

volts, aid in the collection of taxes and perform various other duties.

The chief interest in the present war centers in the question of the probable attitude of the other powers of Europe. The real parties are believed to be England and Russia. Under the Berlin treaty the former country is under obligation to maintain the integrity of Turkey, as long as she occupies Cyprus. But Russia, too, claims the exclusive right to protect the sultan. Whatever complications may arise from these conflicting claims is as yet difficult to foresee, but there is a general feeling that the so-called eastern question is about to be permanently settled.

TRUTH PREVAILS.

The change that has been wrought the past few years in respect to the feelings of people in this nation toward the Latter-day Saints has an illustration in the recent conference held by the Elders in Jefferson City, the capital of Missouri. It was from that state that the Mormon people were driven nearly sixty years ago, because they had Apostles, Prophets, Elders, etc., as did the Church of Christ anciently, and because they believed in revelation, healing, and the gifts and ordinances that characterized the primitive Church; it was from the capitol building in Jefferson City, Missouri, that Governor Lilburn W. Boggs issued his infamous exterminating order against the Mormon people. The capitol building was erected during the administration of Governor Boggs, and his name is carved in the stone over its door. But 1897 presents a marked change from some of the conditions of 1838. In a letter from Elder Alex. Watson Jr. of this city our attention is specially called to this change by his statement of the Mormons holding their recent conference in that capitol building, and being able to declare the principles of the Gospel, in peace and safety, to intelligent and attentive audiences, in the senate chamber and hall of representatives in that building; and the privilege of doing so was exercised through the kindness and liberality of Missouri state officials. Further than this, the people there today treat the Elders with the greatest kindness and courtesy. The change is one more exemplification of the prevailing power of truth; and the Missourians of today never will have cause to regret their hospitality to and cordial welcome of the messengers whom God has sent to declare to them peace and salvation.

MECHANICS AND HOME INDUSTRIES.

The recent action taken by the trades and labor unions of Denver and Pueblo, Col., in reference to sustaining local industries, ought to be another pointer to the mechanics here on the same subject. The assemblies referred to resolved to patronize local products in preference to importations at all times. If the people can be brought to do this, then the local prosperity due to the presence of many thousands of sturdy workers whose weekly

earnings find their way into the avenues of commerce will follow; for with the preference demand given to home manufactures, the local workmen will be found to be eager in competing for such market. Upon this point, an editorial in the Colorado Catholic contains the following, which might be read and studied by all classes in Utah, with the change of substituting the name of this State wherever there is reference to Colorado:

It is not of much value to know that there are industries around us if we do not patronize them or their products. There can be no excuse for a Coloradoan to purchase goods made in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio or Connecticut when he can secure the same class of material for practically the same cost at home. Earnest agitation along this line can do much good, but all the agitation that can possibly be preached is of little account if it is not backed by practical patriotism. One dollar's worth of Colorado-manufactured goods purchased in Colorado does more to aid the state in its march to prosperity than one hundred dollars' worth of goods manufactured outside the state.

If the people here could be induced to purchase the home article in preference to the importation upon every occasion when it is possible to make such choice, and outside of this those goods not produced in the State but in adjoining western states so far as available, and only go farther off for that which could not be made or raised closer home, they would only be following a sound business proposition which would operate as little else can to promote prosperity in the State and the West; yet it seems very difficult to impress upon them that fact in practice, without which theory is wholly ineffective. A universal patronage in these mountain valleys of the products of industry among the people here is one of the mightiest factors available for local prosperity.

PERNICIOUS NEWSPAPER LITERATURE.

There is no denying the fact that the publication of sensational details of crimes has the effect of familiarizing the public mind with the modus operandi in such cases, and in that way serves as an educator to many minds, leading them in the direction of wrongdoing. Of course, a mind that is strongly set against wickedness by training and influences from other directions, is not overcome by the fascinating tendency to evil developed in those who devour with eagerness every published detail of scandal or crime. But those who have not received strong moral training, and young people whose judgment on such matters has not been developed into a strength of character to rise above the evil, are injuriously affected by such publications; and that this effect is operating disastrously upon the people at large is clearly manifest in the increase of the particular class of crimes to which newspaper sensationalism has given greatest prominence in recent years.

It is urged that the public is more to blame than the newspaper publishers for the admittedly lamentable

condition. It is asserted that if one newspaper does not give publicity to the latest scandal, or delve into the minor intricacies of the most recent crime, other newspapers will do so, with the result that the paper which refrains from the disgusting and demoralizing publication will suffer in its patronage, because of the rush to the others. This is true in a large degree, and therefore offers a partial excuse for detailed newspaper publication of such criminal events as do occur.

But even if that excuse be allowed as sufficient, what about those newspapers which publish fiction containing descriptions of the immoral and criminal tendency referred to? Those newspapers give to their readers short stories or novels, in which are accounts of murders, suicides, scandals, etc., of a most sensational order, the articles being embellished by illustrations of the crimes. What is the excuse for such publications? It cannot be the claim that a newspaper must publish the news, for such novels are not news. The fact is, there is no honorable excuse for the publication of such fiction, which appears in nice often papers in the country, and which is infinitely more baneful in its effects upon the susceptible public than are the accounts of actual occurrences. The fascinating novel has a far greater influence on the mind of the young and unguarded than all the solid facts a newspaper has to present; and the manner in which it presents the narrative is vastly more injurious to the reader, for in the fiction the cold facts do not stand in the way of a fanciful picture. The respectable newspaper which values the moral effects of its own training upon its readers may find reasonable excuse in, though it deplores the necessity for, publishing accounts of crimes actually committed on the ground that it must give the news; but it will not stoop to publishing fiction of the same class, for the dissemination of which there is no lawful justification whatever.

It is a sad reflection on the heads of families in this locality, where such can be included among the culpable ones, to say that they would divert their reading patronage from a paper that modified its accounts of criminal events to protect those families from the pernicious influence which invariably attends a sensational presentation of details. Yet the reflection is merited by many leaders of families in this community. That is tantamount to saying that there are many heads of families who, in the eagerness to gratify their own morbid curiosity for details of scandalous episodes, throw to the winds all consideration for the honor and safety of their children that are involved. But facts compel the statement of this truth. And the position of those heads of families is made all the more unenviable when they permit and encourage in their households those papers which publish fiction of the most debasing tendency.

This matter of pernicious literature ought to receive the most careful and vigorous attention from parents, from educators, and particularly from those who operate in the field of religion. The people now are all readers, and it