

EDITORIALS.

RESULTS OF READING.

THE impression made upon the mind of a youth by the first book he reads is deep and far-reaching. Many who peruse this will, if they revert to their early experience in this line, remember what a flood of light was let into the mind by the perusal of the first book, which gave the initial glimpse of the largeness of the world. It enabled them to enter into a new condition and breathe another atmosphere.

If parents fully estimated the importance of placing only sound and wholesome reading within the reach of their children, how carefully they would act in that regard. What children read has more to do with forming their future course for good or ill than most people imagine. An instance in point:

Two or three years ago a strapping, broad-shouldered youth, of fine appearance and average intelligence, was sent to the penitentiary in this Territory for grand larceny. A person who was struck with the aspect of this young man, asked him how he came to be in such a position. His reply was frank, truthful, and as follows:

"I was engaged in herding in the western part of the Territory. Time hung heavily upon my hands. I sent word to my sister to send me something to read. She complied and among other books sent me 'The life of Jesse James,' the notorious highwayman. I was deeply interested in the story. It inspired me with a desire to become a great robber, such as he was, and have my name dreaded as a desperado, as in my imagination, I made him a hero. No sooner was the resolution made than I set about putting it into active operation. My first exploit was to steal a bunch of cattle, and here I am in consequence."

Is it too much to say that that young man's sister was the unintentional means of his becoming a thief and landing in prison? It is not stretching the truth to say that she was one of the indirect causes, at least. Neither is it an exaggeration to assume that many parents, through carelessness and the want of ordinary prudence in relation to the character of the reading with which their children have been supplied, have contributed toward sending the latter to the felon's cell and even to the gallows.

The rule works both ways. Many youths who have attained distinction because of their learning and usefulness in their mature years, have received their first impetus in that direction by perusing the story of exalted labors performed by one or other of the great spirits of the race. Imitation is conspicuous in mankind, hence the need of young people being given an opportunity of becoming familiar with the best models.

IN RELATION TO TAXATION.

THERE is some dissatisfaction on account of the uneven character of the taxation for school purposes. It is claimed correctly that under our present system some counties are not only taxed for the support of their own common schools, but contribute largely toward those in other sections. In some instances counties have within a comparatively small amount all of their Territorial and school taxes returned to them in the form of appropriations for educational purposes.

Of course a liberal disposition will go far toward diminishing any tendency to dissatisfaction in the counties which contribute most liberally to the public revenue on this ground. The people as a whole must necessarily look to the welfare of the community as an entirety, without reference to local sectionalism. At the same time it may be advisable to cast about for a method of taxation that will not only be more just than the one existing, but at the same time contribute as fully to the general advancement.

A feasible method presents itself by giving a more equitable localization to taxation for local purposes. This would render it necessary to base Territorial taxation upon a fair estimate of what is required to run the general machinery. By thus limiting the general expenditures to objects that are more Territorial than local the percentage could be greatly lowered. The adoption of this idea would necessitate the enlargement of the powers of counties to levy taxes to be expended within their own borders. In this way they could be placed in a position not only to construct and keep in repair their own roads and bridges, but also maintain and operate their common schools, making them free or otherwise at their own option.

It might be advanced as an argument against such a system, in regard to its bearing upon educational matters, that it would render the status in that regard uneven throughout the Territory. Some counties would ambitiously forge ahead and leave others to lag in the rear. But it is probable that the impetus which the subject would receive by the rapid strides that would

be taken in some sections would inspire others with a spirit of emulation, and thus the sum of educational advancement be increased instead of diminished.

The last Legislature passed a measure providing for a Territorial board of equalization of taxes. The gentleman who was governor at that time declined to sign it, and it therefore never blossomed into a law. A peculiarity connected with this declaration of the then governor was that an act of that nature was recommended in his message to the Assembly, and it was drawn in accordance with his suggestions regarding what its character should be. Perhaps it is well that it was not signed, for the reason that the commission it created would have found its duties to be somewhat impracticable. It is not supposable that in discharging them they would have oscillated from one end of the Territory to the other in order to justly discriminate in relation to the value of realties. And even if they did, they would have had to depend upon information derived from local sources. If each county had greater scope in regard to taxation with a commission empowered to act in relation to the equalization of taxes the subject would be greatly simplified, because rendered less difficult.

The restriction of the power of the Territory in regard to taxation and the enlargement of that of counties has the advantage of being of democratic tendency, enabling each local division to, so far as practicable, look after and take care of its own interests.

QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE.

J. D. McIntosh of St. John, Tooele County, addresses to us the following communication:

"In the News of Dec 30th, in reply to a question propounded by Mr. Arthur, you stated that a school trustee must be a registered voter. Would you please quote the section of law which says so? If an individual, who is not registered, is elected to the office of a school trustee by the registered voters of a district, and said trustee subscribes to the iron clad oath and is qualified by the county court according to law, would the proceedings of such trustee be illegal?"

By answering the above, you will oblige a number of your readers."

In the article to which our correspondent alludes, the News should have stated that a school trustee must be a qualified instead of a registered voter, in order to be eligible to the office. Registration is a preparation for voting, but is not a qualification for office, under the laws in force in this Territory.

In 1839 the Legislature passed "An act prescribing certain qualifications necessary to enable a person to be eligible to hold office, vote or serve as a juror," of which sections 3 and 4 are as follows:

"Sec. 3.—No person shall be elected or appointed to any Territorial, district, county or precinct office, unless he shall have been a constant resident in this Territory during at least one year next preceding such election or appointment, neither shall any person be entitled to hold any office of trust or profit in the Territory, or vote at any election unless he is a male citizen of the United States, over twenty-one years of age, and has been a constant resident of the Territory during the six months next preceding said election or appointment."

Sec. 4.—No person shall be deemed a resident wit in the meaning of this act, unless he is a taxpayer in this Territory."

Such was the law in relation to this subject until the registration act was passed in 1878. That act prescribes registration as a condition on which the elective franchise may be exercised, but it does not affect the conditions relating to the official franchise.

In what might, perhaps, be termed a semi-official manner, School Commissioner Williams has issued upon a case precisely similar to the one which our correspondent evidently refers to. In a town in Box Elder County, a man whose name was not on the registration list, was elected to the office of school trustee. A discussion arose as to his eligibility, and Commissioner Williams was asked to give an opinion upon the subject. He did so, affirming the eligibility of the candidate, substantially holding registration to be a condition pre-requisite to voting, but not to being voted for.

In addition to the qualifications for office required by Territorial law, the so-called Tucker-Edmunds act of Congress prescribes a test oath, substantially identical with the one taken by the voter on being registered. This oath, taken by an officer elect answers every purpose of equity—that is of equalness—as well as if administered for the purpose of registration. The elective and official franchises are thus put upon the same plane so far as the oath is concerned.

FOUNDATION FOR A NEW LITERATURE.

The writings commonly attributed to William Shakespeare have served as a foundation for a distinct literature, there being in existence some thousands of volumes which have been written about them, or in a manner to

be connected with them, or their author. Men versed in so-called Shakespearian literature and lore are spoken of as Shakespearian scholars, as if their researches had been devoted to a department of human knowledge or thought first disclosed by the Bard of Avon. The vast regions of his fancy, and the inhabitants with which his imagination has peopled them, afford themes of which a numerous class of writers and students never tire. Exhaustive essays are written in efforts to show that Hamlet was or was not really insane; that is, to show whether a man, suffering, feeling, talking and acting as Hamlet did, could be considered of sound mind. So other Shakespearian characters have been dwelt upon by critics, philosophers and psychologists, who generally acknowledge them to be marvelously accurate reproductions of human nature and an exhaustless fountain of pleasing and instructive study.

What might be termed systems of literature have been founded by other men, among whom may be mentioned Thomas Jefferson, Charles Darwin and R. G. Ingersoll. The writings of each of these men have served as foundations for other authors to draw ideas from which the latter have added to and elaborated in many published volumes. The ability to unfold to the multitude new and great thoughts, gives to its possessor a power more certain and enduring than that of a klieg, in attracting a devoted following. This holds true, though the moral quality of the teachings of a great leader of thought may be of questionable wholesomeness.

The literary system of which the Bible is the governing centre is undoubtedly greater in magnitude than all others combined, which have for their foundations the writings of individuals. Biblical literature is simply exhaustless in its extent. The biographies that have been written of Scriptural characters, heroes and heroines, are innumerable. Historians of all ages have delighted to depict the great events recorded in Holy Writ, from which a very large part of the world's present knowledge of ancient history is drawn, while the task of enumerating the religious, theological and doctrinal works purporting to be founded upon the Bible, would almost require a talent able to count the sands upon the sea shore.

There exists a foundation for a new literature upon which builders have made efforts which are but few and feeble in comparison with the possibilities which that foundation affords. We refer to the Book of Mormon. Characters as great, grand and striking as ever moved upon the world's stage, are therein depicted with superlative vividness and accuracy, and yet with a truthfulness and simplicity which charms while it inspires with awe, the reader. That book records historic events of an interest as profound, a magnitude as great, and effects as lasting as any that ever transpired upon this globe. Scenes as intensely dramatic as any which the vivid and exuberant fancy of Shakespeare has painted are described in that work, and its examples of faith and heroism are as inspiring as those of the Bible.

The historian who delights in narrating the rise and fall of empires; the origin and extinction of dynasties; bloody wars and mighty revolutions, finds in the Book of Mormon ample material for the construction of many volumes. The essayist who loves to depict the many virtues, and to show how noble is the patriot and how despicable the traitor, can find in that record, some striking illustrations of the morals which he draws. The biographer who takes delight in depicting the struggles, triumphs and weaknesses of men who have left their impress on the age in which they lived, can find in the Book of Mormon, subjects worthy of his best efforts, while the novelist and dramatist can replenish from this source the storehouses of fancy with material, inexhaustible in quantity and of the richest quality and variety.

Noting more than a mere beginning has been made in the direction of bringing forth the literary wealth of this wonderful Book. Its pages comprise a world in which the literary worker may travel vast distances, all the time witnessing scenes of absorbing interest, viewing landscapes of alternating beauty and gathering material of untold wealth and priceless value for the construction of books. Our home authors would do well to enter this literary field in greater numbers and on more extensive excursions than they have hitherto done, with a view to developing its resources in the way of historical, biographical and other kinds of literature.

THE LAST OF THE BONAPARTES.

ON the 9th instant, the last act in the dramatic history of the Bonaparte family was performed in the transfer of their remains from the temporary to the final resting place. There were but few mourners and the ceremonies were of the simplest kind, the removal from Chislehurst to Farnborough Hill being accomplished in a short time and with no demonstrations other than the ordinary respect shown on such occasions. The proceedings, to quote from the New York World,

seemed to indicate that the political fortunes of the great Corsican family have reached the very lowest ebb compatible with existence. Of the many thousands who less than a score of years ago, dined and danced in the gay Tuilleries two alone were present—Pietri, the faithful secretary of the Empress, and the Marquis de Bassano, son of a former minister of the imperial household. Shortly after eight o'clock that morning, the fifteenth anniversary of the broken-hearted Emperor's death, Mgr. Goddard, the parish priest, read the low requiem mass for the repose of the soul that for twenty years had troubled the peace of Europe. Before the little altar on which flickered a few candles, resting upon rough wooden trestles and covered with purple palls, were the oaken coffins which contained the imperial remains—palish and despite the embalmer's art. By the side of the bier knelt four ruddy-faced nuns who had trudged over from their convent at Bromley to pray for the eternal peace and repose of those who, in lifetime, had substantially enriched their foundation. In the body of the church were half-a-dozen village crones telling their beads and quivering out their paternosters. Here and there were scattered groups of newspapermen scribbling on the backs of pews their early copy for the afternoon papers. On the whole, it was hardly a very solemn scene. In five minutes mass was said and done with and the Monsignor went to breakfast. The drizzling rain began to fall, and the old people of the country side scratched their heads and suddenly recollected that the day was quite in keeping with the weather which prevailed in 1873 and 1879. In fact, it was a regular Bonaparte day.

Thus disappeared from the gaze of man the last traces of one of the most magnificent, brilliant and irresistible dynasties that "ever rose or reigned or fell." Like all the rest of the family, the bones of Louis Napoleon and the Prince Imperial repose in foreign soil, and still Europe is in a state of as great unrest as though it were possible for the grave to open its marble jaws and cast them all up again revisited and reinstated upon their thrones. What a commentary it all is upon the fleeting triumphs and glories of a life like this! The thought that the showy, brief candle must out so soon ought to be enough to make even an infidel humble—but it does not.

RIPENING FOR REVOLUTION.

THIS would not, perhaps, be the best time England could select for a conflict with any foreign power, whether near or remote; because she has a domestic power ready for revolt on the first opportunity. It must be said for Mr. Balfour, the Irish Home Secretary, that if he has accomplished no settlement of the pending question, he has brought it nearer to a settlement than it ever was before, by the application of the most relentless friction and the use of absolutely unyielding rules. The acts by which distinguished fishermen like Lord Mayor Sullivan, Editor O'Brien and Mr. Dillon, and Englishmen like Sir Wilfrid Blunt have been handled by representatives of Balfour, though causing immense excitement and leading to acts of violence, were tame in comparison with what has lately been threatened and partly carried out.

The dispatches today teem with advices showing the grim determination of the Secretary on the one hand and the fixed, unflinching purpose of the Irish people to resist as long as they can in the way and with the means they have been employing until sterner measures of resistance are called for. A public speaker in a meeting held yesterday boldly stated that the day of Irish independence was not far off and intimated that no further half-way measures would be resorted to. This feeling is so prevalent and deep-seated that the resultant friction becomes more and more intense with each summary act of violence, and a belligerent feeling between the Irish as a nation and the English forces could no more be restrained after the announcement once goes forth that England is involved in the European trouble, than the tide could be held back in the bed of the ocean. In fact the news is burdened with alarms of war, and the nations that escape it will not, from present appearances, be numerous or consequential.

WHY NOT INVESTIGATE?

NOT long since a gentleman who takes an interest in the discovery of relics of the ancient races of America, was passing through this city. The theory and narrative of the Book of Mormon were explained to him by a believer in its authenticity. The harmony between the numerous discoveries of ancient relics made on this continent during the last half century and the statements of the book seemed to strike him with considerable force. He said he was almost wholly devoid of any religious sentiment and judged matters solely from the standpoint of human reason. There was one peculiarity of the subject brought before his notice for which he confessed he was unable to account. While it could not

but be admitted that the discoveries corroborated the statements of the Book of Mormon, neither Joseph Smith nor any other man, he said, in substance, could know of the existence of the bulk of the relics by any ordinary means at the time of the publication of the record, for the reason that they had not at that time been discovered. The same admission would be made by any fair-minded person giving the subject even but a casual investigation, while a more thorough search would confirm it.

Probably no book that was ever given to the world has been treated with more unqualified unfairness than the Book of "Mormon." It has simply been repudiated—except by the Latter-day Saints—without investigation. Instead of efforts being made to determine whether or not it is authentic, the aim has been to find some plausible theory upon which to base its repudiation. Numbers of them have been advanced, but have one by one fallen by the way, that which was deemed by far the most feasible—the Spaulding Manuscript—having been effectually dissipated by the discovery of the veritable story written by the Rev. gentleman who bore that name, the original being now in the archives of Oberlin (Ohio) College, as a literary curiosity.

Considering the status of the subject would it not, in the light of so much interest being taken in discoveries of what are termed prehistoric relics of the ancient races of America, in order for some scientific body in pursuit of knowledge to undertake the task of ascertaining whether the Book of Mormon is or is not substantiated by the developments being made in that line? Such an investigation would be of great scientific as well as religious value. If it were to be demonstrated, after an impartial scrutiny in that direction, that there was an absence of corroboration, those who are anxious to disabuse the minds of believers in the authenticity of the book would have strong ground upon which to base their assumption, which as it stands is baseless. On the other hand, if it were found that these discoveries and developments which are causing so much interest among people belonging to a certain line of scientific claims, substantiated the statements contained in the record, the latter could be made a valuable acquisition in reaching still greater discoveries, as it would act as a key to open up new wonders to the world.

If this fair and intelligent method of reaching a just conclusion upon a prominent subject were not unpopular, there can be no doubt that it would be adopted. It may yet be, however, at some time when men are more just, consistent and liberal; who knows? Whether it is adopted or not, the fact will not be kept covered that between the discoveries of ancient land-marks and relics, including the peculiar topography of a large portion of the continent agree to a marvelous extent with the statements of the book so largely and disdainfully repudiated. Neither is there any preventive against a similar harmony existing between it and developments in a similar line yet in the future. It is not improbable that the cumulative evidence will become so overwhelming that in order to adhere to the theory of repudiation of the Book of Mormon the people will be compelled to acknowledge its claims to authenticity or shut their eyes and ears and shout the oft-repeated cry of "delusion and imposture."

Speaking in relation to recent discoveries in Arizona, the Gazette, published in that Territory, says:

"There are many wonders in Arizona, and one of the most mysterious is that of the ancient race or races which centuries ago flourished under the same Arizona sky and at night beheld with admiration the same starry heavens. People who built great cities, cultivated the soil with scientific skill as is evidenced by their engineering ability plainly shown in the traces of the greatest irrigating canals, plainly visible in the Arizona valleys. Who these people were, from whence they came, whither they went, or if destroyed by some great disturbance of nature, pestilence, famine or the victims of hordes of savages which came sweeping down from the north, of which the Apaches are the remnants, may never be fully determined. But that a people who had attained a high degree of civilization, did inhabit this region, is settled beyond dispute. To discover who they were, their ancestry and history, is becoming an interesting problem of the student of man, and recent developments and discoveries in the ancient city of 'Los Muertos' near Phoenix, is exciting much interest in scientific circles. It is to be hoped that the mysterious veil which obscures the history of these ancient races from present view, may be at least in part removed through the labor of American scientists who are devoting their time and treasures in exploring the buried cities of oriental countries and ancient Rome. Let American ethnologists turn their attention to the study of the ancient races, ruins and evidences of civilization in their own land, instead of traveling thousands of miles across ocean and desert to make less interesting discoveries."

Farmer's wife—"Will you be seated?"

Tramp—"With pleasure, ma'am. Your next door neighbor's dog has just unseated me."