

EDITORIALS.

THE "Strausberg railway difficulty," the "Roumanian difficulty" and the "Gastein Conference" have been mentioned several times lately in the European portion of the telegraphic dispatches; but what was to be understood when these various subjects were referred to, it would take a very wise man indeed to understand from reading the dispatches. But late eastern exchanges contain more definite allusion to these matters, which have been deemed of sufficiently grave import to be talked over at the Conference of Gastein where were assembled the Emperors of Austria and Germany, and their highest officials.

From these details it appears that soon after the government of Roumania was re-constructed, six years ago, one Dr. Strausberg, who had the reputation of being a great railway man, put forth the idea of constructing a net work of railways through Roumania, which is a great grain growing country, to transport its products to the Baltic, and the ports of the North Sea. The project was regarded so favorably by the government of Roumania that it endorsed it, and Strausberg's bonds and Prussian capitalists invested in the latter an amount sufficient to build five hundred miles of the proposed lines, in return for which certain concessions were granted them for ninety-five years, besides an annual interest of seven and a half per cent. on their bonds being guaranteed by the Roumanian government as soon as the road was wholly or partly open to traffic.

The five hundred miles guaranteed by the Prussians are yet only partially constructed, and last January when a large amount in interest on the bonds was due, Dr. Strausberg startled his government and the Prussian capitalists by announcing that he had not the funds to pay it. The government instituted a prosecution against the Doctor, and repudiated the endorsement of his bonds.

Upon this action of the Roumanians being made known the German capitalists withheld further supplies, and the Roumanian government, by way of reprisals, announced its determination to confiscate the road as far as constructed, and this has been the cause of the trouble, for the Prussian government intimated a determination on its part to compel the Roumanian government to pay the bonds held by Prussian subjects if Dr. Strausberg was unable to do so.

At one time it was considered, by those pretending to the gift of prescience, that this little matter gave promise of war, but the kind offices of Austria have intervened, and according to the dispatches yesterday, it is about safe to believe that the Roumanian difficulty and other matters in which Prussia and Austria are jointly interested have been amicably arranged, and that there is a good understanding between them, and the general peace of Europe is again, for the present, secured and ensured.

ONCE upon a time the antagonists of the settlers of this region incited the government of the United States to send a large and extraordinarily well equipped force of soldiery to make war upon the people here, in consequence of the false and inflammatory reports which had been maliciously invented and widely circulated concerning the state of things in this Territory. Everybody with half an eye could see very well that the reports were got up simply for political effect, to result in putting money into the purse of those engaged behind the scenes, pulling the wires, as well as those who approached the footlights. Sensible people announced at once that the whole enterprise was merely a piece of grabbish intrigue, without the remotest connection with honor, honesty, loyalty, or the intrinsic merits of the case, and that the great expense of the expedition was a culpable waste of the public treasure. The "verdict of prosperity" has already begun to appear in accordance with that sensible view of the situation at that day, and here is a piece of that verdict, from the Chicago Post—

"In the light of fact and history Buchanan's term was the most expensive ever known in any age or country. Buchanan's administration cost a war which the least courage or energy would have prevented. Buchanan's administration cost three billions of money direct, as much more invested in slaves, and another amount fully equal to the aggregate of both in the waste and destruction of property. Bu-

chanan's administration cost five hundred thousand lives, and furnished a quarter of a million widows and disabled soldiers whose names are now borne upon the pension rolls. Buchanan's administration cost great armies, vast navies, enormous outlays of every kind to save the nation's life, besides four years of carnage, burnings, devastations, and tears. It cost two million orphaned children. It cost disrupted foreign relations, the destruction of commercial supremacy on the seas, and the ruin of immeasurable interest on the land."

It may be said that the "Mormon War" is not here referred to, but the fratricidal Southern contest. But it will require a great deal of denial to convince clear-minded and thoughtful people that the "Mormon War," in consequence of the folly and wickedness of its originators, aiders and abettors, was not the "beginning of sorrows" to the administration which suffered itself to be inveigled into that ruinous attempt to destroy an unoffending people.

AMONG those visitants to this region who appear to be desirous of learning "the truth about the Mormons," and to report their convictions with frankness and as free as possible from prejudice, we may rank Mr. S. S. Packard, President of the Commercial College, New York. The editor of the *Globe* of that city appears to be favorably impressed with the statements of that gentleman, in a letter of correspondence to that paper, respecting what he saw and heard while in this city, judging by the following editorial comments:

"Our Salt Lake letter published on the first page of to-day's *Globe* is exceedingly interesting, and from the pen of a well-known gentleman of this city, Mr. S. S. Packard, President of the Commercial College. He makes several points in favor of the Mormons, which we have long suspected to be truthful, notwithstanding the statements of Mrs. Stanton, the 'grave' remarks of the *Golden Age*, and the book-makers. The children of the Mormons are not sickly, miserable, and weak; 'in healthfulness, vivacity, and personal comeliness, they are the equals of American children anywhere.' So slander No. 1 is set at rest. 'The Mormons have been greatly belied by book-makers.' 'The women are most uncompromising and earnest adherents of Mormonism, Polygamy, and all.' What says Anna Dickinson to this? 'The men and women are as intelligent and well-favored as those of any other city.' Here is the end of slander No. 2. We shall have the truth about the Mormons at last."

The letter itself describes Mr. Packard's experience of "a Sunday in Salt Lake City." A few errors excepted, and more or less error of statement is perhaps unavoidable with visitors, then we may say the letter is as fair a report as could be expected. Mr. Packard attended the Tabernacle and visited a ward school, noting what he deemed worthy of note. He reports a series of questions put to and answered by the children, partly at his request, with some songs sung, possibly, partly for his edification. In addition to the remarks quoted by the *Globe*, Mr. Packard says, "There were in this school over a hundred boys and girls, ranging from five to sixteen years of age. In appearance, cheerfulness, and general quickness of perception, they would compare favorably with the same class of children in any American city."

He remarks that there is comparatively little attention paid to dress among the "Mormons," adults or children. For this there are reasons. It is only during the last two or three years that clothing has been as cheap, comparatively, as food and some other articles in our cities. Clothing is always much more available in old settled districts, easily accessible to great manufacturing centres, than in remote, newly settled districts like Utah. Yet we hear complaint, now and then, that our people are quite as much given to the over-dressy style of older communities as is desirable, and by many people it is not considered an open question whether one's thoughts should be very largely centred upon one's dress, but it is rather held that the "inward adorning of the mind" and the heart is more worthy of serious thought. At all events, where clothing is very readily accessible, there need be no anxiety expressed that the people, especially the younger portion, will not manifest all necessary desire to exceed Solomon and the lily in all their glory of array. That seems to be natural enough.

We don't think it's naughty, but it is certainly nice to see "Lie No. 1, and Lie No. 2," and so on nailed to the counter, with such a very good will. Other lies will receive the same treatment by and by, for does not the editor declare of himself and the great outside world, "We shall have the truth about the Mormons at last?" Yes, but not at first, for truth is proverbially less fleet of foot and wing than is falsehood.

Mr. Packard seems very well satisfied with the instructive and useful nature of the library connected with the Sunday school which he visited, and with the exclusion of the silly nonsense novel range of literature therefrom. He would like to give the "Mormon" men and women greater credit for being handsome and intelligent than he consistently can. So would we, but from Mr. P. we will take the will for the deed. Every "Mormon" man certainly thinks the females of his own family about as handsome as feminine humanity is usually made, and if strangers who visit us do not feel disposed to place the same high estimate upon our women, it does not necessarily follow that that circumstance is a thing to die about, or to be very seriously regretted. There are very many reasons why our men and women do not put on such a "loud" style of person and apparel as is customary elsewhere. Our people are a sober people, and their labors and privations in the past have not been of a character to make them less soberly inclined, or to eliminate from their countenances any hard lines which may be supposed to detract from the expression of "intelligence" or "handsomeness." But wait a bit. More favorable conditions may be expected to produce more favorable results. Indeed Mr. P. already acknowledges such results in process. He thinks the "Mormon" children, in healthfulness, vivacity, appearance, cheerfulness, personal comeliness and general quickness of perception, "the equals of American children anywhere." Come, now, that is sufficient for the present, good enough for the first generation. Wait for a few more generations and then what may we not reasonably expect?

One more remark of Mr. Packard's. The men and women of Salt Lake City, he thought, were as intelligent and well favored as those of any other city, but the great mass who assemble in the Tabernacle he did not think were. This brings to mind the Apostle's word that not many mighty, not many noble, etc., are called. The facts appear to be that the mighty and noble and the grandly clever among men think it is much wiser to bestow their time, talents and energies upon money and trade and horses and cattle and merchandise and ore and whisky and politics and the fleeting things of mortality generally, than upon such insignificant things as truth and righteousness and the things of eternity. So they find no time to go to the Tabernacle, leaving it to the less intelligent and less favored to meet together to worship God. But every sensible man knows that these "intelligent and well-favored" persons make a great mistake in thus devoting themselves so utterly to the things of this life, and ignoring the things of a better life, or a better condition of life. But whether (or not these "intelligent and well-favored" but unmistakably deluded persons will fully find out their mistake before they wake up in the next world is a matter of doubt. From some hints which were dropped by the highest authority, there is reason to conclude in the negative. In consideration of their unfortunate condition, therefore, we cannot help feeling charitably disposed towards them.

In conclusion we commend Mr. Packard's fairness and trust that if our remarks shall come under his notice he will receive them in as good a spirit as we receive his.

The ladies say that all the bustle that is made about the Grecian bend is newspaper stuff.

A Brooklyn young woman hasn't had any sleep or any victuals in five years. She is not corpulent.

In writing a hymn don't be too particular about the matter you use—it's hymn-material.—*Louisville Courier*. Jour.

Speaking of apples, it is remarkable that the first apple in Paradise should have turned out a "pair."

"Will you have me, Sarah?" said a young man to a modest girl. "No, John, but you can have me if you will."

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