

EDITORIALS

BEWARE OF THEM.

"ALL we like sheep have gone astray," is said and sung in many a sectarian congregation. This is certainly true in regard to the course taken concerning the Latter-day Saints, and their faith, which is generally known as "Mormonism." In the latest movement against us, the Presbyterians in council took the initiatory step; they were followed by the Episcopalians in concave; and now the Congregationalists step into the same track; they will most likely be the example for other sects in solemn assembly, and all of them, moving in sheep-like imitation, are wide astray on the subject they attempt to approach.

We learn by the telegraph that a person miscalled Noble read a bitter anti-"Mormon" paper at the Congregational Council in St. Louis, in which he alluded to Utah as "a laboratory of filth, craft and cruel wrongs," and laid the blame on Congress and the courts for not checking this "monstrous evil."

The gentleman, like the preachers of the Presbyterian and Episcopalian conclaves whom he attempts to imitate, is "all abroad." Utah is freer from vice, craft and evil of every kind than any other place of the same population. The man talks of a subject about which he is in complete ignorance. There is no place under the sun with a cleaner-lived community than this same much abused Utah. And just think of a "Christian" minister, standing up in the midst of a city like St. Louis, with its moral and material filth, its political, mercantile, speculative, gambling, cornering and other kinds of craft, and the thousand and one social and various evils and wrongs common to great "Christian" cities, and berating our mountain Territory where such things are comparatively unknown.

It is another case of the mote and the beam, and of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel." And professed minister of the gospel who can see no way to turn people from what he presumes to be error and sin, but by the power of Congress and the force of the Courts, is not only unworthy of the name of Noble but of the simple title of "Christian." These pretended pietists follow each other with sheep-like imitation, and assume the manner of the meek-faced flock, but "inwardly they are ravening wolves" of whom the world should beware.

THE MEXICAN POMPEII.

M. CHARNAY, whose communications to the *North American Review* on the subject of Mexican antiquities we have noticed several times, has unearthed what he appropriately entitles "The Indian or Mexican Pompeii," a city which he declares has been buried for more than a thousand years. The discoveries are intensely interesting to the students of the Book of Mormon, which gives a clue to the mystery surrounding the early races of this continent, and unfolds the causes of their decline and fall, with their civilization and its remarkable products. The Mexican correspondent of the *New York World* thus writes to that paper concerning M. Charnay's discovery:

"In my last I mentioned the discovery of a villa near Tula. That house has now been fully uncovered and found to contain 25 rooms, 15 staircases and 12 corridors. Attached to it are two cisterns, with clay pipes, which were used to convey water to different apartments. Some of the household utensils are of coarse clay, a few of porcelain and one of glass. Remember Tollan, the capital of the Toltec Empire, covered not only the site of the present town of Tula, but the spot where Mr. Charnay discovered the villa, and now he is unearthing near the former building a large palace. Perhaps during these excavations he may find historical data that will clear up all mystery with regard to the origin of the inhabitants of the western continent. On the 28th ult., Mr. Charnay announced to *La Trait d'Union* of this city merely the discovery of a palace, but made no allusion to any architectural peculiarities. We have, however, heard that the ruins recently unearthed are more distinctly

Asiatic in style than any Toltec remains now known. In the course of a few days, we shall receive further particulars. Mr. Charnay also had the good fortune to find the bones of some gigantic animals. These remains are now en route to this capital."

When this famous explorer and antiquarian started on his latest expedition, we expressed the opinion that his investigations would be fruitful in results, that would form additional corroborations of the Book of Mormon to those already produced by the work of former explorers. We are still of that opinion, which is strengthened by what M. Charnay has thus far accomplished. To science and adventure and the perseverance of human genius be the work of uncovering the buried past; to the Book of Mormon, brought forth and translated by the power of God, we turn for light and knowledge concerning the people who built the cities and left the relics now exciting the wonder of the world, and concerning the reasons of their ruin and the events which led to their disappearance from the face of this glorious land.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE ART OF READING.

It is presumed that most of those who listened to the readings given by Professor Hamill, enjoyed not only his selections, but the manner in which they were rendered. There was every evidence of culture and study not only of the pieces themselves but of the art of elocution, which the entertainment was supposed to elucidate.

Reading is one of the fine arts, whether it be classed as such or not, and it is an art which should be taught in every school and used in every family circle, not particularly such as given by the Professor, but the intelligent rendering of the best authors both of sacred and profane history, as well as special and general literature, including the indispensable newspaper of modern times.

Yet to read well is a very rare accomplishment, most readers are monotonous, they fail to catch the spirit of the author, and to give his words vitality by attention to the points, inflections and changes, or variety in both style and matter; a dialogue will be given with no more vivacity than the portion of a treatise on abstract science; the lofty strains of poetic inspiration delivered in the same voice as an anecdote, and the page of holy writ with no more reverence than a chapter from Mark Twain.

At the same time most persons enjoy good reading and good speaking, which is reading—mind-reading, simply another form. The writer well remembers when his duties used to require an annual visit to New York, how his thoughts were always directed in anticipation of hearing a celebrated divine there, Dr. Chapin. The doctor was very warm and glowing as a speaker, and "many a time and oft" the ready tear would trickle down the face of the listener as an eloquent and well rounded period marked the fervor of a master mind. But good though he was as a sermonizer, he stands to date as an ideal, the best pulpit reader ever heard in a somewhat large experience. To hear one of the Psalms of David thus read was a treat indeed, never had the force, the power, the beauty and fullness of those sublime productions come home before, although from youth they had been "familiar as household words," and even now a few miles' walk would be willingly given any time to hear again so grandly given, so sympathetically harmonious a rendering of the evidently original spirit.

The persons are very few indeed who will ever render so exquisitely the poem of "The Bells," "The Vagabonds" or the "Raven," as can and did Professor Hamill, although all students of elocution will make the attempt just as every stage-struck person attempts the character of Hamlet, but one will just as often and as signally fail as the other. It is related of a celebrated actor that he so rendered the simplicity of the Lord's Prayer as to bring tears to all his listeners, yet most of us know from experience how it is mouthed and mumbled, so as to become even lower than commonplace in most of the churches of Christendom.

The culture needed by the masses in the art of reading, is that which will give glow and interest in

the family circle, where, during many long winter's eves, one could thus entertain and instruct while the balance of the group were engaged in other duties indispensable in a home; the masters of literature, the strains of the poet, the stately periods of the historian, the page of prophecy, the parables of the one "who spake as never man spake," the great living and absorbing issues of our times, as portrayed in the newspaper and the magazine, would have a hundred fold more interest and would wield a more enduring influence if disseminated in every household, by those well skilled and well able to read.

If there are those of our youth who intend taking lessons in this science of elocution, in the art of reading, may not one suggest that they bound their efforts, in the search for improvement and perfection, to those directions which will minister to every day's happiness, rather than to spend fruitless efforts in the desire to master the intricacies of Poe, or other weird and subtle authors; to render the productions of genius, needs the inspiration or gift of genius, but to catch the spirit of equally gifted yet more easily understood writers is to invite to more extended usefulness, and to translate the less subtle and complex, is within the reach of most.

Multiply good readers by all means, study elocution, rhetoric, oratory; seek to give the best interpretation of the best thoughts of the best authors, just so far as is possible, for this training will insist on giving personal individual thought its best expression, and thus be a preparatory process for increased usefulness in the dissemination of those special truths which have been given unto us, and which we know to be divine.

IMPROVED ELECTRIC LIGHT.

ONE of the great objections to the electric light for household or business purposes is its steady glare which cannot be regulated. A light which can neither be heightened nor lessened is certainly objectionable.

Except for the illumination of spaces in the open air, or in rooms where there is no need to modulate its intensity. Gas can be turned up or down or totally extinguished at the will of the user. But the electric light as in use where it has been adopted for business purposes, burns on with the same power for the period arranged for, unless it should fluctuate or go out by accident.

But if reports from Philadelphia prove correct, a great improvement in this respect is about to be inaugurated. A short time since the Sawyer electric light was exhibited in the Mercantile Library building, Philadelphia, in the presence of about fifty persons, mostly interested in practical science. Three large and two small lamps were shown in different parts of the building. The experiments were to show steadiness, brilliancy and mellowness of light. The knob which lowered or increased the light worked with simplicity and was used by the bystanders. The light could be made so faint as to be a mere spark or so bright as to cast a marked shadow in the glare of eight gas jets. The regulator, Mr. Sawyer claims, makes the light adaptable to use in private houses, and the display seemed to meet the favor of the gentlemen present.

We have no doubt that by the time this city shall be ready to take hold of the new illuminator, other improvements will be made which will make it much more valuable and controllable than the present crude system. Meanwhile let other cities do the experimenting and pay the cost, and at the proper time our city authorities can step forward, profit by the experience of others and lay hold of the best thing of the kind then in the market. A little waiting will break no bones.

CABINET PREDICTIONS.

PRETENDEDLY wise and foreseeing newspaper men have had a great deal to say about Garfield's cabinet, and have ventured the assertion that it was pre-arranged before the campaign. General Grant emphatically denies the truth of the report of a meeting at Mentor, with Garfield, by Conkling himself, and other leading Republicans, at which the subject of the cabinet was discussed and ar-

ranged. Our Washington correspondent, "Knox," says:

"Speaking of Secretary Sherman reminds me of his late letter to an Ohio friend concerning the Senatorship from that State. The Secretary says in that letter very plainly that he does not know what General Garfield's wishes in that matter are. If any one knew of the coming President's ideas as to that subject, or as to his cabinet, I think Secretary Sherman would be the man. This letter of his, therefore, I take to be strong evidence that General Garfield has not made known to any one—Grant, Conkling, Blaine or anybody else—what his plans are. The story of a bargain between him and Conkling, made before the latter entered the field in the late contest, was absurd at least. Probably, as a Philadelphia editor says, no man, not even Washington, became President with less entanglements than General Garfield. Speculation as to the Cabinet are numerous, but no responsible author can be found for any of them."

In all probability Garfield will go into the presidency untrammelled, in spite of all the guesses and predictions of the wiseacres. If he is wise in his generation he will avoid the extreme of independence into which his predecessor ventured. Hayes not only refused to be controlled by the strong men of the party, but ignored their influence and closed his eyes to their experience. The coming President will no doubt see the value of the assistance of the statesmen who have helped him to the highest seat in the nation, and if he has not made any bargains, will yet avail himself of their knowledge and the power they wield in the affairs of the country.

A REVELATION OF THE CENSUS.

UNDER the heading of "Superfluous Women," the *New York Express* has an editorial deploring the great numerical preponderance of women over men in several of the States. It says:

"Massachusetts has some seventy thousand more women than men. The other eastern States have a similar superabundance of the gentler sex. This state of things is unfortunate in many ways."

"There are inconveniences growing out of the inequality of the sexes. They were evidently intended to balance each other in the social equation. In the East the women compete with each other in all departments of industry, so that wages are inconveniently low, and in some cases painfully low; and their competition reduces the wages of men who have families depending upon their earnings."

In looking over the Census Bulletin issued from the Department of the Interior, we notice that in quite a number of the States the same disparity exists, although not to so great an extent as in Massachusetts. In two or three of the States there are a few more men than women. All have not yet been reported so that a full comparison may be made for the whole country. But even if it could be shown that taking all the States together, the numbers of the sexes are nearly equal, it would not answer the question which puzzles wiser heads than those that lead the *New York Express*, and which it expresses as follows:

"Most women feel that they were made for the home relation, and their human nature rebels against the social condition which condemns them to spinsterhood. There is a good deal of discontent, suffering and wretchedness in consequence of the extensive emigration of unmarried young men from the East, leaving their sisters to struggle and pine unmarried at home. How to redress the situation is not clear now to the reformers and philanthropists of that section, which also has a superabundance of people whose chief business in life is to attend to the business of other people."

It may be suggested as a measure to meet this undesirable condition of social affairs that the "superfluous women," (what an expression!) of the East be sent out to the West, where in some localities there are many—shall we say?—"superfluous" men, and thus the social scales will be better balanced. But there are not many young women who want or are willing to be shipped over the country for the purpose of supplying the matrimonial market, or to go on

a husband-hunting expedition. A few will require no special coaxing to take the trip, but they are not likely to be of the modest, retiring and domestic sort who make the best wives, nor are they likely to be very numerous. The main difficulty would still remain in spite of the small minority who could be shifted from the overcrowded East to the opportunities of the West.

There is another trouble connected with this question, which would produce evil results even if the numerical disproportion of the sexes could be reduced. It is thus stated by the *Express*:

"Too many young men of the East are not of the marrying persuasion. They lack muscle, blood, heart. They care more for a club than for a home, more for luxuries than for love. They fail to see exactly how with a salary of fifteen dollars a week and twenty dollars expenses, they are to support a wife in the style their super-refined taste enjoins; and as there are so many women unmarried, they defer marriage until the natural impulse is blunted and the affections are drained off. Half the social vice of the great cities is due to the superfluous women."

It should be borne in mind that these statements do not come from a "Mormon" source. They describe the situation as it is and as it stands before the eyes of those who are associated with it every day. The great number of unmarried women who would be willing to enter the matrimonial state if they had the opportunity, is noticeable everywhere except in a very few places under the sun, and those are chiefly newly settled districts, mining camps, military outposts, and such like localities, where it is not expected that many women will be found.

The philanthropists and social scientists of the age admit the truth of this disparity in numbers, the willingness of the average woman to marry, and the unwillingness of many men to assume the responsibilities of wedlock, as well as the fact that the army, navy, and other professions debar large numbers of the male sex from the family relation, but they will not take hold of the most natural and practical solution of the problem of what shall be done with the "superfluous women?" And why? Because that would imply the error of the social system of many generations, and which is supposed—though incorrectly—to have been introduced or at least required by the Christian religion.

Let the foolish, inconsistent and vice-breeding rigid rules of enforced monogamy be abolished, to give way to equitable, natural and protective laws under which men fitted for the care and enlarged responsibilities of plural wedlock could enter into honorable and recognized marriage relations with more than one wife, and make all sexual intercourse outside the marital contract punishable by severe penalties, and the social problem that puzzles the world would soon be solved.

"Superfluous women?" Just think of the term. It is a libel on the fair sex and a reproach to the Deity. That such a phrase can be used with reason is a shame to society, a disgrace to whole Christendom. All women—the exceptions being few and anomalous—are created and adapted for union with the opposite sex, and while none of them should be forced into the marital state and all should have the freedom of choice in the selection of a companion for life, laws should not be enacted which doom thousands upon thousands of the daughters of men to a life of celibacy, with their natural and God-given powers of affection and maternity unsatisfied and worse than wasted.

We do not care a straw about the present unpopularity of the plural marriage system of the "Mormons." The outcry against it comes mainly through ignorance, tradition and the force of custom, swelled by the voice of misrepresentation and the shout of vile abuse. *Vox populi* has often been *vox diaboli*. It has always been raised against an innovation, and is no guide to the truth. Prejudice, even when universal, is no reliable indication for or against a principle, because it is both blind and deaf to evidence.

Apart from the religious phase of the question "Mormon" plurality is a social test. If it were left alone to fairly work itself out, it would demonstrate its power to improve the morals of the age and solve the chief social problems that