

EDITORIALS.

THE SCRAMBLE FOR SPOILS.

THE scramble over fees for despoiling the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seems to excite resentment and scorn among people of opposing views in this Territory. "Gentiles" are quite as pronounced as "Mormons" in their animadversions upon the game of grab, that seems to go on with the approbation of the principal members of the legal fraternity. The sentiment appears to be: "Here's a church to be robbed, let us take a hand in the plunder; if we don't get it, somebody else will." And the opinion of the public, singular to say, is for once united as to the honesty and morality of this raid upon the proceeds of a seizure that is yet of very doubtful legality.

The whole arrangement is peculiar. First, the United States Marshal is appointed Receiver in a case in which the United States is a party to the suit. Next the Territorial Superintendent of District Schools is chosen attorney for the Receiver, while he should be looking after the interests of the District Schools which, if the suit is successful, are to receive the benefits of the confiscation; and out of the property so seized he wants ten thousand dollars, which will make so much less for the schools of which he is superintendent. Then the United States District Attorney, who represents the Government in this suit, is also an attorney for the Receiver, and wants ten thousand dollars more for his services in that capacity, while the rule in law is that an attorney for a Receiver must not be engaged in the litigation by either party to the suit. It is one of the most singularly mixed up cases on record.

The Marshal, however, appears to have acted on instructions, or by the approval, of the Department of Justice and therefore cannot perhaps be censured for his choice of counsel. The blame for this must reach to higher sources. And in the work he has had to do, some allowance must reasonably be made for the amount of property of which he has become the custodian, the heavy bonds he has had to furnish, and the persons and means he has had to employ and remunerate, in his search for and seizure of various pieces of property. What is right and reasonable under all these circumstances we presume will be duly considered by the Court in passing on his claim.

But the attorneys' fees demanded strike most people with astonishment and many with disgust, when viewed in the light of the facts connected with their position. It looks to an ordinary mind that the District Attorney, as counsel for the Government in this suit should have been watching the case to protect the Government on the one hand, and the Superintendent of Schools should have been vigilant to guard the interests of the schools on the other hand. But neither of these parties was represented during the scramble for fees, and the scramblers were the officials who ought to have been on the look out to see that nothing wrong was done and no attempt at extortion should be successful.

But here comes another strange event, another remarkable figure in this farce or tragedy, whichever it may turn out to be. The Chief Justice who sat upon the case at the start, since become a simple member of the bar of the court where he once presided, now steps in as the professed champion of the District Schools and asks to be heard officially as their attorney. To do him justice, perhaps the trustees of two or three of those schools have consulted him on this matter. But they do not represent the thousand or more trustees who are interested on behalf of the schools. We think the present Chief Justice was perfectly right in requiring an application in writing, and some evidence of authority for attempting to represent as attorney the District Schools of Utah.

What is the end likely to be if everybody claiming an interest in this cause has a high-priced attorney engaged, or claiming to be engaged, and ready to poke his hand up to the armpit into the bag that holds the spoils snatched from a Church corporation? It is a nice spectacle for the nation to gaze upon. It must be a pleasant thing for the framers of the thieving scheme to contemplate. It works in the spirit of the original undertaking. The "Mormon" Church, defamed, misrepresented, lied about in pulpit, press and Congress, became an object for plunder. And the measure for its despoilment, though startling to minds that revolt at the thought of confiscation and the oppression of a Church, however heterodox, has been winked at, or half-approved, because it was supposed to be destructive of "Mormonism." Conceived in dishonesty and born of bigotry and hate, no wonder that the tendency is to extortion and rapacity all along the life and line of the movement. It has been disgraceful to this great Government from the beginning hitherto. And unless the Supreme Court of the United States stamps upon the iniquity and puts an end to it, the stain of the infamy will be a brand upon the nation in the sight of all the world.

But while full of indignation and despising at the shameful business,

the Latter-day Saints can afford to be patient and quiescent in the assurance that even if the whole bundle of properties, real and personal, goes over to the Government, or is squandered and eluded by persons preferring claims or services in the steal, it will have no effect in putting down their religion, weakening their faith or retarding the progress of the Church to which they belong, but will only serve to prove the false ground taken by its opponents, and their inability to assail it except by falsehood, dishonor and fraud.

But when the whole story of this despicable attack upon a religious institution is unfolded, will not the just and true throughout the country, and the fair-minded of all civilized nations, regard this confiscation, with its scandalous accompaniments, as a disgrace to any Government of modern times, a palpable violation of the spirit of the Constitution of the United States, and a burning shame and reproach to all parties who have taken a hand in the legalized robbery.

NEW LIGHT ON THE HEBREW EXODUS.

IN these latter times new developments are frequently taking place which corroborate the statements of Biblical history. Among the most recent are those which come from the ancient land of Egypt, the scene of early civilization, and where Israel remained so long in bondage. Concerning one of these discoveries the following is taken from the Boston Herald, and will, we are sure, prove interesting to most of our readers:

"The cuneiform tablets recently taken from the Egyptian tombs, and now in the British Museum, have been arranged and deciphered by Mr. Budge, the English Egyptologist, and are found to throw unexpected light on the social condition of Egypt before the exodus, and to explain the influx of the Semites from Mesopotamia. It was these people who had the same acuteness and masterful energy that the Jews, during the last two or three centuries have displayed in Russia. They were more enterprising than the Egyptians, and almost gained the supremacy among them. They helped build the pyramids and the great walls, and got on finely till the rise of the nineteenth dynasty, when they were so much oppressed by their taskmasters that they rebelled and began the great exodus. This is the substance of much that these tablets contain. There are also several letters which establish the pleasant social and legal relations between the Mesopotamian and the Egyptian kings, and throw unexpected light upon phases of ancient life of which nothing has really been known. This is one of the most important 'finds' of recent date. It is a piecemeal addition to the slow reconstruction of the ancient world through the deciphering of the monuments that are constantly turning up amid the ruins of Egypt. The interest in these restorations is almost as great in this country as in England, and the large contributions for the work of the Egyptian Exploring Society, of which Miss Edwards is the leader in England, and Dr. Winslow has been the efficient promoter in the United States, receive substantial encouragement through the fresh accumulation of these ancient historical fragments."

HE UNDERTOOK TOO MUCH.

DE LESSEPS' Panama Canal scheme is one of the proposed great things of life that grow smaller instead of greater as the years come and go. It is but little talked of now, and the chances are that the work being performed corresponds with the talk. It begins to look as if there were a fatality attending the attempted severance of the two continents, and as though the great French engineer had taken more of a contract on his hands than he could execute. It is sometimes a grievous thing that men who know so well how and when and where to begin, should be so deficient in judgment when comes the time for leaving off. A great triumph or a decided victory seems to blind them to the fact that there is a limit to human achievement, and that in the best estate of man we are never sure of anything in detail except what is past. So it would seem to be, in conspicuous terms, with De Lesseps. He placed himself in the front rank, if not at the very head, of the civil engineers of all ages, of the grand success accomplished with the Suez Canal, thus simplifying, shortening and cheapening commerce with the Far East to an extent scarcely dreamed of before. If fame were the object, his labors would properly have ended there, his grand record through life being thus rounded up and crowned with a dazzling and momentous success; and it was that kind of fame which brought honors and emoluments without bestowing the physical necessities in abundance while yielding amply of the sensuous demands of the high-minded worker. But surely a "demon" caused him to play at Hoodman Blind when he so far emulated Alexander as to seek new lands if not new worlds to conquer; on this side the Atlantic he began by virtually ignoring a solemn

compact of the nations and thus creating unfriendly if not belligerent feelings; he began work on a project pronounced by those more familiar with the country than himself to be impracticable, and which every step of his slow and weary advance has shown to be so, and today the scheme is practically abandoned with results most disastrous, the least consequential of which is his own humiliation. Influenced by his solicitations and representations and assured by his recognized ability, his friends and sympathizers have been induced to invest large sums in bonds of the paper canal, and as, in the event of its collapse, they will never receive anything in return, some of them must be brought to financial ruin and all will be losers to the extent of their respective investments, while the odium of failure, which always magnifies disaster into crime and attaches it firmly to the perpetrator, will surely weigh upon him with increasing weight as his ability to endure it becomes less. He is a full decade beyond the threescore-and-ten allotted years of man, and his failure is the most conspicuous instance of "vaulting ambition o'erleaping itself" that presents itself to our mind at the present time. The Great Eastern and the Keely motor are somewhat in the same line, but only figure as bagatelles by comparison. There are examples of similar conduct nearer home; and it is to be expected that in such cases, as in the others, the limit will be reached all too soon for those who engage in them, and they will find when too late, that there is a host to be consulted in the reckoning.

THE SHOOTING OF KING.

HERE is the background of the tragic scene enacted in Omaha on Saturday last: A wealthy clothing merchant, the head of an extensive commercial structure, proud of his name and place in the social and business world, was a son, bright and capable, but lacking in moral principle. The young man is passionate and headstrong and, apparently with the disapproval of his family, has contracted a marriage. That the young husband soon sought the divorce court for relief; that he obtained a separation on the ground of infidelity; and that the divorced wife has adopted the stage, are facts which suggest the sort of a man young King was, the kind of company he kept, and the life he led. In a part of this background lies the home of a young lady of respectable family, in a country town in Missouri. Young King has met and secretly married her and she deems herself the wife of a wealthy, honorable and intelligent man.

In the foreground is a hotel corridor, where young King stands, confronted by a beautiful and high-bred young woman, who became his lawful wife four years ago. She has heard of her husband's bigamous alliance, and is in a storm of conflicting emotions. He harshly repulses her and even uses personal violence upon her, when she draws a revolver with which her father, a wealthy and aristocratic man, had furnished her, and fires several shots at her husband, with fatal effect, then falling upon his corpse she shrieks, "Oh God, I have murdered my husband!" The bigamous wife learning of the crime and death of her husband, becomes delirious and her life is despaired of.

It is remarkable that the elements of aristocratic luxury and profligacy, divorce, fast living and marital infidelity, so prominent in this portrayal, should serve to illustrate social life in Rome shortly before her fall, quite as faithfully as they show the present social condition in the American Union.

A national interest is felt in this tragedy, but what the general opinion is respecting the degree of condemnation due the various parties to it, has not yet developed. A healthy moral sentiment will, however, be lenient towards the woman who did the shooting, and it will also declare that a man who will enter an honest and respectable home and there, by means of a bigamous marriage, seduce and wreck the life of an innocent and trusting maiden, at the same time betraying a loving and unsuspecting wife, suffers no great injustice in being sent summarily out of the world.

No doubt much sympathy will be expressed for young King, his death will be deplored, and his wife condemned. But toadyism to wealth and aristocracy will be the inspiring motive of such sentiments as these to a great extent. A robust moral tone cannot tolerate the course of life he led, nor the deeds he did; and will favor the proposition that a woman's virtue is worth a man's life.

SCHOOL GOVERNMENT.

AT one of the recent sessions of the Salt Lake County Teachers' Association the subject of school government was discussed. The published minutes of the proceedings were brief, and a commensurate idea of the debate, and the views expressed, could not well be formed if they be taken for a base. It appeared, however, so far as we could infer, that extreme views were ad-

vanced in favor of the adoption of both the punitive and inductive processes. Fortunately the happy medium had its votaries. We believe and hope, because of the importance of the subject, that the last class referred to preponderated.

The teacher who is deficient in government has mistaken his calling, and after he has exhausted all the processes known to the school room and is still unsuccessful, he should at once seek some other profession for which he is better adapted by nature. In this connection it might as well be stated flatly that he who advocates and resorts solely to the punitive process will never succeed. This is notably the case in this community, where the children as a rule are brave, independent and self-willed. These being conspicuous constituents of the generality of pupils, any appeals to their fears are so many attempts upon a practically non-existent element of their composition. Therefore failure is written upon that process when unmixed with the inductive method, and the same word is inscribed upon the career of the teacher who persists in its application.

It is not held here that children should be treated and handled in the school-room or elsewhere in a similar way to what people of mature years should be. They should, however, be governed from the same general base, which applies to humanity of all ages. Not only should wholesome rules be established, but appeals should be made to their affections, to their honor and their intelligence as well as to their fear, to induce the scholars to conform to them. The purely coercive plan will never produce the desired effect.

No one is fit for the position of teacher who does not love children, because if thus defective he will be unable to inspire that sentiment in the pupils toward himself. The reasonableness of this proposition is apparent when the self-evident fact is considered that children will much more readily obey, and receive instruction from those for whom they have an affectionate regard than they will yield their will to one for whom they have no personal liking. Punishment applied by one who is unloved renders the recipient more defiant rather than more submissive. When chastisement is administered, after the reason for it is made clear, by one who loves the victim of it and that tender sentiment is reciprocal, the pupil in that condition and thus treated is wounded in his feelings as well as corporally, and will ordinarily seek to regain his place in the estimation of the teacher.

As an illustration of what we have been trying to elucidate, there is a school in this county where disorder some time ago largely prevailed. The teacher was a great believer, judging from his methods, in the efficacy of the purely punitive method. His extraordinary punishments had no effect whatever in bringing about a better condition. Our understanding is that it became worse instead of better. Today that same school is, according to information conveyed to us, one of the most orderly in this part of the Territory. What caused the transformation? A change of teachers, which brought a different system of government—one based on appeals to the love, honor and intelligence of the pupils, combined with punishment when it is absolutely required. A further result of a beneficial character necessarily follows—the children make much more rapid progress in their studies, which they learn to love, the desire to please a teacher whom they hold in affectionate esteem and regard being a potent mental stimulant.

THE LATELY DISCOVERED COMET.

THOSE who have even a good field glass can now obtain a fair view of the comet discovered on the 2d of September last. The discovery was made by Prof. Barnard, of the Lick Observatory, and in, we believe, the first practical result of that excellent institution. At this time, and for several months yet it will be visible in the evening in the southeastern sky, its technical location being, right ascension 2 hours 48 minutes, declination south 55 degrees 13 minutes. On the 25th instant it will be at its brightest during its period of nearly one year. This lengthy visitation is accounted for on the theory that the visitor—if an object billions of miles distant may be called a visitor—is in space outside the solar system and is moving toward perihelion in nearly the same direction the earth proceeds in its grand sweep around the sun. Superstition regarding these flaming messengers, or whatever they may be called, has almost entirely disappeared from civilized and enlightened man; but with the absence of the gross and befogged conclusions of barbarous times, and the consequent application of scientific methods, we are no nearer a solution of the question of what a comet is and why it is that we ever go and return within certain measurements of time; that others come and plunge off at a tangent into the abyss of space and return no more. We can compute their rapidity, their distance from the sun when nearest it, and their length—that is all. This is one of the reasons why even an invisible comet excites interest and a visible

one is the theme for the fireside, the ostrum and the press.

TWO GREAT MORAL PRINCIPLES.

IN a democracy the moral ideas of the people become crystallized into law. The statutes which rule the masses, first appear as planks in party platforms. Political leaders, whether elected members of legislative assemblies or not, are the real enactors of legislation. In a democracy there is ample opportunity for the agitation of great ideas, hence the masses become educated more rapidly than under other forms of government. A great idea seldom occurs to a large number of persons at the same time. Usually an important truth is first shown to one mind only. The man who first perceives it is wrought upon to communicate it to his fellows, and though he generally finds them slow to receive it, his zeal is stimulated by the influence of the light which has dawned upon his mind, and he cannot rest without making converts. Thus the truth is spread.

The history of the United States contains many illustrations of how great ideas have dawned first upon the minds of individuals, but later have fired millions, and have been solidified into imperishable provisions of law. In 1840 the Liberty party cast only 7000 votes, a showing simply contemptible, in point of numbers. In the very next presidential campaign the Liberty party vote had grown to 60,000, yet it was not deemed by politicians an element of politics worthy of note. In 1848, in the third presidential campaign in which the Liberty party had taken part, under the name of Free Soilers, it cast a vote of 300,000. Even then the rapid growth of the new party caused no apprehension along the lines of the old ones, but in 1860, under the name of the Republican party, the Liberty party of 1840 elected Abraham Lincoln, and within the next decade gave liberty to four million slaves, and remodeled the American Constitution.

The Prohibition party has experienced a growth strikingly like that which resulted in the overthrow of slavery. Though but a few years old, and combatting the powers of wealth and appetite, the strongest of all foes a reformer can contend against, it has made phenomenal progress. Four years ago its presidential candidate, St. John, received 161,000 votes; this year its standard-bearer, Gen. Fisk, received, it is estimated, 375,000. The editor of the Voice, the national organ of the Prohibition party, has expressed the belief that, but for the tariff issue in the presidential campaign just closed, that party would have cast 800,000 votes for General Fisk. "Tens of thousands of prohibitionists," says the Voice, "who believed in free trade thought that this time they must vote the democratic ticket; and tens of thousands of protection prohibitionists thought themselves called upon just this time to save the commercial world on this side the Atlantic from disaster by voting the republican ticket."

According to the Voice, at least eight per cent. of the voters of the country favor the abolition of the liquor traffic, and at the rate of growth the party has made during the last few years, it will soon be able to force its views upon the statute books of every State in the Union. Coupled with its enmity to the saloon is the friendship of this party towards woman. It believes that the saloon should disappear, and that women should enjoy equal rights with men. These are two great truths, two moral principles whose inroads upon the sympathies and convictions of the people cannot be permanently stayed. Being truths, these principles cannot be destroyed. Intelligence and conscience must be subverted among the people in order to prevent great doctrines like these from gaining converts and advocates. These two principles of the Prohibitionists will, we believe, ultimately prevail on the American continent. The unutterable curse of the liquor traffic will not always, we are confident, be as now a ruling element in the government of this country, nor will woman for many decades longer be denied the rights which conscience and experience declare she should be allowed to enjoy. What troublous times may intervene before such a consummation is attained we will not undertake here to forecast. Something more terrible than the civil war which awaited the 7,000 voters of the Liberty party in 1840, and which had to be passed through before the world saw, thirty years later, four millions of people lifted from the condition of slaves to that of sovereigns, may sweep over the continent before the saloon disappears and women receive their dues; but these things will be accomplished ultimately.

POISONOUS LITERATURE.

ONE of the most potent and dangerous agents that operate to undermine social parity, and lead astray the young and innocent, is the impure literature of which the present time is so productive. France