

were and are supposed to be the oldest historical records known.

Of the real age of the buildings here unearthed no definite idea can be given. Archaeologists are sometimes inclined to ascribe to the many monuments of ancient civilization, now being unearthed, a higher antiquity than facts and correctly understood evidence warrant. It seems to them that the slowly working laws of evolution require millenniums instead of centuries for certain effects in nature and history, forgetting, it seems, that in both these fields not only evolution but also revolution must be counted as a factor.

One thing, however, in the latest discoveries in the Babylonian mounds may be worth while bearing in mind. If it is made probable that the civilization of Babylonia is a branch of that of Egypt, Dr. Le Plongeon would in this fact probably find one more support for the theory he has advocated lately, viz., that the cradle of civilization stood on this continent and that its course was eastward from here over a now immersed country to Africa, and particularly to Egypt.

WHICH IS THE SUPERIOR JUDGMENT?

The Pleasant Hill, Missouri, Gazette has an editorial on "The Mormon Work," in reference to the recent Jubilee celebration here. It praises the accomplishment of the settlement of this region, but admits its prejudice, especially against President Brigham Young, and shows it, too. It also admits knowing very little about Mormon doctrine, but expresses a hope that it will die away, although declaring a wish that Mormon works will remain. Of President Young it says, in part:

We may deny his religion, but we cannot deny his work. He may have been a false prophet, but he was not a false builder. He may not have been inspired of God, but he inspired other men himself to do great things. We may deny his claims to divine leadership and divine authority, but we cannot deny that God made him and controlled him. Who, then, can blame his people for believing him an inspired instrument of the Creator? The great works of a creator are still there, and these people who have been there for fifty years saw Brigham Young and his associates laying the plans and completing those works.

This Missouri editor sees the fruits of Mormonism, and describes them to be good, yet declares the tree that produced them to be evil. He praises the purity of the stream, but condemns the source, Mormon doctrine, as impure. He also professes devout belief in Christ; therefore, in view of his peculiar attitude toward the religion of the Mormons, which made them what they are, these words of the Divine Master may surely be food for profitable contemplation:

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree

bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of his heart the mouth speaketh.

The Gazette editor has pointed out the fruits of Brigham Young and his people to be good—to be those that characterize a true Prophet and a truly Christian people. Does he insist that his judgment of the source of their production is superior to that of the Lord?

THE "IMPROVEMENT ERA."

The News has received the prospectus of another venture in the journalistic field, a monthly magazine to be known as the Improvement Era. It is to be published under the direction of the General Superintendency of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement associations, as the official paper of that extensive organization. The Improvement Era is to be issued on the first of each month, commencing with November next; it comprises 64 octavo pages of reading matter, in clean type and on good paper, and the excellent quality of the doctrinal, historical and other reading that will necessarily come into a magazine under such management and in such a field as this will operate, will make it one of the most valuable publications which the people can receive.

The contents of the first volume are outlined in a general way in the prospectus. These consist of historical information concerning mutual improvement organization and work in these valleys; of the early life of leading characters in history; Bible studies; the various religious faiths of the world; progress in art and science; pioneer history and achievement; the acquirement of statehood by Utah, and future prospects of the State; missionary correspondence and experience; notes of current events; suggestions in improvement work; and editorial comment. The prospectus thus states the objects which the magazine seeks to attain:

It will be our aim to make a magazine that will be of general interest and value to all the people of the State, treating all subjects in a broad and liberal spirit, making it absolutely reliable in its facts, and just in its comments. But chiefly our aim will be to publish a magazine that will meet the necessity and satisfy the aspirations of the young men of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and, above all things else, will be devoted to their uplifting intellectually, morally, spiritually; a magazine that shall stand for the truth, for righteousness, for true patriotism, in a word, a magazine that shall stand for mutual improvement of the youth: that will seek to assist them in securing individual testimonies of the truth and magnitude of the great latter-day work; that shall aid them in developing the gifts within them and cultivating a knowledge and an application of the eternal principles of the great science of life.

There is a rich field for the operations of such a journal as the Improvement Era aims to be—a field

ready for the harvest of bearing to the 25,000 or more young men who, in these valleys, ought to be active members of the Mutual Improvement associations, the results of careful investigation, rich experience, ripe judgment, and thorough knowledge of fundamental principles, which may bring to them success here and through all succeeding stages of their experience. As an organ of the Mutual Improvement associations, fulfilling its duty capably, the Improvement Era ought to have a great future in the field where there is no occasion to trench on the rights of any, but every opportunity to unite with present workers for the good of the people.

As a guaranty of the high character and ability which the Improvement Era is assured of from the outset, it is sufficient to note that its editors are President Joseph F. Smith and Elder B. H. Roberts, the business management being in the hands of Elder Heber J. Grant, assisted by Elder Thomas Hull. The News extends its most cordial welcome to the new magazine, and wishes it the highest success in the noble work it is intended to engage in.

FOR MUNICIPAL REFORM.

In another column will be found an account of a movement just inaugurated having for its object sweeping reforms in municipal affairs. Its promoters represent all shades of political and religious belief, but exclude all such matters from consideration. Retrenchment and reform in city government are the watchwords, and it is proposed to seek success along purely independent and non-partisan lines. Cleanliness, integrity, economy, and business qualifications for the place to be filled, will be required of those whom it is proposed to honor with nomination and election—in a word it is designed to cultivate and render effective the proposition that the government of Salt Lake City is a business and not a political matter.

Surely the time is opportune for such a movement. Ridden to death with taxes, groaning under abuse which seem to multiply almost daily, without present prospect of relief and no sign of sympathy from their elected servants, the people are ripe for revolt against existing methods, and we believe they will hail this movement with joy. The usual political machinery within party lines promises nothing that is tangible or that can be depended upon. As to the old parties, neither has a monopoly of the driving incompetence, if not the rank scoundrelism, that has made people ashamed of the whole concern. Neither can expect to suppress the heelers and the burrah-boys in the primaries and nominating conventions, and thus neither can prevent the likelihood of political traffic and trickery by which bad men, or at least unfit and incapable men, may be put up for office. From such incompetence the great body of the people turn away in disgust, and we are confident they will join hands, regardless of all other considerations, in making the new movement triumphant.

The News has not always dated to