

name, so that the Elders in their mission of peace and salvation might have been on the lookout for him. He would thus have insured himself against any trespassing on his hospitality, for with such as he, the matter of congeniality is by no means one-sided. Moreover, while the Gospel of salvation is free to all mankind, there is neither injunction nor inclination to force it upon any who do not want it. In this latter view of the case, how would it do to commend to "Beulah Citizen" one interesting feature of the Mormon creed. The Elders he refers to are no doubt observing it; it would be good for him. It is in blunt, plain English: "Mind your own business."

RELIGIOUS FANATICS.

It is strange that people who seem possessed of ordinary good sense in the every day affairs of life often are led away by a religious movement which has in it neither logic nor prudence. Another instance of this peculiar kind of work is agitating a section of California. A stranger has presented himself in the vicinity of Fresno, announcing himself as the Messiah. He says he has been placed above St. Peter and hereafter will stand at heaven's gate, welcoming the righteous to glory and sending the wicked to everlasting fire. He has succeeded in collecting a considerable band of disciples, some of the men abandoning their farms, and women neglecting their children to follow him. One woman, Mrs. William Welsh, was sent to the Stockton asylum this week as a result of his harangues. She attended his meetings and was so carried away by his remarks that she tore off her clothing and ran from house to house crying that she was making straight the path for the coming of the Messiah.

The people in the locality who do not like the stranger's preaching are giving him additional notoriety by active opposition outside of legal methods. On one occasion this week a committee of citizens waited on him and gave him thirty minutes to leave the town, under threat of death. He moved to a neighboring settlement. He claims that he can work miracles, heal the sick, cure the blind and raise the dead if he wants to, but says he does not want to do it. He claims no name, no church, no family, no nation. He says that Christ fulfilled the Old Testament and he will now fulfill the New Testament.

There is a practical side to the work of this new pretender. He lives on the contributions of his followers, and is collecting all the money he can get. To those who donate liberally he promises special blessings in heaven, which in his teachings at least are purchasable with the riches of men. Of course the money he collects is to be used for a great divine purpose, and it is quite likely that if he is allowed to go on a little longer it will develop that this especial purpose is to accumulate a snug fortune for his private benefit.

If in a country where there is so much pretense of preaching Christianity the people were taught the principle of testing doctrines and religious

teachers which was promulgated by the Lord and His Apostles in ancient times, there would be less danger of any being led astray either by designing men or fanatics. But perhaps if the people were taught to apply that test it would throw a good many preachers out of a job, as it would exhibit them in their true position. The rule laid down anciently for the guidance of the people was that those only who abode in the doctrine of Christ were to be received; and "if any come unto you and bring not that doctrine, receive him not into your houses neither bid him Godspeed, for he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds;" also that the divinity of the doctrine itself was to be proven, for those who do the will of the Father were promised that on doing so they should "know of the doctrine, whether it be of God." When a doctrine is thus calmly tested by the scriptures and the testimony referred to, the position of those who advocate it is not difficult to determine.

THE PULLMAN STRIKE.

The strike of the Pullman employes, more than any other, indicates the disturbed condition of the business of the country. It has always been understood that the community of which the palace car builders is composed is in every respect all but a model of perfection, the laborers being well paid and provided with facilities for education, amusements, recreation and all that goes to create happiness and content. The Pullman workmen, moreover, being a highly respected class of men, one would suppose, all the circumstances considered, that they would be the very last to lay down their tools in order to enforce their demands.

It appears that the company some time ago announced a cut in the wages of 33 1-3 per cent. The employes claim that they found it impossible to live on the reduced wages, especially since the employers did not at the same time reduce the rents they have to pay. The company claim that the cut was necessary because they had been doing business at a loss, taking contracts at unprofitable figures, so as to be able to provide the men work and some wages. They offered to show their books to a committee of workmen to prove this assertion, but these refused the offer, thinking that the talk of loss was merely a bluff and that a strike would bring the company to terms.

For the sake of the men themselves it is to be regretted that they did not examine the books when the offer was made. If the statements be true, that the business has been conducted at a loss, to save the men from idleness and consequent sufferings, no strike can avail, inasmuch as no employer can for any length of time afford to pay out in wages more than he actually earns. A strike under such circumstances is evidence of ingratitude likely to harden the heart of the most benevolent and result in no good to those engaged therein.

It is true that the Pullman company lately, according to accounts published, paid a dividend of two per cent to the stockholders, and

this seems to contradict the statement about the loss incurred; but the dividend might have been paid out of the reserve fund instead of the earnings and is no proof of a rushing business. Judging from the falling off in railroad traffic all over the country, it is only natural to suppose that the company is content to suspend operations, giving the men all the time they may want for rest with nothing to do.

A noteworthy fact, suggested by this strike and others on at present, is that they have been declared at a time when that mode of industrial warfare would seem to be least expected. Generally the men who direct labor agitations select a time when business is flourishing and the employers have more contracts than they can conveniently fill, being dependent, consequently, on the industrious performance of the duties devolving on their hands. These strikes are phenomenal because occurring at a time when the depressed times render labor exceptionally cheap, and when the employers would probably prefer to close up. The laborers must indeed stand more united and be more conscious of their combined strength than they have ever been before, if they, notwithstanding this disadvantage, entertain the hope of emerging victorious from a struggle with capital for the maintenance of higher wages.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

The temperance societies are meeting with gratifying success in securing the endorsement of women to what is known as the Polyglot petition to governments. This petition asks for restrictive legislation regarding the liquor traffic, and if its designs were carried out the rum-selling business would be very materially reduced in its dimensions. Dramshops and places where persons congregate to buy and drink liquor would be placed under the ban of the law and the influence of company at such places to lead young men to the drinking habit would be removed. Whether the temperance people can secure such a triumph as this would bring them is a matter of doubt in the present state of affairs, but there is no question that even under the most adverse circumstances which can be pictured today, their efforts can be productive of a vast amount of good.

The petition referred to has been circulated in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Belgium, India, Chili, Denmark, Holland, Mexico, South and East Africa, Mexico, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Hawaiian Islands, Egypt, Japan, Siam and other places, and is still being circulated in new localities. Up to the 15th of the present month the report of the number of signatures of women was 1,025,570. In the list of countries the United States leads in endorsements of the movement, followed by Great Britain, which already records 350,000 signatures. Besides this, the movement has the endorsement of prominent religious societies, so that, taken altogether, the temperance people have an immense following in working out their plans.

In connection with temperance work at present is a discussion of the