

HISTORY OF ST. DAVID.

We were a small band of pioneers, consisting of eleven families with twenty-two wagons, to start to settle in a then unsettled and Indian country. We left St. George, Utah, where we had previously agreed to meet and organize in company, with Elder D. W. Jones as president, on the 17th day of January, 1877. Arriving at Santa Clara, we disposed of most of our household wares in order to better facilitate travel. Traveling down the Virgin River through sagebrush and sand, we reached the Colorado February 2d, and had our wagons transferred to the opposite bank, which cost us \$110, we swimming the horses across by the aid of our Indian guide.

Leaving the Colorado, we traveled until we reached People's Valley, situated in the northeastern part of Arizona. Here we made a short stay to rest the teams and buy some grain and provisions. After leaving here we made no further delay until we reached a point on the Salt River about 22 miles above Phoenix, that city being where we had our first view of the "Salt River Valley." We pitched our tents on the 5th of March and began work on a water ditch on the 6th.

There were some corn, sugar cane, and garden vegetables raised during the spring and summer.

A few months after our arrival Brothers D. W. Jones and P. C. Merrill received a letter from the President of the Church, saying he wished the company to separate, part going farther south and part remaining on the river. Brother Jones was to take charge of one company and Brother Merrill of the other. It was decided that Brother Merrill should continue south and Brother Jones remain. All families had the right of choice as to what they would do.

Brother Merrill left Salt River August 27th followed by five families. Arriving at Tucson we received the sad intelligence of the death of President Brigham Young.

We pitched our tents and remained here a few days not knowing whither to go, for we were destitute of both food and clothing. At this critical juncture a friend was raised up by the hand of God in the person of a Mr. Thomas Gardner. He said if we would go to the Santa Rita Mountains, distant about 35 miles, he would give us all work, for man and beast, at lumbering. Thither we went. After working some time here we started for the San Pedro River, and arrived there Nov. 29th.

The next year early nine head of horses were stolen from our then limited band. At one time our colony was in such distress, through sickness, that not enough well ones remained to wait upon the sick. Such was our condition when Apostle Erastus Snow made a tour through Arizona. The settlement was named and dedicated by Brother Alex. Macdonald in honor of the martyr, David Patten.

We have had many reverses, but through all our sickness and trials

only a few have passed behind the veil.

The San Pedro, once the hunting ground of the roving and merciless savage, bids fair to become a desirable place.

Your brother in the Gospel,
J. A. McRAE.
St. DAVID, Arizona, Jan 28, 1889.

TO THE YOUNG FOLKS.

My dear Young Friends—Life, with all its hopes, anticipations, joys, and sorrows, its fears and doubts, and all its stern realities, lies before you. You are just entering upon its race—just upon the threshold of manhood and womanhood, with all the obligations there-to necessarily attached. Do you comprehend its requirements? Have you seriously reflected upon the conditions necessary to enable you to battle advantageously with the difficulties to be met with; or are you like logs turned adrift on a stream or on the ocean, to be carried along by the current or blown hither and thither by the winds, and to be knocked about indefinitely like a ship without its rudder? Let each one answer for himself or herself, and thereby find their true bearing. How forcibly the lines of the poet Longfellow occur to us—

Life is real, life is earnest,

And the grave is not its goal.

Dust thou art, to dust returnest,

Was not spoken of the soul.

To the young, then, we say pause, reflect upon your status, and find out, if possible, whether you are preparing yourself to grapple with the realities of life as you know them to exist. What is your education? What are your qualifications necessary to obtain a livelihood for yourself, and those who may become dependent upon you for their support? Serious questions these. They should be met and fairly answered with resolution and determination. Don't shirk them, but meet them fairly and squarely, and answer them to your own satisfaction. If your education is not complete—and who can say it is!—are we not learning day by day throughout our lifetime?—try while youth is yours, and the cares and perplexities have not yet woven themselves around you like a garment, to cultivate your mind. Increase in knowledge and every good thing. Read! Read!! Read!!! Work! Work!! Work!!! Do not expect to accomplish anything without an effort. If you do you will be mistaken; and should you perchance succeed, you would not appreciate it. Remember always "There is no excellence without labor." Taking this as a fundamental truth upon which to build, let us begin and endeavor to add truth upon truth and knowledge to knowledge, until we become the embodiment of learning. To achieve this result is no light task; but if we have only the disposition to try and the determination to succeed, we shall accomplish it. When we get old and staid, and reflect upon the wasted hours and opportunities that were afforded us for study, we shall

have the mortification of knowing how unwise we were, how thoughtless we were of the future, how foolish not to avail ourselves of those golden moments that we wasted in idleness and folly, and which are now beyond recall. How happily the words of the poet Burns here apply:

Oh, man, while in thy early years

How prodigal of time!

Misspending all thy precious hours,

Thy glorious youthful prime!

Of course we realize the force of the saying, "We cannot put old heads on young shoulders." But let us try, at least, to stimulate the young to action; let us strengthen their determination and show them the folly of wasting the precious opportunities that only now they can claim and call their own. Begin at once. Buy a book, read it, and commence to form the nucleus of a library. Save your nickels and dimes, and from time to time add another and yet another volume, and you will then begin to realize the pleasure to be derived from such good and quiet company: you will always be in good fellowship with those best of friends. How pleasing to the senses to see a goodly number of useful books in a house. And what shall we say of a nicely-furnished, comfortable home, without a single volume to be seen? Does it not indicate the utter thoughtlessness of its inmates? Their minds must indeed under such circumstances be barren of every requisite information and knowledge, and their time must surely be passed in gossip and in perusing the cheap love novels that find an entrance into too many homes of the Latter-day Saints. Have our youths got ambition enough to forge ahead and hew out a course for themselves? Or are they contenting themselves by relying on the father doing something for them; or, still worse, depending upon something to turn up by chance? They should certainly avoid this. Let us learn to depend upon ourselves, let us develop individuality, and endeavor to outstrip our associates in the school, at play, at work, and in the race of life. To the boys, then, we say: Cease your idling, nonsense, and hoodlumism and get to work; keep at it till you accomplish something, and so fit yourselves that your services will be in demand, and valuable to yourself and to those who wish to engage you. "But," says one, "there is nothing to do. This is winter time, and there is no work going on; all is in abeyance just now." Well, what of it? Cannot you educate yourself? Cannot you read and store up learning and information? Cannot you school yourself in some branch of education, or in the mechanism of something you do not now understand? Is there nothing to make or repair around home? Why cannot you make furniture of some kind that would sell at a price which would bring some remuneration for your labor? If you cannot do anything of this kind, then invent something else that will be suitable to your individual inclinations and tastes. Bring your thinking powers into