

cise any political right or privilege unless he will swear that he regards such laws as supreme and binding, no matter what may be his convictions as to their injustice and unconstitutionality.

Now if this "Mormonism" which is legislated against is "not all bad;" if there are many things in the people disfranchised that are "worthy of praise;" if only a few of them have done anything which renders them liable to the law; how can such class legislation, such punishment without trial, such discrimination against an establishment of religion, be regarded as "but human amplification of divine precept," and where is the precept to be found?

We think there is good cause to complain of the "harshness of the laws of Idaho," and good reasons for the idea that these laws are "the result of sectarian bias and hatred toward the faith as it was promulgated by Joseph and Hyrum Smith."

We must confess to surprise that any one who professes to believe in "the first principles of the gospel," as taught by the first leaders of the Church, no matter how much he may be opposed to the later additions to the faith, can see anything divine or worthy of commendation in laws that deprive unoffending citizens of the franchise, for practical faith in those principles of religion. It is but another illustration of the blinding effect of prejudice, and another indication that the sons of the prophet are imbued with the spirit that animated their father's enemies.

"TRUSTED" AMERICANS.

IN HIS article published some time ago in the *Contemporary Review*, Mr. Robert Donald says an American must deal with trusts all through his life. If he is a native of New York State a trust will nurture him with milk, which it buys from the farmers at three cents a quart and sells to the people at from seven to ten cents a quart. When he goes to school his slate is furnished by another trust, which has raised the price of school slates 30 per cent, and, thanks to Protection, sends its best slates to England and Germany. If the American boy wants a lead pencil he must apply to a trust, which charges Americans one and a third more for pencils than it asks from foreigners. The American boy's candy is indirectly affected by

the Sugar Trust, and his peanuts are doled out to him through the medium of the peanut combination. If the American has a taste for canvasback duck the Baltimore Trust, which has control of that delicacy, will supply him. When he has finished the duck another trust is ready with a toothpick—for even such an insignificant industry as toothpick making has not escaped the trust schemers. The American may continue his progress through life, using "trusted" envelopes, wearing "trusted" overshoes, warming himself at "trusted" stoves, and patronizing other trusts which control indispensable commodities. Should illness overtake him a castor oil trust will do its best for him, and as the duty of 200 per cent on castor oil ensures in an absolute monopoly it will charge very highly for its medicine. Even death does not free the American from trusts. They pursue him to the grave. There is a coffin-maker's ring in New York which has raised prices to the trust standard. There is also a trust in marble which has increased the price of tombstones. Thus the American citizen, who is surrounded on all sides with accommodation trusts through life, may be buried in a "trusted" coffin and commemorated by a "trusted" tombstone.

A BRIGHT MARK OF RUSSIAN PROGRESS.

A RAILROAD is to be extended across the Russian Empire. This will be a great undertaking. Its effects, too, must prove of a vast and striking character. Not only will it open a field for the investment of many millions of money, but it will furnish employment to an army of laborers and serve to develop Russia in many directions. It will tend to civilize much of the country which is now in semi-barbarism, distribute commodities and comforts now inaccessible to remote rural districts, prepare the way for the spread of intelligence and bring the rude Empire of the North in line with the more advanced nations of the world.

Of course this immense enterprise could not be undertaken in that country by private capital, independent of the government. Russia itself has projected the undertaking. In this the Empire shows more wisdom and more disposition to come into harmony with the progress of the age than has been expected. For

Siberia, that almost *terra incognita* to the ordinary student and traveler, will be traversed by the railroad, and the whistle of the locomotive will carry a sound of hope to the captives immured in her wilds and mines.

A railroad now runs from St. Petersburg via Moscow to Samara. This is a town on the eastern bank of the Volga, which is there spanned by an iron bridge. The new extension has already been carried to Ufa, three hundred miles further east. The plan is to continue the line across Siberia to Vladivostok, on the Japan Sea, which is distant from St. Petersburg no less than 6,660 miles!

If this project is realized, Russia will have the longest line of railroad in the world. The distance is at least twice that from New York to San Francisco. The very conception of the scheme is an indication of vigorous intelligence, and the work itself will be an evidence of push and progress, for which modern Russia has not heretofore been given credit.

When Asia is intersected with railroads, its barbarism will be sure to give way. Vast tracts that are now unknown will be thrown open to colonizers and capitalists, and the way will be prepared for that unity of nations which is in the programme for the world's drama of the latter days. Speed the road through Russia!

THE BILL IS DEAD.

THE ordinance introduced in the City Council to regulate the manufacture and sale of fireworks is no doubt a very absurd and impracticable measure. It was adapted from an ordinance in another city, but it is not applicable to our conditions. The strictures passed upon it by an esteemed morning contemporary are no doubt well deserved. But we understand that the bill was tabled indefinitely. We do not think it is likely to pass next Tuesday. On the contrary we regard it as dead if not buried. And we hope nobody will attempt its resurrection. It is not needed and if it should be galvanized into life we think its career would be both short and inglorious.

It has been lately shown that if two coins be placed on opposite sides of a plate of glass and electrified for two minutes they will have a perfect image of themselves upon the glass.