

comes forth will be given the cold shoulder.

We are sorry that this is a fact. But it is one of which we have had a thousand proofs, and the case referred to by the *Inter-Ocean* is only one instance of the evil of which we have many times complained.

GEORGE W. HILL.

A HALO of heroism surrounds the memory of the men and women who braved the dangers and hardships connected with the opening of the Rocky Mountain region to settlement and civilization. They were strong characters most of whose careers have been illuminated by deeds of daring. Among this class was the late George W. Hill, who died on Tuesday, February 24th, and whose funeral was conducted on Thursday, February 26th, in the meeting house of the Twenty-second Ward.

George W. Hill was born on March 5th, 1822, at Ames, Athens County, Ohio. In his youth the family moved into Illinois. In 1845 the deceased went to Missouri, and while in that State met with a family named Stewart, who had received the Gospel in another part of the country and were on their way to join the Saints. He became attached to this family and a believer in the Gospel, and remained with them. He married Miss Cynthia Stewart on September 18th, 1845. A halt was made for a time at Mount Pisgah and the winter of 1846-47 was spent at Winter Quarters. Brother Hill sent his team, with his brother-in-law, James W. Stewart, along with the Advance pioneer company, under President Young, which crossed the plains and first entered this valley, while he himself remained a short time to bring along the Stewart family. Shortly before this his father-in-law died. He made the journey, with the family, the same year (1847), arriving here on September 25th.

On this trip he acted as hunter for the company, a position for which his physical strength, coolness and courage admirably adapted him. An incident in this connection is worthy of mention. When the company reached the Platte River, a bear and two cubs were observed in a bunch of willows, and it was decided to kill the grizzly. A number of men approached the place where she was located. President A. O. Smoot, who had charge of the company, was the only one on horseback. Being in an elevated position he saw the willows part and shouted: "Run, boys; she's a fifteen hundred pounder and is coming at you." All the footmen took to their heels except Brother Hill, who simply

retired a couple of rods to give himself a clear field, and as the brute emerged he sent a bullet into her body and disabled her. She was not as large, however, as was imagined before she came into full view.

For some time after reaching here Brother Hill occupied his time in splitting rails and doing any other work he could find to enable him to support the family. In 1849 he was a member of the company which, in that year, left this valley in charge of Jedediah M. Grant accompanying Apostles John Taylor, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards on the overland portion of their journey to Europe on missions to that part of the world. He was also hunter for that party and on the plains did constant guard duty for one-third part of each night, besides responding to other requirements in the same line, on account of other brethren being occasionally too ill to take part in the work.

While in the east on this same trip, he visited the place where the Stewart family had resided for the purpose of obtaining some means belonging to the estate. He also went to see his father's family, none of whom had embraced the Gospel. When he reached the old homestead he found his father on his deathbed. The venerable man received his son's testimony, believed the Gospel and rejoiced. He called the other members of the family around him and, although George was the third son, he exhorted them to receive his teachings and placed them in his charge. He then peacefully died. George had the satisfaction of bringing the family over the plains in 1850. It was then a perilous time because of the prevalence of cholera. He promised them, however, that if they would be led by him not one of them would be attacked by the disease, which was completely verified.

On this trip George was placed in close quarters. At South Pass he left the little company and came along ahead on horseback. He lost his horse on the way and wandered about in the mountains three days and three nights without food. He arrived at the place where Ogden now stands worn out with fatigue and almost famished, on the 24th of July, 1850.

During the next few years Indian raids were frequent and George was mostly engaged at the points of danger, aiding in the protection of the families subject to the greatest exposure to attacks.

He was among those who went to Salmon River in 1855 to establish settlements in that region. He took great

interest in the welfare of the Indians. This caused him to acquire not only the Shoshone language, but that of the Bannocks, Flat Heads and Nez Percés. In this way he obtained much influence among the red men, who also esteemed him because of the fair and truthful character of all his dealings with them. The Salmon River settlers usually came into Utah in winter, returning in the spring. In these intervals George occupied his time in Ogden in teaching the Indian languages.

He was engaged in this part of the country in 1857-58. In the latter year, however, the Indians made an attack upon the Salmon River settlement and Brother Hill was sent from this city as one of ten who were an advance relief company. The party was in charge of Brother B. F. Cummings. They made the distance on horseback in an incredibly short time. When they reached their destination they found the settlers safe, and had to return in post haste to inform the relatives and friends of the Salmon River people that the latter were not in danger. At Bannock Creek the Indians attacked the little party of ten and a hot fight ensued. One of the ten—Brother Bailey Lake—was killed. Several Indians were slain and others wounded.

Returning to 1857 it should be said that in that year George was engaged in performing duty as express courier under General Chancey West's command. Part of the time while attending to this labor he was ill with Mountain fever, but never left his post. In the general "move" from Northern Utah, in 1858, he went to Fillmore with his family, and on his way back was, at Payson, prostrated with an attack of cholera, which he barely survived. From then till 1864 nothing of special note occurred in his career. In that year he made the round trip across the plains—to and from the Missouri River—to bring along the emigrating Saints, in Captain William B. Preston's company, doing duty as night herder, having entire charge of the stock. In 1866 the Indians were on the war path, and George occupied nearly the whole season doing scout duty, patrolling the mountains north and east, to prevent surprises.

The courageous character of the man was exemplified in 1873, while he was employed as nightwatchman for the Central Pacific railroad at Ogden. A gang of three-card monte men had made that town their headquarters, and engaged systematically in robbing the passengers. They were desperate characters and for some time