

with its title, are a little severe on the "Mormon" haters and not altogether flattering to society in general. In its issue of October 1st we find the following editorial, to which we need add no comment:

"The Hon. Alvin Saunders, sometime a United States Senator, from Nebraska, at present a member of the Utah Commission, but mostly fondled by fame because he has the happiness of being the father-in-law of the son of the grandson of General William Henry Harrison, says that the Commission will report to President Harrison that polygamy is dying out in the realms once ruled by the Hon. Brigham Young. It is possible that Mr. Saunders is right, although the conclusions of Government Commissions, genial bodies, which combine a dollar's worth of vacation with every cent's worth of investigation, are not usually accepted by the judicious as strong as proofs of Holy Writ. If, however, polygamy is dying out in Utah, the cause must be sought in the excessive competition in other parts of the Union. A judge in Chicago testified recently that the average life of a marriage in that surging town is four years. A youth who marries at twenty-one, can make at that rate six marriages before he comes to fifty years. This is what is called "consecutive polygamy," and it is said to be much superior to the Utah variety of contemporaneous polygamy. In New England and New York, too, monogamy seems to be dying out. The surplus of women is, in the words of a happily married Democratic statesman, a condition and not a theory that confronts us. I have no remedy at hand, but I do think that habitual divorces and marriages ought to be restrained as much as habitual criminals."

THE MUSICAL EXERCISES.

THE quality of the musical exercises of the late Conference were a matter of general comment. It is hardly necessary to state that the allusions to this subject were of a favorable character. Both the vocal and instrumental performances gave a charm to the occasion and were a source of delight to those who listened to them. The choir, under the leadership of Bro. Stephens, has attained a degree of proficiency that is a matter of common remark, while the accompaniment on the grand organ by Brother Daynes is nothing behind the singing, in excellence.

A YEAR OF CONGRESSES.

THE number of congresses, conventions and conclaves held this year throughout the United States is remarkably large. They have been of every kind, political, industrial, social, commercial and religious. On the 7th inst., what is known as the Western Slope Congress was organized at Grand Junction, Colorado. Its purpose is to consider the best means for developing the varied resources of Western Colorado. It embraces only the section west of what is known as the continental divide, and delegates from all

the counties, towns and industrial bodies in this region compose the body.

The idea was entertained largely that the division of Colorado into two States was contemplated, but a resolution introduced at the Grand Junction Congress on the 7th was not even considered, so unanimous was the sentiment in opposition to any such movement.

It is held that in mineral resources Western Colorado is unusually fertile, but that the best means for their development have not been adopted. It is also stated that for fruit raising there are exceptional advantages which are not availed of to a profitable extent. All such questions the Congress will consider. It seems rather strange, however, that it contemplates entering the World's Fair with its exhibits as "Western Colorado." This would naturally give the idea that a division of the State underlies the movement, no matter how pronouncedly such a project is disclaimed. The Congress will also ask the Federal government to establish national parks in that region.

Preparations are also being made for the holding of a national mining congress in Denver in the near future. This aims at being national. Not alone Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico will be represented, but delegates from Canada and many of the Atlantic States will be present.

Speakers of national repute will address the mining congress. Interesting features like drilling matches between miners will be introduced. Cheap rates of transportation will be secured from all roads centering in Denver, extending eastward to Chicago and westward to the Pacific Coast.

ON THE FRIENDLY ISLANDS.

WE have been permitted to peruse a letter from Elder Alva J. Butler, now a missionary on the Friendly Islands, which brings some interesting news from that far country. At the time of writing (Aug. 26) Elder Butler appears to have been occupying quarters in Nukua-lofa, Tonga, with Elder Brigham Smoot, of Provo. They had been settled there only a few days, but had already received lengthy and repeated visits from nearly the entire retinue of State dignitaries. The Parliament was in session and the members of that body, the governors of the various provinces, and even the father of the Prince, the premier and the English consul, made the Elders several friendly visits at their quarters and listened with much interest to their explanation of the principles of "Mormonism."

THE LOGAN CHOIR.

WE clip from the Salt Lake Times the following editorial which passes deserved encomiums on the Logan Tabernacle choir which is one of the best in the Territory.

"How difficult it is to write the history of the present. So much of passion and prejudice enter into the criticism of contemporaneous actors and institutions that not until time rolls the present into the long-drawn shadows of the past can man be sufficiently generous to be truly just. When fleeting years shall give a retrospective view of the Utah of today, and when surcease of strife and bitterness shall have placated and pacified our judgments, there are two phases of the Mormon regime that will enlist the interest and admiration of the historian. One is the architectural instinct; the other the musical genius of these people.

"As to architecture, it is remarkable that a people incessantly stigmatized as ignorant and uncultured should build magnificent churches and temples wherein to consecrate and dignify their devotions. Not only does the architectural impulse run in the line of religious consecration, but it also displays itself in the splendid residences and grounds, that give evidence of the thriftd taste of many Mormon citizens. It is true that half the millions spent in churches and temples might well have been invested in additional schoolhouses and colleges; but this possible amendment and improvement of the programme should not blind us to a fair apprehension of the potency, sincerity and solemnity of the religious fervor that begets such a broad and generous consecration of labor and treasure.

"In respect to the musical genius of this people, it is no exaggeration to say that the sense of harmony and melody, as a vehicle for the incitement and expression of religious sentiments, is more highly developed in the Mormon churches and tabernacles of Utah than among any of the older sectarian organizations. Not to mention the widely renowned four hundred choristers of Salt Lake City, we cite a less known but equally well drilled and meritorious class of singers who compose the tabernacle choir of Logan. The first thing that impresses the visitor is the marked degree of appreciation that is exhibited by every one of the large audience of four or five hundred in attendance. There is an art and inspiration in the choral service, and each attendant is uplifted on the wings of the sacred melody. The instrumental accompaniment—a rich toned organ—yields in volume just sufficient to shade and temper the vocal symphony, thus obviating the great fault shown frequently in the display of powerful instruments whereby the outbreathing of the soul in vocal language is obscured and overpowered. The choir in the aggregate numbers from sixty to seventy, and more than half the number are usually present. They give evidence of thorough drill and skillful management. Each voice contributes an added melody, and the whole united exhibits a harmony that is both charming and inspiring. The leader's guidance is unobtrusive, yet it furnishes the formula of time and pitch which every voice in the choir makes audible. It is concert, harmony, melody; now the breeze wafting to our ears the gorgeous sound of many waters; now the impassioned outcry of admiration and applause; anon the plaint of sorrow in muffled tones of tearful woe; again the gentler pathos of chastened hope; then joy with her merry bells ringing out in the pearly sunshine; now love with her placid wings bathing the soul in infinite peace; now fear with her haunt-