

the most venal and corrupt in all the world. They levy blackmail, and sell privileges to evildoers. The sanitary inspectors will permit all sorts of nuisances for a trifling bribe. And it was not until cholera had obtained a foothold, reaching 800 cases a day, that its existence was known in other German towns. The steamship companies bought up the city officials, lest the emigrant and merchandise traffic should be injured.

It is hardly possible that Mr. Burke was ignorant of the condition of affairs and it is hinted that he was not any better than the city officials. He is to be held responsible for the evils arising from the carrying of cholera germs on the Hamburg vessels to the port of New York, and his official doings ought to be investigated.

### A RAILROAD WAR IMMINENT.

THE Transcontinental Association, an organization of the principal overland railroads, is on the point of dissolution. This was a sort of pool, or syndicate or trust for the purpose of maintaining certain rates agreed on, and for paying a subsidy to the Pacific Mail steamers, so that these rates could be sustained. Virtually it was a railroad monopoly, and operated almost on the same plan as if owned by one corporation.

Some time ago the Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific and Great Northern gave notice of withdrawal, and now the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe gives notice of similar action. This means the absolute disruption of the association. The remaining roads cannot remain together with the Santa Fe a competitor. This also means the abandonment of the subsidy to Pacific mail steamers.

The Transcontinental was virtually a department of the Western Traffic Association, and from the latter the Southern Pacific has given notice of withdrawal. This means a war between the Northern and Southern overland railroads, and also general demoralization in rates all over the country during the fall and winter. A cut of nearly \$8 has already been made between Chicago and New York, and the supposition is that before many weeks extensive rate cutting will prevail throughout the country.

The Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific and Great Northern comprise the northern transcontinental systems. They are strong corporations, and in their fight for the Asiatic trade will be supported by Portland, Tacoma, Vancouver and the territory contributory to these towns. They will also be supported by St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, and all the cities along the northern belt. They traverse a rich country, and can command a good local traffic. The Santa Fe, the Southern Pacific and the Pacific Mail comprise the Southern systems. Their disadvantages are many. They traverse sparsely settled Territories. They must depend largely on through traffic for support. But the Santa Fe has good eastern connections, and it is said a branch from some point in Arizona to run into Utah and tap the Union Pacific either at Provo or Salt Lake is contemplated by this system.

San Francisco had better hurry up

and build that projected road to this city, or else when the war commences she will be left desolate and alone in the center. Portland on the north and Los Angeles or San Diego in the south will absorb much of her trade, and reduce her to a much lower grade than she now occupies in the rank of commercial cities.

### OPPOSITION IN RELIGION.

DURING the first years of the rise of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the principal weapons employed in the numerous efforts made to wipe it out of existence were argument, calumny and violence. The first named of the three was the first to be relinquished. Its withdrawal was the result of its proving ineffectual in attaining the object for which it was applied. Those who had recourse to it were, in the majority of instances when it was brought into play, routed by their "Mormon" opponents. The field was then left almost exclusively to falsehood and violence, and the latter has been for many years growing in disfavor, until it also has practically disappeared, except where it has been incited by such infamous professed followers of the meek and lowly Jesus as J. Wesley Hill. Such characters as he have occasionally aroused a spirit of murderous mobocracy among ignorant people by the circulation of the most atrocious falsehoods.

So far as relates to the Church in its gathered capacity another force has been operated to disintegrate the community of Saints. Its nature is such as to recall the advice given by Baal to the King of the Moabites and Midianites regarding the most efficient method of conquering Israel. It was to the effect that if the children of Abraham could be induced to enter into the practices of the surrounding peoples the Israelites would become an easy prey to their enemies. Baalistic views have been expressed and their application advocated with regard to the "Mormon" people, especially the youthful portion of them. The degrading concomitants of modern civilization have been named as desirable and effective means of causing them to break away from the restraints of their religion and the influence of its teachers. All the allurements of sin have been introduced, and while some have fallen a prey to them the Church still remains strong and intact, and doubtless will continue to grow in power and dimensions.

Recourse to calumny and falsehood has been, during late years, becoming gradually less frequent, because its potency has diminished. This is the result of their being no longer effective weapons against "Mormonism" and the "Mormons." The Saints are becoming better known among the intelligent people of the nation and the world at large than formerly. As a consequence hobgoblin anti-"Mormon" stories are no longer swallowed as formerly, when the people's throats were greased and ready to receive them. Now they make wry faces at them and as a rule regard them for what they are worth. Of course, exceptions to this situation occur where ignorance and malice prevail.

We are by no means displeased to observe a resumption of some of the original means used to wean the "Mormons" from their religion. We refer now to the religious forces that have recently been centered in this city, and which are now operating. They embody religious sentiment and explanation. The recent revival meetings were not strikingly conspicuous for either explanation or argument. They were rather distinguished for emotional or sentimental tendencies, and embodied little or no information. The present exercises in connection with the big tent take on more of an explanatory hue, and have argument associated with them. But neither the one nor the other offers anything new to intelligent Latter-day Saints. Many, perhaps most, of the themes of the discourses of the gentleman who now holds forth north of the Knutsford have been treated by the "Mormon" Elders for half a century past; and besides, the Church has had upon them the additional light of modern revelation.

We presume that the recent and present religious efforts are chiefly pointed in the direction of the conversion of the Saints, seeing they constitute the large majority of the population. Many of them will doubtless attend the meetings now being held. They were present at the Mills revival in large numbers. This is simply indicative of an interest in religious movements, themes and questions. It has no significance with regard to conversions. On the contrary, the effect will be, in our view, to increase with in them a desire to adhere more closely and with greater fidelity to their own doctrines and principles. It confirms them in the conviction that "Mormonism," the fulness of the Gospel of Christ, revealed anew in this age, comprehends all there is of power and worth in religion.

No person can reasonably object to religious people and organizations seeking, by proper sentiment, explanation and argument, to gain converts to their views with regard to the most consistent way to serve the Lord. This method is in unison with civilization and the rights of man. And we hope to see the day when the Saints in every part of the world will be given as great freedom from molestation while conducting evangelical work as they have always accorded to religionists of every faith who have come among them. We anticipate a time in the future when falsehood, calumny, mobocracy and murder shall not be employed as weapons for the destruction of religious freedom. We do not think that day is very far distant.

### WHY SHE IS A POLITICIAN.

THE Countess of Aberdeen, a lady who is active in British public affairs, tells why she is a politician, as follows: "Friends and foes alike often and often tell us that politics will always mean dirty work, and that fine sentiments and high aims are all very well for public platforms, but that they will not go down in practical, daily life; and that this being so we had better keep clear of what will inevitably coarsen and tend to lower our standards of right and wrong. But we must face it out, and see on what these objections are founded. That they