

fingers of one hand, with perhaps fingers to spare; and it would only be showing a "decent regard" for those who have to furnish the money when times are hard to reform this state of things, not indifferently but altogether.

Have the gentlemen who control affairs in this community ever stopped to consider how much less the work that is being done could be performed for and what a lightening effect it would have if this were acted on? It would mean very many thousands of dollars every year going into channels where the taxpayers would realize it one way or another, and would make it utterly improbable that another payday would come around and there be no funds on hand with which to pay the needy and deserving laborers who do earn what they get in most cases. Let a movement of this kind be started, gentlemen, and see how heartily and spontaneously the people will uphold you in it! The applause, too, you would receive from willing hands would be a new experience to you but surely not the less welcome on that account. Just try it.

HOW IT LOVES A LIE!

A sheet published in this city, and which will be sufficiently described without being named when we say that its platform is hate, its creed is bitterness and its chief object in living is to arouse, inflame and maintain a feeling of hostility against the Mormons, has been lately publishing, for seditious purposes of its own, various malicious and untruthful statements concerning the work of the Latter-day Saints Elders in the Southern states. This morning it returns to the charge again, with what it calls a "special" from Richmond, Va. The story, which no sane person believes to have been a "special" at all, but which was doubtless clipped from the local columns of some obscure southern paper and reproduced as fresh news, begins with an account of the experiences "of an organized band of Mormons" under the leadership of Elder W. G. Ellis of Salt Lake City." How much truth there is in this part of the story may be judged from the fact that there is no such "Mormon" Elder in Virginia or in the southern states at all. Then we are favored with a glimpse of the home-life of another of the misfortunates, an "Elder Campbell, who said that his father had married several sisters and that he himself lived in a house with his father's wives for eight years before he knew which of the women was his mother." Here again the account is miserably deficient in the important essential of truth—there is no "Elder Campbell" belonging to this Church in that part of the country or in the mission at all. Continuing its romancing, the paper goes on: "There is no doubt that the Mormons at work here are believers in polygamy; indeed, they do not hesitate to state as much openly;" furthermore, "Other Mormons are at work in Stafford, Spotsylvania and probably some other sections of this state," etc., etc. To all of which it is simply necessary to say that if the other Elders, and their teachings and doings are as mythical as "Elder W. G. Ellis

of Salt Lake City," and "Elder Campbell" who had to wait eight years to find out who was his mother—the only prominent points in the whole yarn—there is ample explanation of the avidity with which our local cotemporary grasps its solebore. Indeed, it is only remarkable that a story having so many falsehoods to commend it should have had to be crowded out of its deserved place on that paper's editorial page.

TRAIN ROBBERING AND WRECKING.

An article in an Eastern paper on the above subject is quite interesting reading, as showing that we are in the midst of a sort of epidemic of that kind. A lot of figures are collected, which are shown to be rare but none the less reliable on that account; perhaps no other writer has yet taken the trouble to collect such statistics and put them together. It is claimed that they, in addition to the interest which they evoke, may have a moral as a capstone to the verbal fabric; and as it to make the matter the more vivid the present year, so far as it has gone, is the only period of time dealt with.

It is found that in the first half of 1898 there were in the United States and Canada sixty-one attempts to wreck trains and in the United States alone twenty-one attempts to rob them. Most of these efforts were unsuccessful, and in no case this year was any one effort very successful; that is, the robbers had discouraging bad luck in getting plunder, and the train wreckers produced no serious wrecks. But the figures are disgreeable. We think of this says the writer, as a highly civilized country, and yet we find in six months sixty-one attempts at a crime far more atrocious than plundering caravans, and twenty-one attempts at robbery, bulder and more dangerous than the exploits of Dick Turpin. With such facts before us, therefore, it is well to be a little modest, for these crimes have not been confined to the least civilized parts of the United States; and this brings us to the question of geographical distribution.

Massachusetts and Illinois by the showing made head the list in the number of attempts to wreck trains and Ohio comes next. In these three respectable states thirty-one per cent of all such crimes was concentrated, and New York follows next in order. This curious circumstance may be explained partly by the great train mileage in those states. The attempts at train wrecking were more numerous, because the trains were more numerous. Probably a more important element is the fact that many of these efforts to wreck trains are made by tramps, who naturally infest those states in which the distance is not too long between pie, to say nothing of drinks. The ingenious statistician of crimes may be disposed to carry this speculation further, but the writer is content with the explanations suggested.

There is another interesting phase of the subject in the geographical distribution of the attempts at train robbing. In this department of the subject we are shown that there is the same number of these attempts in Iowa

as in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma taken together. Texas follows next, and then Kansas and Nebraska. In fact, sixty-seven per cent of all train robberies and attempted train robberies in the United States are found in these four states and territories. Of course, says our cotemporary, the population of the Indian Territory and Oklahoma is not choice, and Texas has a large semi-criminal element in its population; but how shall we explain the fact that Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa furnish so many of the train robberies and that more have occurred in Iowa than in any other one state? This is one of the "conundrums" that the NEWS will not attempt to solve, at least not today.

There is one thing that the writer spoke of overlooked in his ramifications of crime on the rail—the sections of the country where such events are either very rare or do not happen at all of late years. Perhaps he (or she) is a lawyer or has the instincts of one and only started out to present one side of the case; or it may be that there are no such sections. There is, however, such a section—our own Utah. We lead the country in a good many respects, and the absence of train robbing and train wrecking is not counted the least of such features.

CLEVER WORK.

The NEWS has previously spoken of the cunning-handed faculty which is at times developed by prison inmates and has given its ideas as to the reason therefor. There is nothing abnormal in it; the mind and hand must be turned to something, and the work that man can do when he tries in earnest is always an unmeasured quantity until he can work no longer. One of the best pieces of such workmanship we have yet heard or read of is described by the Kansas City Star. It was done by Daniel Titus, an inmate of the Montana penitentiary and sent by him to an attorney in that city. It consists of a cane fashioned by the convict during his idle hours and is a marvel of artistic work. The stick is a light, straight piece of beechwood. A gold head ornaments the top, but this is discounted by the remarkable wood carving. Convict Titus, with his penknife, has carved upon the slender stick faithful representations of the faces of every American president from Washington to Harrison. This includes every man who has ever occupied the White House, because President Cleveland, now serving his second term, was Harrison's predecessor as well as successor. Directly below the ornamental gold head-piece the convict carved the American eagle and the motto of the United States, "E Pluribus Unum." A shield with the bars and stars in the center, an excellent likeness of the Father of his country is next, and then follow the faces of all the Presidents. The stick was evidently taken when green. The outer bark was polished and cut away to the sapwood. This was cut and carved in thousands of delicate hair lines, and then the wood was cut away, leaving each face on a raised surface. The work is as delicately done as the finest pen and ink work and is a subject of general admiration.