

speak of Methodism in Utah without speaking of Mormonism in Utah. These thoughts are as inseparable as the mountains from the valleys around us. The Mormons reached Great Salt Lake valley, July 24, 1847. This was before the Argonauts rounded Cape Horn or crossed the plains to California in search of gold. Their first camp was on the very ground occupied by the First Methodist Episcopal church in Salt Lake City. It was fitting that the fiftieth anniversary of their arrival in Utah should be appropriately and enthusiastically observed by all classes of people at the great Jubilee held in Salt Lake City, July 20-24, 1897.

Why did the Mormons leave Illinois and the East, and endure the hardships and dangers of the long journey over barren plains and trackless mountains? A volume could be written in answering that question. A brief sentence must suffice. They did it for their religion, or for the privilege of practicing their religion. For be it remembered Mormonism is a religion or takes the place of one—however woefully unreasonable, un-Scriptural and unspiritual it may be.

The report further on expresses the farewell sentiments of its author in quitting his field of labor, and assigns reasons for his resignation. It thus appears that he leaves his work in Utah with the foregoing opinions respecting the Mormon people. He says their "former spirit" was un-American, but as this expression has reference to old political conditions that disappeared some years ago, we will notice it no further.

But when he speaks of the faith of the Latter-day Saints as something that "takes the place of" a religion, and of its being "woefully unreasonable, un-Scriptural and un-spiritual," we deem it proper to bestow a passing notice upon his remarks. If Dr. Illiff has not investigated the religion of the people among whom he has labored so long, he has no right to characterize it in the terms he has employed. If he has investigated it, and by that term we imply a comparison with the Christian scriptures, he must know that Mormonism, in its theology, practical and abstract doctrines and philosophy, and church discipline and organization, is so perfect a counterpart of the system taught in the Bible that he cannot point out wherein the two differ.

He "cannot accept as Christian" the faith of the Latter-day Saints; but can he show that they teach anything that Christ did not, or that He taught anything that they do not? Can he point out a religious community in the world who show the practical and actual fruits of a living, sentient Christianity more perfectly than do the people whom he thus excludes from the Christian fold? These interrogatories must be, by him and all the world, answered in the negative.

The "News" has none but kindly wishes for Dr. Illiff's welfare, wherever his lot may be cast; and while we think some things in his report would better have remained unsaid, if he can afford to make the record of them, we can afford to permit that record to be preserved.

#### WELFARE OF THE CITY FIRST.

Without referring at present to the motives which inspire the respective parties, it may be sufficient to note here that there is a difference of opinion among voters in this city as to whether the welfare of the city or that of a political party ought to be the first concern of the citizens of a municipality in the selection of municipal officers. The high standing of Bradstreet's as a business author-

ity makes its view on this point worthy of careful and favorable consideration. Regarding the movement for a non-partisan administration in Greater New York municipal affairs, instituted by the Citizens' union, Bradstreet's says:

"A great deal has been done toward clearing the political atmosphere in the Greater New York by the acceptance by Seth Low of the Citizens' union nomination tendered to him this week. Mr. Low made no extended statement in accepting the nomination, promising to send a formal letter of acceptance later. His position, however, is sufficiently well known. It is that the welfare of the city, and not of any party, should be the first concern of the citizens of a municipality."

The intelligence, independence and patriotism of the voters in Salt Lake will not ignore the point that the higher duty is the city's welfare as against party clamor.

#### RAILROAD WRECKS.

This week has been unusually prolific of railroad wrecks. The terrible catastrophe on the Santa Fe in Kansas gave to newspaper readers yesterday a surfeit of shocking details; but the record given in the dispatches today of the awful occurrence on the Denver and Rio Grande, near Newcastle, Colorado, is still more dreadful. Several less important accidents on other roads have been reported during the week.

Just what caused the Kansas calamity has not been definitely ascertained, but it is attributed to the dirty glass of a red signal lantern. It is said that the cause of the Colorado disaster was a miscalculation, by the conductor of the stock train, of ten minutes in the time when the passenger train would pass Newcastle. These alleged causes of all this loss of life and property suggest two thoughts: Human life hangs but by a thread which the slightest cause may sunder; railroad managers should not risk such great results on the infallibility against mistake, neglect or accident on the paid service of a single employee.

This is the age of organization and invention; and surely some method could be devised and put in active operation whereby the globes of red signal lanterns, intended to warn train men of danger, could be kept clean enough to be transparent. To so arrange the running of trains that a mistake of ten minutes by a conductor could kill so many people, is far behind the age.

It looks from the dispatches as though the two roads named would have some heavy damages to pay; but no payments of money can take the places of the dear ones so suddenly and shockingly ushered into eternity. Inventors of safety appliances for railroads, and organizers of working forces of the roads, have yet a wide field for improvements in existing methods.

#### COMPLAINING OF THE COURTS.

Whether it be true or false, or partly true and partly false, the statement is being frequently made by a great number—perhaps a majority—of the American people that the courts are outgrowing their legitimate functions. Those who so hold, point out the great number of cases in which an injunction has obviated the action of executive authority and thus usurped it, while the Idaho and other similar squabbles are instanced as showing that the judiciary, by overturning, setting aside and construing laws in accordance with desired ends,

has also taken upon itself the powers and duties of the legislative department of the government.

It is a matter of record that at the convention of labor leaders in St. Louis, resolutions most extreme in sentiment but remarkably well written, exceeded the Chicago platform in denunciation of the courts. They declared that "the judiciary has become supreme," and averred that "unless a check is soon put upon the progress of usurpation, in a short time no government but the absolute despotism of Federal judges will exist anywhere over any portion of American soil." This prompts the New York World to suggest, that the injunctions lately granted in connection with the coal strike do not justify this sweeping impeachment is not to the present purpose. The fact that large bodies of workmen believe that the courts have been instruments of "capitalistic oppression" is significant of the continued existence of a popular discontent whose manifestation last year awoke the nation with a shock of alarm.

However it may be, the case of our nearest neighbor to the north is one that might properly be termed deplorable. The bars of protection with which the laws have surrounded the citizen seem to have been thrown down completely, leaving vice and crime to flourish with no more restraint than comes of a certain wholesome fear of going too far. Without looking at the foundation of the subject or pretending to discuss it in the light of its merits and demerits, it seems to those at a distance whose only interest in the matter is a desire for the general welfare that it might have been different. The average citizen who reads and writes and pays taxes and helps in his way to make the nation great and prosperous is apt to look with severe disapproval upon any part of the system being permitted to absolutely nullify any other part. Such people will contend that there are times when mere form, however binding under ordinary circumstances, should not hold sway over high public policy; also that it is better occasionally to overlook the technical errors of one portion of the governmental mechanism than permit another portion to override and break it down. And who shall say they are wrong?

#### THE PENNSYLVANIA HORROR.

What was recognized by many as the inevitable albeit terrible sequel to the strike situation has come. Bloodshed has occurred, men have been slaughtered, terror pervades the places where the striking is in vogue, and altogether a state of affairs prevails in the districts affected such as may well cause the gravest forebodings along with the most bitter regrets everywhere in the land. Judging the incident by what the dispatches have told us concerning it, a crowd of men who have been peacefully protesting against the system practiced of inadequate payment for their toil were marching in an orderly manner from one place to another; there was no danger threatened, no one's rights were interfered with and there was no design of disturbing the peace; all at once a sheriff with a number of deputies armed with an injunction as well as weapons, appears on the scene and orders a halt; the strikers, being engaged in nothing lawless and enjoying a natural as well as an essentially legal right, refuse obedience to the order, when the command to fire is given and a number fall to the earth, some dead, others dying and still others wounded. It is an awful, awful thing to contemplate, let alone to be confronted with.