely built, offering in themselves the greatest safety from conflagration, of any city from Chicago westward, so far as we have seen, and perhaps in the country. This detached, or semi-detached, substantial, durable, and safe method of building is worthy of all encouragement. Let rock, brick, adobe, and concrete be still more extensively patronized, and danger from fire will be decreased correspondingly, while our cities and towns will assume a still more thoroughly pervading air of substantiality than they now do, which will not only be a source of satisfaction and pride and comfort to our citizens, and an effective precautionary measure against destructive burnings, but will impart to visitors an assurance that the citizens themselves are of a most substantial class, worthy of trust and confidence, thereby giving to our cities, our citizens and our Territory a reputation that will bring riches and will otherwise prove to be better than riches.

FAMINE and pestilence are abroad. After war they are apt to appear. The far East of the Old World is fertile in both famine and pestilence. We owe

cholera to Asia, and India has records of appalling famines. Cholera is on the march again—it has been advancing westward for some time, having made its advent in London and New York. Let us hope it will not be able to cross the mountains. Persia, now afflicted with truly horrible famine, presents heartrending scenes, and it is stated that fathers and mothers are eating their children, husbands are doing the same with their wives, grown-up children are killing their younger brothers and sisters, and, in some instances, their parents, for food. Food is the cry and might is right.

Our citizens have seen some hard times in this Territory, for drouth, crickets, and grasshoppers have warred against vegetation, and warred very effectively. But it is a cause for thankfulness that we have never seen a hundredth part of the affliction now visited through famine upon the Persians.

A FUNDAMENTAL principle of agriculture is the due admixture of water with the soil, artificially when and where such due admixture is not provided for naturally. The artificial admixture of these two primitive elements of earth and water has made Utah self-sustainably habitable, has made her indeed, in spots, the garden of fertility and beauty which visitants persist in telling us she is. The capabilities of this artificial admixture have been developed to a large extent in the tillage of the Territory, and many an acre, many a thousand acres, thereby have been redeemed from the curse of bare sterility to reward the enterprising husbandman, to furnish sustenance for all, and to gladden the eyes and elicit the admiration of every observer who has the public weal at heart and who rejoices to see the recompense of faith and enterprise and energy and persistent labor, especially in the face of more than ordinary difficulties and discouragements.

But far as the capabilities of this artificial admixture have been developed, there are undoubtedly still greater lengths and breadths to which their development may be pushed, and may be profitably pushed. Look we around at the vast tracts of land in nearly every valley of this Territory, which at this present moment are in a state of natural infertility, infertile for lack of the due admixture of the two elements named, and the queries arise—why is this? and, how long shall these vast reaches lie in forbidding barrenness? These are important questions, and from year to year as the demands of the population increase for the bread that perisheth, will these queries be reiterated with swelling importance, until the answer will be practically given in the gradual redemption of a greatly multiplied number of acres, and their transformation from deserts of dependency into gardens of delight.

What are the needs of these now barren acres? As we have said, firstly and mainly the due admixture of water, of suitable water, that is, of water not injuriously adulterated with deleterious mineral ingredients. Such water is obtained artificially firstly by springs and streams, aided by canals from them. These sources of irrigation are the first taken advantage of, being generally the most easily available. In many localities in the Territory, they have been made available, so far as they can be readily and with moderate expense. In some instances greater expense will greatly extend their availability, and the greater expense will be incurred as the prospects shall brighten for its reimbursement.

Wells, surface and artesian, are other sources of supply. Surface wells in some localities are not available, by reason of difficulties in construction, or unsuitability of the water obtainable. Where the water is suitable, power to elevate the water is needed—power either of animal, wind, or steam, and which of these shall be employed must be determined according to the merits of each case, although under good management it is highly probable, to say no more, that either would pay. The use of wind and steam power for irrigation do pay in other regions, and why not here, and animal power also, and this last is most easily and constantly available?

Artesian wells have not been proved successful in Utah, but many persons believe they might be, and some are inclined to favor further and more thorough experiments in boring. Artesian wells might furnish abundant sources of water, if good, for irrigation of thousands of acres, at less expense than has been incurred in many instances for dams and canals. But Didy-

muses in regard to artesian wells abound, and the way to induce faith and enterprise in such persons towards these wells would be the construction of one successful well. That accomplished, the thing would take like wildfire, everybody would have artesian wells on the brain, and our dry and barren benches and prairies would soon be riddled with tubes and spouting with the fertilizing streams. Who means to lead out in this direction? Here is room for capital, enterprise, and energy.

An objection to well water, for irrigation, is the coldness. So is creek water cold near the mountains at all seasons, and elsewhere also during a large portion of the growing season. The remedy for the coldness of well water would be the construction and use of reservoirs, as large as necessary, and the airing and sunning and warming of the water therein before use. This could be done, and doubtless will yet be proved capable of paying accomplishment.

IF EVER a paper was a thorn in the side of any clique or party the New York Times seems to have become so to the municipal rulers of that city. It has been busy, lately, in exposing what, if its statements be true, may be called the wholesale swindling of the people by the officers of their local government. Such an expose has probably never been made in any city, and the papers of the country have contained many articles denouncing the malpractices and frauds of what is termed the "Tammany ring."

Not content with exposing their peccadilloes, the Times has set itself another task, and that is the exposure of the mal-administration of the prison system of New York City; and a recent article devoted to Sing Sing, contains statements in relation to the laxity of duty, discipline and principle among officers, and the cruel treatment they resorted to for the punishment of obnoxious criminals, which are so extravagant and atrocious in character as to almost be beyond belief; and it would seem as if the Times, anxious to make out a case, had gone too far and so defeated itself. However we will give our readers a brief epitome of the article in question, and leave them to form their own judgment.

A reporter of the Times has spent considerable time in investigating affairs at Sing Sing and, to show how little some of the principal officials care about discharging their duties, he starts out by showing how the prison "runs itself." He states that, in company with the chief of the Sing Sing police, he arrived at that establishment and inquired, first, for the agent, next for the prison clerk, and lastly for the principal keeper; but all were absent: the first had gone fishing, the second to Albany, and the last, "it was thought," was at "home, sick."

Of the discipline, observed in Sing Sing, or rather the absence of it, the Times says that almost all the officers, while ostensibly attending to their duties, drink, gamble and do worse things; and that convicts, if they have money, find no difficulty in obtaining admission to the hospital, as patients, or in obtaining some easy and pleasant berth. But the main portion of the article is devoted to an exposition of two methods of torture introduced since the use of the shower bath, the cat-o-nine tails, and the crucifix were abolished by law. The new instruments or methods of torture are two in number, and are called respectively, the "trapeze" and the "bed of roses."

The "trapeze" consists of two thin tarred ropes, run over a pulley, and the torture is in tying these ropes to the thumbs of the culprit and hauling him off his feet. The suffering caused is said to be horrible. The cords cut into the flesh; the most excruciating pains are felt in every part of the body, and every fibre quivers with keenest agony. The tendons of the arms are stretched to their fullest length, and seem like red-hot fire in the man's flesh. Elbow joints and shoulder blades snap as if ready to separate, and the thumbs swollen and black with compressed blood, often actually split open. At this point the miserable wretch, filled with terror, sinks into insensibility. When released he is generally unable to walk by reason of temporary paralysis.

The "bed of roses" is thus described: over the floor of a cell a stout wooden floor is placed, completely covering it. Upon this frame is fastened half-spheres of hard wood, about the size of billiard balls cut in halves. These are secured tightly with the rounded surface turned upward.

A prisoner condemned to the "bed of roses," has to divest himself of shoes, stockings and coat, and then placed in the cell so prepared, seeks in vain for sleep or an easy position. The hard knobs press into his flesh, and fill his body with a thousand pangs; every motion increases his torture, but his cries for mercy meet with no response. When he leaves his dungeon it is with a blended vision and unsteady gait, with limbs bruised, and body lame and sore throughout, and when parties have to endure the "bed of roses" for weeks and even months, as it is said some have to do, their torments, it can easily be believed, are indescribable.

If such exposures as the above and the Tammany frauds be true, the Times' newspaper, of New York City, deserves the gratitude and firm support of the people; for the venality, corruption and villainy they indicate were never surpassed anywhere. Public opinion in the metropolis is being thoroughly aroused and an investigation is taking place; and if the statements of the Times are found to be authentic, there is no doubt in the world that the rule and ruin policy of the present administrators of municipal affairs will soon be brought to a close; and the sooner the better.

DR. HOLLAND offers a bill for the regulation of the social evil in San Francisco, being convinced that the welfare of society requires that some check should be put upon it. The Dr's bill is similar to the St. Louis regulations, with the characteristic faults of being intended chiefly to prevent the spread of physical disease, licensing the crime, and inflicting punishment upon the women only. In connection with Dr. Holland's bill, the San Francisco Chronicle recommends the State Legislature to pass a bill making seduction felony. A commendable recommendation, for the Chronicle, seeing that the general sentiment of the country, acknowledged as such by the courts, though regretted by some people, excuses extreme punishment for such offences. The laws should ever be in accordance with the best convictions of enlightened and conscientious citizens.

ALTHOUGH the summer has been so unwontedly hot and dry, and water comparatively scarce, yet the people of this Territory have abundant cause for thankfulness in the excellent harvest with which they are favored the present season. For the first time for four or five years, a fair small grain harvest rewards the husbandman, uninjured by the grasshoppers, excepting in the extreme north, south and east, and a few other limited localities. This is a signal blessing. To see this city entirely for the whole season so far, and this county almost entirely, free from the devastating scourge is a gladdening realization of the devout desires of every good citizen, and is calculated to strengthen the faith and the purpose of every tiller of the soil to renew his exertions to make the barren places fruitful and the wilderness to bloom. A good small grain harvest means plenty of bread for man, woman, and child; plenty of provender for the beasts of the field; plenty of seed for increasing the arable acreage another year; more meat, and cheese, and butter, as well as more bread; more comfort in the cabin; more joy in the heart; more thankfulness in the Tabernacle; more backbone at the plow. Sanpete valley this season will regain much of its old time reputation of being the granary of the Territory, eclipsed by Cache Valley in former but not in late years, although the latter valley this year has been striving hard and with encouraging success to also rival the good old times of her great fruitfulness and prosperity ere the winged armies fell in clouds upon her fields and despoiled the tender blade as well as the filling ear. Other localities will surpass Cache and vie with Sanpete in the effort to furnish abundant food to the denizens of Utah and the stranger within its gates.

Added to the excellent harvest may be mentioned the good peace with which the community is favored, albeit this may not be satisfactory to all parties, for all do not desire peace, nor prosperity unless it be predicated upon the ruin of better men than themselves. In Utah, however, this class of persons have not succeeded to anything like the extent of their desires, and it is to be sincerely hoped they never will, for it is a much more excellent way to seek peace and pursue it than to be eternally engaged in endeavoring to excite and stimulate broils.