

minion; that a true presentation of the facts is all that is necessary to induce the investment of capital in the development of the resources, and that with a year smelters, concentrators and stamp mills will be in full blast in all parts of the district. We don't have to go far from home to find language so similar coming from similar sources that the long stretch of country between here and Kootenay seems to be knocked out almost.

The "salutatory" goes on in the following strain:

We believe in the power of the big silver dollar; that our postal service is a disgrace to the country; in the value of the prospector to a new country; that every man interested in this wonderful country should "dig up" three dollars and take a year's interest in the *Claim*. Our aim will be to do justice to all men, especially the prospector; to keep out of jail; to correct public and private abuses; to aid in the strict enforcement of the law; to advance every interest that will benefit the community; and to publish a paper in which the ledge of news will never "pinch out."

The kind of disposition therein manifested often pulls an enterprise through difficulties which would swamp one just as meritorious but without such capital.

[COMMUNICATED.]

IMITATION AS AN EVIL.

There appears to be an increasing element in modern society which, Micawber-like, is always "waiting for something to turn up." This element is not one of originality generally, but it seizes with the rapidity of a hawk or eagle in pursuit of prey the projects and ideas mooted or created by others.

Even if an idea is secured by patent, hosts are imitators, and a very slight change, without improvement, gives one a chance to appropriate or reap the benefit of another's brain. Wherever there is a show for personal advantage, less compunction is found than is exhibited by the highwayman, who, *sans ceremonie*—by robbery of the most barefaced character takes advantage of his victim. To be sure the appropriation of an idea is not attended by personal violence, and an appeal to the courts is always possible; but this is generally found to be unprofitable, often the judgment is biased, and sometimes it is bought, while it is always costly, win or lose. The average man looks upon this, not as constituting a lack of moral fibre, but as exhibiting smartness and deserving patronage and approbation.

It is not with ideas alone, but with methods of a speculative or prospectively profitable character, that imitators spring up like mushrooms, and often get wormy just as quick; an appearance of success in any branch of business is as infectious as diphtheria and often as fatal, for it does not follow because one shoemaker or blacksmith does well in a little village that therefore a dozen can do equally as well; competition or division of available demand drives all of the surplus into other lines of support either in whole or in part. The principal contradiction to this is the multiplication of farmers. This profession can hardly be overdone, for

there is family sustenance assured as a general thing, and any surplus finds its way to the artisan or non-producer, or to the store for things deemed essential to comfort.

The antipodes to this is the amazing increase everywhere of stores, or, as they may be termed, distributing depots; these as a rule being imitators—most of their owners are so because some one has made a partial success of an experiment; others, anxious to eke out their resources, look upon this as a possible help, with but a little investment. Whatever the motive, new stores are continually springing up, as if indifferent to the fact that ruined hopes, vexation, worry, lost capital and credit, strew the paths of trade and traders everywhere around. Some have imagined that an increase of stores means an increase in wealth; but surely a little reflection will show this to be a fallacy, for if every house were converted into a store, none would be the richer. But many or few, a store creates nothing, improves nothing, adds nothing to the value of anything; it is simply a convenience, a necessity maybe of modern life, one, too, liable to be vastly overdone.

California and eastern papers are agitating this question all the time; English papers are doing likewise, and with the practical methods and usage of the mother country, figures are brought into requisition, and the assertion is made that London alone could save over twenty million dollars by vacating or suppressing the useless cost of unnecessary establishments. We need not flatter ourselves that this redundancy of stores is confined to cities and countries far remote. Utah shares in this condition and in fact is in no way behind nor more experienced predecessors.

By way of illustration, suppose we look at one of our southern towns. It has for the convenience of its twenty-one hundred inhabitants, ten stores, besides two drug stores which supply both medicines and liquor. This is a purchasing community, if not a paying one, for one of these stores carries on its books a local indebtedness of twelve thousand dollars, an doubtless all the others in proportion to their stock give somewhat similar credit. Suppose it be assumed that this is the case, or reducing it to a fifty thousand dollar total, we have a store indebtedness equal at least to near twenty-five dollars per head, or estimating one family for every five persons, here is a mortgage on their possessions of one hundred and twenty-five dollars per family. Besides, the general indebtedness may be much larger, for a community is not thus limited as to purchases. Indebtedness may exist for wagons, machinery, stock, organs, sewing machines, etc., until an aggregate can be reached equivalent to that of a northern county, the indebtedness of which according to one of its leading men is over a quarter million dollars.

It may be said that keepers of stores are none too numerous, that if they were so, men would seek other branches of business. The survival of the fittest may be urged, forgetting that every failure is a loss to some one, and that some untoward event might precipitate a crash, seeing that many stores run on borrowed capital at best. Still further, the question may be asked,

in regard to the fifteen or twenty stores in a town, whether there is not a large amount of capital locked up in merchandise, that could be of vastly more service if utilized for production rather than for desultory distribution? Could not this tied-up means exercise a greater influence for good if used in the establishment of home manufacture, about which so much has been said, and comparatively so little done?

This is a land of liberty. Men engage at will in any vocation, and every one is supposed to be for himself. But does not observation tell, even at home, that the ranks of professional life are full to repletion, that trade avenues are all crowded, that labor, non-productive labor, is in excess, and that while few of Utah's population are surrounded by the galling poverty known elsewhere, employment is yet scarce, and that the problems of social and political economy are not all solved here any more than they are solved elsewhere? Shall these lessons be studied of philanthropy, of patriotism, of religious duty and sentiments of common brotherhood? Or will the iron hand of necessity and the clamor of waiting labor, nerve to the making of the coming state one in which every man can find assured employment and the cry for bread be unknown amid its general prosperity and wealth!

NATIVE ANTIDOTE FOR SNAKE-BITE.

Some time since the editor of the NEWS received from Jesse Tye, a valued friend in Washington county, Utah, the following letter:

I am a constant reader of the papers, and having seen so many accounts of deaths by snake poison, as well as allusions to various remedies, notwithstanding which it seems that death too frequently ensues from snake bites, I take the liberty of sending you a sample of an herb which grows in this climate, and which I know to be a sure antidote for snake poison, scorpion stings, etc. The herb grows in most parts of this latitude and longitude 37 at an altitude of about 4000 feet.

I thought perhaps this might be worthy of your notice. It is sure in its effects used as a poultice or decoction, of all of which I have ample proof.

Accompanying the foregoing letter was a small bunch of partially dried leaves, small and round in form and green in color, grown upon a thin stem, there being also indications of a small white blossom.

Deeming the matter of considerable importance and knowing that the information would be valueless without a fuller description of the herb, the latter was enclosed by the NEWS in a letter to Prof. Willard Done, principal of the Latter-day Saints' College in this city, asking him to request his botanist to examine and analyze the specimen, give its scientific as well as local name, and furnish us with any other results his examination might suggest. Prof. Done readily complied, and yesterday he forwarded the following letter from the college botanist:

SALT LAKE CITY, May 30th, 1893.

Prof. Done:

The plant handed me for analysis be-