

being extensively carried on, and is giving a new spirit to the educational world. The results now obtained are but a tithe of the good yet to follow.

Hon. Abraham H. Cannon delivered the commencement oration. In brief he said:

"Some of us are looking too much into the future, and forgetting the duties of today. The obligations of the present are for us the most important. But it is well that we build air castles; it is well that we have a purpose—an ideal in life. All our success is owing to the resolutions with which we follow this ideal. By reflection and by prayer we may learn what sphere of life we should work in, and then we should persistently hold to our choice. Within us is the power and the hindrance to greatness.

"Today is a critical time. Great wisdom, wise action, is needed to solve the great problems before us. Both men and women should study the questions and help, if called on, to solve them. We should be men and women with views of our own. We should not without fear of public opinion, merely seeking not to offend a tender conscience.

"Each should strive to become self-supporting, whether by manual labor or by mental work. We should not be ashamed of honest labor. Whatever is done should have character in it. Woman has many avenues of employment offered to her now which formerly were closed to her; but her highest and grandest effort is in the home.

Young people, remember righteous deeds, noble thoughts, lofty feelings are measure of your life, and will glorify you not only here, but in all eternity."

The popular, pretty ballad A Golden Argosy, was beautifully given by Geo. D. Pyper.

Mrs. Alice Rich delivered the valedictory, saying:

"Throughout our life we are influenced by our environment; everything with which we come in vital touch leaves its impression upon us. In school the social life is found with all the principles which govern the larger social order and there is an opportunity for the practice of all the true social relations and duties. The truth has been made prominent that our search for the laws of the Creator brings us to a knowledge of God himself and our relation to Him."

"The band of friendship which has been formed during the work together will not be broken when we leave school for it is a spiritual band which shall remain through eternity. Let us climb from the heights we have reached in this life up to the realms above where we shall meet in glorious brotherhood and sisterhood.

Instructor W. H. Chamberlin had conferred upon him by President Done, acting as a representative of the general board of education the degree of bachelor of didactics (B. D.)

The president made a few remarks and read his report of the institution for the last year.

Elder Jonu Nicholson, in behalf of the college board, spoke briefly and interestingly.

Jacob E. Coxey addressed a large crowd at Los Angeles Monday night on the financial distress throughout the country.

## ACCUSES THE BIRDS.

MOAB, Grand County, Utah,  
May 31, 1896.

I saw an article in the NEWS some time ago in regard to the protection of birds. Now, Mr. Editor, I will ask you a few questions and I would like you or some one who knows to answer them. I will answer as far as I know.

What do you know for or against the crow? I have seen him picking the eyes out of a live sheep; have seen him carrying off eggs and chickens, have known him to kill little pigs; have had crows destroy twenty bushels of corn in a day. All the good I have had him do for me is to hunt worms on potato vines and eat grasshoppers when he could not get corn. As for keeping the sly old crow out of the corn field it would be impossible if you do not have a gun to kill him with; I have tried it with scarecrows and had my corn destroyed.

Now for the nice songsters which our city cousin prattles so much about. It is very nice to talk about the beautiful birds by those that never produced anything for the birds to eat or for themselves. But how about the man who has to work to make it possible for the bird to exist? What good have they ever done? I have had them destroy my strawberry; this year they have stripped a cherry tree of all the fruit where I have picked bushels other years. (They must have heard of the law to protect them, the way they have increased.) I have had them destroy cucumbers and peaches—they always pick into the largest peaches. I have had this done when peaches were worth \$1 a crate. I can enjoy the songs of the sweet songsters as well as any city cousin when my children have shoes and stockings and something to eat; but the songs lose all their sweetness when one is worn out and can see dollars' worth of produce that has been destroyed. Birds never eat worms and insects when they can get nice fruits.

Let me close with a reference to the hawk. I have had him kill over a hundred chickens in a year and I never knew of any good he was ever guilty of.

Now, city cousins, trot out something in their favor.

O. W. WARNER.

## DEFENDS THE "MUDDY."

Having read a communication in your issue of May 22nd, entitled "The Muddy Valley," by O. H. Warner, and regarding said communication as unfair, containing inaccuracies, and being in every way calculated to discourage prospective settlers from locating in said valley, I beg you will allow me space in your valuable columns to answer the same, and to give my version of the Muddy valley.

I have resided at Overton during the past eight months, and expect to make my home there. I am in every way pleased with said country and am sanguine in the belief that homeseekers who establish themselves there can make as easy and as comfortable a living as in any part of the West. The climate is semi-tropical and during ten months of the year is delightful. July and

August are quite hot. Fruit of all kinds can be raised in abundance. Vegetables and garden stuff do well. Grains of all kind yield heavily, producing from forty to seventy bushels per acre. Corn, cane and cotton are also good crops.

The Muddy valley proper runs in a northwesterly and southeasterly direction and averages four or five miles in width, by about twenty in length. A large per cent of the land can be profitably cultivated. There is considerable mineral in the valley; but much of this I am confident can be subdued by a proper system of cultivation and fertilization. There is sufficient water to irrigate all the tillable land providing it is properly used and an economical schedule system adopted. So far there has been sufficient water for the settlers that no system has been in vogue; each one having free access to the streams whenever he desires; but last summer the Muddy Valley Irrigation company was organized and the settlers have most all joined said company. The subscribers have or will transfer their rights to the company, and the by-laws provide that all coming into the company during a reasonable time shall share equally in the waters of the Muddy stream.

The land is all taken up, but there is plenty of good land for sale on reasonable terms, ranging from five to ten dollars per acre, while improved land is held at twenty-five and thirty dollars per acre, though of the latter there is perhaps but little or none for sale. Since the greater portion of land in the valley is subscribe in the irrigation company, settlers purchasing land secure without additional cost their water right also. Mr. Charles Cobb, formerly of Los Angeles, is president of the M. V. I. Co. and the owner of a large tract of land. He also holds in trust as legal representative quite an amount belonging to other parties, which can be purchased on reasonable terms. Mr. Charles S. H. Morris is establishing an extensive nursery and in a year or two will be able to supply fruit, shade and ornamental trees, grape and berry roots, tubs, plants and flowers, at a nominal cost.

The Muddy valley, in my opinion, has a bright future before it, and offers many more advantages for home making than colder climates do. Last summer Elder Francis M. Lyman visited the valley and blessed the land and the elements for the good of the Saints, and it is my firm belief that it will be blessed. Many young men in our over-crowded cities, who are raising families and eking out an almost miserable existence, would do far better in my opinion to locate on the Muddy, obtain for themselves a little farm on which they could work the whole year, and where by diligent labor and by the blessings of a kind providence, peace and plenty would smile down upon them.

The whole valley at present belongs to one ward, presided over by Bishop P. J. Jones, who resides at Overton. There are, however, two branches, one at St. Thomas, presided over by George Whitney, counselor to Bishop Jones, and one at St. Joe, presided over by Joseph Huntman. I know that the sentiment is that good, steady, sober