

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

A SUGGESTION ON HEALTH.

It is interesting, if not comforting, to note the fact that the present season in these mountains, reaching through Idaho and Utah, has been characterized by an unusual amount of sickness among the people. Fortunately the death rate has not been high, the nature of the sickness not being of a specially fatal character, although it has brought much discomfort and suffering that cannot fail to have its effect in the sum total of years in this probation. Another characteristic is that this sickness has assailed those in the vigorous age of mortals, thus materially decreasing the amount of energy which the community has been able to put forth for its development and progress.

This unusual prevalence of sickness among those of the age referred to suggests that there is something more than the special causes that often strike down individuals in the prime of life. It points out that conditions prevail which tend to a common disregard of the laws of health, and consequently natural effects follow. Where people become intemperate, or are unmindful of sanitary regulations; where they are deprived of healthful nourishment through famine, or are not discriminating in the class of food they take into their systems; and where they are neglectful of rules of exercise for proper physical development, or are thrown into a situation where the supply of clear, pure air is limited, the result of ill health is commonly observable, and sometimes takes on the form of a terrible epidemic. In these valleys, however, there has been nothing suggestive of famine, not removal of the necessity for work which gives exercise, no special crowding together to reduce the quantity of air space available, no notable increase of intemperance, and no occasion for a sudden development into unsanitary conditions. Therefore, if the people have been taking into their bodies only the kinds and quality of food that are beneficial, no good reason yet appears for the sickness which has prevailed.

Addressing the Latter-day Saints from a religious standpoint, verified reports indicate that among them there is a well-recognized cause for the ill effect which is apparent. They have all heard of the Word of Wisdom and the rule it enforces in the way of abstention from such injurious substances as liquor, tobacco, hot drinks, excessive use of meats, and intemperance in conduct of any kind; and it seems that, while many have given heed to the counsel in that Word, there have been many others who, apparently from the very fact that an effort has been made to impress upon them the proper mode of life, have chosen to move in an opposite direction. From this condition it is not hard to assume that the cause for the general ill health complained of lies in the disregard of that Word, since it is among those of an age to come under the direct operation of its counsel.

We do not wish to be understood as saying that because of the special teaching of the Word referred to there has been a general move the other way. The opposite would be nearer the truth; and one effect has been a heavy decrease in the quantity of liquor, tobacco, etc., used in these valleys. The class that have been the means of this improvement have kept up the healthy part of the statistics. But many who should know better have failed to take the share in this progressive movement, and have thrown their balance on the other side. Of a large section of this State where the complaint of general sickness was specially made, a recent investigation showed that a considerable proportion of those in leading positions disregarded the Word of Wisdom. As the condition of the pastor is commonly suggestive of that of his flock, the conclusion is unavoidable. If those who profess to be Saints desire to enjoy good health they must not disregard the laws by which it is attained.

COIN VIEWS AND STATEHOOD.

Speaker Reed is quoted as having said he would oppose the admission of any more territories to statehood because he did not favor any increase of the silver strength in Congress. Perhaps he is really guilty of this declaration, perhaps not; at any rate it is the argument of quite a number of influential people, and is extremely popular with a considerable school of the public press.

We say "argument," but the word is a misnomer; it is really not an argument at all. The rule of the fathers and their honest successors was to ascertain, not the views of any particular colonial or territorial community upon any particular issue of politics, but their desire and qualifications for self-government, their strength and patriotism, their willingness and ability to bear the burdens and discharge the high duties of sovereignty as one of the sisterhood of states. An unfavorable decision upon these latter points, or any of them, was and is and should be the only proper cause for refusing the right of statehood to any organized section of territory. If a favorable decision could be honestly given, the question of whether the people preferred gold or silver or wampum or cabbage as a medium of exchange has never been deemed a logical matter for further objection; it might as well be asked whether they used the spoon more than the knife in eating, or whether their bicycle girls were addicted to bloomers. These are of course frivolous comparisons; but are they not as logical and as trustworthy as the motive attributed to Speaker Reed for opposing the admission of any more western states, and certainly entertained and expressed by many influential people in the East?

Neither politics nor religion, neither hardness nor softness of the money tendency, nor even the color or quantity of the hardness of the coin, is fairly to be reckoned among the

qualifications of a territory for statehood; and in assuming to fix a standard of monetary orthodoxy to which all must subscribe, our gold-loving friends are setting up a false and dangerous precedent—one that may very easily return to vex them at a later day. There are statutory grounds—if not good at least plenty of them—upon which to keep a territory in a condition of governmental tutelage and wardship; but neither law, expediency nor sense recognizes silver as one of them. The people of Phoenix and Tucson have as good a right to believe in silver money as the people of New York and Philadelphia have to believe in gold money; and when they come to think of it as American citizens we believe that no considerable class of the lawmakers, lecturers, preachers, politicians or press writers will care to dispute it.

AN HONOR WORTHILY BESTOWED.

The NEWS begs to offer its sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Cornelia Horne Clayton upon her selection as member of the school board for Provo, and to the good people of Utah county upon securing the lady's capable services in that important position. Mrs. Clayton is a Utah woman born and bred, and has lived nearly all her life in Salt Lake City, her parents having come to the valley the first year of its settlement. She is well and affectionately remembered by the bright coterie of young men and women forming the "Wasatch" and other social and literary societies in the '70's, in which she was a prominent figure. Before her marriage she was business manager of the Woman's Exponent; the promise of youth was verified in her maturity and she developed into a strong, lovable, self-reliant and well-balanced woman. We believe she is the first woman to hold civil office in Utah.

A RULE OF SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

To the strict rules of etiquette and courtesy enforced at the White House, as affecting the conduct of guests to dinner, the rest of the country is indebted for an example that cannot be too closely followed as an established custom. When the guests came to be seated at a recent dinner given by Mrs. Cleveland, it was noticed that there were two vacant places, reserved for the solicitor general and his wife. Soon afterwards the tardy couple made their appearance at the official residence, but on proceeding to the dining room they found the doors barred against them and a blunt usher to inform them in effect that late comers obtained no dinner. The rebuke was so public and so severe that there are rumors of high dudgeon and all that kind of thing in exalted social circles.

And yet every person with ordinary common sense will agree that Mrs. Cleveland's rule is an eminently proper one. The people who had cause to be offended in the case in point were the host and hostess, certainly not the delinquents. In all like cases the guests who may be so ill-mannered and discourteous as to come late are