

## EDITORIALS.

## HOW IT IS DONE.

THE gay capital of la belle France is kept singularly clean. It is a matter of great surprise to visitors from other large cities how this is managed. No obstructions are permitted in its streets, and no rubbish piles or scattered refuse disfigure the roadways or sidewalks of the festive city on the Seine.

A correspondent of the *Baltimore American*, designing to discover how Paris preserved its presentable appearance, arose very early one morning and getting on top of the first street car, rode through the city, and learned how it was done. He writes as follows.

"The housekeepers bring out all their rubbish and pile it up in the street, one pile for every four or five houses. It is no sooner emptied than the rag-pickers, who swarm the streets with their bags and buckets and hand-carts, pounce upon it and gather up all the fragments of paper, rags, or metal to be found in the piles. They seem to take away one-third of the rubbish. Servants are everywhere to be seen with broom and bucket in hand cleaning off the fronts. The streets are being sprinkled with hose, and an army of men and women with birch brooms are sweeping the streets. On the boulevards, horse-brushing machines are in motion, and the garbage carts are removing the piles thrown out by the housekeepers. Men with hose are watering all the roots of the hundreds of thousands of trees on the boulevards, and taking up the gratings so as to loosen the earth around them."

By these means and a complete system of underground drainage by immense sewers, the bright and beautiful city of Paris is kept fit to be seen by the votaries of pleasure who come from every part of the civilized world to enjoy its unrivalled attractions. Other cities might take a leaf out of its sanitary book, with profit and advantage.

## A DOUBLE STANDARD.

UNDER the above heading the *Denver Mirror* makes the following pertinent and sensible remarks on the recent rejection of a lady applicant of this city, for naturalization in the Third District Court. No just or sensible journal or judge will see this subject in any other light than that reflected by the *Mirror*:

"The United States officials in Utah refuse to issue naturalization papers to Mormon women who live in a state of polygamy (unless they are the first wife), on the ground that they are women of bad repute, because they live in a state not recognized as marital by the laws of the United States. Does the government inquire into the moral character of men when it naturalizes them? Have these officials any right to designate the particular mould of conscience one must have or what one's religious faith must be to entitle them to citizenship? Does the government require men who apply for naturalization to bring, each, a certificate of good, moral character? to prove that they are chaste? that they do not practice adultery? that they do not violate law or morality by the practice of illicit commerce in any way? If not, why demand such things from women under the same circumstances? Why should those infinitesimal officials up in Utah try women by a severe code evolved from their own narrow minds and imaginary consciences and not try men at all? Why does the government sanction such petty tyranny? In the name of liberty and justice, if none but moral women are to be permitted to vote, then disfranchise the immoral men—and counting the votes would become a matter of little trouble and less time, for the franchise would reach its minimum. If polygamous women are to be refused the right of suffrage on account of their polygamy why, in the name of Heaven not refuse it to their polygamous husbands? The *Mirror* believes that polygamy is wrong; but with the Mormons it is a matter of eligion and they believe it right, and we do not believe in persecuting any people or individual for conscience. Who of us has less re-

spect for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David or Solomon because they lived in polygamy? Would those little official fellows who sit in the seats of the scornful up in Utah refuse naturalization to Rachael because Jacob had first married Leah?

Draw the line where you please, gentlemen, but let it be fairly done—set up the same law for men that you do for women. Be just!

## HINTS TO CONGREGATIONS.

WHY is it that most people in a public congregation are so quickly diverted from the sermon or the services, upon the slightest occurrence or noise of any kind? If a person sneezes, or has a violent cough, or enters after meeting has commenced, or drops a book, or opens or shuts a window, it seems as though the majority of the congregation consider it an imperative duty to turn and investigate the matter, or see that it is properly done. This is not a peculiarity of a "Mormon" assembly. The same thing has been noted and commented upon in other communities in either hemisphere. Neither is it a distinctive feature of religious gatherings. The same thing occurs in the lecture room and in audiences generally. It is not in consequence of lack of interest, for it is noticeable just as much when a first-class orator has fastened the attention of his hearers, as when a humdrum, unattractive speaker is dealing out dry-as-dust platitudes.

Whatever may be the reason, we think it is very improper, and believe the practice might be easily abolished with a little reflection and self-government. The entire attention of a body of worshippers or listeners to a discourse, religious or secular, is demanded for the first by that spirit of reverence which should enter into all devotional exercises, and for the second by ordinary politeness if not respect for the speaker.

We have observed another impropriety in religious assemblies, which we think ought to be remedied. Doting mothers will encourage their little ones to display their precocity, for the delectation of all beholders, and the gratification of their own vanity, forgetting, in the exhibition of ways they think so "cunning," that they are guilty of a gross breach of good manners, to say nothing of the interruption of the proceedings thus caused, and the distraction of the congregation from the speaker or exercise in progress. Children should be early trained in giving due attention to public worship, and be kindly restrained from disorderly conduct, rather than encouraged in their out-of-place pranks, no matter how they may be admired by fond mothers or silly nurses.

Order in the House of God is one of the essentials to the presence and enjoyment of the spirit of devotion and peace, and anything that causes disorder or confusion should be carefully avoided by all the Latter-day Saints.

## VISITING A POLYGAMOUS FAMILY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *New York Evening Express* writes over the signature "Y" from San Francisco in relation to a visit to Salt Lake City. He gives a very fair account of what he saw and heard, which appears in the *Express* of the 29th ult. After describing the city, Tabernacle, President Young's grave, Hon. Wm. Jennings' residence and other places, he makes some remarks upon social matters, from which we clip the following:

"I was fortunate enough, a few years ago, to make the acquaintance of a leading Mormon in your city, and, knowing him to be the possessor of four wives and sixteen children, I left my friend J., to take a peep into what would be a bedlam in the States—a household of twenty inmates, all husbanded and fathered over by one man. They were all at dinner, and seemed to be enjoying themselves exceedingly. Each one of the four Mrs. A's were a contented, happy look as the sixteen children made away with their bread and butter and sweetmeats. It was a sight I cannot well describe, and filled me

with admiration in spite of my repugnance of the Mormon doctrine. "The secret of this perfect love," said Mr. A., as I will term him, 'is our love of the doctrine we profess. We do not all live here together usually,' said he; 'but there is little or no friction in our families, not half as much as many of you have east with one wife. The bad stories you hear of us are nothing more nor less than any families once in a while create. All people do not live happy, but generally speaking we live happier in the church than others do out of it, although we have a multiplicity of wives. The *Herald* correspondent dived into our slums for his information, and his exaggerations were frightful. We do not like to be misrepresented. Every family has its secret troubles, and it would not be natural if we did not have ours. Have you been married more than once?' asked he, to which I replied I had, and had the misfortune to lose by death two wives, and was now married to my third. 'Ah!' he exclaimed, 'you are more of a Mormon than I took you to be. Pray, let me ask you a question. Which wife do you expect to live with in the other world?' to which I replied I had often thought the matter over, and had come to the conclusion that all three had an equal right to me, and I would be obliged to adopt their system. 'Exactly,' he replied. 'You will be a full-fledged Mormon in the future. Now, we believe in commencing that life here; that is all the difference between the Mormon and the Gentile.' I asked Mr. A. if he and his family all lived under one roof, or in what way he supported and lived with his numerous family. 'We live separate,' he replied; 'each family by themselves, unless they feel more happy together; and I provide for them, giving each one so much per week for support, and live with each wife, dividing my time as I think proper with each.' And here, by the way, I would remark that, from another source, I learn that each Mormon wife prepares for her liege lord as carefully when apprised of his coming as if he were a visitor. The Mormons, as a class, are not as intelligent as our people; the great number of emigrants from the uneducated classes in Europe, of every nationality, are in preponderance, and while they have many citizens of culture, the majority are willing subjects to the Mormon faith. Some of the women wear a down-hearted and discouraged look, while others are as happy as if they were the sole possessors of the Salt Lake City, and a whole male. Yet as Mormon subjects they are both clannish and contented, believing with their whole soul fully in the doctrines and dogmas of the Mormon creed. They claim that the Constitution of the United States protects them, as it distinctly states that every man shall worship God after the dictates of his own conscience, and that their conscience and religion say that they may have a plurality of wives."

## A CORRECTION.

THE Associated Press dispatches on Saturdays contain a number of items under the head of Religious Intelligence. If they are no more reliable than one piece of information sent all over the Union to-day as the "Exact Status of the Mormon Church," they are not entitled to much consideration. The total membership of the Church is placed at 14,384 and the number of Apostles is said to be seven.

We presume the compiler of the dispatches has got hold of a Stake report, most likely of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, and not knowing anything of his subject has telegraphed the figures of one branch or Stake as statistics of the whole Church.

In our ecclesiastical organization in this Territory, the people in each county, or of such district as is convenient to a central point, are united into a "Stake," presided over by a President and his two Counselors. The sub-divisions of the Stake are called Wards, and each Ward is under the charge of a Bishop with his two Counselors. Each Stake holds a quarterly Conference, when statistical and financial reports are given. Twice a year, that is on the 6th of April and 6th of October, a General Conference of the whole

Church is convened, and those who wish to make any comments or give any figures in relation to the "Mormons" should be careful not to confound a Stake Conference and its report with the General Conference and the status of the whole Church.

We hope that the papers which publish the dispatch will be just enough to make this correction. There are Twelve Apostles in the Church, and the number of its members is more than ten times the total given in the dispatches.

## A RARE BOOK.

THE Worcester *Spy* has a long article under the heading of "A Rare Book," in which it is stated that the original edition of the Book of Mormon "is without doubt the scarcest book published in the nineteenth century which has obtained any kind of reputation." And, further, "It is supposed that copies have been purposely destroyed by the authorities of the church of the so-called Latter-day Saints, so that the discrepancies of their later faith and practices with the tenets of their founder might be concealed." The *Spy* also relates the old and attenuated Spaulding story, to account for the production of the Book of Mormon.

We do no purpose repeating the evidences which have been so frequently adduced, completely refuting the stupid attempt to identify that book with Spaulding's supposed romance. There is no reliable proof that there ever was such a work as the latter, and if it ever existed, its alleged characteristics are totally different from those of Book of Mormon, while the statements of supposed fact connecting the manuscript with Joseph Smith are certainly and undoubtedly the baldest kind of fiction, without the shadow of a hair of truth.

It is also a great mistake to suppose that copies of the first edition of the Book of Mormon are so extremely scarce. There are quite a number of them in this city, and many of them in the different settlements in this Territory, also not a few in various States of the Union. The *Spy* announces that a Mr. O'Flynn, of 244 Front Street, Worcester, has a copy on exhibition. We give publicity to this announcement, because some persons may be induced to inspect the book who will be led to investigate its contents, and perhaps be honest enough to obey its mandates on conviction of its truth. And we assure all who have the curiosity to see "the original edition" that they will find nothing in its pages in conflict with the latest, each succeeding edition being a strict copy of its predecessor.

We make this proposition to the Worcester editor. If he can *Spy* out any discrepancy between the first and any subsequent edition of the Book of Mormon, we will agree to publish the disagreeing quotations and admit that a change has been made. If he cannot find any difference in the text of the two books, he shall acknowledge that his statement, in which an unjust reflection is cast upon the authorities of this Church, was an error without foundation in fact.

The whole *spy* article is compounded of mistakes. It is not true that the first edition of the Book is so rare as stated. It is not true that subsequent editions have been changed, or that any copies of the first have been destroyed by the authorities of the Church. And it is equally false that the work has any connection whatever with anything that Solomon Spaulding ever wrote or imagined. The article in the *Spy* reminds us of the exact description of a crab, given by a would-be graduate, and the answer of the examining Professor. The collegian defined the crab to be, "a red fish that walks backwards." The Professor said the definition was true with the exception of three particulars; the crab was not red, it was not a fish, and it did not walk backwards.

The Book of Mormon is truly "a rare book." First because it was written by ancient prophets of God on this continent. Second, because it was preserved in the earth for fourteen centuries, intact. Third, because it was translated by an unlearned youth by the gift and power

of the Almighty. Fourth, because it harmonizes exactly with the Jewish Scriptures. Fifth, because it has survived more misrepresentation, ridicule and of the combined opposition of the pulpit and the press, of polished polemics and the weapons of the murderous rabble, than any other publication of the nineteenth century. Last, because God has born witness to its truth by His own voice from heaven, by angelic manifestations, by signs and gifts and "miracles," and by the power of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of the humble who have received it as of divine origin. "Rare" is a good word in this connection.

## VERBAL CORRECTIONS NOT ESSENTIAL CHANGES.

ON Saturday last we made some comments on an article in the Worcester *Spy*, in which, among other untruths, it was stated that copies of the original edition of the Book of Mormon had been destroyed by the authorities of the Church, "for the purpose of concealing the discrepancies of their later faith and practice with the tenets of their founder." In refutation of this we invited comparison of the first edition, many copies of which are in existence, with the subsequent editions, stating that "nothing in its pages would be found in conflict with the latest, each succeeding edition being a strict copy of its predecessor."

Elder John Jaques, writing from the Historian's Office under date of this morning, calls our attention to the fact that the third American edition of the book is "not a strict copy of its predecessors," because it was "carefully revised by the translator, Joseph Smith, Jr., as published on the title page." He says further:

"A comparison of the third edition of the book with the first discovers thirty four changes or emendations, of greater or less magnitude, though none of any wonderful or suspicious importance. They are literal, verbal, and phraseological, but not doctrinal, not in a single instance I believe."

"However, notwithstanding the careful revision given to the copy for the third edition, as above mentioned, a few evident errors, typographical and clerical, but not very material crept into that edition."

We presume that our readers generally understood that our remarks applied to the doctrinal and essential agreement of the various editions of the "rare book," and not to mere "typographical and clerical" errors, rectified by the translator, which are not at all "material" to the question. Authors generally revise the successive editions of their works, and no person, unless hypercritical in the extreme, would claim that the correction of mere "literal and verbal" errors constituted a change in the works themselves.

We are well aware of typographical errors in the Book of Mormon, and the correction of some of them from the first edition. But we still maintain, as our informant has virtually admitted, that the different editions of the Book of Mormon are doctrinally, historically, and essentially identical. The correction of verbal errors does not touch or even approach the point at issue.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Here is an interesting item for the juveniles: "A firm in Belleville, Ill., turns out 150,000 gallons of castor oil every year."

Read our dispatches for an account of a terrible steamboat accident on the River Thames, in which over five hundred excursionists were plunged into eternity without a moment's notice.

Lawton, the murderer of Tullis, has not yet been captured; the announcement of his arrest in the Sacramento papers was premature, or rather founded on a false statement.

The appointment of Lew Wallace as Governor Axtell's successor does not suit either the Democrats or the Republicans. We do not believe the movement suits anybody except the Governor's unprincipled personal enemies.