

average newspaper reader likes to read that kind of news in preference to the other. The consequence is that it pays better to deal in horrors and sensations, not to mention scandals, than to give prominence to what good men and women are doing. As long as the public taste demands such mental food it will, of course, be supplied, but as long as the journals confine themselves to statements of facts, without efforts at exaggeration or recourse to imagination in order to render the horrible still more horrible, they are hardly to be censured. If it be conceded that a change is needed, the reform should commence outside the newspaper office. When everybody that reads a paper indignantly turns away from a detailed account of a murder and enjoys the report of an innocent Sunday school picnic, journalism will become different from what it is at present.

MORMONS AND THE BIBLE.

Our attention has been directed to an article in a recent number of the *Herald and Presbyterian*, a Presbyterian paper published at Cincinnati, the writer is Rev. S. E. Wishard, a sectarian minister whose field of operations is in Utah, and who is not altogether unknown locally. He has been treated with uniform courtesy and kindness by the people of Utah generally, and no doubt will continue to be, whether or not he deserves it; for the inhabitants of this Territory have an established reputation for patience and charitableness toward their maligners that is fully justified by the record.

Mr. Wishard has been describing what he calls "Utah conditions," but which are in many particulars the very reverse of the situation here, as the reverend gentleman must well know; he might as consistently have entitled his description, "Conditions at Mashonaland," or anywhere else, for any truthful application his Munchausenisms may be capable of. He says that in Utah "there is entire ignorance of the word of God"—referring to the Bible—and that "in most of these settlements you will not find a single person who cares to have instruction in the word;" that there is an "absence of any desire to have and know the truth as it is in Jesus;" that the Bible school "is troublesome to the Mormon system; when the Bible is introduced into their Sunday studies it is garbled;" that there is "nothing to meet the social wants of the people with any elevating tendencies;" and he recounts many other things of like character. He also cites an instance that in Mount Pleasant "the Mormon people have built two large dancing parlors at an aggregate expense of about six thousand dollars," and says regarding them: "This is the only means of social improvement which they have provided for their young people." He closes by saying that his work is "hygienic, socially and financially," and "we are represented to the young people of Utah, by their leaders, as apostates and dangerous people."

If "apostate" in this connection is to be taken as meaning that which is a departure from truth, and "dangerous" refers to those who make false accusations, the young people of Utah would need no further proof, so far as the

attitude of Dr. Wishard is concerned, than the gentleman's own utterances. The *News* has but one word of advice for him at the present, and it is offered in the most sincere desire for the gentleman's good: We suggest that he make an earnest study of the Divine command, "Thou shalt not bear false witness," and institute a practical application thereof to himself. He will find it in the words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew, chapter 19, verse 18, as well as in other parts of the Scriptures.

Upon the subject of the acquaintance of the Latter-day Saints with the Bible, the following is a short communication taken from an article headed "Mormons know the Scriptures," in a recent issue of the *New York World*, in which there had been some local controversy regarding the Bible and polygamy:

To the Editor: When the Rev. John P. Newman was in Utah in 1873, thinking that the Mormons were an intensely ignorant class, so far as the Bible was concerned, he inveighed against Mormonism in a very learned and eloquent manner. He engaged in a discussion in the great Mormon tabernacle. The result of that discussion was very disastrous to Dr. Newman. He was so overmatched in the debate that the Mormon Elder afterwards published the public discussion verbatim, to show their people what a very lame case the distinguished orthodox minister had to make against polygamy. The Methodist conference did not applaud Dr. Newman at all, and rather took the side that the reverend gentleman did not quite make out his case. It would seem that when men of Newman's ability and learning did not get along with it, the lay reader of the evening *World* might take a lesson from his defeat.

SILEX.

THE PORT ARTHUR AFFAIR.

When certain English papers emphatically denounce the Japanese for the massacre at Port Arthur, without a word of condemnation of Chinese atrocities which, according to all reports, rival those of the invaders in oriental cruelty, and when they maintain that the subjects of the mikado after all are but barbarians with a veneer of civilization, they but reveal the fact that there exists a strong public sentiment in her majesty's realm in favor of the badly governed inhabitants of the flowery kingdom. Why the Chinese, with all their disagreeable peculiarities, and the Manchu dynasty in particular, should be entitled to the sympathy of a civilized nation in preference to the Japanese who have honestly struggled for years to come in touch with the rest of the world is not clear, unless mere mercenary motives count more than everything else.

It is of course to be deplored that the barbarities of war were indulged in by the invading forces, and it would be well, if the powers that possess influence in Asia would take effective measures to prevent their repetition when the armies advance toward the interior. Humanity demands that. At the same time, Japan is entitled to a charitable judgment. She has so recently emerged out of the darkness of barbarism that her soldiers cannot be expected to be able to govern themselves according to the rules and sentiments of

European nations. All things considered, Japan has so far done exceedingly well and should meet encouragement in her efforts.

It will be interesting to see, whether the press of Great Britain will feel called upon to denounce the perpetrators of the equally barbarous outrages in Armenia, for which the Turkish government seems to be responsible to some degree.

THE INSURRECTION in Brazil, instead of being put down, has now proceeded so far that the leaders have proclaimed their independence of the government and their intention of establishing an independent republic in the south of the country. President Morasso says he will use the whole power of the country to crush this rival republic in Rio Grande do Sul. Somehow, an impression prevails that this has been attempted before, although after every "crushing" the insurgents are heard from anew. The history of our own civil war seems about to be repeated in Brazil.

WHEN Mr. Gladstone says that the published statement to the effect that he is going to issue a pamphlet on the Armenian massacre is made without authority, the papers interpret this denial as an admission that the pamphlet will appear before very long. The language of diplomacy may be framed sometimes for the purpose of concealing the real meaning, and this is evidently looked upon as an instance of that peculiarity.

A HIGH English authority solemnly imparts the interesting information that while a bullet in the brain stimulates heart action, it checks and at last stops respiration. Such a case is accordingly one in which the victim cannot be said to have died of "heart failure," as the modern verdict is so fond of giving it; it is a welcome return to the homely old formula that the corpse is a corpse by reason of lack of breath.

IT is a rather startling showing, this census estimate that 46 per cent of the population of the United States is of foreign parentage. It would be perilous, too, if it were not for the fact that the younger generation of alien as well as native born is all the time imbibing truthful and indelible impressions of patriotism through the wonderful extension and improvement of the public school system.

IOELAND MAY be a lovely little country and a paradise for fishers and hunters, mountain climbers and wealthy gentles of leisure, but it has no inducements to offer for tramps. The inhabitants in several districts have recently entered into an agreement with each other not to give food or shelter to any traveling stranger without reasonable compensation.

IF, AS is now hinted, a special session of Congress will be needed soon after the 4th of March to give the governmental relief which the present Congress seems unwilling to furnish, it will be only another reminder that nations, like individuals, cannot everlastingly do business on tick.

ALL HAIL, ARIZONA! That territory needs the rest of all the states of the Union in the matter of new railroad mileage during 1894, with a record of 193 miles on four lines.