

EDITORIALS.

NEW BOOK.

Correspondence of Palestine Tourists is the title of an interesting volume, of nearly 400 pages, printed and published, and now for sale, at the DESERET NEWS office, containing ninety-five letters written by various members of the party which left this city in the winter of 1872, under the guidance of the late President George A. Smith, on a mission to Palestine, a mission undertaken for the purpose of consecrating the Holy Land, preparatory to the gathering home of the long scattered remnants of Israel—one of the main features connected with the great latter-day work of God generally called "Mormonism."

The letters now published were written in part by the late President George A. Smith, also by President Lorenzo Snow, of Brigham City, and by Miss E. R. Snow and Elder Paul A. Schettler of Salt Lake City. They abound with descriptions of the sights and scenes witnessed by the party in the various countries visited from the time of leaving until their return to Salt Lake City; and when it is remembered that the members of the Palestine Mission visited England, France, Holland, Belgium, Austria, Italy, various states of Germany, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Arabia, Syria and Palestine, giving graphic word paintings of the most famous places on their route and of the moral and social condition of the people of the various countries and localities in which they sojournd, it must be acknowledged that the field from which the materials forming the subjects of the present volume were selected was vast, and in the hands of parties of well known talent and ability such as most of the authors of "Palestine Correspondence," it is reasonable to expect a work of far more than ordinary attraction, and such, after a careful perusal, we unhesitatingly pronounce the present volume, many of the letters, and especially those of President Snow, being written in a very charming style and brimful of information, related in an intensely interesting manner.

A few letters at the commencement of the volume are occupied with descriptions of the trip from Salt Lake City to New York, calling, en route, at various places, including Washington, where an interview was had with President Grant and visits made to the several departments of the government, etc.; the voyage and experience of the party across the Atlantic, their arrival on the Irish coast, and the trip to Liverpool are then described. While in Liverpool some of the members of the mission visited the workhouse in that city—a model institution of its kind—a minute description of the building and of its inmates and management forming by no means the least interesting chapter of the correspondence.

From Liverpool they proceeded to the world's metropolis—London—and spent a few days in visiting the principal points of interest therein, including the Tower, British Museum, Crystal Palace, and many other noted places and objects, including the Albert Memorial, erected by the people of Britain in honor of the late Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. This monument is said to be the grandest in the world, and a most elaborate description of its marvels and beauties, by President Snow, will excite the wonder and admiration of all readers.

At London the party embarked for Holland, and they furnish a graphic and striking account of the Hague and other principal cities of that country, as well as of its navy, commerce, manufactures, colonial and home government, and the domestic customs and condition of the people; also a very brief sketch of their heroic struggle for independence with the Spaniards in the 16th century, and of their continued battles, and the method of conducting them, with old ocean in rescuing land enough for themselves to live upon from his unceasing inroads and incursions.

Belgium was the next country visited, and an interesting chapter is furnished about the sights and

scenes of Antwerp and Brussels, the customs and religion of their people, the field of Waterloo, etc.

From Belgium to France, and then comes one of the most interesting portions of the volume in describing Paris and its palaces, monuments, parks, schools, museums, libraries, the terrible destruction wrought in the days of the Commune, an interview with President Thiers and his cabinet of Versailles, the military system of the country, the prisons, the condition of the working classes, the wine industry, Lyons and its silk factories, Marseilles and its commerce and many other matters of interest and importance pertaining to the moral, political and social status and condition of the people of that great country.

Italy was next honored with the presence of the party, and there the pen and brain of its able writers found abundant materials to divert and interest their friends and readers in Utah, in the accounts they furnished of the sights and scenes they there beheld, consisting of the master pieces of art—sculpture, painting and architecture; the religious superstitions of the people and the terrible prevalence of idleness and beggary amongst them; the curiosities of Venice, a city without horses and carriages, whose streets are canals and whose citizens are transported from place to place in their gondolas or boats; Turin and its manufactures; Naples, Genoa, the birthplace of Columbus, Pisa and its leaning towers, Milan and its wonderful cathedral, Rome, present and past, its world-renowned ruins, St. Peter's cathedral, the Vatican, also Pompeii, Herculaneum, Vesuvius, etc., all furnish themes for graphic descriptions, which will delight the intelligent reader.

After leaving Italy the party proceeded to Corfu and thence took passage for Alexandria, Egypt, and now they cross the dividing line separating the nations of Europe from those of the Orient, and henceforth their descriptive scenes are of a more romantic if not of a more interesting character to the reader in far western America. In Alexandria they find a population of a strange and motley character, consisting principally of Turks, Greeks, Arabs, Syrians, Copts, Armenians, Nubians, &c., with the dress and language of their several countries, presenting sights and sounds inconceivable to the untravelled European and American.

From Alexandria our travellers wend their way to Cairo, where they visit the gardens of the Khedive, also the various mosques and other places of interest, after which they make trips to the pyramids, the Sphinx, Cleopatra's Needles, Pompey's Pillar, the Catacombs, City of Heliopolis, Temple of On, Fountain of the Sun, Land of Goshen, and other mementoes and localities famous in the days of the Pharaohs, all of which are described, and sketches given of the manners, customs, religions and social condition of the people of modern Egypt.

Leaving Cairo the party travelled to Ismailia, whence they proceeded, via the Suez Canal, to Port Said, and from the latter place to Jaffa, the scriptural Joppa, the place of debarkation in the Holy Land, the grand objective point of the journey. Jaffa is said to be the most ancient seaport in the world, and the arrival and landing of the Mission at that place, their visit to the "house of one Simon, a tanner," mentioned in the Scriptures, the arrangements for and commencement of camp life and of the journey to Jerusalem, are all minutely detailed, greatly augmenting the interest felt by the reader, if he be a Bible believer, in the account of this pilgrimage and mission to the Holy Land. En route from Jaffa they pass the place where tradition says Noah built the Ark, Jonah's place of embarkation, over the Plains of Sharon, battle field of David and Goliath, Arimathea, Valley of Ajalon, Lydda of the Acts, Kirjath Jearin, Bethlehem, ruins of Jericho, and various other famous Scripture localities, have two or three adventures with savage Bedouins, and finally arrive at the Holy City, Mount Zion, or Jerusalem, the most interesting locality on the whole globe to Christians of all denominations, as well as to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Graphic delineations of this ancient and famous city are given by various members of the party, as also of the "holy places" contained within the church of the Holy Sep-

ulchre, the head quarters of various contending so-called Christian sects, who carry on a lively rivalry in selling "genuine" relics connected with the closing scenes in the life and death of the Redeemer. A description is also given of the Mosque of Omar, one of the most famous places of worship of the Mahomedans, the ancient Jewish and Christian stronghold being now in possession and under the control of the followers of Islam.

The stay of the party at Jerusalem terminated with the accomplishment, on the summit of the Mount of Olives, of the grand object of their journey—the dedication of the land of Palestine preparatory to the return of the Jews. Thence commenced the return journey, during which the party visit and describe many of the places mentioned in the New Testament rendered most famous by the labors and miracles of Christ and his apostles, including the Jordan, Bethany, Samaria, Dothan, Nain, Nazareth, Cana of Galilee, Cesarea, Philippi, Bethsaida, site of Capernaum, finally arriving at Damascus, where tent life is abandoned, and the party embark for Beyrout, and thence to Constantinople, after a short stay at which they depart for Athens, the capital of modern Greece. While staying at the latter place they visited and give fine descriptions of the ruins of the grand architectural monuments of ancient Greece. From Greece they travel to Germany, describing many of its principal cities, including Vienna and its Great Exhibition, Berlin and its royal palace, Munich and its Kindergarten, Hamburg and its almost gigantic inhabitants, with notes and comments on the unhealthy moral condition of the Germans.

In the month of May, 1873, they again arrived in London, and within a short time reach Liverpool, whence they speedily embark for and, after a prosperous trip, arrive in New York, and thence start by rail for "home, sweet home," in the peaceful valleys of Utah.

From the preceding very brief review it will be apparent to all readers that the "Correspondence of Palestine Tourists" is no commonplace volume, and it may be safely said that it would be almost, if not absolutely, impossible to find the same amount of information on the subjects treated upon within its pages in any small volume extant. It is published at a price moderate enough to place it within reach of all, the proprietor of the work, President Lorenzo Snow, having no design to make money by its publication, and is certainly deserving the perusal of and ought to have a large circulation among the Latter-day Saints in Utah.

CHRISTIANCY'S UTAH BILL.

It appears that Senator Christianity has introduced another Utah bill into the Senate—a bill to "regulate" elections and to restrict the suffrage in this Territory. The "ring" here is tired of being outvoted, badly outvoted, all the time, and consequently is anxious to procure a law to disfranchise a large portion of the people of the Territory, and so bring the vote of the minority to a majority, as everything is fair in opposing the "Mormons."

This bill restricts the suffrage in this Territory in three ways—

1. By abolishing woman suffrage.
2. By allowing only full-fledged American male citizens over 21 years old to vote.
3. By disfranchising all citizens who may have entered into plural marriage since 1862.

It is not stated how it is proposed to be known that a citizen is open to that objection—whether he must have been convicted of the same by due course of law, or whether he must be confronted with an iron-clad oath to the effect that he is or is not open to that objection.

But this provision itself is open to the very serious question of its constitutionality or unconstitutionality, inasmuch as Congress is prohibited from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, plural marriage constituting an essential part of the religion of nearly all the inhabitants of this Territory.

The flagrant inconsistency and wicked hypocrisy of the authors of this bill are manifest in the asserting of the classes who are to be dis-

franchised by it. They are two—1. Women—mothers, sisters, daughters. No matter how pure, how womanly, how noble. If they are the queens of society, the glory of their sex, they must not be allowed to vote because they live in Utah.

2. Those men who marry more than one woman. But all other male "citizens" over twenty-one are abundantly welcome. They may be thieves, liars, swindlers, adulterers, whoremongers, or absolute criminals of any class, but if they have not married more than one wife, they can go to the polls unchallenged. They may have ruined scores of girls, debauched many of their neighbors' wives, but that counts nothing on election day, they can go to the polls with the purest and best citizens, and the law says not nay to them. But woe to any one marries two good and pure women, and proves a faithful husband to them. Those who do that must be excluded from the polls. Such is the *Christianity* virtue of those who would reform Utah.

PARTIES AND PEOPLE.

WASHINGTON'S birthday was not a happy day among the political partisans in this city and county. After much preliminary bowing of trumpets, the partisans assembled in their usual place of public gathering to elect delegates to the Cincinnati convention. The crowd assembled split into two sections—one for Grant and a third term, and the other opposed to that ticket and platform. The sections being pretty evenly divided, there was a grand time of confusion worse confounded, and two sets of delegates had to be elected, both of which sets may represent the partisans, but neither represents the people. Now if the people should elect a set of delegates to represent them, and all three delegations should go to the claim seats, would not the Convention have a difficult task before it to determine which set should be admitted as the delegation from Utah?

WHO ARE TO BLAME?

WHEN our readers see in the dispatches or otherwise that this or the other senator or representative introduces a bill in Congress for obnoxious special legislation affecting Utah, they are apt straightway to presume that the said senator or representative is the father of the bill and that he endorses it in whole and in part. This presumption is fair, but it is not always in accordance with the facts in the case. It is fair because it is natural for a frank and honest man to suppose that if a member of Congress disapproved of a bill he would not present it and thus help it to become law, but would leave it for somebody else to present, whose views might accord with the tenor and provisions of the bill. But the ways of politicians are not necessarily the ways of ordinary frank and honest citizens, and sometimes there is a great deal of wireworking in order to procure the presentation of a bill. It is something to have a bill presented by a senator or a representative of good repute as a man and a citizen, and especially as a member of Congress and a person of influence therein. Then it is often important to have a bill presented within certain party lines, inasmuch as most legislation is accomplished as a party matter, rather than on its own intrinsic merits. Further, when outrageous special legislation is sought, as is the case with nearly if not quite all of the special legislation for Utah, it is sometimes important to have the bill presented by a member who is inexperienced in regard to Utah affairs and comparatively ignorant of the true situation here. Such a man may be expected to be more impressionable to the terrible tales told of Utah for political effect in Washington, and may be more easily, and more thoroughly, stuffed with the highly colored misrepresentations which the party seeking such legislation knows so well how to invent and to use for the accomplishment of its nefarious purposes.

As to members not declining to present certain bills which they do not endorse, there are often party and other influences brought to bear upon them to deter them from de-

clining, which influences they may conclude it would be a losing game to them individually to resist for various and sufficiently potent political reasons.

In regard to the bills presented by Messrs. Springer and Christianity, we have seen no reason that, all things considered, should lead us to conclude that they endorse those bills or consider themselves as individually committed in favor of them. Messrs. Springer and Christianity are not the authors of the bills. The real authors of the bills are members of the Utah ring. They concoct the bills, and then, as they themselves cannot present their bills in Congress, some member of that body has to be persuaded and won over, by hook or by crook, to do the business of presentation, and act as ostensible sponsor of the bills.

Thus the blame of the originating of these outrageous bills and the pushing of them upon Congress may be safely attached to the members of the Utah ring, who, though unfavorably and contemptibly known here, are not so well known in Washington. If they were they would be weaker there than they are. If there has been a proscription bill concerning Utah presented in Congress, or passed by that body, and the Utah ring has not approved of it, the sole reason of the non-approval has been because the said bill was not sufficiently proscription in its character and outrageous in its provisions. The more proscription and outrageous a bill is, the more the members of the ring like it, and the more indecently demonstrative they are in approbation of it. The more completely a bill for Utah subverts the fundamental principles of American government, the better the Utah ring likes it, and the more emphatic are the members of the ring in manifesting their insane delight over such ruinous legislation. No bill affecting Utah has ever been introduced in Congress that has been too proscription for them. None could be introduced, proscribing the "Mormons," no matter how tyrannical, vindictive, and cruel it might be, that would not be hailed with joy by the Utah ring, and the passage of such extreme measures would be gloated over by the clique, and its triumph celebrated with poems of the wildest delight, the most ecstatic joy, for the Utah ring is as unscrupulously wicked as Satan, as inexorable as death, as cruel as the grave, and as relentless as fate.

PLACES OF EXIT.

THE matter of exit from large public buildings ever and anon engages the attention of the public. Some public buildings are notoriously deficient in this particular. The places of exit should be large and sufficiently numerous, with the doors always opening outward when they do not open both ways. The recent calamity at the Cincinnati Opera House has elicited renewed attention to this subject. At the New York Hippodrome the large audiences to hear Moody and Sankey diminished nightly, to the surprise of the managers, who discovered that all the doors opened inward, that as soon as the house was full every entrance was closed and barred to prevent interruption by late comers, and that the public became concerned about it, not wishing to be caught in such a trap in case of fire, stampede or other alarm. The management at once made the changes necessary to remove this serious objection, and all managers of public buildings should do likewise, where necessary.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—The Maine farmers are thinking of making beet-sugar on an extensive scale.

—The Birmingham (Eng.) *Daily Mail* of Jan. 27 publishes the memorial of the 22,626 women of Utah to Congress, and in a subsequent issue appears an explanatory letter from Elders W. H. Maughan, Edward Hanham, V. L. Halliday, J. T. Belliston, and T. A. Wheeler.

—The Volkes family are to leave England for America once more about the middle of March. It is said that Miss Victoria is to shortly marry Mr. Critchett, the son of a celebrated London oculist, and Miss Rosina is to marry Mr. Cecil Clay, son of the celebrated