

mittee is accomplished, it will be an agreeable disappointment. Of course our delegates ought to be advised as to the status, but men sometimes obtain confidence from a knowledge of what ought to be and a hope that it will be.

AN EX-EDITOR'S SATURDAY TALK.

Probably no man of modern times has occupied so large a place in the financial world, especially in the American part of it, as Jay Gould. A quiet, unobtrusive, yet very shrewd and persistent man, he has by his combinations achieved a wonderfully high position in controlling gigantic schemes and enterprises and making himself felt in the world of finance. He has accumulated during his brief life, for he was not an old man, an almost incalculable amount of wealth. Judging by the pains that have been taken for a long time by purveyors of news to let the country know concerning his wealth, it is evident that it was felt that much depended upon his life. He has not been in good health for some time. It was with a view to its improvement that he has visited Idaho for several summers past, stopping at Soda Springs part of the time, and at other springs in Idaho, hoping to derive benefit therefrom.

The news of his death, though not entirely unexpected, is still somewhat of a surprise. It suggests many reflections. Here is a man, probably the most successful financier of the age, who has devoted his entire time and talent to the accumulation of wealth and with the most successful results; but he is called away, and not one dollar of that for which he has labored so long and arduously has he taken with him! In view of this fact, it is pertinent to ask, has his life been a success? Can any man be called successful who cannot retain the fruits of his labor, but sees it slip from his grasp despite every effort he may make to cling to it? The riches he has labored for, by an immutable decree belong to the earth and by no process can they be taken from it; they can only be left here for others to enjoy.

It is among the strange peculiarities of human nature that, notwithstanding men have seen from the beginning of time, the uselessness of their piling up riches, with the hope of taking them with them or availing themselves of their benefits hereafter, so many of them will nevertheless persistently devote their entire time and attention to their pursuit. One would naturally think that, seeing as we all do, the utter futility of trying to hold on to earthly substance when death comes, mankind would turn their attention to the acquisition of those things which they can take with them and not be compelled to leave behind. The Savior illustrated this idea in the remarks which He made, when He was on the earth, to His disciples respecting earthly and heavenly treasures. He said:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor

rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

This was the advice of one who understood earthly and heavenly things better than any other being that ever trod the earth. Yet, though coming from such a source and sustained as His counsel is by all human experience, how few there are who take it to heart or who act upon it! As to how far the deceased financier may have taken notice of this teaching of the Savior, or how much he may have done in the way of laying up treasures in heaven, I do not know. God is his Judge. He may have done thousands of acts of kindness and philanthropy and no mention of it be made in a way to reach the public ear. It is not a safe thing to pronounce a harsh judgment upon a man as secretive as he was.

He had a brother who lived in this city, Mr. Abraham Gould, and he acquired the reputation while here of being one of the most charitable of men. He respected the rights of the poor, and, being in the coal business at a time when coal was scarce, he exhibited a fairness that won encomiums from all the poor who were brought in contact with him. If he made any discrimination between the rich and the poor, it was said to have been in favor of the latter. For aught I know his brother Jay may have been equally kind and charitable in his sphere. This I do know, that when falsehood and calumny filled the land against the people of Utah, he was their friend and was not afraid to speak of them in their true light and to defend them.

As to the teachings of the Savior on many points they find but little favor with the world generally. Even professed Latter-day Saints think some of His teachings impracticable under present conditions. They look upon them as beautiful in theory but unsuited to the every-day life of man as society is now organized. They appear to think that His instructions might be carried out in an ideal state of society such as exists in heaven; but not on the earth.

They, however, who indulge in this view are greatly mistaken. If anything can be relied upon that is said to come from a divine source, it is that the Creator designs to introduce on earth such rules and regulations for the government of human conduct as will illustrate practically the principles which the Savior taught. The more they are examined and tested by the higher light which God gives, the more philosophical and true do they appear. While it would not be wise for man to neglect earthly affairs, be inattentive to those labors by which he derives physical sustenance and comfort, at the same time it is equally foolish to devote one's entire time and attention to these affairs. Does not the experience of manhood in all ages prove that it is folly for men to spend their entire lives in piling up earthly riches? If, by any possibility, they could take these riches with them when they left, there might, perhaps, be some sense in spending life in acquiring them. But this is not the case. The advice, therefore, of the Savior is of the highest importance and embodies the most profound wisdom. When He says to

mankind, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth," * * * but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," Latter-day Saints have not only the words of the great Head of their Church to rely upon and guide them in relation to these matters, but the voice of humanity through all the generations of time sustains the truth of His teachings.

It is well for mankind to give some thought to other subjects and pursuits than those which pertain to this earthly existence. Man possesses what may be termed a dual nature. There is the tabernacle of flesh and bones, tangible to all our senses; but there is also a spiritual organism which, if not so tangible to the outer senses, needs equal care with the body. Under proper treatment that spiritual organism can be developed, it can be enlarged, it can be placed in possession of knowledge and of a faith which is power. It can, by proper treatment and culture, be prepared to move in an exalted sphere; or, on the other hand, it can be starved if nourishment is withheld from it, and be dwarfed and made to shrink.

There is no pursuit that has a more withering effect upon the soul of man than the pursuit of riches. It narrows up the mind, it dries up tender and benevolent feelings, it hardens the heart and unselfishness reigns predominant. Latter-day Saints of all people should be free from such a passion.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

In its forecast of what President Harrison's message would contain, the News was not greatly astray, as can be seen by comparison with the article on that subject which appeared in these columns a few days ago. It is a quietly partisan document, naturally upholding the Republican side of the political situation, praising its work in the past and relying confidently upon the future for further vindication. He pronounces the Democratic policy an "experiment," from which, if the country shall emerge a gainer, there will be considerable disappointment of an agreeable character. Reciprocity and prosperity are placed side by side in the President's reckoning, the result where the arrangement has been effected being increased trade for the United States. The Bering dispute is proceeding toward pacific settlement, but our Canadian relations otherwise are highly unsatisfactory, all of which is laid at the door of the dominion herself through "unreasonable and unfriendly protests and objections." The good will prevailing between the two republics is mentioned, and the work of the various departments receives favorable attention.

As foreshadowed the President has a good word for silver, the hope being expressed that it will receive just treatment. In the event that the Brussels conference shall fail to effect an adjustment of the question, the belief is expressed that commercial conditions will compel those governments which now refrain from action to unite with us in the movement to enlarge the volume of the world's circulating medium. Honest money must meantime and all the time be maintained at all