

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

HO, FOR THE FAIR!

The Territory of Utah, as such, was not yet six months old when the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society was established by Governor Brigham Young. The charter of the society bears date of January 17, 1856, so that now it is in its thirty-ninth year. During the period of its existence it has given twenty exhibitions. That which will open in this city on October 2, will be the twenty-first.

It is a pleasure to recall these facts concerning an institution whose existence is so much a part of Utah history, and whose record during these many years has been so singularly creditable. On this eve of statehood it is a satisfaction to point with pride to the society's past and cordially to invite the public's participation in its present endeavors. The twenty-first exhibition, which begins on Tuesday the 2d, and concludes on Saturday the 6th, of next October, ought to be the rallying place of the best and most beautiful that Utah can produce. To such as do not yet know of the productiveness of our soil, the boundless resources of our Territory, the wealth, ingenuity and advancement of our people, the Fair of 1894 ought to be made to supply overwhelming evidence that in all that has been said about Utah's fitness for statehood, the half hath not been told. The present season is one of extreme abundance in field, orchard and garden. Surely the display in the agricultural department ought to be far and away ahead of anything of the kind ever witnessed in the mountains. Out of all the talk and activity concerning home manufacture, there ought to come the greatest industrial exhibit this or any other western commonwealth has beheld. It is true that mining is not at its best just now, but the mines are still here, and their treasures can be had for the taking. A great object lesson in the importance and extent of that gigantic industry will be taught to every beholder if the mineral department of the Fair is properly represented. And so with each and every one of the various pursuits and avocations to which the people of Utah have given themselves. Art, science, invention, industry, commerce, stock-growing—all are invited to come and represent themselves, and give proof of the superiority in each direction which patriotic Utonians are ever on hand proudly to claim.

The officials of the D. A. and M. society are doing all in human power to render the forthcoming exhibition worthy and complete. The News appeals to the people of the whole Territory, and especially to the leading citizens in each part of it, to take immediate and personal interest in the matter, and to render willing and continuous aid in making it a success. Owing to the World's Fair at Chicago no local exhibition was given last year. The omission should have made us keener than ever for a splendid success this year; and nothing but the active support and sympathy of the people is now needed to insure all that

the most sanguine can hope for. The entry and admission fees have been reduced one-half, so that the monetary requirements upon the exhibitors and patrons are placed at a minimum; a bold step in view of the heavy expenses that must be incurred, but we believe a wise one. Its wisdom will be fully verified if the hope shall be realized that among the well-to-do there will be a great boom in the purchase of life-memberships in the Society. There are many hundreds who while perhaps exhibiting nothing else, can make a most acceptable display of patriotism and public spirit in the manner suggested. It ought to be deemed a privilege, as at no distant date it will be considered a high honor, to be known as a life member in the D. A. & M. Society of Utah.

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO CHURCH?

Some time ago a Chicago paper opened its columns to correspondents who might be willing to state their individual reasons for not attending religious services, and the suggestion drew forth a multitude of answers. The idea was presumably to ascertain the real cause of the marked falling off in attendance on places of worship, a circumstance which has more than once caused apprehension in church circles and for which no effective remedy has as yet been found.

The answers given reflect a growing sentiment among the public regarding existing creeds and denominations. In some the statement was made with considerable bitterness, that the preachers of the day are frauds who preach for money, what they do not believe, and what they do not practice. Others believed that Christianity is founded on a myth and stands in opposition to "truth as revealed through science." A lady correspondent refuses to encourage the "perpetuation of a falsehood that has cost millions of lives, millions of money and is today responsible for the wickedness of the people." She evidently alludes to the bigotry of the churches in past ages, whereby some of the most sanguinary persecutions of the world have been instituted, and also to the orthodox doctrine of salvation whereby a bad "sinner" may be saved and a morally correct infidel damned, which she thinks has the effect of putting a premium on wickedness and to encourage immorality. Others object to one or more Christian doctrines and refuse to go and listen to their promulgation. The doctrine of an eternal hell is particularly objectionable. One writer says: "Men who would step aside in their path rather than tread on a worm profess to believe in a God who will consign to eternal torture nine-tenths of the human race. They believe this, not thinking of the merciless and unspeakable Moloch they make of God." Other objectionable doctrines are the trinity of the Godhead, the theory of vicarious atonement and the inspiration of Scriptures. The above

is a brief but fair summary of the reasons given for not attending church.

It does not devolve upon the News to champion the cause of Christianity as represented by the divines of the sects of the world, even if an effort to do so could be attempted with any hope of success; but it will be noticed that none of the objections, as far as they carry truth with them, are applicable to the doctrines and worship of the Latter-day Saints. The Gospel as revealed through Joseph, the Prophet, and which is Christianity pure and simple, not only gives to the soul peace and joy inexpressible, bridging the chasm between time and eternity, but it proves its perfection as a true system by its harmony with the sentiments of all good and just men and women, no less than with logical reasoning and Divine revelation. It is the coming religion of mankind, to prevail when other systems shall have been found inadequate.

Anyone who will honestly and impartially study Mormonism will be struck with the truth of this remark. If the Christians of the world can be justly accused of having made their object of worship a cruel Moloch, the Latter-day Saints are innocent of that charge. Their God is the eternal Father of mankind, whose efforts are directed toward the salvation of His children both in this world and hereafter, notwithstanding the unavoidable consequences of their transgression of laws by which worlds are governed. An eternal hell with "endless torment" is no part of the Gospel. The same can be said of the scholastic doctrine of inspiration and the Athanasian confused idea of a trinity. Instead of this latter the Gospel teaches the existence of a Godhead, the grandeur and infinite glory of which is far beyond the power of human words, yet not of such a nature as to need, when an attempt at comprehension is made, contradictions and mathematical impossibilities.

Then, Mormonism never has needed and never will resort to persecution for its existence. Religious intolerance is the mark of ignorance, and has always been so considered by the Saints. One of its chief features is liberty to all to think and speak and worship in accordance with the dictates of their own consciences, within the boundaries of law. A people with such views can no more persecute their fellowmen, than the first Christians could wage war upon the Essenes, for instance. Persecutors have no doubt sometimes been sincere, thinking they rendered truth a service by defending it, but the result has always been the withdrawal of the Spirit of Light from the camp of the persecutors, and they and their cause have after a while found themselves in utter darkness. Toleration is essential to the existence of true Christianity.

Finally, the expounders of Mormonism have no ground for being frauds and preaching what they do not believe, as is charged that some others do, for the simple reason that they are not financially interested in preaching the Gospel. If they are not in their own hearts convinced that they have received the truth and feel a burning desire to impart their know-