

[COMMUNICATED.]
AMONG THE POSSIBILITIES.

Electricity has made transit rapid and easy in this city, so that it makes little or no difference where a man's residence is, providing that in other respects he and his can satisfy themselves with their surroundings. To quite a few, proximity to neighbors is little considered, nor are places of amusement or recreation, or indeed church or school. Most of a man's spare time is in such conditions spent at home, and when the hours of sleep are deducted, life becomes unvaried, monotonous and probably stunted as well; a love for isolation is engendered and becomes chronic, narrow and without color.

It would appear as if this condition has become intensified by what has been called "hard times," as every one familiar with social amenities and gatherings four or five years ago, in contrast with the present, will readily admit. There has come a dread of expenditure, an indisposition to invite or see those whom at the time mentioned, it was an enjoyment to entertain. There is a puckering up of soul; the expense is counted and dreaded, visiting is down to zero and once familiar friends are comparative strangers. There is an increase of coldness even in family association, which bodes no good, and members of wards fail to greet each other with that warmth once superinduced by active unrestrained association. In those days of comparative prosperity. It was a sad blow to unity, the association, the entertainment, to social enjoyment and even to religious sympathy and interest, when the barometer of enjoyment was lowered, first by apprehension and then by the actualities of enforced economy, and the croakings of a few, who in all communities persist in looking on the dark side of circumstances instead of that where there is more or less sunshine under almost any condition.

Whether in the palmy days entertaining degenerated into ostentation and revelry will be answered by the reader according to his mood; but it is quite possible that in the exuberance of a generous hospitality, persons and families did outdo themselves and tried to outdo others. This aspect is worth considering, for if so, this was quite a flagrant if half-justifiable offense, and a little common sense reflection would have rectified a disposition to run into extremes. In very many instances the picnic and even the surprise method was made to minister a good feeling and increase of acquaintance and friendship, and the real expense for each participant was very little. But this even is mainly among the memories of the past, and contrasted with "society" movements which are so highly emblazoned and colored, these little primitive doings at their very best seem quite small and commonplace. So, perchance, because of the insignificance of the methods of this past, in contrast with the "grand functions" and the "color schemes" of "society," the spirit of genuine brotherhood and sisterhood, of neighborly interest and association, has become one of the lost arts; for everything of the kind appears to be now in statu quo; nay, altogether (as it should be) unworthy of being chronicled in connection with "the movements of the giddy multitude," and the local "court circular" in the public press.

That this feature demands correction in some way must be evident, and that separation and indifference rather than unity and interest is the outgrowth of conditions is surely true. Besides, a cessation of family and friendly gatherings lessens the opportunities of the juniors of the people, or impels them to seek for change and recreation quite apart from the association

once enjoyed in catering to, waiting upon and entertaining a large proportion of friends whose experience and sacrifices were brought home more vividly by the familiarity of conversation in the social gatherings indicated. As was said, the facilities of transit should be made to conduce to an increase of unchangeable good fellowship, for a block or two or more are of small account wherever the electric cars move to and fro, particularly if the adoption of public control or regulation could reduce the rates to a less onerous charge than they are at present.

But these facilities can be enlarged in Utah so that the public could be accommodated with less sacrifice than is required by railroads; the project to unite Ogden and Provo by the electric current and cars, is capable of easy extension from Southern Idaho to St. George. The immediate settlements are all upon the streams which mainly issue from the eastern side of the several valleys. Water power is in excess, and some system of creation could be easily devised by which not only electric passenger transportation could be realized, but electrical lighting could make a continuous line of light, reaching at both ends beyond the limits of our glorious and ever-growing State. The localization of industries in overgrown centers would be in some measure prevented, and each locality would soon quicken into new (perhaps original) life; the providential resources peculiar to itself. Nor is this the dream of an enthusiast or a crank; it will come to pass; and the denizens of both extremes and intermediates will become as familiar, and as much interested in each other's plans, work and success as the susceptible part of this central city's population has been, and will again be, when their eyes and ears and hearts are open to the folly of isolation and individuality, as it appears on the opening of eighteen ninety-eight. Good statesmanship aims to give life to the extremities of its control, as well as to what might be designated its head or heart. The pulsations of industry are as much needed in the toes as in the fingers, and this giant force of the universe (electricity) directed by sagacity and intelligence, can be made a wondrous agent in harmonizing the claims of that great trinity of progress—brain, muscle and capital, until all the controversies of today will be settled for ever and ever.

A visit to the new, compact and almost noiseless grist mill lately erected by the Peery Bros. in Ogden, with all modern improvements and appliances, and running by electric force, is a lesson for today. Combination can duplicate this where needed from the unutilized resources of Utah's streams, toll and enterprise, and factories of all kinds, under the same power, would make this State a veritable hive of production for both home use and exportation. The methods for this industrial revolution were graphically presented in the "News" the other day, in the contrast made between building the Temple and building the city and county palace, by the mortgaging or hypothecating of the people's possessions for a long series of years; and the facts are that there is no limit to the application of this principle if the people and their leaders only work together. It was originally intended to found Z. C. M. I. upon this principle, but lack of education in an emergency compelled that compromise which has been almost barren of results compared with what it might have been had the first grand conception crystallized in fact and action, as was indicated of the Spirit. But there will yet come a consolidation of the business interests of this "peculiar people," an amalgamation of sections, a unity of

action, a combination of their energies and their resources such as shall dwarf all the past, grand though that might have been, and beneficent as designed.

The new year is full of promise, great changes are possible and sure; man's wisdom will not be able to cope with the complications and conditions already at the door. Only the genius of inspiration, the voice of authority, the power of God and His Priesthood, will be able to preserve in the general wreck the semblance of order, unity and peace, and this only through a prepared element—a people united by susceptibility to this inspiration, and "made willing in the day of His power." There may and will be a period when the same people will have to "stand still and see the salvation of God." That emergency has not yet arisen. Now is the time of preparation, demanding effort, activity, persistence, unity, consolidation, that the former promise may not come "unawares," because the spirit of intelligent obedience is suffered to do "its perfect work," in moulding all things for the advent of "the great day of the Lord!"

LUNCHEON FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The following paragraph is clipped from the Cleveland Plaindealer:

"President E. Benjamin Andrews of Brown university, in his address before the Illinois State Teachers' association last week, made the suggestion that school authorities should supply the pupils with an 'esthetic, high class hygienic luncheon.' He painted a glowing picture of the good results which he believed would follow the general adoption of the plan, saying that 'fourteen years of school life of this sort would change our natural conception of what it is to live.'"

In the beginning, an American citizen was proud if, at his own expense, he succeeded in giving his children such a knowledge of the common branches of an education as made it within their power to achieve further progress by their own efforts, if they had any such ambition. After a time the doctrine began to prevail that the children of the state were its wards, and that taxation should aid in their education in the common schools; and taxes were levied to help bear this burden. A little later the common schools were supported entirely by taxation, and the tuition fee system was relegated to that past to which belongs the wooden plow.

Then high schools were built, equipped and supported by taxation. Then colleges and universities arose and flourished on the same plan, with or without slight modification. Then with the taxes paid by the people, school books, and costly educational apparatus were purchased. The suggestion of President Andrews, that school children should be supplied with an "esthetic, high class, hygienic luncheon" is incontestably in line with the onward and upward policy the American school system has been pursuing.

Sure enough! Why not feed the school children at the expense of the school fund? Why not also see to it that they have shoes, and comfortable clothes? And when they graduate why not give each a pension, all at the expense of the school fund? Why not make, at the expense of that fund, ample provision for the life-long maintenance of the "wards of the State," and for insuring them against want or poverty, and incidentally, the necessity to work for a living?

It is inevitable that the rapid tendency of the American school system, if not checked, should reach an absurd climax, which has come in the