

their safest course, after all, is to follow the promptings of His Spirit.

Several Christian sects have undertaken to rescue Palestine for civilization, but their efforts have not met with success. Among the notable of these are the German Temple association. Their agitation resulted in the establishment of colonies at Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa. They came to the Holy land at a time when land could be bought for a song; they were enthusiastic and had funds; they were well supported by a strong government; yet their colonies have proven a failure as far as the original object is concerned. Internal dissensions weakened them, and the purpose for which they came is about lost sight of.

Another attempt, which originated in the United States, resulted in great suffering and death to the members of the expedition, and their fate has just been learned. An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago, of Jan. 31, tells the story:

"A special to the Tribune from Shubert, Neb., says: 'George Yantic and A. M. Hyde started last night on their journey to the Holy land, where they go to carry assistance to a colony of Dunkards, who went to Palestine in November, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Myers and Mr. and Mrs. John Yantic claimed to have received a revelation from God with direction to visit the Holy land. At the head of a party of Dunkards from Shubert and Smith county, Kans., they started in November, 1895. Nothing was heard from them by friends until recently, when a letter reached the brother of Yantic at Shubert, relating tales of suffering, distress and death.'

"The party went direct to Jerusalem. They traveled some distance from there to find further evidences of divine revelation. The death list so far as known includes five persons from Smith county, Kans., two from Shubert and three from Philadelphia."

It does evidently not enter into the plans of the Almighty to suffer the country, so long trodden down by the Gentiles and yet reserved for a special purpose, to become the gathering place of representatives of the modern Christian standards. The hand that frustrated the repeated attacks of the crusaders is still extended over its vales and hills, preserving it to the descendants of Abraham in a time to come.

#### MORMONISM IN MISSOURI.

In another column is a communication in which are described scenes, buildings and localities that are intimately associated with the early history of the Church, and its experiences in Missouri. The towns of Independence and Liberty are described in a manner that recalls the sufferings and persecutions of the Latter-day Saints who were their former inhabitants. There are still living in Utah a number of people who participated in the sufferings of the Saints in the state named, and in whose minds a flood of recollections will arise on reading the article.

Sixty years ago the hatred of the average Missourian towards the Mormons was almost phenomenal. Why such hatred should have existed has never been explained on any other ground than the ferocity which naturally accompanies a spirit of religious intolerance. But six decades have brought great changes which are sufficiently indicated by the fact, cited by the "News" correspondent, that a Mormon conference has recently been held in the county court house at Independence; and the still more striking circumstance of the tender of the state

capitol building at Jefferson, not long since, for the same purpose.

When the proper officers of the state of Missouri tender to a number of Mormon Elders the use of the capitol for the holding of a Mormon conference, an olive branch is extended which inspires peculiar emotions on the part of the recipients, and may well be taken as a sign that an overruling Providence is preparing the way for the return to the Center Stake of Zion of His covenant people. This circumstance is in line with a dramatic incident which occurred during the session of the Transmississippi congress in this city last summer. Mr. Crisp, a delegate from Missouri, had been speaking of the expulsion of the Mormons from that state, when he said in substance:

"But if the people of my state could see what I have seen in this city, and if they could hear the heavenly music I heard last night, by the Tabernacle choir, every mother in our Missouri Israel would rise up and call you back again!"

The sentiment created a profound sensation and roused tremendous applause. Whenever the people of Missouri manifest regret at the fatal error that was committed when the Mormons were exterminated from their state, they will not find the sufferers from that great wrong either implacable or unforgiving. The Mormons anticipate returning there to build up the Center Stake of Zion, and to erect a great and holy Temple to the Lord their God; and when they engage in these sacred works, it will be with hearts filled with love and charity for all mankind, and without resentment towards even the worst of their old-time enemies.

The small religious society commonly called Hedrickites, which now has possession of the Temple lot in Independence, issues a diminutive monthly publication called the Searchlight. The January number has a notice of a publication called the Return, printed in Denver in the interest of the followers of David Whitmer. Concerning it the Searchlight says:

"We trust it may receive kind treatment at the hands of the Latter-day Saints everywhere, for while we differ very materially on many points with the Return, yet we are willing to believe that the Whitmer brethren are honestly engaged in an endeavor to build up Mormonism as they see it; and as such we wish them well, hoping the day is not far distant when a perfect understanding will be had among all the believers in the sacred Book of Mormon."

The hope expressed in the closing clause of this quotation is worthy the endorsement of all "believers in the sacred Book of Mormon;" but there is only one method by which its fruition can ever be accomplished. The "believers" in that book must also become "believers" in the rest of the revelations with which God has favored and instructed His Church in this dispensation. Acceptance of the whole truth will produce a "perfect understanding;" the rejection of a portion of it will cause dissension and darkness; and it is of no avail for men to canonize dead prophets while rejecting living ones.

#### INQUIRIES FOR MISSING FRIENDS.

The circumstances under which the bulk of the settlers of Utah migrated hither entailed many and painful separations of kindred and friends, in various parts of the world. Neglect to keep up a correspondence, or some other cause, has made the separated persons lose track of each other in multitudes

of cases, and at frequent intervals the "News" is asked to publish inquiries for missing persons.

This we are always glad to do, and the assurance that friends and kindred, long severed, are sometimes restored to each other, by correspondence, if not in a closer way, through the publication of such inquiries in our columns, is ample reward to us; and we here express the hope that any of our readers in a position to furnish the information asked for, will never feel that it is too much trouble to do so. A postal card may sometimes bring about a reunion fraught with a joy and happiness of the most exquisite character.

But when our readers undertake to furnish the facts asked for in such cases, they should write to the inquirer direct, whose address always will be given in the published inquiry, and never to the "News." It is quite unnecessary to publish the answer, and the person making the inquiry may not be a subscriber to the "News," in which case he probably would not see the reply to his questions even if it were published. By all means send information direct to the person who asks for it.

#### JUSTICE AS A FARCE.

The stage is not the only place where farce is presented. Sometimes court proceedings partake of that nature to a marked degree. Only a few days ago a young woman appeared in a New Jersey temple of justice, accused of bigamy. She confessed that she had forgotten her own name, and also that she had married one Mr. Smith without first securing a divorce from a former husband, Mr. Humphrey, of whose existence, she said, she was entirely oblivious. She explained further that if she had married the latter he must have hypnotized her. And this explanation was accepted by the twelve good men and true who listened to the evidence and set their seal of approval upon it by declaring her "not guilty."

Is the insanity and "mental epilepsy" fake played out, and is the hypnotism subterfuge now to be resorted to in order to defeat the ends of justice? This appears probable from the prominence it has been given lately in some criminal cases.

If there is any one thing of supreme importance to the well-being of a country, it is the administration of its laws in the spirit in which they are given. No nation can afford to trifle with justice for any purpose whatever. It is not the making of laws but their just execution that influences the character of a people in the right or the wrong direction. To make laws and then suffer them to be circumvented or ignored has an effect upon public morals similar to that which good resolutions, never carried out, have upon individuals.

It is a well established fact that nearly every downward course of men and women is marked at intervals with such broken resolutions, every one of which helps to weaken the will-power and therefore to accelerate the speed of the fall. So universal is the observation that it may be put down as a natural law that only by constant activity in the right direction can individual moral health be preserved. So it is with nations. Neglect of the laws given for the guidance of public morals has a disastrous effect felt in all the relations which man necessarily must enter into with his fellow-men in a state. Defective laws can be remedied as occasion requires or experience demands, and when carried out will be remodeled, but against the spirit of lawlessness that tramples even good laws into the dust, what remedy is there? Between the anarchy of mobs and the anarchy of jurymen, the best