

perature, so fertile a soil, and well watered by the copious stream from Elisha's fountain, should promise abundant and remunerative crops. Grapes, bananas, sugar cane, cotton, and various fruits and vegetables have for some time past been cultivated here with much success. The increased amount of rain which has fallen the last few years in Palestine has had a most marked effect in larger and more abundant harvests than hitherto known.

"The most important results, however, of all may be anticipated from the railway about to be constructed between Jaffa and Jerusalem. As rumors in former years have prevailed which have never been realized, I called upon Mr. Frutiger the banker, to whom the concession has been granted by the Turkish government, and was assured by him that the necessary capital had been subscribed, and that the works would commence immediately upon the close of the rainy season in the early spring, and pushed on urgently to completion. The influence such a line of communication between Jerusalem and the coast may be expected to exert is incalculable, for as a natural sequence the harbor, which is now inaccessible to Mediterranean steamers, must be deepened and enlarged, and the rocky barrier which prevents ingress removed. It is contemplated to subsequently extend this line via Gaza and El-Arish over the short desert to Port Said and Ismailia on the Maritime Canal, thus connecting with the railway system of Lower Egypt for Cairo, Alexandria, and Suez, and to the Fayoum and Upper Egypt. Such important action for the improvement of the Holy City and the development of the resources of Palestine, and opening up the country to commerce are without precedent in modern times. Viewed in connection with the numerous and active efforts being made by various religious agencies throughout the country for the evangelization of the people and the conversion of the Jews, these facts must encourage every lover of God's ancient people to hope that His set time to favor Zion is fast approaching.

FENCING THE POLITICAL PLOT.

PROBATE JUDGE BARTCH, of Salt Lake County, is credited with making a sweeping statement in the Chamber of Commerce last evening in the course of a discussion on the subject of education. It was to the effect that the jails and barns of this Territory are better than the school buildings.

The assertion is an absurd and wicked falsehood. We can conceive of no other object of his making it than the one common to the class to which the man who expressed it belongs—the creation of prejudice favorable to the robbing of the majority of the people of any voice in the management of educational matters. This is a point which the

active and scheming politicians who have kept this Territory in a constant state of turmoil have been working to establish. They have succeeded in part, and will not be content with less than the robbery of the majority of every vestige of control in public affairs.

Such statements as the one under consideration are intended to cause the belief to be established abroad that the "Mormon" people are a lot of semi-barbarians. Wherever such a scandalous and ridiculous assertion is believed, the desired effect is produced. It is an infamous libel for more reasons than its untruthfulness. For instance, the superiority the scandalous remark gives to jails over school buildings creates the impression that the community are more given to law-breaking than education. No one would suppose, in listening to such men as Judge Bartch, that the great majority of the people of this Territory—the "Mormons"—are the most law-abiding citizens within the domain of the Republic of America, which is nevertheless a fact susceptible of the strongest proof.

From such libels as perpetrated by this gentleman it would not be believed that, in the founding of settlements and towns—hundreds of which have been established and developed by them—one of the first movements of the "Mormons" has always been to erect a schoolhouse. It would not be taken as a fact also, if he were to be believed, that the percentage of illiteracy is lower in Utah than in any other of the Territories of the Union, while in educational advancement it is ahead of one-half the States; yet such is the truth.

All such statements as that made last evening are in line with the political scheme to reduce the majority of the people of Utah to the position of political nonentities. Such, for instance, was the object of the alleged investigation before Judge Anderson, which was presumed to be an inquiry into the eligibility of "Mormons" for admission to citizenship.

In that alleged inquisition, fragmentary remarks made by residents of this Territory thirty-five years ago were produced as proof that the "Mormons" are at present disloyal.

Evidence of similar texture and antiquity was offered to show that the "Mormons" were given to blood atonement for disobedience. A solitary instance of the practical application of this alleged doctrine

was introduced, but the man who was, according to the anti-"Mormon" politicians, murdered in 1865, was discovered alive and well, being now a resident of Spanish Fork.

Testimony was taken to the effect that members of the community of Latter-day Saints had contributed to a defense fund in order to test the constitutionality of certain laws and the validity of their administration. The object was to show that in thus acting upon their constitutional right of defense, they were obstructors of the law, and consequently disloyal.

An attempt was made to further show the disloyalty of the Latter-day Saints by asserting that the endowment ceremony involves the taking of an obligation to avenge the blood of Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith upon the American nation, notwithstanding that precisely the same rite existed many years before the Prophet and his brother were cruelly and wantonly assassinated, and that there is nothing and never was anything in the ceremony antagonistic to the government, the whole genius of the "Mormon" religion being to uphold it against the plotters and demagogues who are undermining its superstructure.

The reason why the lie factory has boiled and bubbled afresh during the last few months is that a municipal election is approaching which involves the public control of the city. The conspirators, knowing full well that they could not accomplish the plot by fair means, being far short of the requisite legitimate voting power, misrepresentation is needed for the purpose of fencing the netarious transaction. It is the business of the people to see that it falls short of consummation, notwithstanding the apologies that are made for it in advance, in the shape of untruthful and hyperbolic slanders against the majority of the citizens of Utah.

We commend to the traducers of the "Mormons" the striking parallel drawn by the incisive pen of "Junius," our Chicago correspondent. Poor, downtrodden Ireland suffered from similar treatment, to that now being accorded the Latter-day Saints, but the reaction has come in her behalf. The turning of the tables in favor of the majority in Utah will not be so long delayed. We venture to state, without fear of being mistaken, that it will come soon. It is even at the doors, comparatively speaking. God speed the day.