

letting its members "think" for themselves. Who comprise the Mormon Church? Mormons of course. Then it was the Mormons that "let" the Mormons "think and act as they felt," and Mr. Jones gives his readers mere gibberish. His statements about the coolness of Mormons towards Gentiles, boycotting, etc., are pure fiction. The cordiality established between the two classes prior to statehood, has increased rather than diminished since. In a style and with a coloring peculiarly his own, Mr. Jones rehearses and embellishes the narrative of the senatorial contest of last winter and the rise and progress of the non-partisan movement last fall; vindictive misrepresentation being a prominent element in his account of both.

He follows with a description of the school campaign and election, showing therein a remarkable propensity for invention as witness the following:

"They hoped to play the same trick at the school election a few weeks later, but with their usual lack of foresight they began an attack on the high school on the ground of too high taxes, hoping to win wealthy Gentiles out of party lines to vote for them. This was the last straw that broke the endurance of the Gentiles. They abandoned all parties and voted solidly against the Mormons after calling mass conventions to nominate candidates."

As this piece of mendacity relates chiefly to the Gentiles, they may answer it. If they are willing to admit that they "abandoned all parties and voted solidly against the Mormons" who were candidates for and were elected to the school board, they probably will not deem any reply necessary. The last quotation is followed by this fine specimen of fiction:

"The Mormons all the time pretended that their scheme was not a Church move, but on the Sunday preceding the election in Salt Lake City they were notified from the Tabernacle to be out in full force at the ward meetings that evening. There they were told for whom to vote and were given tickets with the voters' names. On election day they were out in full force and voted for men who were never nominated, but they were defeated."

The Mormons had no "scheme" in connection with the school election. Both Mormons and Gentiles were divided in sentiment respecting some of the questions involved in it, but no party nor faction had any organization or identified membership, and it is utterly impossible to say what proportion of either Mormons or Gentiles stood on any side of any question concerning the schools. No such notification ever issued from the Tabernacle as is stated by Mr. Jones, nor were instructions given or tickets distributed at ward meetings, as stated by him. At this point he has descended to unmitigated falsehood.

The closing paragraphs of the article follow a sliding scale of increasing mendacity, and embrace statements to the effect that the practice of polygamy has been resumed, and that polygamous marriages are taking place; that "as soon as the Mormons obtained control of the State, they made almost a clean sweep of the Gentiles from offices;" and that the Mormons "are as guilty of treason as ever Arnold was, and are as much in rebellion as they can be without actually taking up arms." That last declaration is too hysterical on its face to call for further remark. Of the others it is sufficient to say that polygamy has not been resumed, and that the Gentiles, though comprising only about one-third of the population of the State, hold more prominent and lucrative offices than Mormons do.

Mr. Jones closes his screed with the following frantic appeal:

"Let the Christian people in the East arouse themselves and see that legislation is passed to put an end to Mormonism as an enemy of the State."

But too much notice has here been taken of his effort to signalize himself as the world's champion anti-Mormon romancer. He is welcome to all the fame it will bring him. It is well, however, for people in Utah, and especially such of them as may be interested in the truthfulness of reports on mining properties, to be posted as to his capabilities in the way of glaring fabrications.

RESCUE WORK

Every movement and every influence that tends to wean mankind from sin, or to prevail upon the sinner to repent, or to elevate or purify the morally degraded, is of God, in that proportion in which it aims to produce these results. In regard to a true and complete religious system and organization, and authority to administer religious ordinances, the Latter-day Saints have strict and uncompromising ideas; but they recognize the right of all men to pray to God, and to persuade their fellow-beings to pray to Him, for a forgiveness of sins, and for help to overcome the weaknesses of human nature and the temptations with which the adversary of human souls litters the pathway of human life.

When, therefore, persons belonging to any religious denomination, or to none at all, inaugurate a movement whose genuine purpose is to check the spread of vice or wickedness, or to rescue from a vicious or wicked life victims of sin who have been addicted thereto, the aid and sympathy of all Latter-day Saints may, with all propriety, be extended to such philanthropists, so far as proper methods are adopted by them.

Two ladies who are laboring under the auspices of the Purity department of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, Mrs. Lake and Dr. Gelsel, are now in this city for the purpose of engaging, in a systematic way, in the rescue and permanent reclamation of fallen women. They will try, by means of public meetings, to create interest in and sympathy for their work on the part of as many of the people of the city as possible, without regard to political or religious lines; and they will try, by means of personal visits among the outcasts they aim to reclaim, and by kindness and persuasion, to induce them to change their mode of life.

Such methods are entirely harmonious, as far as they go, with the Gospel as believed by the Latter-day Saints; for it is pre-eminently a Gospel of love, persuasion and long-suffering. It seeks to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance, and reformation of life is the substance of true repentance. The "News" therefore hopes that all classes of the community will aid and encourage the ladies named in their noble and self-sacrificing work.

THE STAGE AND SILVER.

The press of this country has lately been discussing quite freely the proposition to utilize the educational power of the stage for the purpose of converting the masses of the people to a belief in the benefits that would accrue to them through the re-opening of the mints for the free coinage of silver. Such astute political managers as Senator John K. Jones, chairman of the National Democratic committee, Senators Stewart of Nevada, and Allen of Nebraska, Hon. Chauncey F. Black, president of the Association of Democratic clubs, besides a number of other

members of Congress and prominent friends of silver, are fully committed to the plan; and a play has been written, and is shortly to be produced, under the auspices of the National Democratic committee; at least such is the announcement.

The title of the play is "The Curse of Gold." The American Drama company holds the copyright, and has notified the press that the unauthorized reproduction or publication of any part of the play or dialogue is forbidden. But the New York World of January 30th, by permission, gives a synopsis of the drama, and portions of its dialogue verbatim. It is intended to possess a character similar to that of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and to produce a similar effect upon the public opinion of the country.

Among the themes of the play are "the Pullman strike, the heartlessness of capital, government by injunction and the corruption of politicians." One character in the cast is so drawn as to represent William J. Bryan, another George M. Pullman, etc. Of the strength of the play, and its effectiveness for the purpose for which it is designed, a safe judgment could not be formed without witnessing a performance of it. It is reasonably certain, however, that it presents object lessons of poverty, and of oppression by capital, in a manner that will influence a great many voters, if the opportunity shall be given to the masses of the common people to see it performed by a good company.

The use of the drama for the purpose of influencing a presidential election is a novel proposition, and the preparations now being made in this direction indicate a determined purpose on the part of the leaders of the silver forces to reach and capture the tolling millions. The next presidential campaign promises to be even more animated than the last one was.

THE HAWAIIANS.

In view of the efforts made to create an impression that the native Hawaiians are ignorant and unfit for the advantages and responsibilities of self-government, the official reports on the schools of the islands are of interest. They prove that the system of education in operation there is as efficient as that of any other civilized nation and that the average Hawaiian is ahead of the average citizen of some European countries from which the United States receives liberal additions to her population.

The reports for 1896 show that there were at that time 125 free schools employing 289 teachers, and attended by 10,195 scholars. Besides these government schools there were numerous private institutions. The legal school age is between 6 and 15 years, and of 14,286 children in that age, 13,744 attended schools. Of these over twelve thousand are of Hawaiian or mixed origin, while the remainder are foreigners, of which the Portuguese are most numerous. About ten years ago it was decided to close all of the Hawaiian schools and replace them with English, and this was done by the express request of the natives themselves. Instruction is therefore now general in the English tongue. Ample provision is made for the education of the people and it is asserted that the proportion of illiteracy among them is now smaller than among most other people that lay claim to civilization.

This fact can not of course be stated as a valid argument for the annexation of the islands to the United States; but it shows that the charge of ignorance against the Hawaiians is unfair and not founded on facts. The progress of the natives is the more remarkable when their history is considered, and