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## IN SOUTHERN UTAH.

On the 17th of April last, I finished my historical labors in St. George, Utah, and proceeded to visit all the settlements of the Saints situated on the Rio Virgen and its tributaries above St. George.

At Washington, located about five miles northeast of St. George, on the north side of the Rio Virgen, I spent the Sabbath very pleasantly, and learned from the old residents that the place was first founded in 1857, as the first agricultural settlement of the Saints in Utah. Santa Clara, Santa Clara, having up to that time, and for some time afterwards, been established as only an Indian mission. At one time Washington contained a population of more than 600 souls, while the present total membership of the ward only consists of 312, or 60 families. This decrease in population is due to a number of causes, but the principal one is the washing away of the dams and ditches which the settlers have constructed year after year for irrigation purposes. The treacherous Rio Virgen has taken them all away and for the last three years the place has had no water, save from the scanty supply obtained from the springs on which the town is situated—not sufficient to irrigate half the city lots. But now there are fair prospects ahead, as the St. George and Washington dam and canal on the south side of the river are nearing completion. This dam, on which the future prosperity of both Washington and St. George depend, consists of a natural ledge of solid rock which crosses the river about five miles above Washington. By blasting a tunnel through a mountain point the constructors of the canal obtained a safe and solid place for a head gate, and then commenced their ten-mile long canal, which, when it reaches the old Washington field  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles below, brings the water 45 feet higher than the old ditch. The canal is four feet deep and ten feet wide in the bottom, and is out in the side of the mountains, part of the way through solid rock; there are also five tunnels, the longest of which measures 112 feet in length. Waste gates are constructed at proper intervals, by means of which the sand masses which will naturally accumulate in the bottom of the canal can be washed out whenever it becomes necessary, and thus save a very great amount of manual labor, such as

has been bestowed upon other ditches in order to keep them clean.

After visiting the dam, I continued my Journey via Harrisburg to Leeds, where I held a meeting in the evening of the 18th of April.

Harrisburg is almost a town of the past, all the inhabitants except half a dozen families having moved away, but most of these have located at Leeds, two and a half miles to the northeast, which has a most pleasant situation and is also now a prosperous place in a financial point of view. The people there are perhaps better off as a whole than any of their Dixie neighbors, which is owing, no doubt, to the close proximity of their town to the mining camp of Silver Reef, situated over a ridge northward about one and a half miles distant. But Silver Reef, like most mining camps in Utah, has apparently seen its best days; the mills have all stopped work, except one or two, which make an occasional, short run, whenever a sufficient quantity of ore is obtained for this purpose by the few miners and proprietors who still linger around the camp. The numerous business houses and dwellings which once constituted a part of this prosperous mining town are now being hauled away, principally to Leeds where the people are using the material in the construction of barns, stables, fences, etc. The Leeds ward, embracing Harrisburg, numbers two hundred and thirty-eight souls, or thirty families of Saints, presided over by Bishop Brigham Y. McMullin.

From Leeds I proceeded to the famous Toquerville, situated on Ash Creek, twenty-three miles east of St. George and thirty-nine miles southwest of Cedar city. Toquerville was first settled in 1858, and has at present a "Mormon" population of two hundred and eighty-seven souls or fifty-seven families. Here, as well as in St. George, I made the acquaintance of quite a number of old "stand-bys"—veterans in the Church, who have borne the burden of the "kingdom" until their hairs are white as snow and their faces furrowed with wrinkles of care and age, Brother William A. Brinbghurst is the Bishop of this interesting place which has an air of comfort about it that attracts the attention of most visitors, although it is hemmed in by a black ridge or mountain on the east, and a dreary sandy desert on the west. It is truly an oasis in the desert, beautiful and fertile, while the sur-

rounding country is a desolated and dreary as anything possibly can be.

Leaving Toquerville April 20, 1892, to visit settlements further up the Rio Virgen, I found myself traveling near the edge of the deep gorge through which Ash Creek finds its way to the river below; thence I descended a steep rocky hill to the La Virgen, one of the main tributaries of the Rio Virgen and partly used by the people of Toquerville for irrigation purposes; thence I followed up the famous "Johnson Twist" for miles, and finally passed over a broken desert country to Virgen City, situated on the right bank of the Rio Virgen, nine miles southeast of Toquerville. Virgen City, first settled in 1858, was once a prosperous and growing place, but the river having washed away most of the farming land belonging to the settlement, its facilities are now very limited, and a number of the inhabitants are at present on the eve of moving to other "pastures" where they can secure homes that will not float away. The Virgen City ward, presided over by Bishop Leroy W. Beebe, consists of 300 souls, or 58 families; but this includes the pleasant little settlement up North Creek called Mountain Dell, about four miles northeast of Virgen City; and the once prosperous, now almost deserted, Duncan's Retreat, situated up the river about three miles east of that place.

Seven miles above Virgen City, on the left or south bank of the river is situated the village of Grafton, with 16 families, or 78 souls, and James M. Ballard as Bishop. This place has also suffered terribly from the floods which have washed away the greater portion of the farming land, and years ago the whole town (Old Grafton), of which there is now hardly a trace left, went down stream. The new town or present location is a beautiful little spot, but the river is continually threatening its existence, as every flood that comes down the river diminishes the area of the adjacent farms and destroys dams and ditches in regular succession. The village itself, however, is quite secure. Old Grafton was first settled in 1859, the present town in 1861.

Above Grafton, about two and a half miles, on the north bank of the river, lies Rockville, which the late President Brigham Young called the finest location for a town on the Rio Virgen. It was first settled in 1861,