

with a learned jurist, and thus they unwittingly assist in spreading misinformation.

We suggest to the *Oregonian* that if it is "worth the trouble" to write editorials about "Mormonism," and "worth the trouble" to read them, it ought to be "worth the trouble" to inquire into the matter a little before rushing into print, lest one's ignorance may be exposed and one's folly may be made manifest.

### WHAT IS MEANT BY DEMONSTRATION OF SILVER?

A CORRESPONDENT says that inasmuch as there is nothing in the coinage bill of February 12, 1873, pertaining to demonetization of any metal, it is hardly fair to characterize that measure as a silver demonetization act. In a certain sense our correspondent is correct. The act was ostensibly for the purpose of regulating details of coinage at the mint. Its object was to collate and embrace in one act all previous legislation on the subject of U. S. money. It is true, it made no reference to the standard silver dollar in the way of demonetization or otherwise. It did not make anything else the unit of value. However, it limited the coinage of silver to half and quarter dollars and dimes, and to a trade dollar above the standard of the unit dollar. It prohibited these coins from being a legal tender for more than five dollars in any one payment. Mention of the old unit dollar was entirely omitted as one of the coins to be made at the mint.

The bill contains sixty-seven sections. Section seventeen says: "No coins either of gold, silver, or minor coinage shall hereafter be issued from the mint, other than those of the denominations, standards and weights herein set forth." By the terms of this the old unit dollar was set aside, and silver coins in legal tender limited to five dollars. Many of the men who voted for this bill openly confessed a few years afterwards that they never thought for a moment it would demonetize silver. Among these were Thurman, Blaine, Garfield and others. The silver dollar at the time of the passage of this bill was actually worth \$1.08 in gold.

Almost immediately after the bill became law silver began to depreciate, but during the first year nothing of any extent was said. In about the third year it became a theme of universal comment. The Forty-fourth Congress took it up. In August, 1876, the Monetary Commission was organized. It consisted of three senators, Jones, Boggy and Boutwell, three repre-

sentatives, Gibson, Willard and Bland, and three financial experts, Groesbeck, Bowen and Weston. The duty of this Commission was to inquire: "First, into the change which has taken place in the relative value of gold and silver; the causes thereof, whether permanent or otherwise. Second, into the policy of the restoration of the double standard in this country; and, if restored, what the relation of the two coins shall be." The labors of this Commission extended over a wide field in the financial world. Information was received from every prominent banker, financier and economic student in the civilized world. The main substance of the report was submitted and ordered printed March 2nd, 1877. In its findings it said of the depreciation of silver: "The evil is enormously aggravated by selecting gold as the metal to be retained and silver as the metal to be rejected." It also said "That remonetization of silver in this country will have a powerful influence in preventing, and probably will prevent, the demonetization of silver in France and other European countries." But the item which refers directly to demonetization reads: "The ancient money of the country, instead of being intentionally legislated out of existence by Congress, was revised out of existence." This, of course, meant that silver was reduced from an article of money to a mere commodity and became an article of commerce.

### THERE WILL COME A CHANGE.

THE facts in regard to the persecutions of the "Mormon" Church will probably be known to comparatively few people in the United States, until the irrational prejudices that have blinded the public in reference to "Mormonism" have given way to the light of truth and the spread of information. The rule has been to accept any wild story, however improbable that placed the "Mormons" in a false light, and to justify any attack upon them however unlawful as well as unjust, in view of the accusations of their enemies.

But the time will come and is fast approaching when there will be a desire to know the real history of the Latter-day Saints, and to understand the principles of their faith. It will then be seen how much both have been maligned and ill-treated.

The New York *Sun* has the following to say on this matter, incidentally, in an editorial on another subject:

"The story of the crusade against Mormonism will not be written by the generation responsible for it. It was undertaken as a phase of the plundering of the South, with the aim of diverting public attention

from the commercial aspect of reconstruction. It was successful. Mormonism was dubbed the Twin Relic, and served to raise a sufficient dust to obscure the operations of the crusaders in other people's pockets.

"Later, after the Southern plunder had been checked, the looting of Utah was seen to be worth pursuing for its own sake. There are decent Gentiles in Utah, but they have never had part in the crusade. There has been another class corresponding with the Southern scalawag—the carpetbagger's partner. The members of this class exclusively have been the allies and proteges of Federal rule in Utah. The Mormons have had no friends. A bad name had been successfully fastened on the dog. Remained, nothing but to skin him. He is still undergoing the process. It works for righteousness not unconnected with pecuniary profit to the saluts (not the Mormon saluts) to this day."

### BENEFITS OF SMALL FARMS.

IN the Spokane, Washington, *Review* appears an editorial on the benefits resulting from small farms instead of the immense tracts of land which are held nowadays by non-resident landlords and speculators. Reference is made as follows to the "Mormon" plan, which we hope will not be changed for big and half cultivated areas after the fashion in many parts of the country. The *Review* says:

"The secret to success in Utah farming is due to small holdings. In laying out the city of Salt Lake the Mormons allowed no city lot to contain less than an acre and a quarter. A tier of five-acre lots was then laid out, then a tier of ten-acre lots, then twenty-acre tracts. No farms were laid out larger than forty acres. This system prevailed in all parts of the Territory, and as a result there is no other part of the United States where the population contains so many people living on their own land and owning their own houses. Were such a system adopted in the Palouse country, where the land is as rich as the best in Utah and much easier to cultivate, that section could be made the scene of tens of thousands of prosperous homes. The products are as varied and the crops as great as in Utah."

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF CRIME.

A SERIES of articles entitled "Papers on Penology" has been published in book form by the New York Reformatory of Elmira. Another series of a similar character was published about five years ago. Their purpose is to promote rational, practical reform in the treatment of criminals, a result that is only possible when the intelligent public rightly appreciate and approve.

The general superintendent of the Reformatory who publishes this volume states that he does not desire notices of a complimentary character for his work, but a serious review of it so as to give the general public an interest in a very important phase of sociology. Any persons making a special study of crime and criminals