

THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

RESULTS OF CO-OPERATION.

THE *National Freemason*, published in New York City, in a recent article on co-operation claims credit for the masons in carrying out this principle in a most successful manner. The *Freemason* says that the origin of co-operation is philosophically traceable to the Masonic building associations of the middle ages. As this principle is being widely agitated in our Territory at the present time, a few facts respecting the results which have attended it elsewhere may be instructive and interesting.

Fifty years ago the masons in Edinburgh, Scotland, formed a co-operative society for the supplying of themselves with provisions. It met with opposition from monopolies, but steadily gained ground until it has become a thoroughly efficient agent of distribution. Since that time the principle has been applied to building, and has been found to answer admirably.

In 1848 an association of practical masons was founded in France. It numbered 84 members, two of whom were managers, one for the building department, one for the pecuniary administration, and a third as assistant manager. Two-thirds labor with the hod and trowel, and the rest superintend or distribute the work or hold the capital. In 1852 the business done amounted to \$9,000 and the profit was \$200. In 1858 the business reached \$243,500, and the profit \$40,000, the dividend upon the capital being 56 per cent. Last year this society of masons contracted to build the new station in Paris for the Orleans Railway, at a cost of \$400,000. The members of this society have saved money, intemperance has disappeared, and they are better dressed and live in a higher state of comfort than their fellow-workmen who work on the old principle.

It is stated that in Birmingham, England, a similar society has bought freehold estates to the value of \$1,150,000, and has erected 17,000 houses, at a cost of more than two and a half million of dollars.

Of the manufacturing town of Mulhouse, France, a writer says:

"In the year 1835, of the seventeen thousand workmen in the cotton factories, nearly one-third were compelled to lodge themselves in the adjacent villages, sometimes not less than five or six miles distant from the town, and at that time a working day consisted of fifteen hours, beginning at 5 a.m., and terminating at 8 p.m., all the year round, summer and winter. For the most part, too, these were the inferior class of operatives, and consequently the worst paid, consisting of whole families, half naked and half starved, who wearily splashed through mud and mire, dragging along their little ones, with no thought beyond the miserable pallet of straw on which they snatched a few hours of forgetfulness. To avoid the exhaustion of these long tramps through the slush in cold and darkness, the operatives were in the habit of pigging together in the most hideous hovels within the town, two and three families crowding together in a single room of very limited dimensions. How extreme was the destitution of these poor creatures may be divined from the significant fact that, whereas in the families of the tradespeople one-half of the children born in the town obtained the age of twenty-nine, in the families of these wretched operatives not one-half survived the second year from their birth. Happy these compared with the survivors, who at the tender age of seven, or even of six, were kept standing at their work for fifteen hours a day, and for hours at a stretch without a moment's respite!

"Years passed on, bringing wealth to the employers, but adding little to the comfort of the employed. Something, indeed, was done to improve their miserable dwellings, but without much method, and decidedly on too small a scale to be of general use."

But under the influence of co-operation a great and wonderful change was effected. In the course of ten years 692 houses were constructed; besides baths, laundries, fountains, &c. A beautiful workmen's city was laid out, with streets at right angles, macadamized and lighted with gas. The houses are built in groups of either two or four, and each group is surrounded by a small garden carefully cultivated and abundantly stocked with fruits, flowers and vegetables.

"The most remarkable feature of these cities, however, is the fact that nearly every every house is the actual property of its occupant. It was found that the only means of cultivating a taste for cleanliness, decency, and neatness, on the part of the artisans, was by raising them to the dignity of house proprietors. Upon this turned the success of the scheme.

"As it is out of the question to expect that even the best paid working man should be possessed of sufficient capital to purchase a house outright, however moderate the price, it became necessary to facilitate the operation by some happy combination. A very simple one suggested itself and was adopted, to the satisfaction of all parties. The average cost price of each house varying from \$600 to \$800, it was deemed expedient to require the immediate payment in cash of \$50 to \$60, upon which the property was made over absolutely and for ever. The balance was to be liquidated by monthly instalments of \$5 each, so that in thirteen years from the first payment the purchaser became the owner of a freehold property, by that time worth double the amount he had paid for it, and which he could either occupy rent free for the remainder of his days, and then bequeath it to his widow and children, or at once dispose of for \$1,250 to \$1,500—no contemptible capital for an Alsatian weaver.

"So anxious, indeed, were the artisans to free the property from all incumbrance, that, before ten years had expired, 171 houses had been paid for in full. By the 30th August, 1865, of the 692 houses erected by the society, 414, in addition to the 171 mentioned above, were sold, of which a very considerable number were but slightly incumbered. At the same time it is worthy of notice that at first the workmen exhibited great jealousy and distrust, and evidently suspected there was a serpent coiled beneath the bright green herbage. During the first year, indeed, 49 houses were sold, but in the second only 18 purchasers, were forthcoming, and in the third no more than five. The tide then began to turn, and in the fourth year 50 houses passed into the hands of occupant proprietors, and in the fifth 109 were disposed of. From that period there has been a steady demand, very nearly equal to the supply; and in yet a few years it is probable that every prudent and sober-minded operative will sit literally under the shade of his own vine. It is needless to insist on the moral progress effected by means of these cities ouvrières."

Where this principle has been properly tested the results have been invariably gratifying. But great care is needed to have every part of the business conducted honestly and properly. If the business is not properly systematized and carried on in the most economical manner, instead of profits there are likely to be losses. We have heard of a co-operative store being started in one of our settlements in this Territory, towards which a few thousand dollars were subscribed. We were told, how truthfully we can not say, that four men came to the city to expend the sum in purchasing goods. If so, and they counted their time as worth anything, there was a dead loss to begin with of at least three men's time in making the journey to and from and in purchasing here. If co-operation should fail to be successful in that settlement, it surely can not be said that the principle is incorrect. The best scheme ever devised would be unsuccessful if not wisely, economically and systematically carried out. Co-operation is a true principle; but it requires prudence, business sagacity, honesty and a freedom from selfishness on the part of those who manage it to make it successful. With these and the blessing of the Lord, all of which we feel assured the system at present proposed will have, it can not produce other than satisfactory results.

JOURNALISTIC VULGARITY AND SLANG.

In times of political excitement, and especially on the eve of a Presidential election, party spirit has always run very high in this country, and partisan journals have overflowed with denunciations of and diatribes against the candidates for office. But in no previous campaign has such low, vulgar and disgraceful language been used by public journalists towards their opponents as now appears in the columns of the various political papers. The vocabulary of our language, rich as it is to express the nicest shades of thought, does not contain words sufficient to enable political

writers to describe their antagonists of the opposite party, and they have recourse to invention, and the strangest and most uncouth and outlandish slang phrases are used with a profusion that must astonish the ordinary reader. There is no surer sign of the degeneracy of the time than this common use of this depraved language. A few years ago journals, which now have a large and, we are told, increasing circulation, would not have been admitted, after their character was known, into any respectable house. They would have been deemed unfit for any person who made any pretence to respectability to read. But now they are circulated broadcast over the land, and are extensively read by men, women and children.

Even in this Territory there are many such journals subscribed for, and they are read, not so much because the sentiments they contain are endorsed by those who read them, but because their readers desire to see to what lengths of abuse their editors and contributors go in denouncing their opponents. The motive may be honest enough that prompts those who subscribe for such papers; but we seriously question the propriety of so doing, and certainly think the results of such reading can not be good. Such papers do an infinite amount of harm. It is an old saying, and experience has proved it to be true, that one cannot touch pitch and not be defiled. The constant perusal of papers of the class referred to must necessarily have the effect to familiarize the mind with language which many of the readers would blush to use in conversation themselves, and would warmly censure and condemn if used by women and children.

The society of those who use low vulgar slang is not generally agreeable to persons of good taste. People who have a wish to improve do not select such persons to be their companions. The effects of such intercourse are looked upon as degrading. But are they any more so upon the mind than the constant perusal of similar language and expressions. In the one case they salute the ear, in the other they meet the eye, and in both cases the mind is impressed.

To our mind there is no surer sign of the decay of public morals in the Republic at the present time than the licentiousness of the press. The future historian who shall calmly and philosophically weigh all the causes which precipitated the nation into a fratricidal war and have brought upon it the dreadful evils under which it now groans, will not fail to make note of the malign influence exercised by public journalists. The bad effects of a mischievous press are everywhere apparent through the land. Public journalists did more than any other class, politicians not excepted, to bring about the late civil war, and their baleful influence is now being felt in the deterioration of public morals.

THE TESTIMONY OF EARTH- QUAKES.

As will be seen by a perusal of our telegraphic dispatches in another column, our neighbours on the Pacific Coast had an earthquake yesterday, which has given them a thorough fright and has also done considerable damage. The shaking has not been confined to, though affecting principally, the made land, east of Battery Street; for the City Hall is on the Plaza, about the centre of the old town, and the U.S. Mint is not far from it. Scarcely a day—certainly not a week has passed, for some time, that has not brought the account of an earthquake, a tidal wave, or some startling physical phenomenon, in some part of the world. Wonder is expressed by many at the frequency of these recent visitations, and in some quarters, especially where the perturbations occur, considerable alarm is felt. But, in a revelation given December 27, 1832, the Lord told the world through His servant Joseph Smith, that:

"After your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people; for after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground, and shall not be able to stand. And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunders, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea, heaving themselves beyond their bounds. And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people."

These occurrences cause no surprise among the people of Utah; we should be disappointed if they did not occur. All the great cities of our Union have been warned. The servants of God have borne testimony year after year, unto

the people, and their testimonies being rejected these others must follow. In September, 1832, the Lord commanded Bishop Newel K. Whitney to warn the people of New York, Albany and Boston of the desolation and utter abolishment which awaited them if they rejected the gospel which He sent them. His word will be fulfilled.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

San Francisco, 21.—There was a heavy shock of earthquake at 7:50 this morning, the motion being east and west. Several buildings were thrown down and a considerable number badly damaged. On Pine, Battery, Clay and Sansome streets, near Cal. St., the ground sank, throwing the buildings out of line. At the present writing, 9 a.m., no estimate of the damage can be made, though it is considered comparatively small. Several severe shocks have followed at intervals since, creating general alarm among the people. The shock was felt with great severity at San Jose, where a number of buildings were considerably injured. A second dispatch after a survey of the city, shows the principal damage by the earthquake was confined to the lower portion below Mont. street, and among the old buildings on the made ground, numerous houses in that part of the city were abandoned and have to be pulled down. The Custom House, a brick building, on pile ground, which was badly shattered by an earthquake in '65, is considered unsafe, and the officials have removed to the revenue building. Business in the lower part of the city is suspended; the streets are thronged with people and great excitement prevails. The parapet walls and chimneys of a number of buildings were thrown down, resulting in a loss of life. The damage is estimated to not exceed one million.

At Oakland the shock was severe, throwing down chimneys and greatly damaging numerous buildings. The ground opened in several places, and a strong sulphurous smell was noticed immediately after the shock. The court house at San Leandro was demolished, and one life lost.

From various portions of the country in the vicinity of San Francisco bay the shock is reported as severe, considerable damage having been sustained; in many places the earth opened and water gushed forth.

Another shock has just been felt—7 p.m.

9 p.m.—This evening the streets were crowded with an excited multitude, who were discussing the particulars of the disastrous earthquake. Twelve shocks were felt during the day. The general direction was northerly and southerly, though some descriptions give it a rotary motion. The greatest damage extends, in a belt several hundred feet wide, running about north-west and south-east, commencing near the Custom House and ending at Folsom St. wharf, injuring and demolishing some twelve buildings in its course. At the corner of Market and First Sts. the ground opened, making a fissure several inches wide and forty or fifty feet long; at other places the ground opened and water was forced above the surface. The City Hall may be considered an entire wreck. The courts all adjourned. Prisoners were taken from the station house to the county jail. All the patients in the U. S. marine hospital were removed, the building being declared unsafe. The chimney of the U. S. Mint was so badly damaged that the establishment had to close for repairs. Hoyer's type foundry suffered greatly; the Pencola school house was badly damaged, and a large statue in front of the building was quite ruined. The general delivery at the Post Office was temporarily suspended. The San Francisco gas works suffered severely, the tall chimney, being thrown over, fell through the roof. The Mission woolen mills were considerably damaged, and a large chimney on the sugar refinery in Eighth st., was badly cracked. The gable end of the girls' side of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution fell in, crushing through the ceiling. Many chimneys in the southern part of the city were thrown down; but no one is seriously injured by them. Only four lives are, as yet, known to be lost, although numbers were seriously injured by the falling debris.

The waters of the bay were perfectly smooth at the time of the shock, and no perceptible disturbance took place. The shock was felt aboard the shipping in the harbor, as if the vessels had struck on a rock.

The earthquake was severe in the