

Even little children draped their toys and wagons, velocipedes and carriages, and the squalid, half clad, half fed shoe blacks on the street corners, had contrived to beg or buy sufficient material to drape their blocks in mourning for the man who had worked himself up from the depths of poverty like theirs to the highest place in the nation. The portraits of the twin martyrs of the Republic, Lincoln and Garfield, hang side by side on many of the buildings, surmounted by the immortal words uttered by James A. Garfield after the murder of Lincoln: "God reigns and the government at Washington still lives." *Le roi est mort! Vive le roi.*

Amid the general grief for the death of President Garfield, the popular mind involuntarily turns to the man who will occupy his place. On Tuesday morning, about 2 o'clock, Chester Allan Arthur took the oath of office, and swore that he would, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. How he will interpret this oath is a problem which the future alone can solve. Some have misgivings, others are hopeful and confident. Thurlow Weed, when asked if the new President would prosecute the relentless war upon "Mormonism," that the late Executive is believed to have contemplated, is reported to have replied as follows: "I have not heard him express an opinion; but I think that he cannot but regard that heresy as we all do, and that in that respect he will carry out the late President's views. I can readily trust to his good sense as to that matter." In view of this opinion we would say, God reigns supreme over all governments, and in his hand are the destinies of men and of nations. In God we trust, and like Israel of old, we must stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

Political conventions and elections are crowding thick upon the carpet. Time, tide and politics wait for no man. Ere the notes of the requiem that will be played at the obsequies of the deceased President on Monday next shall have died upon the public ear, the political bugle will sound to arms, and the various parties will marshal their hosts for conflict on bloodless battlefields. A proclamation by the new Executive for an extra session of Congress is confidently expected and indeed appears imperatively necessary, in consideration of the state in which the executive succession was left by the adjournment of the Senate. There is no President pro tem of the Senate, nor is there any Speaker of the House of Representatives to act as President under the act of March 1, 1792 in the event of the death or inability of President Arthur. This leaves the country to-day with a single life between us and so much of anarchy might possibly ensue in a self-dissipating, practical and orderly community temporarily deprived of an executive head. In the present structure President Arthur should repeat the step taken by John Tyler to succeed General Harrison in the Presidency, April 4, 1841, and convene an extra session of Congress in order that a President of the Senate and a Speaker of the House of Representatives may be promptly chosen. In all other instances in American history in which a Vice-President has assumed the presidential office, at least one qualified successor has stood behind a ready to take his place. There are several vacancies in the Republican ranks by death and resignations, which have been filled in their respective States, but the election of President pro tem must precede the swearing in of any new Senator, the Revised Statutes prescribe that "the oath of office shall be administered by the President of the Senate to each Senator." \* \* \* Previous to his taking his seat. The majority of the Senate now being Democrats will give the election of President pro tem once more into the hands of that party. So the plot thickens.

Nobody perhaps was more surprised at the results of the autopsy on the late President's remains than the physicians who had had charge of the case from the commencement. The ball had been so positively located by means of the electrical apparatus used, that the suppurating wound was confidently considered to be the track of the wound, though now discovered to have been caused by burrowing pus. The ball was found to be completely encysted beneath the pancreas. The immediate cause of death was neither embolism or neuralgia of the heart, but

the secondary hemorrhage of an artery adjoining the track of the ball, which rupturing the peritoneum, caused considerable effusion of blood into the abdominal cavity. Of two things the country may be assured by the autopsy, one is that no possible surgical skill could have saved the life of the President, whose brave fight against death is made more pathetic from the fact of its being a hopeless fight from the first. The other is that his death was directly due to the wound inflicted by his assassin, who is therefore strictly amenable to the extreme penalty of the law both of God and man. "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed." The American Academy of medicine last night adopted resolutions stating that "the prudent, faithful and indefatigable attentions" of the President's physicians "merit the approval of their medical brethren," and adding that "in the opinion of the Fellows of the American Academy of Medicine, all seems to have been done for the illustrious patient that scientific knowledge and practical skill could suggest, to ward off the fatal effects of the assassin's bullet."

More anon.

E. B. FERGUSON.

### Correspondence.

St. Louis, Mo.,  
September 7, 1881.

Pres. Wilford Woodruff,  
Salt Lake City, Utah:

Your kind and welcome letter came duly to hand and read with pleasure. At that time I was traveling with Elder John W. Taylor in southwest Georgia. We labored in the region about four months, and were blessed in our labors. Owing to excessive heat in the summer we were counseled by Pres. Morgan to come farther north. Our labors having been chiefly in new districts perhaps we have not witnessed so many baptisms as have been performed in other parts of the mission, though some prejudice has been removed, and the Lord has raised up friends to us on every hand.

On one occasion in Middle Georgia we were invited home after meeting by Col. Chas. Zachary, a member of the Georgia legislature. Himself and family treated us very kindly and manifested considerable interest in what we said explaining the faith of the Latter-day Saints.

You have doubtless learnt through the papers that the Legislature in Georgia has been trying to pass a bill with the purpose of restricting or prohibiting the Elders from preaching in that State; though perhaps for a cloak, the bill says to prohibit anyone from inducing the citizens of that State to practise polygamy. This, of course, is entirely foreign to the facts of the case, as Elders do not preach the principle referred to in Georgia, nor induce people to practise it in Georgia. The bill had already passed the Senate before we left Georgia, but how it will terminate I cannot say. Whatever they do we are assured will not retard, but tend to advance the work of the Lord in the earth. This being the promise the Lord has made: "They can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."

The spirit of persecution has been manifest in some parts of the South during the summer season, especially in Georgia and Alabama. It is a remarkable fact that most of the persecution waged against the Elders and Saints in the Southern States takes place in the summer and fall, after harvesting is done with and the people to some extent are at greater leisure. This is the time of the year also when religious revivals are held throughout the country; and while many may be sincere in their professions, it is lamentable to see the condition of the world religiously. In some places where the Elders have preached the gospel for years past, and some have received it, it seems as though the Lord had withdrawn His Spirit from those who are left and left them to ripen in iniquity for destruction to come upon them. This mission seems to be in a prosperous condition, and frequent baptisms are performed by the Elders in their respective fields of labor. We saw Pres. Morgan day before yesterday. He is well and is kept very busy traveling and looking up the interests of the work in all parts of the mission. He is doing a good work, and is loved and respected by Elders, Saints and by all

who know him and love the truth in this land.

At our late conference in Georgia I was appointed to labor with Elder George C. Parkinson, from Franklin, Idaho, while Bro. Taylor was to labor with Elder Wm. J. Packer, of Brigham City. After visiting a few branches of the Saints in North Georgia, we were assigned by Pres. Morgan to the city of St. Louis as our field of labor.

We have only been here a few days and have hardly started yet in our labors. We purpose holding meeting next Sunday on Broadway, in a hall that has been used by the Saints for some time past. This is quite a change to us from the rural districts of the Southern States. There is a small branch of the Church in this city, presided over by Brother Andrew Burman. Several of the Saints have emigrated from here to Utah during the year.

It is surprising to note the vast number of people in St. Louis who were once numbered with the Latter-day Saints, and though they have stumbled by the way, there are some who are not ashamed to be known among the people as what the world call "Mormons," and show by their expression that they have little or no faith in any other religious bodies. We are reminded in looking at these circumstances, of the saying of Peter, as recorded in the 6th chapter of St. John, when the Savior asked the Apostles if they would also leave him and go away, and Peter replied, "Lord to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." And this is the condition of many to-day, having left the Church they are without the words of eternal life or "having no hope, are without God in the world." What may be accomplished in this place will be learned as we proceed with our labors. We hope to do good, and to this end, we humbly ask an interest in your prayers.

The summer here and in the South has been excessively hot and dry on account of severe drouth, the crops have suffered very much; cotton, corn, wheat and other articles only yielding about one-half of the usual amount, and the hearts of many are fearful of the results that may follow. The drouth, I believe, has been general in nearly all parts of the South. Last night there was a heavy fire in St. Louis, burning down a planing mill and considerable lumber. President Morgan has just returned from Omaha and wishes to be remembered to you, and so does Bros. Parkinson and Burman.

I remain, your brother in the gospel covenant,

M. F. COWLEY.

My address is St. Louis, No 1114 Cass Avenue, care of A. Burman.

### The Southern States Mission.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.,  
Sept. 21st, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

Reports from the various Conferences of the mission have in part been received during the past week, and indications are fairly favorable.

The report so far shows the baptism of 125 souls during the past six months. When we consider that this has been accomplished in almost entirely new fields of labor but recently opened up, we cannot but feel that the Lord has abundantly blessed us.

Last spring it was thought prudent to leave the neighborhoods, where considerable time had been expended, and endeavor to carry the gospel into localities where the Elders had never gone before, some time had to be devoted to overcoming prejudice and informing the minds of the people as to what the Latter-day Saints really believed and taught, so that we may consider these fields as likely to produce an abundant harvest of the honest in heart yet. Some 60 souls have emigrated during the six months, and indications are quite favorable for considerable emigration this fall. The young brethren who have been called to this mission have almost without an exception, labored earnestly to spread the principles of eternal life, and bring the people to a knowledge of the truth.

We find in many localities the honest in heart who receive the message gladly, and again we find much opposition; generally the Elders receive more invitations to preach than they can easily fill, of course much of this is curiosity and not a genuine desire to gain knowledge, but it usually results in doing

good, as the way is thus opened up to reach those who desire to learn the way of life and salvation, a scattered few become interested, a home for the missionaries is secured, a place to preach provided and soon there are those who desire to obey the requirements of the gospel. All this does not transpire without much opposition, the clergy bring to bear their influence, the local press takes a hand and every effort is made to inflame the minds of the people, sometimes successfully to the extent that threatenings and violence are resorted to by the misled and mistaken believers of the churches of to-day.

Yet we find many good, true and God-fearing people, who stand firm in the face of the angry waves of popular prejudice, and of whom it can be said as was said of old by Paul of Priscilla and Aquilla, "They have for our lives laid down their own necks," and of these there are not a few. The State of Georgia seems to be the most violent in its opposition, one of its State Senators having gone so far as to introduce a bill interfering with the right of free speech, in their wild efforts to stay the progress of truth. I am not yet informed as to what became of the bill, but the chief executive of the State has been addressed upon the subject and we shall soon learn whether the empire State of the South has so far departed from the fundamental principles of a free government as to take such a step.

But we need scarcely be surprised at any move made at the present time, the people are fast drifting into that condition which was foretold by the Prophet Joseph Smith, when he said, "Mob rule and anarchy would yet prevail in the midst of this once favored people," and day by day we see the fulfillment of the prediction. In the State of Alabama, where a short time ago considerable excitement prevailed, matters have quieted down and the only result now apparent is the more thorough advertisement of the gospel.

The months of August and September are throughout the South the understood time for religious revivals, and during this period we usually meet the most violent opposition; that season has about passed away, and we look forward to quite a peaceful time, which can be utilized by the Elders in teaching and preaching to the people.

A company of Saints are expected to leave on the 9th of November; some for Utah, but the majority go to Colorado. The Elders and Saints throughout the Mission feel well, and are quite united in their efforts to enlighten the minds of the people, and if nothing unforeseen occurs, we look forward to the accomplishment of a good work in the South the coming year. The agitation of the question by press and pulpit must necessarily result in good in the long run to the cause of truth.

A good work could be done by our friends at home by supplying us with copies of the DESERET NEWS Weekly or Semi-Weekly, and tracts to distribute gratuitously among the people, as we find them valuable auxiliaries to the ordinary labor of traveling and preaching. We would take great pleasure in seeing such donations placed where they would do much good.

Trusting that we have the faith and prayers of the Saints in our labors,

Very truly, your brother in the bonds of the covenant of peace,  
JOHN MORGAN.

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PETER ANDERSON,  
CHRISTIAN H. JENSEN,  
JOSEPH ANDERSON,  
GEORGE FINLINSON,  
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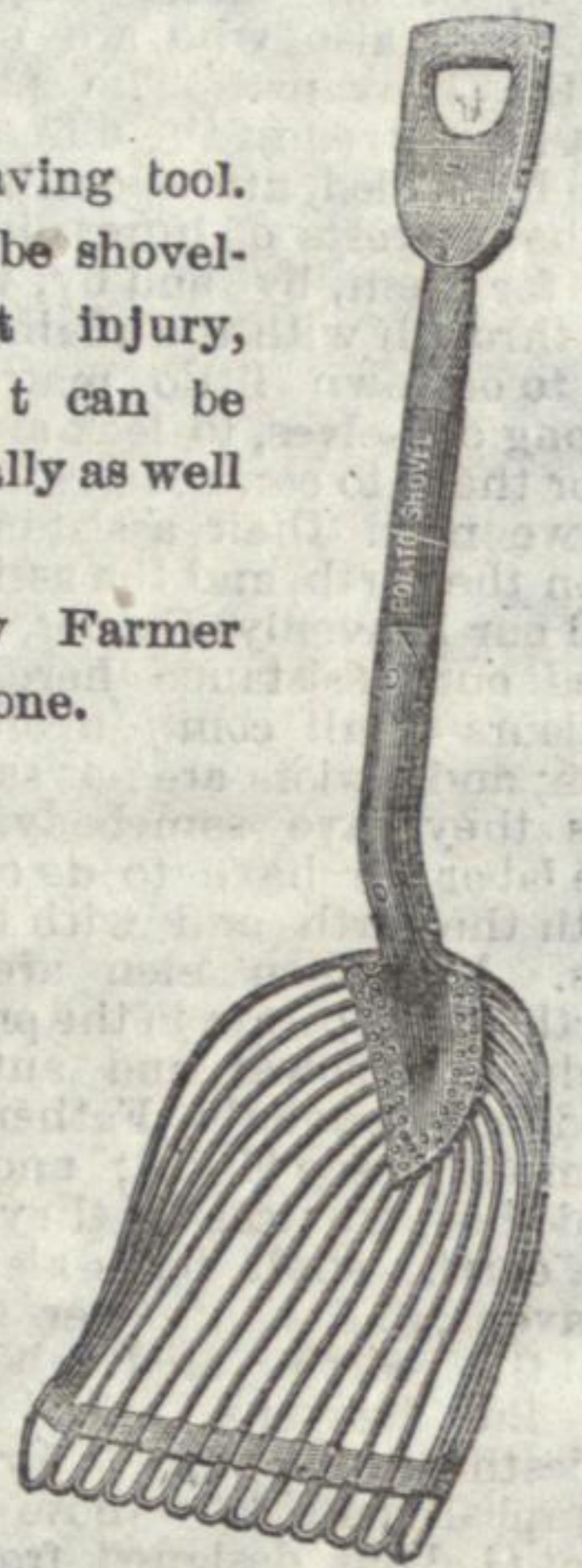
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