

Short Line and its coast connections would be operated as a separate system, though in close alliance with the other four Vanderbilt roads. When asked if he thought the Ogden gateway would be closed, he replied that he did not know, but that, reasoning from analogy, he would say no, because all other gateways under Vanderbilt control were wide open.

The control of so much railroad capital, mileage and property is a stupendous thing to be centered in the hands of any one interest, and such a concentration of power might easily be abused with widespread and disastrous results. But at the present time there does not appear above the horizon any sign of injury to any locality, or to any class of citizens, in any part of the country, in consequence of the recent absorption under one control of so much railroad mileage.

#### NEW INDUSTRIES FOR ST. CHARLES.

In several recent issues of the "News," in the column devoted to the use of the Industrial Bureau, has appeared a statement to the effect that the town of St. Charles, Bear Lake county, Idaho, offered inducements for a saw mill and a dairy. A late communication from Bishop E. C. Keetch of that place to this paper contains the gratifying intelligence that plants of the kinds named are about to be established there, and that the statement that they are wanted need no longer be published.

St. Charles is to be congratulated. A saw mill and a dairy, the latter especially, will both be of great advantage to the people there. The milk of the cows can be turned into cash, and the resulting revenue will be very great if proper advantage is taken by the farmers of their opportunities. The value of the saw mill plant depends upon the amount of timber contiguous to it; but the crop of grass from which the butter and cheese are produced comes every year in boundless quantities in beautiful Bear Lake valley.

The Industrial Bureau is doing a good work, and richly deserves to be supported by all who are in a position to aid it. Correspondence concerning any matters referred to in the column which it controls in the "News" should be forwarded to it direct, rather than to the paper. Its address is Box 880, Salt Lake City.

#### RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS.

The view on the responsibility of parents set forth by Mr. Charles Ellis in a communication that appears in another column of the "News," is one that has frequently been advocated by a school of philosophers who are unable to "acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all things." If true, not only persons with physically weak constitutions, but also those struggling with poverty and adverse circumstances should shrink from, or perhaps be denied the responsibility of parentage; but experience has taught that some of the most noble spirits on earth—some of those who have made the epochs of history, have been born and reared in poverty and destitution; their very characters have been framed, and that for the good of nations, by the struggles of their early life.

To the covenant people, children are a blessing, one of God's gifts—a truth supported by Scripture and by experi-

ence. Parents whose hearts are right before their Heavenly Father and who consequently trust in Him for strength to fulfill all their duties, will not wish to evade the responsibility they believe He lays upon them as a sacred trust, to rear righteous offspring. They will rest assured that He is willing and able to supply all the means needed for that purpose, if approached in a prayerful spirit. "The more mouths the more bread," is a beautiful saying of Luther.

In the meantime it is not untimely to emphasize the responsibility of parentage. Latter-day Saints are aware of its vastness and need daily divine guidance, lest by their carelessness in this matter stumbling blocks should be placed in the paths of their children. It is to them a comforting thought that their sons and daughters have the ever sure promises of final exaltation, through the mercy that lasts forever, but they are nevertheless anxious lest through some neglect of their obstacles may be placed in the road that leads to this exaltation.

#### COLONISTS FOR UTAH.

It now appears as if the long-talked-of colonization scheme in Utah under the auspices of the Salvation Army is about to be realized. According to the report the colony will be established in the spring and be in working order before the year is ended. The plan is said to be to buy 10,000 acres of land in Bear River valley, near Corinne, on which to locate poor men, preferably those who have families. Each will receive a house, a cow, a horse, chickens, and ten acres of land, for which he gives a mortgage to the Army. The loan will amount to about \$200, and on this the colonist pays five per cent interest. When the sum is paid off, the farm belongs to the colonist.

The plan that contemplates the return of what may be called the overflow population of the cities to the rural districts is by many regarded as the most practical in which philanthropists at present are engaged. It is hoped that it will solve the pauper problem and prove the means of salvation, temporally and morally, to great numbers. How far these hopes will be realized will appear after the colonization has passed beyond the experimental stage. There is room in Utah for good, industrious and law-abiding citizens, able and willing to make the naturally rich soil productive of the necessities of life, and it is safe to say that if the Army colonization is successful anywhere, it will succeed here, provided the start is made with the proper material and on solid foundations.

#### WHICH IS THE TRUE CHURCH?

The result of the confusion in the Christian world, on contemplative minds, is well illustrated in a communication to the "News" from a gentleman in Martinsville, Indiana. The correspondent calls attention to the report of a meeting in a Methodist church held for the purpose of "exposing" Mormonism, on which occasion the speaker paid his compliments to the Saints in terms usually employed by some so-called Christian ministers. Then he sends a marked copy of the Free Gospel Advocate, apparently an exponent of the views held by the "Friends," in which the Methodists are denounced in substantially the same manner in which they, according to the report, de-

claimed against the Elders. They are called "hypocrites," "formalists," "dude preachers" and so on, and they are said to be the near relatives of "that man of sin."

The writer, in contemplating the fact that one sect is arrayed against the other, and all use the Bible as a weapon of defense and attack, says he is "bumfuzzled," although he is desirous of knowing the truth. He does know that all cannot be right, and he firmly believes that there must be one right way. But which?

Undoubtedly there are hundreds of honest souls throughout Christendom, who find themselves in just a similar position. The complicated maze of religious beliefs, all claiming to be scriptural, is bewildering to them. To urge that there is a real and indissoluble union in spirit between all true believers does not meet the objection, because that point is not in doubt. The question that arises is this: The visible Church of the Lord is a divine institution; its organization is evidently superior to all other organizations only so far as complying with the word of the Almighty; its doctrines are true only if in perfect harmony with revelation and its rules are binding because framed by divine authority. As Ignatius, speaking of different grades of Priesthood, expresses it: "Apart from these there is no Church." There may be Catholic, Protestant, Jew or Gentile; there may be religious denominations and missionary societies, but apart from the divine institutions there is no Church. Which, then, of all the organizations existing is the visible Church of the Lord? That is the main question, and it is not satisfactorily answered by dissertations upon the unity of the so-called invisible Church embodied in a diversity of factions all warring against one another.

The inquirer is best directed to the New Testament which, if studied in a prayerful and humble spirit, will open up the road that leads to truth. There we are told that religious divisions are an evidence of a carnal mind (1 Cor. 3: 3) and consequently displeasing to the Lord; it is further stated that the aim of Church organization is to "perfect the Saints," and bring about a "unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God" (Eph. 4: 12, 13) and that for this very reason Apostles, Prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers are given by the Head of the Church. The inference is, that the absence of divinely appointed officers from Christendom is one of the causes, if not the only cause, of the existing factions, and also that no religious organization without true Apostles, Prophets, etc., can lay claim to the title of the Church.

History proves that nearly every ecclesiastical secession in the world had for its cause the neglect or repression of some vital truth, or the incorporation into the system of some new dogma considered antagonistic to the truth, and the numerous factions existing furnish therefore ocular demonstration of the scriptural view that the Church without divinely inspired leaders, in the hands of men chosen only by men, must fall into the abyss of apostasy and there break to pieces.

To the question, Which is the Church of the Lord? only one correct reply is possible. It is the Church that is founded by the Lord and is led by His servants, who are in a position to communicate with Him, as were the Apostles and Prophets of old. Only one—the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—today claims to have these characteristics, asking in all humility the entire world to investigate this claim and test it. Thousands have done so and found temporal and eternal salvation. Mormonism is no longer an experiment. It is a