

RAILROAD IN PALESTINE.

A PRIVATE correspondent from Jaffa, Palestine, Mr. J. F. Dieterle, states, in a letter dated June 23rd, that the long-talked-of railroad between Jaffa and Jerusalem is to be finished in the course of two years from now. The work of grading is progressing speedily. The first locomotive ever seen in the Holy Land is expected in Jaffa this month, from New York. There is also some prospect of a railroad between Haifa and Damascus. An English syndicate with a capital of some millions of francs are interested in this work. As the present Sultan of Constantinople has shown himself favorable to reforms, it is thought likely that his vast dominions will be opened by degrees to the influx of occidental civilization.

THE ONLY HOPE OF THE FUTURE.

THE following excellent remarks which will be fully endorsed by the Latter-day Saints, are taken from the columns of the *Universalist*:

"It is only a well-known truism to affirm that it is the religious element in man that is the most significant sentiment of his nature. Yet it is a truism that needs constant restatement and constant enforcement. We must never allow it to drop out of sight in our estimate of things affecting humanity. 'The three terms of every language that have no peers, and can have none, are the terms God, soul, and immortality.' These stand far above all other words that the language involves in their relation to the interests of human life. It is these three words that give to the universe an inconceivable greatness and value, and without them the whole dwindles to a comparatively poor aspect, and life destitute of the realities for which they stand seems, indeed, not worth the living. We are hearing much at the present time of a melancholy and unrest that are stealing down over the masses of the people of Russia, Germany, England, and even in our own country. There is a troubled wave of discontent surging over these lands, bearing the name of 'communism' and 'socialism.' This is accompanied with a growing disposition to look with contempt on life and to speak of it sneeringly, as involving nothing of value for the great multitudes of the people. There seems to be a passing away of the old reverence for existence considered as the gift of God, and multitudes are getting morose and revolutionary. There is undoubtedly more than one explanation for this widespread discontent over the existing order of things. But it is a notable fact that it is almost invariably accompanied by the signs which indicate a loss of faith in the great spiritual realities, and is frequently the outgrowth of bald atheism. When men have ceased to regard life from the spiritual point of view, and are destitute of the cheerful hope of immortality, regarding man as only a short-lived brute, and the earth as the only scene that is permitted to

him, no wonder that the old esteem of life is lost and that the people fall into unrest, madness, and the delusion that to revolutionize society will somehow bring relief to their misery. Atheism is the worst disease of the world. These restless masses have passed out of the higher relations, and when God is forgotten, and the soul is denied, and the future discarded, the earth can only seem meager and life a poor struggle with a tragic end. One good office of the spiritual instinct is its tendency to create a bond of unity throughout the race, and to draw mankind into the relations of a common brotherhood. Humanity can only realize this condition by holding fast to the eternal verities. It is only the sentiment of religion that can hold men in order, that the best results of civilization and race can be made active among men."

ORGANIZATION AND DISINTEGRATION.

THE people of this generation are favored (or otherwise) with the privilege of living in times that have no parallel in human history. They exist in an epoch that can only be described by a paradoxical expression—a time of organization and disintegration.

This may seem to be a contradictory term, as organization usually signifies concentration of interests and forces, while disintegration means breaking up, dividing or dissolving. In these days social and political organisms are formed to obtain power and to get gain. When the objects seem to be achieved the associations split and its fragments reorganize in order to make war upon each other for possession of the spoils. This is where organization disorganizes. In fact some extensive compacts are entered into for the purpose of creating disintegration, such for instance is the purpose of the Nihilists and the votaries of extreme socialism.

When one contemplates the state of the world from this standpoint, he is filled with wonder, and with no small degree of sadness, as it takes no great amount of foresight to anticipate the natural result of the tendency of the times—riot, confusion, bloodshed and strife such as the earth never has before witnessed. There is scarcely a subject now into which the combination spirit does not enter, or that does not have the disintegrating result as its philosophical outcome. The only comfort one can draw from the aspect of affairs is that out of the future chaos will come a more perfect organization, permanent peace and prosperity than have ever yet blessed the world.

In the midst of the proposed combinations is one that is novel from

every aspect. It is inspired by the latest movement in Russia against the Jewish residents of that country which practically threatens them because of the ban under which it is proposed to place them. Now comes a proposal for a combination of the Hebrews throughout the balance of the world in their strong financial capacity to boycott the dominion of the Czar unless more humane treatment be accorded their brethren.

This is indeed a unique proposition, but should it be put in operation its result would doubtless be the opposite to the one desired in making it. Such a boycott would cause distress in portions of Russia, whose industries would be crippled by the inauguration of the adverse movement on the part of the Jews throughout the earth. Whatever of disaster was thus precipitated would arouse popular rage and bring about a popular assault against the Hebrews in that country that would cause their brethren to wish they had never taken the step to exasperate the Slavie people of the Czar against the remnants of the ancient people of God.

There is hardly any evil that is wholly unmixed with good. Who is able to say that the inimical attitude of the Czar and his Slavie subjects toward the Jews will not be a factor in hastening the time when the latter will be glad to return to the land of their fathers, begin to establish themselves as an individualized nationality and rebuild Jerusalem on its former site? The time is at hand when that marvelous work must begin on an extensive scale, and the signs seem to be distinctly pointing in that direction.

One feature of the proposed Hebrew boycott of Russia is somewhat suggestive. It shows that even in their scattered condition the Jews are a power in the world. This is necessarily the case, because they have a strong pull on the purse strings of the earth. As gold is the god of the world, the world is necessarily influenced by those who possess to a remarkable extent the deity at whose shrine they worship. The very proposition to assume the attitude referred to in regard to Russia is an evidence of the power within the grasp of the Jews as a people.

The barbers in Eagle Rock have given notice that they will do no more work on Sundays.