

# DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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## Z. C. M. I. OFFICERS.

A SUMMARY of the business done at the directors' meeting of Z. C. M. I., last night, will be found in our local columns. The new superintendent, Col. Thomas G. Webber, who succeeds the late General Eldredge in the position, is better informed regarding all the inner and outer details of the business of this mammoth concern than any other person in existence. The stockholders and the community have every reason to have unqualified confidence in his business integrity, which is beyond question, and in his ability to supervise and conduct the affairs of the institution. His hands will be strengthened by the executive committee of three of the leading business men of Utah—Moses Thatcher, Heber J. Grant and George Romney. These gentlemen have been selected on account of their well known fitness for the position, and they are to take an active interest, in addition with the superintendent, in forwarding the interests of the house, and especially in extending its usefulness as a benefit in the midst of the community, with special reference to the development of the original intent of the institution. The selections of the right men to fill the proper places by the directors are exceedingly happy in every instance. Mr. A. W. Carlson, who was selected to the post of assistant secretary and treasurer, being peculiarly adapted to the position.

We may confidently look for Z. C. M. I. to enter upon a career of the most gratifying success and development, with a continuation of a reputation for solidity not excelled by that of any other mercantile and manufacturing concern in the country. The directors, stockholders, and the community are to be congratulated on the character of the selections for chief active officers.

## REMARKS ON THE SEWERAGE REPORT.

THE report of the committee on sewerage to the City Council is a virtual acknowledgment that the taxpayers in District No. 1, as well as the rest of the people of this city, have the right to know something more about the system for which their money is proposed to be expended, than the mere plan for laying a few laterals. This is what the DESERET NEWS contended for from the beginning of the discussion on this question.

Our remarks on this matter were met with a sneer, and the flippant reply that the building of the main sewer and the providing of a place of deposit were nothing to do with the taxpayers of District No. One; all they had to do was to say whether or not they wanted the laterals. And it was further intimated that as the City Council had been elected by the citizens, it was tantamount to infringing upon the high prerogatives and great wisdom of those officials, to inquire into their intentions as to the main and the place of deposit.

However, the gentlemen of the committee do not seem to have looked on the matter in this light. They have furnished a report, which has been published in full in this paper, containing their views and their recommendations. The report shows that the subject has been considered with some care, and with a desire to devise the best possible plan for sewerage in the business part of the city.

It is a matter of regret that, the report was not made when the people were first applied to for their decision as to the laying of the laterals. They would then have had time to investigate it and inquire into its details. Now, the date for their decision is but six days from the publication of the report. This is too short a period for proper deliberation by the citizens who are interested in the project.

But there are a few considerations that should be well weighed. In the first place the conclusion of the "Local Government Board" of England, has reference to towns with a crowded population. There is no comparison between this city and such places as Bedford, Doncaster, Warwick or Croydon, where the houses are in solid blocks and many families dwell in each domicile, and drainage as well as the disposition of excrement is impossible without sewers. And as to Berlin and Paris with their immense population and means of disposal of waste matter, they must not be mentioned in the same breath. How many of those towns resort to deodorization does not appear in the

report. Pullman, one of the places mentioned, employs the deodorizing process spoken of several times in these columns, so there is good reason why there is no offensive scent there from sewage.

Many of the towns mentioned in the report, if not most of them, are situated near streams of considerable volume and capable of carrying away sewage of vastly greater quantity than is ever likely to be created in this locality. Their facility for carrying away the waste matter are far in advance of ours. The cost at those places is not given, so that the public are not able to judge on that point, nor is the gradient for Salt Lake given so that we may be able to compare it with that of the places mentioned.

The committee report in favor of carrying the sewerage over the Jordan to the alkali flats, which, though costly, seems to be quite feasible. It should be understood that this is not determined on by the Council as the method to be adopted in case the sewers shall be built. It is only the opinion of the committee. But it indicates that the scheme for turning the foul matter into the Jordan, which has been strongly supported, is not likely to prevail. The method now proposed will involve, as we stated, the pumping of the sewage from the place of reception near the river.

The subject of the water for flushing is treated as a matter of small concern, and the public are informed that "in ordinary seasons there is no lack at all for all the district lying below the canal." This will be news to a great many of our citizens, who have been unable for years to raise even a cabbage patch for lack of irrigating fluid. We do not refer to the "dry benches," but to owners of lots who are lawfully entitled to water for irrigation, who can only obtain permission to use water for part of an hour once a week, and then get such a slim stream that it scarcely suffices to keep a few trees alive. This year, an exceptionally dry season, even since the "nearly double supply" spoken of, there has been no water at all for irrigation in a large eastern district of this city, and many people have had to buy water to drink, for many weeks, although possessed of legal water rights.

It is all very well to pooh, pooh, this condition of things, and say that those who complain of them "don't know what they are talking about." They are facts, and very disagreeable facts, as such sneerers would find out if they were unfortunate enough to be placed in this situation. Water has been carried in barrels and sold to thirsty people, every day for many weeks, in the Eleventh Ward where water rights are complete and it is below the canal.

The water supply of the city is not complete. All the talk in the world will not convince people that it is, who cannot get enough to irrigate a few rods of ground in ordinary seasons, and can get none even to drink except it is carried from a distance in buckets or barrels, in a dry season like the present.

As to the automatic flush arrangements, they ought to be inquired into thoroughly before they are adopted. How long they last, whether they are likely soon to get out of order, and what the consequences are when they cease to act, are some of the considerations that demand investigation.

Then as to the cost for the main, pump and embankment. The committee estimate this to be about \$80,000. Everybody familiar with official estimates knows that they seldom if ever cover the full amount. Denver will give us an illustration of this. We mention that city because the same engineer who estimated the Denver system made an estimate for this city. It is quite likely that the cost would be much more than the estimate, perhaps double the amount, before the work was completed, as many contingencies would in all probability arise that are now unforeseen.

It must be remembered that this \$80,000, roughly estimated, is additional to the \$90,000 for the laterals, and the \$100 each property owner for connecting pipe, to say nothing of the cost in each building for plumbing. And it must be borne in mind that while the taxpayers in District No. One have to pay for laterals and connecting pipes, the whole body of taxpayers in the entire city will have to pay for the main sewer, which only commences at Second East Street on Fourth South, thence running west to some undetermined point on the Jordan, and for the pumping and disposition of the sewage.

Therefore the whole city should have some voice in regard to the proposition now made by the committee to the City Council. First, they should have something to say about the disposition of the water they own, and many of them sadly need for the primary purposes for which they have acquired the right to its use. Second, they should be heard on the expenditure of general city taxes for the special benefit of a limited district. People outside of District No. One have the right to speak on these two points. One member of the City Council announced, publicly, that when the Second District was organized the tax on property owners would be four per cent instead of two. If the increase of cost, as the districts are extended, is to be in this ratio what kind of a tax will the people in outer districts have to pay, before they can gain any benefit from the system for which their money as well as

that of others is now proposed to be expended?

We again advise the taxpayers in District Number One to look before they leap. A very expensive system is proposed, which will really be for the chief benefit of a few hotels and some places of business in the centre of town. For this, they and the whole city will have to pay, to a large extent. Speculators in real estate will, of course, be in its favor. The raising of land values is for the pecuniary advantage of those who have land to sell. The great benefit to those who only want to occupy, and not sell their homes, is solely to raise their taxes and make it impossible for a poor man to own the house he lives in. That is the fact, cleared from all the clap-trap huddled around it, and the sophistry of those who are red hot for a "boom."

The time has come for a decision. Let the facts be well considered, and let those who do not favor the present scheme remember that if they do not protest they will have to pay, and that those who do not record their names against it will be counted as in its favor. And do not let any property-owner be deceived by false reports concerning persons or firms, who are misrepresented as favoring that which they intend to oppose. Taxpayers should act on their own good judgment.

## REMINDERS OF THE PAST.

The Temple and Village of Kirtland Minutely Described.—  
Old Landmarks.

KIRTLAND, Lake County.

October 2d, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

Your correspondents arrived at Niagara Falls on Saturday last, where we spent two days taking in such sights as we never had the privilege of resting our eyes upon before, but as this, one of the grandest of the world's natural wonders, has been described so often by those who are able to wield the pen better than we can, we will pass over this interesting part of our journey and simply state that we arrived in this historical place (Kirtland) at 7 o'clock last night. We put up at the old Bump House, named after the original owner, Jacob Bump, who is known in Church history as the man who wanted to fight President Brigham Young, because the latter testified that Joseph was a true Prophet. Bump was at that time apostatizing. The house now called the Kirtland Hotel is situated opposite the street east of the Temple and is owned by E. L. Kelley, the president of the Josephite branch at Kirtland. This branch contains about 30 members who hold regular Sabbath schools and meetings every Sunday, sometimes on the Temple and at other times in the large upper room of the hotel. In the evening we were introduced by W. H. Kelley, one of the Twelve Apostles in the Reorganized Church. During our quite interesting conversation with him in regard to whether Joseph Smith the Prophet ever taught or practiced the doctrine of plural marriage, we named a number of witnesses who had testified under oath that they knew he did, but Mr. Kelley remarked that he could not take their testimony because they were interested parties. Pray, who are not interested parties in connection with a doctrine that concerns the moral condition of the whole human family.

This morning we were waited upon by Gomer T. Griffiths, who is also one of the Twelve of the Josephite faction, and a real gentleman in all his bearings. He conducted us through the Temple and whittled patiently upon us while we examined every part of the building and took a number of measurements. The lower large room has been carpeted and nicely fitted up for meeting purposes, while the upper large room, where the school of the Prophets was held in early days, and the Elders studied languages and the sciences, is only partly repaired as yet. The five school rooms in the attic story have also been whitewashed and cleaned, but not used for many years. Heating apparatus sufficient to heat up the whole building in a very short time has been furnished by the Reorganized Church, who has had possession of the building since 1889, when the court of common pleas, in Painesville, Lake Co., Ohio, gave a decision to the effect that the Reorganized Church was the rightful owner of the building, there being no defendants represented in court to dispute their claim. Previous to this the Temple had been claimed and occupied without any legal title whatever by various parties whose rights of ownership, if they ever pretended to have had any, were ruled out by the aforesaid court decision. We ascended into the old wooden tower and even went outside, where we had a fine view of the village of Kirtland and surrounding country. Lake Erie north-west, six miles distant, is in plain view, and so also is the town of Willoughby and Mentor. East and southward the course of the east fork of the Chagrin River, and its tributaries, on which Kirtland is situated, is plainly marked by the narrow valley through which it flows, making the country immediately around Kirtland somewhat broken and hilly, while further away it consists of gently rolling prairies and timberland. Westward the chimneys of Cleveland about twenty miles distant can be seen, and the rich vineyards and well

cultivated farms observed in every direction goes to show that Joseph the Prophet and the early Elders of the Church manifested the same good judgment here in selecting gathering places for the Saints, as they did in Missouri. Had the Saints been permitted to remain here in peace, Kirtland would no doubt today have been a flourishing city, instead of an unimportant village, as it is now, with 250 inhabitants. We spent about three hours in the lower room of the Temple and felt deeply impressed when we reflected upon what took place inside of those walls more than fifty years ago. We stood in the pulpit, upon the breastwork of which the Savior placed His feet on the 3d of April, 1838, when He spoke comforting words to the assembled Saints, telling them that He accepted of the house, which they had built to His holy name with great sacrifice and in the midst of financial poverty. It was also here that Moses appeared and, delivered to the Prophet Joseph the keys for the gathering of Israel from the four corners of the earth, and where Elijah the Prophet gave to this generation the keys for turning the hearts of the children to their fathers and the hearts of the fathers to the children. Furthermore, in this very room, scores of the brethren received the ministrations of angels, saw glorious visions, spoke in tongues, prophesied and rejoiced as only Saints of the Most High can rejoice under the influence of the Holy Spirit. How often we have with breathless attention listened to our aged veterans when they related what they had seen and heard in this house, but O, how changed the scene. The wicked and ungodly who drove the Saints away, have long ago desecrated this once holy place, and the Kirtland Temple now stands in solemn loneliness as a strange sentinel bearing silent witness of the glorious day, which once was a similitude of what we trust shall some time in the future be enjoyed on the same ground. Yes, when the Lord opens the way for the Saints to rebuild the waste places of Zion, and the land shall be dedicated for the gathering of God's people, then hosannab to God and the Lamb shall again sound in the hills of Kirtland, and the voices of united thousands, filled with the power of the Holy Ghost, be raised to heaven in "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning," as in the days gone by, only with a stronger chorus. Then shall the Savior again visit His people and holy beings once more administer to their fellow laborers in the flesh. God hasten the day.

The Temple and principal part of the village of Kirtland stand on high ground—it may be termed a hill as there are lower lands all around it—but a strip of high land lying beyond the Chagrin River, between it and Willoughby, obscures it from view from the railway, and the first glimpse we had of the Temple yesterday was from the point where the road crosses this ridge about a mile from the Temple.

Our obliging guide having showed us all through the building, we took a walk around the village. Near the northeast corner of the Temple stands a little square cottage which once was the office of Oliver Cowdery, but is now occupied by J. T. Griffiths. When Oliver Cowdery used it it stood west of the Temple, near Oliver Granger's residence, which is standing yet. About a block north of the Temple on the west side of the Chester road, on the slope of the hill, stands, in a good state of preservation, Joseph Smith the Prophet's old house, now occupied by Milton McFarland, a blacksmith, who has a shop on the opposite side of the street. East of the Temple is Sidney Rigdon's old residence, a one and a half store frame building on the east side of the road, leading to Chester (formerly known as Rigdon Street); this is next door to the hotel, where we are stopping. One block south of the Temple, on what in the good old Kirtland days was called Hyrum Street, stands yet Hyrum Smith's old dwelling; a family Metcalf occupies it now. Two blocks west of the Temple our guide pointed out to us the place where the late President Brigham Young's house once stood, opposite the street from the Temple; north, on the brow of the hill, is the village church yard, in which rest many faithful Saints awaiting the morning of the glorious resurrection. Some years ago one of the good Christians of Kirtland undertook to plow a certain part of the graveyard, leveling head boards, mounds and all, evidently from disrespect to the "Mormons." Later an attempt was made to replace some of the old grave-stones, but it is a question whether they were put in the proper places or not. Among the tombstones which evidently had not been disturbed, we noticed a rude sandstone designating the resting place of the late Oliver Granger, and another bearing the inscription: "Ennice Thompson, who died Sept. 28, 1831; 27 years old." We copied the inscriptions of a few others. Down the hill in a northeasterly direction on what is called the Kirtland Flats, stands yet the late N. K. Whitney's old dwelling, a one-story frame house; also the building formerly known as Whitney's store, where Joseph Smith, president of the Reorganized Church, was born, in 1832; the old Johnson Hotel, a two-story brick house, and other buildings which once belonged to the Saints. The old Whitney residence is now owned by Riley Harris, and Whitney's store by J. F. Wells, who still carries on the business of a merchant at the old stand. The present village of Kirtland contains about 40

dwellings, considerably scattered, and the whole place has a somewhat ancient appearance, and seems to testify of a condition of affairs that has been better days. Of late years it has been visited by a great many people from all parts of the country, who directly come out of curiosity to see the "Mormon" Temple. Some of these show all due respect to the building while others—so Mr. Griffiths informed us—exhibit a wicked and mocking spirit. In looking over the Temple register, in which every visitor is required to sign his or her name, we ascertained that over 600 persons had visited the building during the last year; among them were some of our friends from Utah.

We leave Kirtland with heavy hearts, contrasting in our minds the present with the past. Crossing the east fork of the Chagrin River, on a substantial wooden bridge we see a short distance up the stream, the celebrated Kirtland Mills. We have now climbed the hill on the opposite side, from which we are taking a last look at the Temple, and now proceed on our return trip to Willoughby, from where we take the cars to Chicago; thence to Nauvoo and Carthage.

ANDREW JENSEN,  
EDWARD STEVENSON,  
JOSEPH S. BLACK.

## THE HILL CUMORAH.

An Interesting Description of  
Scenes and Locations Associated  
with the Rise of the Church.

HILL CUMORAH,

Ontario County, New York,

September 28th, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

Sitting on this holy and historical ground, the scene of some of the greatest events which have ever transpired in the history of men upon the earth—it is but natural that our minds should be deeply impressed, and that we should give way to unusual and solemn meditation; for it was here, more than twenty-four centuries ago that the descendants of Jared and his brother, fought their last exterminating battle, intoxicated as they were with blood-thirstiness and hatred, for they had rebelled against the Lord, killed his prophets and driven Ether, the last man of God among them, into exile, seeking his life. What a tale of woe would not the spirits of all these departed ones have to tell men in the flesh nowadays, were such communications permitted. Would they not appeal to this generation to take warning from their fate, and advise them not to kill, stone or abuse the servants of God now upon the earth as they did in their day. But in the allwise Providence of God their spirits must remain silent while their bodies alumber in the dust, until the day of judgment. It was also in this land that Mormon in his old age and his son Moroni led their Nephtie armies against their brethren the Lamanites—the last time—to that dreadful massacre that forever swept a once of God highly favored race out of existence as a nation. It was here that Mormon, beholding the fair daughters of his people arming themselves for the battle of extermination, burst out in the anguish of his soul and for the last time called upon his people to repent; but the spirit of God had ceased to strive with them, and before the setting of the sun on that fatal day Mormon and his ten thousand which he led in battle array, lay dead on the gory field, together with the many other ten thousands who fell by the hands of the Lamanites, Moroni and a few others were the only ones who escaped with their lives from that terrible battle field. This took place more than fourteen hundred years ago, but looking over this hilly country today—the topographical or general character of which has perhaps not changed very much since that time—our imagination can easily conceive how the exile Moroni, the custodian of the records of his fathers, was hunted by the blood-thirsty Lamanites while writing the closing paragraphs of the Nephtie history, and how he finally, no doubt in the shades of night, emerged from his hiding place, and deposited the sacred treasure in this hill, where it lay 1,407 years. We pass over that long and dreary night and again conceive of Moroni as an angel of glory, still in charge of the same records, instructing the humble farmer's boy, and preparing his mind for a great and noble work, in which tens of thousands were to rejoice. Yonder stands the house still in which that ancient prophet of God first called upon the youth, who afterwards became the translator of the Book of Mormon, and the next day showed him the plates on the very spot where we now stand. And fifty-nine years and six days ago today, Joseph Smith received the record of the Nephties from the hands of Moroni. O, how sublime the thought. What emotions fill our hearts when we think of it. We feel that we, indeed, stand on holy ground, and, as if by instinct, we silently renew our covenants that we will be faithful and true in keeping the commandments of God, as Joseph was faithful and true to the commandments the angel gave him until he sealed his testimony with his blood.

The very first man we met yesterday after our arrival in Palmyra, was Mr. James M. Ford, 72 years old, who said that he was born and raised in Palmyra.