

while there is no revelation regarding it, there is good reason for believing that abstinence from food and drink renders the spiritual part of man the better able to prevail over the sensual, especially when combined with a devotional effort. That there is virtue in self-denial none can doubt who accept the Savior's teachings or who has learned from actual experience of the happiness to be secured thereby even in this life; and to deny ourselves for the benefit of the poor, and to unite with our brethren and sisters in fervent worship and imploring the Lord for blessings, special and general, cannot fail of having a good result.

When the Saints generally observe this monthly fast, and spend the day in seeking to develop a devotional feeling in the home circle, and to attending Sunday school and fast meeting, taking their children with them, the youth of Zion will be impressed as they never have been in the past with the importance of the sacred ordinance of fasting, their compassion for the poor will be increased and their faith become all-powerful for the saving of themselves and others.

The Lord be praised for the present rule of fast day! And may the worship of the Saints be all the more effectual from now henceforth!

#### MANY THOUSANDS OF POOR.

The work of relieving the poor and needy in this locality occupies the attention of a considerable number of people who are often put to their wits' end to answer all the demands of necessity upon them. Yet there is one satisfaction, namely, that the numbers of the poor are not so great but that the efforts to relieve them are crowned with success; and by hard work on the part of those who look after the deserving indigent, and by the liberality of the people, the actual suffering is reduced to a very small limit, though it were better if it could be removed altogether. Among the Latter-day Saints as a religious organization, the system of obtaining and disbursing means is so perfect that wherever it is fully applied there is no occasion for any to remain in a state of want; and there is generally something to spare for those not numbered with the Saints, but who are worthy objects of charity.

In some of the big cities of the country, however, the condition is far from being as satisfactory as it is here. In the city of Chicago, for instance, it is estimated that more than 100,000 mouths will have to be supplied with food this winter to prevent actual starvation. The situation already has reached a painful emergency, as noted in Tuesday evening's Chicago Dispatch, which says:

Developments at the county agent's office are positively alarming, and the well-to-do people of Chicago may as well ask themselves at once: "What must be done to feed Chicago's starving thousands this winter?" The offices of the county agent were overrun yesterday. The record of applications for relief showed considerably over 300 families in dire distress, and today that record is being far exceeded. Yesterday fourteen persons were sent to the Dunning poor farm, and on Saturday the same number went there. In the crowds that begged

and pleaded for food yesterday were big, able-bodied men who could not find work and who trembled in the cold and shed tears from fear that they would not be able to procure food to keep starvation from their families. Many women also shed tears from hunger and other hardships. County Agent Olson struggled hard with the difficult task before him. The men told distressing stories of sick wives, helpless little children, and the weary hours and days they had put in looking for employment.

On the same subject the Chicago Record declares that it is said that never in the history of the county agent's office, excepting the year following the big fire, has such demand been made on it for relief; times were hard following the close of the World's Fair, and the figures for that year show that 86,500 families were looked after by the county; a year ago the figures jumped to 42,783 families, and at the close of business Monday 37,483 families had been provided with fuel and provisions, and the hardest month of the year is yet to tell its story.

This is a pitiful tale, which probably can be duplicated in some other large cities. It tells of the great need of a revival in business in this country, so that those of the vast number who really desire remunerative employment can get it. If the revival does not come soon, there is further trouble ahead for the nation.

#### CLIFF DWELLERS OF THE SOUTH-WEST.

The current number of *The Great West*, published at Denver, Colorado, contains the opening paper of a series on *The Cliff Dwellers of the Southwest*. That paper points out the opportunity in this country to study ancient ruins and ancient races, obviating a journey to the Old World for that purpose. It further says that in Southern Colorado and Utah, and in Northern New Mexico and Arizona, is a grand field for exploration and abundant materials to amply repay the antiquarian for the necessary expenditure of time and means and effort, and which invites to the scenes where a race, or races, centuries ago built and occupied strange homes among the almost impenetrable cliffs, and industriously tilled their fields in the rich valleys below. The article also calls attention to the conclusive evidences that the cliff dwellers understood the same principles which govern today in the construction of stone and mortar walls, in the manufacture of earthenware, and in the preservation of grains and meats.

In discussing these prehistoric remains, the writer in *The Great West* asserts his opinion from investigations made that so ancient are the ruins there that in that place "mankind on this great continent of ours seems to have originated; for not even tradition supplies any satisfactory theory or suggestion as to how or whence came these tillers of the soil, these builders and occupants of strange habitations, these warriors brave and fathers true. Authorities (granting that in this case authorities are possible) differ most radically as to the age of these ruins and the antiquity of the race who first inhabited them; the limits of years

ranging all the way from three hundred to as many thousand." Great quantities of cliff dwellers' relics have been carried off, some of the more important being sent to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington and the Metropolitan Museum at New York; and others are preserved in private museums at various places. Still there is a great number left, notably in the recently discovered group occupied by the Basket Indians—so called because of the great number of cleverly made baskets found in and about their ruins—and all are quite readily accessible.

At one time there was made in Utah a proposition to preserve the relics in this State of prehistoric tribes, and later there was an effort to have the government do so with the ruins in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah; but neither produced any practical result in the way of such preservation. At the present time there ought to be to the people of Utah a special attraction to those reminders of a by-gone age and people. With most of the people of these valleys there is an acquaintance with the history of the fathers of the ancient race, and some definite idea of the age of the cliff dwellers' relics—that the date of their building probably followed close upon the advent of the Christian era. The possession of this historical account of ancient America ought to be a strong incentive to preserve the material evidence of the antiquity of habitation and civilization on this continent; and since the possessors of that history were the pioneers of modern civilization in the West, at the forthcoming semi-centennial celebration it would be a great feature to have represented here a collection of the evidences spoken of, with illustrations and descriptions of the scenes which have been their abode for centuries. An aggregation of the weapons, pottery, grains, implements, etc., would convey with infinitely more force than could mere words a comprehension of the fact that here in this land there lived and flourished a people of whom all but the faintest trace has been lost in the traditions of the savages found here by the present white occupants; and there would be no occasion for an unseemly desecration of resting places of the dead to make such a collection. Here is a chance for some enterprising citizens with money, energy and determination to perform a service that will bring them fame not only among contemporaries, but with generations yet to come who may have opportunity to gaze upon the ancient relics which they have been the means of collecting and preserving for truly educational purposes.

#### CHICAGO AND MORMONISM.

The Chicago News has an editorial article on "The Fight in Utah" which shows that, however well informed the editor of that paper may be on some other matters, he is woefully benighted with regard to actual conditions in this State. His statements with respect to church and politics are directly opposed to the facts as they are generally known to exist here, whatever interested parties