

Lord Lytton's first literary work was published in 1855 under the title of "Clytemnestra and other Minor Poems." In 1859 he published "The Wanderer" another collection of poems. In 1860 he published "Lucelle," which gave him world-wide renown as "Owen Meredith." His latest literary work was a biography of his father. It was to him a distasteful task, owing to the unfortunate domestic relations of both his parents. However, it is said that he discharged his duty both as son and biographer very creditably.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCES IN UTAH AND ELSEWHERE.

Census bulletin 141 relates to public school finances. Two bulletins have been issued heretofore pertaining to this subject. In the present one there is a table showing the number of pupils enrolled in each of ten States and Territories, the per capita cost of teachers' wages, and miscellaneous expenditures per pupil, as well as the total expenditures per capita of pupils enrolled and of population.

What gives interest to this table is the fact that Utah figures in it. She had in 1890 36,372 pupils enrolled in her schools. She expended in teachers' wages \$245,004, showing a per capita expenditure of pupils enrolled of \$6.79. Her total expenditures for schools was \$394,677, giving a per capita of \$10.85 for the pupils enrolled, and a per capita of \$1.90 for the whole population.

Alabama, Florida and Tennessee in this table fall far below Utah in expenditure for education. In Tennessee it is only 84 cents per capita of the population, in Florida \$1.26, and in Alabama 37 cents. Colorado shows an expenditure per capita of the population of \$4.08, Massachusetts of \$3.70, Montana \$2.75, Nebraska \$3.12, Ohio \$2.93 and Oregon \$2.81.

The report of Hon. Jacob S. Boreman, commissioner of schools of Utah, shows that over two-thirds of the school funds are derived from taxation. A Territorial tax of three mills on the dollar is annually levied for the support of schools, and the amount from this source distributed during the year 1890 was \$135,476. By means of district taxation the sum of \$123,774 was raised, and from tuition fees \$48,190 was derived.

The finances of the public schools of Utah for 1890 show the ordinary receipts to be \$259,250 by taxation, funds and rents \$28,017, miscellaneous \$58,126, making an aggregate of \$345,393. The expenditures itemized are teachers' wages \$193,950, construction and care of buildings \$124,616, libraries and

apparatus \$25,057, miscellaneous \$51,054, making an aggregate of \$394,677. The value of buildings and other property is put at \$945,982. This table also gives the receipts and expenditures by counties.

#### FISHERIES BUSINESS.

Census bulletin 123 contains statistics representing the business done out of United States ports in 1889 in the whale, fur seal, and sea otter fisheries. The capital invested in the pelagic or ocean whale fishery was \$1,913,275, in the shore whale fishery \$15,604, and the fur-seal and sea otter fishery \$152,757. There were 101 vessels employed in the whale fishery, aggregating 22,660 tons, and valued at \$1,791,173. As compared with 1880 a decrease of 41 per cent. is shown in the number of vessels, of 42 per cent. in the net tonnage, and of 38 per cent. in the value of vessels, including outfits and apparatus. The total number of persons employed in the whale fishery was 3,017, in shore whaling 74, and in the fur seal and sea otter fishery 422, making a grand total of 3,513. The whale fleet was distributed as follows: Behring Sea and Arctic Ocean 42, Atlantic 36, Okhotsk and Japan 9, South Pacific 8, Indian Ocean 6. Of these vessels New Bedford sent out 57, San Francisco 27, Provincetown, Mass., 9, Edgartown, Mass., 3, New London and Stonington, Conn., two each, and Boston 1.

#### SINGLE TAX IN NEW ZEALAND.

HENRY GEORGE and his land tax followers will have reason to rejoice over the fact that the New Zealand Legislature has passed a land tax law which approaches the George Idea in many respects. The aggregate land value of New Zealand is nearly \$500,000,000. Eleven persons own one-fifteenth of this, while 20,000 persons own one-hundredth of it. The land problem has been a live issue there for the past ten years.

The new law places a tax on land values irrespective of improvements. It taxes incomes as well as land values, and subjects improvement values in excess of \$15,000 to taxation. The George theory is that all improvements should be exempt from taxation. However, the New Zealand law might be considered a triumph for the single tax advocates, inasmuch as the thin end of the wedge has been inserted. In that country they have only to work for an increase of the exemption, or its abolition altogether, and then they will have a single tax pure and simple.

#### SEVIER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Sevier Stake of Zion convened in Richfield on Sunday and Monday, November 22nd and 23rd. Apostle John Henry Smith, President Henry Beal of Sanpete Stake, the Presidency and many of the Bishops and leading Brethren of Sevier Stake were on the stand.

Four public and one Priesthood meeting were held, during which Apostle John Henry Smith, Presidents Henry Beal, William H. Seegmiller, Counselors George W. Bean and Wm. H. Clark; Bishops James I. Jensen of Elsinore, Joseph S. Horne of Richfield, Second ward, and Franklin W. Young of Teasdale; Elders Sheridan Jacobs, William Ogden and Theo. Brandley addressed the congregations.

The principal topics dwelt upon by the speakers were the conditions surrounding the Saints at the present time, the necessity of living so near to God that we might enjoy the companionship of the Holy Spirit, which would lead us into all truth and bear testimony unto us that the purposes of God would be accomplished; the way in which we should treat all members of our families and the proper training and educating of our children, religiously and morally; the necessity of learning to be liberal and broad in our views regarding all mankind, and dealing justly with all the sons and daughters of Adam regardless of creed or color; the preaching of the Gospel at home and abroad; the work in the Temples of our Lord for the living and the dead; the building of suitable houses for the worship of God and their being dedicated and used for that purpose only; the payment of our tithes and offerings, and looking well after the poor and needy in our midst; the necessity of being merciful and forgiving to each other, and not harboring ill-feeling or bitterness of heart on account of differences in regard to our political faith; the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ and our dependency upon God, the eternal Father, and the practical duties of the Latter-day Saints in general. So great was the power of the Holy Spirit made manifest, that the words of comfort, encouragement and admonition which fell from the lips of the servants of God during all the meetings caused every heart to rejoice and be filled with gratitude to God our Heavenly Father.

The general and local authorities of the Church were presented and unanimously sustained.

Apostle John Henry Smith congratulated the people of Sevier Stake upon the elegant structure now in course of erection, which is to be the Stake tabernacle, and the necessity of a speedy completion of the same is apparent to all.

The health of the people throughout Sevier Stake is good, and having been blessed with a bountiful harvest of fruits and grain, the temporal prospects are very fair. THEO. BRANDLEY, Stake Clerk.

RICHFIELD, Nov. 26, 1891.

Chr. Ege, the well known merchant of Bergen, has, on account of his lately celebrated golden wedding, made several large donations.