

from that religion, and dissensions and crime weakened them for their annihilation by the savages. Perhaps the discoveries of the late expedition under Prof. McGhee may not fully establish the Sonora remains to be the work of this more civilized people until further investigation is made, but its tendency in that direction is of importance in view of a truth, already known beyond dispute among those who have weighed the matter fairly, and that will be thoroughly recognized in the not distant future, viz.: that the Book of Mormon history of ancient America is an accurate account of the rise and fall of nations on this continent in former ages.

### THE CHOIR TRIP WEST.

Some weeks ago the NEWS announced the intention of a Tabernacle Choir trip to California, to give a series of concerts there, in which about two hundred selected voices from the choir would take part. Since that time frequent reference has been made to the proposed visit, both in local papers and by the leading California journals. In the Golden State the anticipated action of the choir is hailed with pleasure; and there is every promise that the great organization will be as hospitably received as it was on the occasion of its trip to the World's Fair. So far as concerns the musical part of any program the choir may give, those who are familiar with its renditions from Sabbath to Sabbath, and its occasional concerts here, have no doubt that the Californians will be afforded an artistic treat that the most devoted disciples of the divine art can listen to with delight.

The present seems a most opportune occasion for the proposed visit to the coast. The eyes of the whole nation, and especially the West, are directed to Utah, from the new position she has assumed in national affairs. In promoting the vast material interests of the industrial classes, particularly in connection with the development of agriculture in the great West, she is recognized as occupying a very important position; and this, taken in connection with her newly acquired power in the nation, inspires a desire on the part of neighbors to become better acquainted with her people and the methods that have brought them success. Hence when any considerable body of Utah people appear in public elsewhere nowadays they receive most considerate attention, and consequently are able to make a favorable impression on behalf of the State generally. We know of no organization able to make these visits that can do so much good to the State in this regard as can the choir. Its appearance anywhere in the states east or west is a revelation of surpassing loveliness regarding the people of Utah.

The choir's visits also have a salutary effect on behalf of the religious idea through which the organization was created. That body is a Church institution, representative of Mormonism. Wherever it is seen and heard, the chief thought back of all is centered upon the Mormon people and the religion which has brought them to their present standard. The pleasing impressions re-

ceived from beholding the Tabernacle Choir and listening to their enchanting music are messages of peace and friendship, conveyed through the agency of the organization, in behalf of the Mormon people, individually and collectively. Its singers are members of an effective missionary corps to reveal to the world truths of Mormonism when all other avenues for that purpose may seem closed; the words and spirit of the hymns they sing are Gospel discourses to the yearning souls who listen; the godly walk and conversation of the choristers is witness of the saving nature of the religion which has brought them to-gether. Hence their occasional visits abroad are in full accord in their effects with the genius of the organization as a Church choir.

Gratifying as it is to listen to plaudits from strangers concerning the choir, it is still more pleasing to know that at home where the people are familiar with the organization there is an exalted appreciation of its ability and services. Therefore in every undertaking like the suggested visit, the good will and faith of the people go out in support of the choir, to the full consummation of its commendable purpose; and on this occasion, we again wish it the success it so richly deserves.

### MR. NAYLOR AND UTAH.

We have received from Richard Bridge, of Heber City, Utah, copies of the Leigh, Lancashire, England, Chronicle, containing articles on Utah and the Mormons. There tell of the visit of James Naylor and wife to Utah a few weeks ago, where they were the guests of Mr. Bridge, an old acquaintance of Mr. Naylor. In his interview with the newspaper representative, Mr. Naylor tells of his trip to Provo valley, Park City, Salt Lake City, Saltair and other places, giving his impressions of the places visited in a very frank manner. He makes a straightforward statement of conditions here, free from that adverse prejudice which marks much that is said and written of Utah and her people. Reference is made to the evident happiness and prosperity of those who dwell here; and with regard to their self-supporting ability Mr. Naylor cites the condition of Provo valley, Wasatch county, where he made a prolonged stay. He says: "The people of the valley supply themselves with almost everything they require in the shape of food, each having at his disposal a large area of cultivated land. The valley, with a population of seven thousand, boasts of not having a single destitute person among them. Food is very cheap, and it appears an easy thing for them to make a living. In Heber valley the people are mostly Mormons, and their principal occupation is farming, cattle-breeding and dealing. The valley is surrounded by beautiful snow-capped mountains. During the whole summer they get only a few rainy days, and as this is not sufficient to grow crops, the ground is watered by irrigation from the mountain streams." Mr. and Mrs. Naylor were in Salt Lake during a bicycle torchlight procession and Republican women's parade, each

of which items receives attention as a novelty to the English tourist.

The entire interview breathes a good feeling toward Utah, and in its fair treatment of those who dwell here cannot fail to give a more correct and favorable impression in the country where the Leigh Chronicle circulates than has existed there heretofore. If more of the English visitors to Utah would give such an impartial statement of the situation they find here to the newspapers, many editors, and through them the people, would have their ideas of this part of America revolutionized. It might not be amiss to suggest further that the kind hospitality of Mr. Bridge and others whom Mr. and Mrs. Naylor met, and their readiness to discuss actual conditions, has a marked influence in evoking the sympathy and friendliness of our English visitors, who possess the admirable faculty of speaking of Utah people as they found them.

### THE WOMAN'S BIBLE.

The first part of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's "Woman's Bible" has been pretty generally reviewed by the press of the country, which has found in it little to commend and much to condemn. It is generally regarded as a travesty on the Scriptures, largely because of the flippant and irreverent style of the writer. The work is not a translation or even a systematic commentary on the Bible; but passages here and there are picked out and made the butt of ridicule or object of denunciation. The Minneapolis Tribune has about the mildest of any of the criticisms that have come to hand, and that paper calls it a "unique and absurd performance which in meeting with deserved reprobation," adding the suggestion that:

Many women prominent in the reforms to which Mrs. Stanton and her coadjutors have devoted their lives, look upon this Woman's Bible as a mistake, and regret that Mrs. Stanton should close her great career with a work which can only prove harmful to her sex and retard the true advancement of woman.

The trouble with the "Woman's Bible" is that it fails to consider the ancient books from the standpoint of the times of which they are a record, and consequently presents the portions of Scripture dealt with in a false light. Susan B. Anthony recognizes this fault when she says "the women have just as good a right to translate and twist the Bible to their own advantage as the men have to twist and turn it to their advantage, as they have done always," and attempts to excuse it by adding: "Now that the women have dared to do what the men have done always, they are called impious." But even if men have mutilated and distorted the Scriptures, that affords no justification for a further perversion and twisting on the part of the women. Upon this subject the majority of thinking people will feel, as expressed by the Des Moines Register, that "the making of a new Bible, or the new interpretation, which is the same thing practically, is a serious and a solemn undertaking, and should not be entered upon in a flippant manner, in a female 'Bob' Ingersoll way."