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Wednesday, .....Sept. 4, 1867.

LOCUSTS—THEIR INCREASE  
AND DESTRUCTIVENESS.

According to information from various sources, it would seem that the locusts—commonly called grasshoppers—which have been passing southward in such myriads for some weeks past, are not confined to this Territory at present, nor are they near so numerous here as they are elsewhere. Idaho and Montana have seemingly been their birth place; at any rate they have been there in numbers vastly in excess of those seen here. We learn from a reliable source that the clouds which came south from Snake river, passing over our northern and central settlements and doing very considerable damage in places, were but a small portion of those north of that point; and that a larger quantity traveled in a northeasterly direction. In Colorado, Kansas and other places they have been flying in clouds, almost darkening the air at times, it is said; and their ravages have been very considerable. It seems that this whole western region of country is at present almost alive with them, while the results of their great increase may make it alarming by another season.

There is something peculiar about them in their increase. For several years they have been heard of doing damage at various points, but nothing of a very serious character was reported. Now, all at once, they appear in countless numbers in places where but a few were heard of; and they sweep over wide tracts of country, descending and devouring as they continue their migratory journey. When it is considered that they generate and produce several times in a season; that their increase each time is enormous; and that from the time of hatching out they are destructive in an extraordinary degree; they become a formidable foe to contend with, and an agent of destructiveness more terrible than their size, though not than their numbers, would indicate.

If we have experienced the full extent of their ravages this season, and if they have almost passed off, we have great reason to be thankful. But they do not seem to be yet stopped traveling; and there may yet come vast numbers that will remain through the fall. And, as it is, their eggs are now deposited in many places to an incredible amount, which is also doubtless the case in every place that has been or is being visited by them; so that on the natural law of increase the number that may be looked for next year will be alarmingly in excess of that which has been so destructive this season in so many places.

They have come here this summer not quite early enough to cut off our breadstuffs, but if their eggs are deposited as extensively as many believe, next spring and early summer will be the time when their destructive habits will make themselves most severely felt. Under the circumstances com-

ment is needless. We hope all will look at the possible contingency in the wisest light, and act for individual welfare, and the good of the whole community.

## THE FOUNDATION OF PERMANENT PROSPERITY.

Travelers on arriving in this Territory are struck with an air of ease which pervades our cities and settlements, and with the home attractions which abound so plentifully. After a journey across wide prairies and seemingly interminable sage plains, the shade trees and orchards among which this city lies embosomed have a peculiarly pleasant and inviting appearance. No one unacquainted with the facts, when comparing this city with those of the neighboring Territories, would think that twenty years ago the place where it now stands was a sage desert.

On every side are to be seen houses with an air of home comfort that is attractive. The soil, naturally forbidding and hard, has been blessed by the Lord, and the labors of the people under that blessing have produced comfort and plenty from a desert. Men build houses, not simply to live in for a year or two and then sell, but for their children to inhabit. They plant trees around them, that all may luxuriate in the coolness of their shade. They set out fruit trees that their families may enjoy the fruit. Flowers are cultivated, and with them a taste for the delicate and the beautiful grows up. The east and the west furnish seeds, and cuttings, and roots, which when planted and developed minister to our gratification and delight. These and many other things easily observable show that we have not come here only to acquire wealth, but to live; that we make of this our permanent home, a home which we seek to beautify and adorn for our gratification and comfort, and the gratification, comfort and delight of our children.

It is usual in the mining districts of this western country to see cities spring up in an exceedingly short space of time. Houses are built as if by magic, streets grow, stores multiply and business thrives for a time. All is bustle, stir, life, as it is called, and making money, which, by the bye, only a few can make, the rest merely helping them to do it. After a time the contiguous mines do not yield so richly, discoveries are reported elsewhere, and much of the population floats off, having no home inducements to bind them there. A few years later and that town is measurably deserted; business has moved off to other places, while the streets are dull, silent and comfortless looking. This is the picture of many towns in the mining regions. Sudden growth; great and rapid prosperity; quick decadence and desertion, because those who built them did not design to live there; they sought only to make money, that they might carry it away to enrich other places.

We have come here to live. Our cities are permanent. Their prosperity is not so quick, but it is steady and ever on the increase. Business may become dull for a time for the merchant and trader, but the comforts that are drawn from the earth and elements around us are the same to our use. Consequently, every settlement made, every farm fenced and broken up, every orchard set out, every house built, every water-ditch or canal dug, is a permanent improvement which will not depreciate but will continue to increase in value, and will aid in making more valuable all the property contiguous to it.

When men talk of energy and enterprise in developing the mineral resources of this great region of country, they might, on reflection, give at least a part of the credit due to the energy and enterprise which first settled and opened it up, and without which the development now so highly lauded would have been impossible for many years. And when they talk of the adventurous spirits and hardy miners who dare the terrors of the savage that they may obtain gold; they might, once in a while, allude to the adventurous and hardy women and children who set them the example in braving such dangers, not for gold but to find and make a home, being driven by mob violence to the desert for shelter. And those dangers were braved, too, by weak women and children, when their extent was unknown.

The progress and development of the country west of the east ridge of the Rocky Mountains, as far as it has depended upon the search for and the finding of the precious metals, has not been healthy nor permanent. This thirst for gold so strongly pervades all classes, that when the attraction presents itself in scenes wild, dangerous and rude, it draws together large numbers of the wildest, most reckless and desperate of men, who to supply their wants, to find excitement, and to gratify their desires, would dare much more than they have to do to obtain the prize they seek. Following them, to prey upon their reckless waste and extravagance, come hungry speculators; and all that vice can provide to minister to man's gross desires or depraved appetites is provided, that the hard earned gold may pass into the hands of others than those who toiled for it.

Are these the elements, thus gathered together, of which a prosperous and truly progressive community are formed? Does it not take years of opening up the natural resources of the country, agriculturally and horticulturally, before a permanent foundation is laid on which the superstructure of prosperity can be successfully raised? Let the facts bear witness. West of us lie California and Nevada, two States, each with the dignity of being a Republic in and of itself. They have had all the advantages of heavy capitalists aiding in developing their resources. Their mines have been exceedingly rich. Gold and silver have been dug there in immense quantities. But it was not until California took a position as an agricultural, vinegrowing and manufacturing State that her real prosperity began to be developed. Nevada, to-day, with her rich mines, and her much vaunted wealth is poor and almost bankrupt; and it would be no boasting to say that plodding, slow-going, agricultural Utah could buy half-a-dozen such States, and have a margin left to put a picket fence around a portion of them. Without drawing sustenance from some other place, her mines would have been still undeveloped; and it will take years to weed her population of those characters who are the bane of society, to whom we have referred, and who follow the careless, reckless, hard-working, easy-spending miner like sleuth hounds.

What we deduce from this is, that the very foundation of progress and prosperity in this western country is developing its agricultural and horticultural resources; this Utah has done, and done it first. That without this development, which Utah pioneered and in which she still stands in the front rank, the mining districts would not, could not, have been opened up, at least for many years, for the difficulty and expense of freight-

ing produce over a long way, through a wild, unsettled and unknown country would have precluded it; there would not perhaps have been any telegraph wire connecting the Pacific with the Atlantic; there would not have been even a nominal daily mail across the continent; and the Union Pacific Railroad would still have been a thing of the future for bursting eloquence to elaborate upon. We deduce also that the society thus drawn together when those districts are opened up, is not of the kind which conduces to the real prosperity and growth of the place where they temporarily locate. And, that a State or Territory so settled and peopled has to pass over the yeasty waves of insecure moral and financial elements, before it can reach the calm, still waters of true prosperity and public moral health.

The progress of Utah is far in advance of her near neighbors. Her prosperity is steadily increasing. She has within her all the elements of greatness, power and importance—not in her rich soil, but in the policy, industry and virtue of her people—which are being surely developed. She can feed and has fed her thousands who have been engaged in this opening up and developing process, and her prosperity has the air of age and the stability of permanency about it. Utah has done well for our country; she has cost it less, and done more for the development of these vast western possessions, than any other State or Territory in the Union. That is simply stating a fact in so many words. Her people have opened a road from the Mississippi to the Pacific; settled a wilderness; wrested bread from the desert to feed the thousands who, seeking for a fortune, sought the gold and silver in which our neighboring States and Territories rejoice; and thus have been the instruments in developing and placing in the hands of the nation the inexhaustible wealth in which it takes such pride.

Justice, simple justice, would seem to demand that Utah, having done so much for her country, should receive some better recompense than taxation without representation. And, failing such, that she should be allowed to develop her own prosperity and her internal resources in her own way, according to the wish of the people, offering the best assurance for the future in the present, which is but a result of the past, that it would subserve the dignity, prosperity, and financial and moral health of the nation.

## HOME ITEMS.

**SABBATH MEETINGS.**—Elder Edwin Frost felt thankful at again having the privilege of meeting with the Saints; and spoke of his mission to Europe from which he has recently returned.

Elder Robert N. Russell also spoke of his mission, and the fulfillment of the promises made to him, before he left Zion in '64, by the servants of God who blessed him and set him apart for the mission to which he had been appointed.

Elder Orson Hyde delivered a brief and interesting discourse, encouraging the Saints to continually practice righteousness that they may be partakers of the fruit of the tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. He showed that it is not because of any doctrine that we believe, nor of any institution existing among us, nor is it because of polygamy that we are the object of hatred on the part of our enemies; but it is because we have with us the word and power of God in the living oracles, a power which they do now and always have endeavored to destroy from off the earth.

Elder F. J. Plate, returned missionary, expressed his feelings of gratitude at being again among the Saints in Zion; and spoke of his travels in the ministry and while returning home.

Elder W. Woodruff showed that the testimonies borne by the elders who come to the stand to-day are the same as those that were borne by the elders thirty years ago. He treated on the subject of men being inspired from Heaven for the accomplishment of certain purposes, as