

physical globe. This statement is no doubt a very wide one and to many, perhaps, a very wild one; nevertheless, I make it with the firm conviction that the facts warrant it and that the future will verify it. If our enemies had foreseen the consequences of driving that helpless little band into the "Great American Desert," with the object they then had in view they would have done anything but that.

What the backbone is to the vertebrate animal, so is this country to the world at large. It will be remarked that if this is true, the world at large has had a singular faculty of getting along without any backbone. Very well, but the world in that case has been much in the same condition and degree of development as the invertebrate creation. It causes a thrill of satisfaction to come over me when I reflect that these poor, despised and persecuted "Mormons" are to form the very marrow of that backbone, without which the whole body would be lifeless. Surely God's ways are as far above man's ways as the heavens are above the earth.

To the earnest student, scientific knowledge and historical data are valued as stepping stones to further knowledge, and answers much the same purpose, figuratively putting it, as a stick does in enabling us to jump a stream. Historical lore clearly tells us that if we would map out the future of any people and country, we must look to the geographical formation of the latter by the aid of which their ultimate commercial and political status can be accurately determined, for it can be easily shown that the geological structure of a country exerts a dominant influence over its commercially and politically, and to a certain degree tends to form the character of the people which inhabit it. Without entering into the details I will simply say that Utah and the adjoining States and Territories contain a greater quantity and diversity of mineral wealth than any portion of the known world of the same area. There is not a known mineral in all the catalogue that I can call to mind, but can be found in sufficient quantity for all practical purposes. (Coking coal is the only exception that can be named, and that is an open question even now, though were it not, in our present state of development we could not safely say we have it not.) Consequently there is no portion of the known world that is susceptible of the same industry and population.

Here is the backbone, the nerve-centre of our globe, which in time will vivify the whole and enable it to attain to the highest possible degree of life and health. Here are the future Manchesters and Birmingham magnified; and the time will come when the now comparatively solitary vales will teem with untold millions of human beings, the mountain fastnesses reverberate with the busy hum of industry and who peace on earth and good will to men. This picture might be shaded, but I can only draw a rough outline of some of the things which await us in the future and for which we are called to prepare. Let us then free ourselves from narrow prejudices and contracted views and strike boldly for our great destiny. And for the consolation of those who wish otherwise, I will say that the "Mormons" will never relax their hold upon the ground made and reserved for them during preceding cycles. Such an idea seems contrary to the fitness of things, would annul the work of ages and bring to naught the all-seeing wisdom of Him who called this world into existence. No, sir, we shall stay as long as our granite mountains remain granite. Amen.

DEFECTS OF COMMON SCHOOL EDUCATION.

AN article was published a short time ago in the *Christian Union* on the subject of common school education, which is worthy of general attention. It shows up many of the defects of the prevailing system, and its evil results to the community. The mistake of making education consist of mere efforts of the memory, is pointed out, and the lack of practical knowledge is proven and deplored. It is shown that while bare facts and figures in regard to geography are drilled into the minds of the pupils, very few scholars or even teachers can answer questions as simple as "What rivers, mountains, lakes, Territories or States would be crossed in going

from Portland, Maine, to San Francisco;" or in relation to the relative climate of certain countries in the same latitudes; or why wheat is grown in the Western States and not at all in New England; or why a railroad is run in irregular directions instead of making a beeline?

The rules of arithmetic too, it is stated, are pounded into all heads, thick or thin, with a zeal, accuracy and patience deserving the best results; and where the brain of the scholar is capable of reception in the mathematical line, arithmetic is learned in all its intricate and subtle ramifications; but "how many boys learn to measure a cord of wood, or know what a ton of coal ought to weigh? And how many girls are able to keep the ordinary accounts of the household, or help in their fathers' office or shop?" Arithmetic applied is ten times the practical assistance in life that arithmetic is as a theory of numerical relations, or a repetition of abstract truths.

As to grammar it is asked, How many of our common-school teachers use good grammar themselves? They have learned it from a book and can pass any examination; they teach it daily, but they do not exact it of their scholars in speech, nor do they use it themselves. The writer says:

"I know a man, the principal of a large graded school for years, who uses language any child ought to be 'kept in' for an hour a day for using. 'I done it.' 'He hasn't never had it,' and that sort of phraseology, is his daily practice; is it necessary to ask the question, of what use is it to teach a child the rules of grammar when every other word of the teacher habitually sets those rules at defiance? Spelling also is a vain show. Not one teacher in twenty can spell fifty words without a mistake, unless they are words of one syllable. I speak of what I know, for I have been at a teachers' convention where fifty words were given out on trial, and only two of the hundred and fifty teachers spelled the list with less than four mistakes; not one was perfect. It is just so in reading; the mistakes in accent, inflection, pronunciation, punctuation and emphasis in the reading are countless."

This does not speak very well for eastern teachers, whose abilities are so much vaunted by certain individuals.

The writer takes up other departments of learning and declares that they are in the same condition. Another defect is one that used to be denounced by President Brigham Young, and for his utterances on which he was ridiculed by shallow-pated scribes who hated him and who took delight in misrepresenting his views and sayings; that is, the tendency of public school education in this country to create false pride and vain ambition. The scholars wish to become teachers, or clerks, or office-holders, or to occupy some position different from those industrial situations in which properly trained minds are necessary to the public good. President Young argued in favor of practical training connected with "book learning," calculated to make boys good mechanics and artisans, or farmers, or workers in some department of labor, instead of all aspiring to what is called the professions, or to occupy some office of a political character; and to make girls good seamstresses, bookkeepers, housekeepers, cooks, nurses, etc., instead of mere ornaments to society, without practical usefulness.

The article in the *Christian Union* advocates similar training and refers to the broods of callow lawyers who infest all our towns, learning all the "ways which are dark and tricks which are vain;" the addle-headed, notoriously ill-conditioned, riotous medical students, annually turned loose upon a world already lying in wickedness, to slay their ten thousands as Samson did, and with the same weapon; the thick-headed juvenile theologues who scatter chopped theology and boned orthodoxy from hundreds of country pulpits all over the land, huddled into the ministry either by their own indolence or the urgency of parents who offer to the Lord that which costs them nothing, and indeed is not worth having at any cost, and add:

"What good, hardworking, plodding farmers might not these have made, what brisk salesmen, what acute mechanical instead of disgracing professions that should demand of a lawyer incorruptible honesty, unbiased judgment, pure moral

character, and the acutest intellect, with a type of education unknown to the common school; of a physician the keenest insight into mental and physical organization, the capacity for distinguishing and arranging facts of observation into unfailing diagnosis, the patience of a saint, the cheerfulness of an angel, and the grave sense of responsibility, the possessing earnestness of a man. And of a minister of the gospel what should we not ask? Why should any man enter that work without the all-powerful love for God and man, the innate reverence for truth, the unwearied endurance, the burning zeal, the exhaustless faith and hope, in short, "the whole armor of God," which alone can enable them, "having done all to stand?"

Of the results of the existing system the writer says:

"It is painful both to say and think it, but the end of our present school system, if it is pursued, will be to intensify what it has already done—to further fill our streets with the purposeless, silly, flaunting girls, emulous of their richer towns women, spending all their money on poor finery and cheap candy, unfit to be wives or mothers, to bear healthy children or rear the unhealthy properly; many of them to sink into shame and death, and to mate them with idle, vicious, aimless loungers in no way deserving to be called men; creatures who will not dig, nor beg, nor die, but hang on like incubi in the homes of hard-working parents, under the pretense of studying a profession, and spend, swinging in a hammock, smoking poor cigars, reading low newspapers, sipping 'mixed drinks' at saloons, and 'flirting'—nauseous phrase!—with the girls of their kind, hereinbefore described, the hours of an existence God given that it might be God-like."

I have seen and heard the parallel class of youths who are of the same outcome, and are preparing for the poppity of our laboring tempest-tossed republic. It is of this office-seeking, lazy class that the man came who only the other day wrecked the dearest hope of our nation; it is out of this weak ambition, this dirty emulation, this low pride and rampant self-consciousness, that communism, nihilism, and every other diabolism of the day has its natural growth. Shall this be the end of our boasted and worshiped free education?

The complete secularization of common schools, the exclusion of all teaching about God and contemplation of divine things, the shutting out of all religious thought and study of moral principles, we consider the fatal mistake of the system of education that has become popular in the United States. We do not argue for denominationalism in public schools supported by common taxation; we do not favor sectarian teaching in such establishments; but we deplore their godlessness and the absence of those influences which develop the moral and spiritual faculties. This we believe is one of the causes of the prevailing immorality and crime. The intellectual powers are trained without a corresponding development of the moral and spiritual. This education, in its commonly accepted meaning, is not an antidote to crime, for the worst criminals in the land are educated men and women. Added to this evil is the unpractical nature of public school tuition, which does not prepare the youth for usefulness in the common walks of life, but fosters a false idea of what is honorable and respectable, and creates a desire in the hearts of the rising generation to become fine and fashionable "ladies" and "gentlemen," instead of valuable working members of society. On this point we must make one more quotation from the article in the *Christian Union*:

"Now what ought to be the aim and the result of public schools in a republic? Ought it not to be the education of good and useful citizens? I say the education in its derivatizing sense; the leading out of that which is best, most useful, in every character. It will be answered that to do this involves separate individual training that is too slow and too expensive for public institutions; but that is not what I mean. I mean an equal advantage as to lessons, but a cultivation outside of text books which shall teach the scholars that true principle of a republic—so overgrown, so forgotten, in ours—that all honest work is re-

spectable; that a seamstress, a domestic helper, a writer, a voluntary or an involuntary worker in the field of the world, are each and all, if they are thorough and earnest in their work, just as respectable as a teacher; that the miller, the carpenter, the mechanic of any kind, the clerk, the porter, the gardener, the hodman, can be as good a man, as true a gentleman, if he will, as the lawyer, the doctor, or the clergyman; that the disgrace of life and living is to be dishonest, dishonorable, superficial, and idle in any sphere."

This is a subject that demands more than passing attention. It is of paramount importance. "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined," and the proper training of our youth should occupy the minds of our wisest men in Church and State, for upon it depends the future welfare of the whole country as well as the happiness and peace of families and communities.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

England's love, for the Irish is beautiful. She loves them so well that she wants to ship the most of them to America.

The remarkable statement is made that the police force of New York during the past year picked up 4,485 lost children, 2,367 boys and 2,118 girls. All but 150 were reclaimed by their parents.

The *Texas Christian Advocate* says that thousands of good men are spoiled by marrying the wrong woman. She who marries thousands of men must be very wrong, and no wonder thousands of good men are spoiled.

A man was found dead in Arkansas recently, with all the evidences of having died from excess of anger. After deliberating over the remains for half an hour, the coroner's jury gravely returned a verdict of "died from spontaneous combustion."

A meteor plouetted through the heavens over Indiana, on the night of the 3d inst., leaving a fiery trail, which described in the firmament an unmistakable letter S. Here is a chance for alchemists to speculate on words beginning with that letter.

It is well that the people of this country are not in need of foreign potatoes this year. England is short of her usual crop by some 500,000 tons, and Germany has but half the number of last year. Other continental countries are deficient in the potato yield.

When wheat is burned, a residuum of two per cent. is found in the ashes. The analysis of this gives a percentage as follows: Potash, 29.97; soda, 3.90; magnesia, 12.30; lime, 3.40; phosphoric acid, 46.00; sulphuric acid, 0.33; silica, 3.35; peroxide of iron 0.79; chloride of sodium (common salt), 0.09. These are the mineral constituents of the wheat, and must be supplied by the soil.

Mrs. Langtry wrote and posted a letter in Chicago the other day. Some newspaper reporter heard of this important event and tried to excel all other newspaper enterprises by stealing the letter from the hotel mail bag. The *New York World* regards it as a pity that they were prevented from getting themselves in this easy and expeditious way into the penitentiary.

The Chicago School Board contemplates the addition of the study of grammar for the younger pupils, and the substitution of oral language lessons. The teachers believe that rules of grammar are soon forgotten, and that in reading and writing correctly one seldom stops to think of technicalities. Their idea is that children should first be led to speak good English intuitively, leaving the rules for later years.

The business failures throughout the United States and Canada for the year 1892, brought down to the last day of the year, have just been published by the Mercantile Agency of R. G. Dun & Co. The casualties in the United States number 6,735, as against 5,582 in 1891. The liabilities in the United States are, for 1892, \$101,000,000, as compared with \$81,000,000 in 1891. In the Dominion of Canada the failures number 787, with liabilities of \$3,500,000, as against 635 in 1891, with liabilities of \$5,500,000. The proportion of failures in 1892 is estimated at 1 in every 122 persons engaged in trade. In 1878, four years ago, the statistics show that 1 trader in every 64 succumbed.

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W. C. REAMER, HEIRS OR ASSIGNS, John P. Spaulding, heirs or assigns, Luke Shuman, executor of aforesaid parties, will please take notice that I have expended on your respective interests in the above properties the labor required by law for three years past, amounting to the sum of \$150.00 on J. P. Spaulding, or successors interest, in Virginian, and the sum of \$75.00 on W. C. Reamer, or successors interest, in the Holden Tunnel; and if you do not reimburse me within the time prescribed by law, your interest in said properties will be forfeited to me.

Salt Lake City, November 15th, 1892.
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