

## A CHANGE NEEDED.

THE censure passed by many City Councilors on the park keeper only voiced the sentiment of the public. It is a disgrace to the person in charge to see the trees dying for want of attention both in Liberty Park and on the public squares. A live hedge has been set out in one part of the park which is perishing for want of water. This comes of providing places for party hangers on.

Another thing open to complaint is the rough manners of one at least of the men who promenade the park for a living. His conduct forms a strong contrast to the courteous manners of Cammille who formerly officiated there. The writer witnessed an exhibition of this a few evenings ago. A lady and gentleman were riding in a buggy at a rather rapid rate but not at what might be called "fast driving." A policeman thrust his club in front of the horse's nose and yelled out in an offensive tone: "Stop that! Hold up or I'll run ye in! Pull up, I tell you!" and so on, as the pair drove on without paying any attention to the shouting insolent officer.

There should be propriety in everything. And men in a police uniform with a star and club should remember they are servants, not masters of the public; and park-keepers should bear in mind that they are expected to do something more than simply draw their salaries as a political reward.

## ARE THE WORLDS INHABITED?

THE observations of the planet Mars, which is now in unusual proximity to our globe, have occasioned a good many speculations, philosophical and otherwise, in regard to the conditions existing in other worlds than our own. Is Mars inhabited? That is one of the questions propounded. The astronomers who confine themselves to the actual developments of science do not pretend to answer this query. There are others, however, who mingle deductions with discoveries and speculative philosophy with scientific knowledge, and they decide the question with more or less dogmatic confidence.

We do not think that pure science has furnished any definite solution to this interesting problem. We are of the opinion that for a very long time it will fail to do so. There may come a time when communication shall be opened up from world to world, and that which can now only be learned by revelation will be established by observation and experience.

To a great many professed scientists the mention of revelation, that is, Divine revelation as a reality, only provokes a smile or a jeer. But then such persons are not all there is of intelligent humanity, and there are thinking individuals, disposed too to investigate before accepting anything, who have abiding faith in the actuality of Divine communication to man.

In reference to the question, Are other worlds than this inhabited? the Latter-day Saints have something definite for their guide. In a vision given to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, Feb. 16th, 1832, they saw the Son of God and beheld his glory; they

were told to testify of his existence and "that by Him and through Him the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God."

In the "Pearl of Great Price" are many allusions to this important subject and much information may be obtained from it concerning the governing planets and the purpose of their creation, this earth being designated as containing greater wickedness than any other of God's creations. All these references are corroborative of the doctrine that God created the worlds as habitations for His children, that they are in different stages of progression, and that the earth contains but one branch of the great family of the Universal Father.

In the 88th section of the Doctrine and Covenants much more is revealed concerning the "Kingdoms" which God has established and the intelligencies within them, and in a parable it is shown that all these worlds, in their time and season, if they abide the law of their creation, will be gladdened with the presence and glory of their Maker.

These communications are of value to those who receive them as Divine; to others they may seem worthless. But at any rate they are reasonable and can be supported by rational reflection and by comparison with things that are known and admitted. It is unreasonable to suppose that this little earth, among all the myriads of the countless worlds that move in space subject to similar laws, is alone the abode of intelligent, progressive beings.

The astronomical observations of the planet Mars, although to some extent indefinite, have established the proofs that in many respects it has a great resemblance to our globe. What could be the object in the formation of such a planet if it were not as an abode for intelligent humanity? That Mars has an atmosphere; that its poles are snow-clad; that at certain seasons the snow melts; that it has mountains and valleys, that it has streams which resemble canals; these and many other points have become established almost to a certainty, and the inference is at least logical that a world so constituted is inhabitable and inhabited.

The dispatches published in the papers speak of the "germination" of the canals as not proven. The word should be germination, that is, duplication or doubling. This refers to the alleged discoveries of Schiaparelli of parallel canals on Mars. That eminent astronomer holds to the correctness of his observations and contends that they will yet be confirmed. If his prediction should be fulfilled the fact would be strong evidence in favor of the theory that Mars is inhabited.

It is contended by many scientists that most of the planets are uninhabitable, some because they are so near to the sun that human beings could not dwell there for the heat, and others because they are so far away that men would perish for the cold. The reasoning which leads to conclusions like these starts from the proposition that men and women in other worlds must be constituted exactly like the inhabitants of this earth. This we regard as an error and therefore the conclusions drawn from it are probably erroneous.

In the first place the conditions of climate and other surroundings on the worlds near to or remote from the sun have not been certainly determined. In the next place it would not follow that because of extreme heat or extreme cold, which no dweller on this earth could endure, men and women could not be formed with organisms suited to the environment whatever it might be. There are plants and animals in the arctic regions of the earth which could not live near the equator, and vice versa; yet they are plants and animals, nevertheless. The human densities of the torrid zone would find it difficult to live in the arctic regions, but the people of both zones are men and women. They are of different tribes but the same race. And we have but to extend the principle to greater lengths to justify the conclusion that men and women, specially adapted therefor, may inhabit worlds which earthly scientists think incapable of human occupancy.

Of course this is not proof. As we have said, science has not yet furnished any definite proofs one way or the other, and is not likely to do so at present. But in this age of scientific research and of Divine manifestation, it is not rash to predict that knowledge will be obtained on this important and fascinating subject. This is not only the period of progress in science and art, in intellect and invention, in daring thought and wonderful appliances, but it is the "dispensation of the fulness of times" in which all things will be made manifest; "nothing shall be withheld" whether "in the heavens above or the earth beneath."

The temples that are being reared and that will be erected in other places will be temples of learning. They will be devoted not only to receiving in one part the word of the Lord through the "living oracles," but in other parts to the scientific demonstration of revealed truths. Religion and science will thus go hand in hand, and it will be seen that there is no conflict but the most perfect harmony between true science and true religion, from both of which that speculative philosophy, which has passed for either will be entirely banished.

We have no more doubt that the glittering stars and rolling planets, that move in their silent splendor in limitless space, are peopled with the sons and daughters of the Eternal, in various stages of progressive being, than we have, that there are human beings in earthly lands which we have not visited. Nor have we any doubt that when the dwellers on earth have reached the celestial state they will acquire the means of communicating with their relatives on other worlds. Not only the members of the solar system but the innumerable so-called "fixed stars"—the suns of the universe with their attendant spheres, on which are beings who have advanced in wisdom, and power, and glory, to that perfection which we desire to attain, ages before this world came forth out of chaos at the Divine command.

We shall find out, either in this life or what we call "the life to come," that the multiplication of the offspring of God goes on from age to age in worlds without end, and that herein is the Father glorified, man being His "Image and glory," and woman being