

EDITORIAL NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

Good Tidings from Utah.

MISSIONARY intelligence from this land of darkness is always quite likely to be of a sort nondescript and decidedly unique, and to relate to secular matters even more than to things spiritual. The governing forces of the Mormon Church being so largely of the earth earthy, and the chief concern of the leaders financial and political rather than religious, it follows that the doings of Congress and the courts, business booms and elections, as well as the efforts of Christian teachers and ministers, the growth of Christian churches and schools, are potent weapons against existing errors and iniquities.

The latest event in the pathway of progress, and also one of the greatest in the history of the struggle against the theocracy, is found in the recent election in Ogden, a city, after Salt Lake, the largest in Mormondom, at which the victory was overwhelming against priesthood and polygamy. A struggle of months had preceded to avert, or at least to postpone, so dire a calamity, including a shameless attempt to keep a Mormon minority in control by gerrymandering the voting precincts, and a last desperate expedient of arresting and imprisoning Gentiles enough on election day to turn the scale. But both schemes came miserably to nought, the one through decrees of the Federal courts, and the other through the presence and prompt action of the Federal Marshal with a company of troops as posse.

Before and from the beginning it had been the chief duty of every official to defend and strengthen the church, but now and from henceforth mayor, council, chief of police and all are thoroughly American in sentiment. This great victory was made possible largely by the fortunate residence in the city of some hundreds of conductors, engineers, telegraph operators, &c., in the em-

ploy of the five railroads centering there. With one populous county, Summit, already redeemed by the presence in it of a large body of miners, who, if not specially lovers of righteousness, are, to a man, fervid haters of the hierarchy, and Weber County, of which Ogden is the capital, soon to follow, it is not likely that Salt Lake will be far behind in the race. Already a foretaste of good things to come is enjoyed. For, two years of marked business prosperity and growth have resulted in the loss to the church of six wards, a solid block in the very center of the city, leading in particular to a complete revolution in the control and the character of the public schools. And all these things are the more significant and cheering from the fact that since the passage of the Edmunds law in 1883 scarcely a crumb of comfort has fallen to the lot of the Utah "saints," but, on the contrary, for them the situation has steadily waxed worse and worse.

Justice in India.

THE machinery of the law seems to be on its trial just now, to a large extent, in India. The famous, or rather infamous, Patna case has opened our eyes to the possibility of justice being perverted in its very seat and center. The proceedings of the Crawford Commission, recently concluded, also reveal an alarming condition of veniality and corruption in places of judicial power. It appears that the Bombay Government had previously given a pledge of indemnity to those called on to give evidence. Now that some native magistrates have confessed their misdeeds in the witness-box, the public conscience is scandalized at the idea of their being permitted to resume magisterial functions. The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* (London), says:

"Lord Reay is now impaled on the horns of a