

ITEMS FOR FARMERS.

The Germans want to plant lucerne, or alfalfa, as it is called in California. A Sonoma County, Cal., farmer has received an order for 20,000 pounds of alfalfa seed to ship to Germany.

Flour at retail in the stores at \$2.50 and it is whispered that it may be still lower. Dealers hate to be beat, and when it comes to running down prices, more than one is likely to take a foot in the race. All right, down with the flour.

The Russian war was to have made the fortunes of the American grain dealers. And yet flour is selling in this city for \$2.50 per sack. When 100 pounds of XXX dumpling dust can be bought for \$2.50, no one ought to grumble at hard times—that is, if they can raise the \$2.50.

Corn fodder should not be thrown into the cattle yard or fed alone in the stall. Economy and nutriment will both be studied if it is cut up and mixed with meal or bran. The fodder contains too little of the fattening, flesh-making properties, and the meal contains too much. Mix them, and you have cattle food that will both fatten and fill.

The farmers in Mesilla Valley, a rich spot in the southern part of New Mexico, are said to be perishing for want of food. They are living entirely on fruit, their crops having failed, and *Las Cruces Eco* says they are sick, destitute and dying. This seems singular, and if true it is a shame to their neighbors in New Mexico that they should famish for common necessities.

A mammoth bunch of grapes, probably the largest ever known, is on exhibition in Sacramento. It is from the great grape vine of Santa Barbara (a cutting from the monster sent to the Centennial.) This cluster weighs 125 pounds, is six feet in circumference and three feet long. The vine from which this was cut is sixteen years old, and produces annually 10,000 to 12,000 pounds of grapes. Utah raises fine grapes, but it will take her a long time to beat that even in "Our Dixie."

Ireland is beginning to improve. There has been a large increase in cattle, sheep and hogs on the Emerald Isle lately; the savings banks deposits are larger than before, and there has been an increase of land drained during the past year of 226,000 acres. Branch railroads are being constructed, in which resident property-owners take shares. And the police force has been considerably reduced in the north. Erin is looking up. We hope she sees a brighter future to cheer and encourage her.

The Omaha *Bee* says: "Mr. J. H. Davis, near Avoca, Cass County, Iowa, has a cheese factory from which he turns out about 2,000 lbs. of excellent cheese per month. He has forty acres, and finds ready sale for all the cheese he manufactures." Forty acres of cheese, if that's what the *Bee* means, is a pretty good stock for an Iowa factor; and if he finds a ready sale for all he makes, it's odd that he has forty acres on hand. Doesn't he want to sell, or does his factory turn out forty acres at a squeeze?

Pennsylvania is succeeding in tobacco culture. Ten years ago it was not considered adaptable to the climate. Now it is grown extensively in Lancaster, York, Dauphin and Chester counties. One grower has made about \$10,000 off sixteen acres. There are six large tobacco houses in Lancaster, and an Association of tobacco growers in that county announces that it will give employment for three months to 10,000 men. Why can't Utah grow the "nasty weed," if it will smoke and chew it?

LIGHT IS LIFE.—Sunlight, as the physicists have shown, is the source of all the forms of force with which we are familiar. The coal that heats our houses and moves our steam engines is the only solidified sunshine of former ages, all the life of the vegetable and animal world now is due, directly or indirectly, to the same source. The bread that we eat is the gift of the sun; the clothes that we wear are woven out of his beams. Plants turn towards his light, and so should we if we had not forgotten our natural instincts in the artificial existence we lead.

UTAH MATTERS.

Windsor writing to the Omaha *Bee* from Salt Lake City under date of the 7th inst. says:

John Taylor is an Englishman by birth, and is now sixty-eight years old. At a very early age he emigrated to Canada, in which country he embraced the tenets of Mormonism under the preaching of Apostle Parley P. Pratt. He soon emigrated to the Mormon centre then located at Kirtland, Ohio, and became conspicuous for his vigorous espousal of the cause of the Prophet Joseph, at the time of the Kirtland bank and contemporary troubles. He was among the first missionaries sent to Europe and he preached largely in England. In 1851 he went to France and established a Mormon church there. However, the fruits of this mission have been meagre, as the number of people from the French nation, who have joined the Mormon Church has been very small. But before his mission to France he passed through one of the most eventful periods of his life, being in prison with Joseph and Hyrum Smith in Carthage, Illinois at the time they were killed in prison in 1844. At that time John Taylor was severely wounded by the mob, and lay for several months in a very precarious condition. He has yet within his body some of the bullets which were fired at him at the time of that massacre.

John Taylor, in earlier life, was exceedingly handsome, and, today, he is a very fine-looking old gentleman. His hair is as white as snow, his carriage very erect, his features intelligent and expressive, and he has almost as strong will-power as the late President. He is a man of unflinching courage, and he is entirely devoted to the religion of which he is now the leading representative man. His means are but scanty, he having never assiduously applied himself to the problem of how to get rich. His recognition by the leading authorities of the church, seems to have given general satisfaction to the great bulk of the Mormon people, and they, almost without exception, scout the idea of anybody being able to create division in the church. Some few have suggested that it is quite possible that young Joseph, son of the first prophet, might now lay claim to the presidency, but this idea is regarded by ninety-nine out of every hundred of the Utah saints as simply ridiculous.

It was also supposed by a very great many that the death of Brigham Young would cause a state of great disquietude in financial circles in this Territory, as he was largely interested in the leading commercial and banking institutions of this city. This was especially so in the case of Zion's Co-operative Institution. Your correspondent interviewed one of the directors of this institution to-day, and inquired what were the results to the institution that were expected would follow the death of Brigham Young. The gentleman to whom your correspondent directed his inquiries assured him that the death of Brigham Young had had no visible effect on the business of the institution; that its financial condition was excellent; it owed nothing except current accounts; every note was met the day it became due, and the running accounts were kept paid several days ahead.

They were also buying for cash in the eastern markets, nor were they borrowing money in this market to enable them to buy for cash in the east, nor to meet their time payments promptly. In fact, instead of borrowing, they had lately paid a loan of \$10,000 borrowed a year or so ago, and had constantly on hand in the bank in this city, from \$20,000 to \$40,000. This director appeared to think that the Institution was in such a condition that it was better off now than it had ever been since its establishment.

The Deseret National Bank and other institutions in which the late Mormon President was interested, show no signs of collapse, nor is it thought that his death will even produce a ripple in the sea of their commercial transactions.

A lecturer inquires: "What shall we do with our girls? That question is very easy. Give them three square meals a day; teach them to help their mothers; and at a time they may really become helpmeets for husbands."

History makes haste to record great deeds, but often neglects good ones.—Hosca Ballou.

Correspondence.

General Progress—the Temple, etc.

SAINT GEORGE, Sept. 7th.

Editors Deseret News:

Weather continues very warm and dry, no rain for many months; the consequence is the death of many vines and trees, and the fruit crop will be light in consequence.

Some few improvements are progressing in our city. "Canaan Cop Herd" are building a fine butcher shop, west of the post office. Solon Foster is preparing to build a comfortable home. A. R. Whitehead is building a handsome dwelling opposite President Young's residence. The Tithing Office has been undergoing repairs, and now presents a chaste appearance, being plastered and whitewashed. Some other minor improvements are also progressing.

Quite a force of men and teams are at work on the Temple Block, preparing the ground for planting trees and shrubbery.

The brethren who labor in the Temple are faithful, and seem to enjoy their labors. The sisters also deserve honorable mention in this connection.

Our mail makes good time, with good accommodations southward from Leeds. AMRAM.

Mormon Eulogies on Brigham Young.

It is impossible to read the eulogies on Brigham Young, delivered in the Tabernacle at Salt Lake City on the occasion of his funeral, without perceiving that there were earnest expressions of a very real belief in the goodness and wisdom and divine authority of the dead man, and that a sentiment of religious loyalty and conviction was appealed to which deserves much higher consideration than is generally bestowed upon it. Those indeed who wonder at the crudity of their creed and grossness of their superstitions, no doubt for the most part believe matters every whit as marvelous and as opposed to reason yet for their belief in which they take credit to themselves. Just now we are afforded an opportunity to realize that the Mormon religion is as real and true for the Mormon people as the Christian religion is for the Christian people. We may also perceive how circumstances are apt to alter cases. No dead founder of a faith could be spoken of with greater reverence and admiration than Brigham Young's eulogists have spoken of him. As the case stands, the Mormons being a feeble folk, all this manifestation of faith will probably be ridiculed by the outside world; but should Mormonism ever extend itself and become a real power it is easy to see that its advocates could make as lofty claims for it—so far as mere words go—as the professors of any other creed.—*Sacramento Record-Union*.

One Thousand Lives Lost.

COTOPAXI'S LATEST ERUPTION.

From the Nation.

QUITO, July 4.—The eruption took place on the 26th of June, with every circumstance that could increase its horror—utter darkness in the broad day, thunder and lightning, fearful explosions that made the earth tremble, subterranean noises and wild gusts of wind, accompanied by a rain of ashes. An eye-witness told me that the volcano poured out a cataract ten times the bulk of Niagara, which carried all before it in its headlong course and submerged the whole surrounding country. The torrent divided itself in two opposite directions, as if to give greater scope to its devastation and to make the confusion still more dire. One branch took a southerly course toward the city of Latacunga, situated twelve miles from Cotopaxi.

On its way the torrent converted the plain of Callao into an immense lake. There is but faint hope that the ruins of the palace of the Incas, described by Humboldt and all other travellers through the central valley of the equatorial Andes, have escaped the ravages of the flood. Near Latacunga the furious torrent tore from its very foundations the cotton factory of Don Jose Villagomez, whose value was estimated at \$300,000; crops,

cattle, buildings were swept away; the massive bridges of Cutuche and Pansalvo were destroyed, as well as a part of the fine carriage road (scarce equalled in Europe) which connects Quito with the towns in the south of the republic.

The branch that headed toward the south of Cotopaxi devastated the prosperous and enchanting valley of Chillo, and in particular the estate of the Señores Aguirre, noted for having been the residence of Humboldt. There, too, as in Latacunga, arose the buildings of a thriving factory, which, only the year before, had been destroyed by fire, and had just been repaired at great expense. The torrent rooted it from the ground, and bore it away in a thousand fragments. It is asserted that a mill of Don Manuel Palacios floated on the water like a ship at sea, until shattered by the current. The loss in the valley of Chillo alone is estimated at over two millions of dollars, and the loss in other sections is equally great. It is likewise calculated that the number of the dead exceeds one thousand.

A third cataract took an easterly direction, destroying the bridge of Patate, and doing grievous injury to the estates in that neighborhood, of which the most important is celebrated for its fine wine, well known as "Vino de Patate."

Although the surroundings of Quito have been laid waste, the city itself suffered from only a rain of ashes, and a complete darkness, which began on the 26th of June, at three in the afternoon. At Machache and other places the night lasted for thirty consecutive hours. In the midst of this opaque gloom one could hear the bellowing of the cattle and the cries of other animals, who, deprived of their usual food by the shower of ashes, sought in a species of frenzy for the means of satisfying their hunger. Other beasts, frantic with terror, careered hither and thither as if in despair, and the piteous howling of the dogs pierced the air with its ominous sound. In Quito the darkness was not that of night; it was like that described by the younger Pliny in a letter to Tacitus, in which he relates the eruption of Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii. "It was," he says, "as if the lights in a room had been extinguished." At Quito the shower at first was of coarse, heavy sand, which subsequently turned into ashes so fine and impalpable that they penetrated not only into apartments, but into the most carefully closed receptacles. In the depth of the darkness, men and women, braving the rain of ashes, sallied forth into the streets, screening themselves with umbrellas and lighting their way with lanterns, and all the while these strange apparitions rent the air with their cries and prayers for mercy. The umbrellas, as well as the green eye-glasses used here on journeys, were no superfluous precaution, although they afforded but scant protection against the subtle powder, which it was remembered had in many cases produced blindness during the eruption of 1843, and the rain of ashes of thirty hours that attended it.

OBITUARY.

John Bennion, son of John and Elizabeth Roberts Bennion, who died Sept. 1st, 1877, at North Jordan, Salt Lake County, was born in the township of Moor, parish of Hawarden, county of Flint, Wales, on the 6th of July, 1820. Received the gospel under the teachings of Elder John Taylor and was baptized May 2nd, 1841, by Robert Reid; confirmed under the hands of James McGuffey and Richard Harrison. He was ordained a priest by John Greenhow and Thomas Dumbille, on the 8th of June following. On the 15th of February, 1842, he was married to Esther Wainwright, by Elder Greenhow; on the 22nd went on board the ship *John Cumming*, and set sail for New Orleans, arriving at that port on the 26th of April. On Saturday, May 7th, he landed in Nauvoo, then the gathering place of the Saints. He bought a city lot of Squire Warrington, and resided there two years. In April, 1844, he purchased a place of land of D. H. Wells, Esq., six miles east of Nauvoo, built a house and shared in the persecution of the Saints until their expulsion from Illinois. He was ordained a member of the 14th Quorum of Seventies on Sunday, December 22nd, the day the quorum was organized. During the winter he made himself a wagon, and in January 1846, attended to the ordinances in the Nauvoo Temple, and sold his farm consisting of thirty-one acres, for the sum of forty-five dollars, leaving his house and lot in the city of Nauvoo unsold. On the 19th of May he left Nauvoo and traveled west as far as Garden Grove; built two low cabins and planted crops, preparing for the winter; in the fall he was taken sick with the chills and fever. About the 1st of November a call was made for men to go and bring up the poor Saints who had been driven out

from Nauvoo. He sent two yoke of oxen to assist in that labor. On the 1st of April, 1847, he was enrolled in Capt. Chatterer's company, to travel to the West. On the 10th was sent down to Des Moines, Iowa, after corn to eat at the company to go to Council Bluffs; returned home on the 24th, sold his two low cabins for \$2, and, on the 28th, started for the Bluffs, in a company of ten; arrived there on the 18th of May. The counsel of Elders John Taylor and P. P. Pratt was for all who could fit themselves out to go over the mountains. On the 23rd of May he started down to Missouri after provisions, made the journey of 260 miles, in fourteen days; crossed the Missouri River on the 12th of June, and on the 13th got his certificate, left Winter Quarters on the 14th, and camped near Elder Taylor's company. Next day he traveled ten miles, and camped near the Elk Horn; was enrolled in William Taylor's company of ten, Joseph Horne's company of fifty, and Edward Hunter's company of one hundred. He left the Elk Horn on Saturday, the 19th, and camped on the banks of the Platte until Monday, 21st, and then resumed the journey westward. He met the pioneer camp on their way to Winter Quarters, September 7th, on the Sweetwater; arrived in this valley on the first day of October. He built a log cabin in the old fort for his family and farmed on Canon Creek in the summer of 1848. In December he moved his house on the west side of Jordan, and moved his family into it on the 1st day of January, 1849. In February, 1850, he was in the Indian War, on the Provo River. On the 4th of September, 1854, he started East, in charge of a company from West Jordan Ward, with supplies to assist the emigration. He was ordained a High Priest December 11th, 1856, under the hands of John Young and Joseph Harker; was appointed to preside over the North Branch of the West Jordan Ward, April 17th, 1859, which position he held until called to go on a mission to the southern part of the Territory, at the October Conference in 1868. He started on his mission November 11th, settled on the Muddy, was called from there to Long Valley and was appointed Bishop of that place December 20th. He was on that mission until the fall of 1872. He started on a visit to England in October of the same year and returned on February 15th, 1873. He was elected Justice of the Peace for North Jordan Precinct at the general election for 1875. He was an acting teacher in the ward in which he resided. He leaves 22 children and 21 grandchildren to mourn his loss.—[Com.]

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CALENDAR—1877.

SEPTEMBER.

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
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