

military interference with the "Ghostly" ceremonies of the Indians, for the purpose of stopping them. If this clamor is listened to, trouble is liable to grow out of the question, as an attempt to extinguish their proceedings will doubtless have the effect of making the red men angry and resentful. For the sake of humanity, every means should be used to prevent war and bloodshed. To re-enact such tragic and woful scenes as were associated with the campaign of a year ago would be a great calamity.

"WONDERLANDS OF THE WILD WEST"

WE have before us a copy of a new book which, aside from its general value, ought to have a decided local interest. The bare mention of the name of the author—A. B. Carlton—would indicate this of itself. Its title—"The wonderlands of the Wild West, with sketches of the Mormons," is further suggestive in the same direction.

The contents are of wide variety, so that the reader is not wearied by having to dwell too long upon one theme. A portion of the work is descriptive, the subjects being the grand and gorgeous scenery of the generous West. Many of the word-pictures are vivid portrayals of Utah landscapes, and all are the results of the personal impressions and observations of Mr. Carlton. He dwells briefly upon past "Mormon" history, and then comes down to his own time in this Territory from his first appearance here as a member of the Utah Commission. Racy details are given for the purpose of showing that frequently that body, owing to the abrupt political divisions existing in the community, often found themselves between the "devil and the deep sea."

The narrative and combined commentary parts of the book not only make refreshing reading, but renders it valuable for reference. Besides various rulings and instructions of the Commission upon local political questions, the work embodies the Congressional legislation in reference to Utah, and dwells upon some of the peculiar judicial proceedings in cases coming under the Edmunds act, conspicuous among which is the segregation process, which was finally smashed by a decree of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Carlton is a man of genial and sociable disposition, and being from his first coming to this Territory, anxious to learn something by personal investigation, concerning the "Mormon" people, he took the only consistent course to satisfy his curiosity. He mingled with them, attended some of their social gatherings, their meet-

ings held for public worship, their holiday celebrations, etc. He gives, in a pleasing way, in the volume before us, the results of his investigations and scrutiny. He speaks from an independent standpoint, the desire to be fair permeating his statements throughout. He generously asks that the "Mormons" be accorded ordinary fairplay, and in treating upon the Manifesto on the subject of polygamy, he condemns the bare suggestion that the Latter-day Saints are not sincere upon the question it involves.

The book contains a number of excellent illustrations, among which are portraits of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith. The others are scenic, with here and there pictorial representations of Indians. George Q. Cannon and Sons, of this city, are general agents for the sale of this work, which covers nearly 350 pages. Its price is two dollars, and it ought to have a ready sale. It is a suitable book for Utah people to send to their friends at a distance, as well as being excellent for home consumption.

BURIAL CUSTOMS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

IN an article relating to the disposition of the dead, the *San Francisco Chronicle* gives some interesting particulars. Cremation and burial were practiced at the earliest epochs, but it is thought burial first prevailed, and then cremation came in through superstitious modes of worship.

The Egyptians embalmed their dead with costly formalities. The Ethiopians placed the corpse in a glass column, where it remained for a year, after which the remains were buried outside the city. The Parthians buried their dead in the vicinity of heaps of manure. The Assyrians put the remains in honey as a means of preservation. The Persians left their dead to be torn by dogs and birds before burial. The Scythians before burying the body, during forty days carried it about in a cart to the dwellings of all persons who had known the deceased. The German tribes before the introduction of Christianity among them burned their dead.

The Hebrews treated their dead with more respect than any ancient people. Caves as burial places were preferred to inhumation. Cremation among them implied more or less of dishonor. When they came to live in large cities, the dead were buried in cemeteries outside the city walls.

The Greeks practised burial and cremation. The Romans at first burned

their dead, but later on cremation came to be the prevailing custom. It was carried out with ceremonies of the most solemn and formal character. Part of the proceeding is still observed in the burial service of the Roman Catholic church, though cremation has long since fallen into disuse.

The Parsees of India, still expose the bodies of their dead to be devoured by birds of prey. The English have succeeded in depriving the burning of the dead in Hindostan of most of its horrors. Cremation is coming into favor with the modern world, both in Europe and America. The Roman Catholics and Protestants are opposed to cremation, the latter, however, are not so firmly set on the matter as the former. The Catholic priests absolutely refuse to officiate at a cremation ceremony. The Jews are still guided by their Rabbis in the matter, and therefore do not accept the modern innovations.

Whether it be through tradition or education, or both, people who have been trained in the Christian faith have a repugnance to the burning of their bodies after death. The "Mormons," as they are commonly called, prefer the natural method of dissolution. The violence of fire seems like, desecration of the human form, while the placing of the sleeping body in its bed of earth, to crumble slowly back to the dust from whence it came, recommends itself to their minds and does no indignity to their faith or their sentiments.

As to the resurrection, it matters not what may be done with the organism from which life has departed. The elements are at the command of Him who fashioned them into form. To every seed will come his own body whether it has been burned, buried, or drowned in the deep. But cremation smacks of the barbarous and shocks the sensitive feelings of mourning friends, and is certainly out of nature's course with the organized elements that have served a grand purpose in the changing scenes of life.

DISAFFECTED BRITISH AMERICA.

THE situation in British America seems somewhat critical. The trouble is not confined to Quebec, but Newfoundland has again commenced to express her dissatisfaction with the existing condition of affairs.

A recent dispatch from London states that Henry Labouchere in his paper *Truth* says that it is the manifest destiny of the Dominion to become a new United States, or to become attached to the great Republic. He also says that such a change would be beneficial both to Great