

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

GOLD OR DEATH.

All accounts of the conditions prevailing in Alaska agree as to the vast difficulties to be encountered on the road, or roads, to the golden paradise in the icy north. Anyone at all acquainted with the part of our globe that is embraced by the Arctic circle, knows that the accounts are founded on facts. Even the Scandinavian peninsula, the climate of which along the western coast is considerably modified by the warm water of the Gulf stream, is in its northern parts almost uninhabitable except by Laps and Finns, the hardy descendants of ancestors whose homes were reared among the snow-drifts of Siberia. It needs no argument that only the very hardiest of the race can successfully battle against Arctic conditions in the winter time, and to attempt it is in many cases to court death.

There are now hundreds on the road, and hundreds are rushing on after them. Soon the lakes will be frozen and the snow cover the ground. The facilities for transportation are inadequate, and many will have to camp somewhere on the road till next spring. Some will reach the promised land destitute and will perhaps endeavor to compel others to share with them. Men rendered desperate by hunger and hardened by adversity soon become dangerous. There will be trouble, and many will never return to their friends to relate the story of their sufferings.

It is not necessary to exaggerate the difficulties to be encountered in those regions; the plain facts themselves are eloquent enough. Even if a fortune seeker, after a dreary journey overland a distance of seven hundred miles or more, succeeds in reaching Dawson city, he will find every claim within fifty miles taken. Can he start out again into the dreary waste and commence his search for gold under the snow? Hardly. The only thing is to wait for six months or more, till the spring arrives, and then he has really only three months to work in. If not successful, he must wait till another winter has passed away, and then commence again.

It cannot be very long before transportation facilities will place the promised land in closer proximity to civilization, that is if its wealth is anywhere near as great as rumor has it. Until then, an injudicious scramble for the gold cannot but bring disaster to many

APPEARANCE OF SPIRITUAL MATTER.

A late issue of The Humanitarian discusses, from a scientific standpoint, the question whether spiritual beings ever become visible to the mortal eye. The discussion referred to, from the fact of its being of scientific character, does not consider the veracity of witness to spiritual manifestations, but analyzes the process of such manifesta-

tions, to determine whether or not, in view of the scientific knowledge of the present day, a spiritual personage really can become visible.

Upon this point it is set forth as a proposition that nothing can be actually seen or heard, so far as the bodily organization of man is concerned, except through the medium of the senses; therefore the appearance must be in some material form. In order to be seen, The Humanitarian writer says spirits must exist in that form of matter and energy which acts upon the retina of the eye, and in order to be heard they must produce those vibrations of matter which cause the phenomena of sound. While many of those who assert that they have had ghostly visitations describe these as being of persons in unsubstantial form, yet the more definitely authenticated appearances, such as recorded in scripture, present a measure of substantial material which, while it may pass closed doors without sound or warning, and may vanish at will, yet indicates that the spirit gives some form to matter. And from these facts the writer referred to concludes:

Spirit and matter are usually opposite terms, but we may nevertheless conceive the so-called spiritual world as in reality a material one analogous to our own. Recent science has shown that there is probably a world of energy and matter hidden from our ordinary senses, of which we can only conjecture from the suggestions obtained when the photographic plate records more than the human eye is ever capable of seeing, or the magnetic needle responds to an influence quite unseen by our dull senses. Now it may be that it is in such a hidden world that ghosts have their existence—spirits finding a dwelling place in forms as much material as those of ordinary human beings, but of an essentially different, and perhaps more ethereal, character. Into their hidden world of peculiar and unknown energy mankind cannot usually enter, but at critical times in a man's life, corresponding to the fitful and occasional appearances of ghosts, his senses may be abnormally developed, so that—as with the photographic camera—he sees more than his eye is ordinarily capable of seeing, and may become conscious by sight, or hearing, or touch, of that hidden world in which ghosts live, and move, and have their being.

AN ARIZONA VIEW:

The Tucson, Arizona, Daily Star has an editorial article, under the caption "Then and Now," in reference to the Utah Jubilee celebration and the Mormons. It recites how that, a half century ago, a small band of people wended their way, from east of the Mississippi river, out over the prairies, and across the mountains, and after many weary months of trials, travails and tribulations, entered the region of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, where they plotted a colony among the then far American wilds, that they might worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. The Star then says the captain of the band

was Brigham Young, the people were the Latter-day Saints, commonly known as Mormons.

After mentioning the work of Utah settlers in the reclamation of this region, the Star recalls that "less than twenty years ago public sentiment was so aroused against these people that banishment and even death was advocated as the remedy for ridding the country of their presence. Brigham Young was painted as the arch fiend who ought to be stoned, aye executed. It has been less than ten years since a number of their teachers were imprisoned and otherwise persecuted by a misguided, misinformed public opinion. But more recently, the work of these people has come to be partially understood—their honesty of belief, their thrift, integrity and the strong moral sentiment which prevailed among all of their communities, and their active support of good government." And the article concludes by citing the recent anniversary celebration and the unveiling of the Brigham Young statue, and by making the following comments:

Here is a lesson, for verily it is a repetition of every past age. We stone our prophets, and kill those who are sent unto us, and when they are buried, and we reflect on the unselfishness of their lives and their interest in the general welfare of the people, we build monuments to their memories, sing psalms of praise of their good works, publish their sayings as part of the sacred literature of the age, and tell the story of their lives to the children as good and noble examples for them to pattern after. This, all after we have persecuted them, stoned them and killed them. Alas! for the generations of the children of men, who know not their prophets, while living, toiling and struggling among and for them. The celebration of last week in Utah illustrates that history is ever repeating itself, and that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country and among his own people."

There might be cited also, in line with the philosophy of our Arizona contemporary, the further fact that, notwithstanding adverse circumstances to which the Latter-day Saints were subjected by those whom they desired to befriend, the Saints did no malice for the unpleasantness of the past, remembering them only in the spirit of charity, and of thankfulness that a better era has dawned. In the great work in which they have been engaged from the beginning, the Saints are laboring earnestly, faithfully and sincerely for the salvation of all mankind, loving those that have hated, and seeking to do the greatest possible good to those that have despitely used them; with a perfect faith that through the exemplification of this Christian spirit the Millennium of peace and goodwill will come to all.

THE GOOD TIMES EAST.

No wonder that Eastern men and papers hail with delight the improved conditions shown in business there, slight as they may be up to the present, if Wm. H. Berry's description of the Eastern situation is accurate. Mr. Berry is head of the Berry Engineering