

THE "MORMON PROBLEM."

A WRITER, by the name of Charles H. Brigham, in the New Magazine, *Old and New*, for the month of May, has a long article on the "Mormon Problem." He discusses the question at some length, and in a spirit that is not rancorous, yet by no means favorable. The elements of strength in the "Mormon position," and the reasons why the system should outlast what, he seems to think, is its present crisis, are:

- First; the numbers of its adherents.
- Second; its prosperity.
- Third; the religious enthusiasm of its followers.
- Fourth; its tragic history.
- Fifth; the general ignorance of the people.
- Sixth; the feeling of fear entertained towards the leaders.
- Seventh; the co-operative trade system.
- Eighth; the method of managing property.

Ninth; its vigorous propagandism. From these an idea of the character of his arguments can be formed. How any sane man can imagine that, in an age like the present, and in circumstances like those which surround the people of Utah—a continental railroad running through our land and constant intercourse being carried on—fear towards the leaders should be an element of strength in the "Mormon" system, is a "problem" that we cannot solve. Neither can we understand how ignorance can be viewed as an element of strength, or a means of perpetuating rule, when so many active agencies are in operation to dissipate ignorance.

The last paragraphs of his article are fair sample of those which precede them. The system believed in by the Latter-day-Saints is indeed a problem to him, and his writing has failed to elucidate a single point of the system. In fact, he leaves it more of a problem, to those who follow and accept his views, than it would have been to the majority of them if they had never seen his article. His conclusions summed up amount to: It is, and it isn't; it may be, and it mayn't be.

He says: "With this summary of the elements of strength and weakness in the present position of the Mormon State, to what conclusion shall we come? Comparing these opposing forces, on which side will the balance incline? The decision is not easy. But, on the whole, there seems more reason to predict the near downfall of the Mormon power than its gain or its long life. It is an absurdity and an anomaly in this age and country. It is denied by the spirit of the age. That the sect may exist, in its integrity or in its fragments, for a long time to come, is quite probable. It may take its place with the Shakers, and Mennonites, and Second Adventists, and other eccentric bodies of religionists. But as an organized civil and ecclesiastical power, holding lands, making laws, and keeping consciences, it is probably near its end. The contest which it wages with the nation and with the civilization of the century, is too unequal; and not all the resources of its material prosperity and its religious zeal can be equal to such an issue. The trail of the comet is large, but it is a comet after all, and not a stable planet. The apparent completeness of union between Church and State in the Mormon system will prove to be its loss and destruction. If it were only a religious vagary, it might have a better chance of long life upon the earth.

"It is not well, nevertheless, to prophesy too confidently. The growth and development of the Mormon community, thus far, is a phenomenon of our age which contradicts all precedents. There were wise men who prophesied, after the death of Joseph Smith, a quarter of a century ago, that the contemptible fanaticism had received its final blow, and would be heard of no longer. When the Mormons encamped in their far off valley, it was predicted that they would perish in the wilderness. The seers have found themselves more than once at fault in telling of this people. And it may be that here, in this free land of light and knowledge, a community shall maintain itself, that rejects our laws and our ideas and keeps a civilization of its own. The Caraites lived for ages in the Crimea, and the Jews too in China, though the laws and customs of the men around them were all alien and hostile."

DEATH OF PRESIDENT JOHN YOUNG.

OBITUARY.

WE have to record the death of another veteran in Israel, the Patriarch, President John Young. At 5.55 p.m. of the 27th April, 1870, he peacefully passed away, surrounded by those he fondly loved, and who will always cherish for him the dearest tenderness of affection. "Uncle John," as he was familiarly called by the Saints, was beloved by all who knew him. He was faithful to every trust and unflinching in his integrity to the last. He was a sincere and an earnest follower of the Savior,

even from his early youth, and through a long career of usefulness in the ministry, he demonstrated by his works what he early professed to believe. He had for several weeks been lingering on a sick bed, which culminated in his death, at his own residence in the Thirteenth Ward. He would have commenced his eightieth year on the 22d of next month.

He was of a robust, vigorous temperament, and though a full sharer in the stern trials the Saints encountered in their exodus from Nauvoo and the early settlement of this valley, he might yet have lived many years, but for a severe accident which occurred to him in the month of February, 1864. While traveling to Weber Valley he encountered a terrific storm, whereby his wagon was overturned, causing him severe injuries, while, at the same time, a severe cold settled upon his lungs from the exposure to the terrible weather of that memorable day. Still he was indefatigable in his labors, and never wearied in well doing, but died full of the hope of a glorious reunion with the just when death shall have an end.

He was born at Hopkinton, Middlesex Co. Mass. May 22nd, 1791. His parents were John Young and Nabby Howe, and he was the oldest of six sons, one of whom is our beloved President, Brigham Young. The deceased was a little more than ten years his senior. In early life he labored with his father, assisting him in farming. In the 15th year of his age he joined the Methodist church and was devotedly attached to that religion. In the year 1813 he married Theodocia Kimball, who bore to him five daughters, viz: Charlotte, Caroline, Louisa, Clarissa and Candace. In 1825 he received his licence as a Methodist preacher, and zealously labored with that denomination until he heard the gospel as restored to this dispensation, which was brought to him by his own brothers. He was baptized by his brother, Joseph Young, in Hector, Tompkins Co. New York, in the fall of 1833. Shortly after, he was ordained an Elder, and immediately proceeded to Kirtland, Ohio, with his family, where he located. On the 4th day of July, 1834, he proceeded, in company with Elder Evan M. Greene and other Elders, on a mission through the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, preached the gospel, baptized several persons, and raised up a small branch in Nunday, Pike Co. New York. In 1836, he returned to Kirtland and assisted in the rearing of the Temple. In 1841 he was ordained a High Priest under the hands of Elders Lyman Wight and John P. Greene, and was afterwards appointed President of the Stake at Kirtland. He was President of the first emigrating company that followed the pioneers to this valley in 1847.

On the 12th of February, 1849, he was set apart as President of the High Priests' Quorum, under the hands of President H. C. Kimball and Elder John Taylor, which position he occupied at the time of his death.

On the 8th of October, 1853, he was called to the office of Patriarch, and was sustained as such by the vote of the General Conference.

Thousands have since been comforted and strengthened in their faith under his administration, and, while they may drop the unforbidden tear in memory of the departed, still will they feel that he has died a faithful soldier of the cross, and that he has gone to reap the imperishable reward that awaits him.

The funeral services will be held in the Tabernacle at 12 m. to-morrow, the 29th inst., where all who wish to contribute their last token of respect, are invited to attend.

THE VENERABLE PATRIARCH, JOHN YOUNG.

Firm on the Rock of Ages—firm
In faith and hope and love,
A vet'ran of the cross has gone
To join the hosts above.
He'll stand a noble witness there
For Zion's cause below,
In God's High Court of Justice, where
Appeals from earth must go.
He battled for the championship
Of Truth, and now he's gone
To take the prize awarded him,
The prize he nobly won.
His days were fill'd with usefulness,
His life was full of years;
To him, the messenger of death
Brought no regret nor fears.
Peace to his ashes! "Dust to dust!"
Is mortal nature's doom:
The resurrection of the just,
Will soon unbolt his tomb.
Triumphant over sin and death,
On golden streets he'll tread,
Array'd in royal robes, with crowns
Of honor on his head.

E. R. SNOW.

THE ELASTING OF BLOSSOM ROCK.

YESTERDAY'S telegraphic dispatches brought the news of the blowing up, on Saturday last, of Blossom Rock in San Francisco harbor. This rock has proved of much annoyance and danger to shipping, and the success which has attended its removal must be very gratifying to the people of that city, and especially to the engineer who invented the plan to remove it.

Blossom Rock was six feet below the surface of the water at low tide, and the water rolled over it in powerful swells and great force. Its position was such as to render the work of removing it both difficult and dangerous. About four months ago Col. Van Schmidt, a civil engineer, devised a plan which he thought would be successful. It was a difficult undertaking to perform, one that must be watched with the most intense care: for one false step or mishap would prove ruinous and destructive, and involve the loss of many lives.

The first work to be done, according to his plan was to make a careful survey of the rock, ascertain where it dipped in, and where it projected, so that in the work of excavation afterwards to be accomplished, sufficient of a space might remain to resist the pressure of the water. This was carefully done, and from it plans were drawn of the rock. The next work was to construct a water tight copper dam on the rock, and around that part of it through which the shaft was to be sunk. This was found to be most difficult. As already stated the water rolled there in great force in large swells, and being interrupted by the rock naturally gave it more force in passing over it than in any other portion of the bay. The coffer dam was first put in its place, and then a scow was built around it, into which about two hundred and fifty tons of stones were thrown. The dam was lined around with bags of sand to more effectually keep out the water, and when this was complete, an iron turret was placed inside of it. This turret was imbedded or sunk in the rock a distance of three feet, and closely and thoroughly cemented at its place. This being done, the work of excavation, or sinking the shaft commenced. A platform was erected on the rock, fifty-six feet in length, and about twenty in width. On this an engine, and a complete hoisting apparatus was placed at one end, and at the other a shanty was erected containing six sleeping apartments and a kitchen, which was also used as an eating room by the workmen. When the shaft had been sunk sufficiently to permit the work of excavation to be extended to either side, the work was considered fairly begun, and from that time forward it was pushed with all the despatch possible. When the shaft had reached a certain depth, a small cylinder was placed inside the original turret extending down into the shaft, which made the hoisting of the ballast from below more convenient.

"The plan for the removal of the rock can be best understood in this way. The object was to scoop out the center, producing a cavity inside, measuring in the clear from the highest point to the bottom, twenty-five feet, and leaving a crust or stratum of about six feet thick to resist the pressure of the water while the work was in progress; this crust or stratum to be blown up by powder when the remainder of the work inside had been completed. To do this, however, was not only difficult but perilous, and involved the heaviest responsibility. It required the closest attention, and the exercise of more than ordinary skill. As the work progressed and the excavation became larger, the crust of rock left standing would naturally become weaker, and more likely to cave in. In order to prevent this, pillars of rock were left standing at short intervals from each other, until the limits of six feet were everywhere reached; then it became necessary to move these pillars away. Before this was done uprights of heavy timbers were set thickly around the cavity to supply their place, and in this way all fear of the roofing was obviated."

The height of the highest pillar was twenty-nine feet, and the lowest four feet. The space excavated measured about one hundred and forty by sixty feet. The rock was sandstone and porous, and the water dripped through. A steam pump was employed to keep the shaft dry. Twenty-three tons of powder was used in the explosion. About half of this quantity was in English ale barrels, double coated with a heavy pitch varnish inside and outside, so as to make them water proof. The other half was placed in seven boiler tanks, which were of wrought iron, firmly bolted together. As they contained each more powder, and their explosive force was much more powerful than the barrels, they were placed where

the distance from the top to the bottom of the excavation was greatest. The barrels were placed close to the side of the excavation, near the junction of the arch or roof with the floor. A perforated piece of gas-pipe two-and-a-half feet in length, charged with fine gun powder run into each barrel from the end, and a piece six feet long into the boilers, charged in the same way. These different tubes were connected with insulated electric wires, which passed from one barrel to another, while the end in each tube consisted of a fulminating cartridge, which, when reached by the electric spark, exploded and ignited the powder in the tube. This tube in turn exploded, and, communicating with the powder in the barrel boiler, caused them to explode also. To make the connections of the tubes with the barrels perfectly water-tight, rubber washers were placed between each connection and the insulated electric wires connecting the barrels were encased in a gutta percha hose, so as to keep it perfectly dry. This wire was drawn up through a tube in the shaft, and was placed on board a bark about one thousand feet from the rock. There it was connected with an electric battery. The water acted as tamping, the coffer dam having been removed to permit it to fill up the excavation.

Fears were entertained by many people respecting the effects of the explosion of such an immense quantity of powder; but the telegraphic report says there was no perceptible jar, only a deep thud accompanied the blast. A body of water was thrown to the height of a hundred feet.

The *Alta California*, from which we have gathered the foregoing particulars, speaks of the achievement as a great triumph of engineering skill, and one that reflects the highest honor on Colonel Von Schmidt.

A NEW BOUNDARY QUESTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

According to the report of Col. Dennis with respect to his surveying operations in the northwest, a serious mistake was made by some former surveyor in defining the boundary line. The observations of the Colonel at Pembina resulted in his placing the line 204 feet north of the line laid down several years ago by Captain (now General) Pope, of the United States Army. A belt 2 1/4 feet wide, extending right across the continent, embraces land enough to be worth looking after. But a more important matter still is mentioned in the report. Col. Dennis says that, though he started his line 204 feet further north than Capt. Pope's, after running ten miles west the two lines crossed each other. From this, it is evident that either Pope or Dennis—or probably both—made mistakes in either their observations or calculations. Dennis says the line he took was the forty-ninth parallel, and Pope's line has been generally accepted as the forty-ninth parallel. Yet, in a distance of ten miles these lines cross each other. As a "Provincial Land Surveyor" says in another column, "the consequence of this would be that, in a distance of 1,000 miles, the Colonel would be into American Territory about four miles, or Capt. Pope would be into our territory about the same number of miles." Either one must be sadly astray in his reckoning. This is a matter of too much importance to be neglected. The first thing to be done on our obtaining possession of the country, is to find the precise position of the forty-ninth parallel, and to mark it out across the continent at once, in order to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings in future. In settling this question the co-operation of the American Government will be necessary. As our correspondent suggests, a commission composed of thoroughly competent and reliable persons will have to be appointed. Pope's parallel must be a very peculiar parallel indeed, if, as Col. Dennis states, it runs partially north and south, as well as east and west.

A lady correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* writes that for five years she has used water-lime for scouring knives, forks, tin, and the like.—She says: "I have a box with a partition and keep the lime in one part and the cloths in the other. I wet a small cloth a little and dip it in the lime, and after the articles are well washed and wiped, I rub them until the spots are removed.—Then I take a large, dry cloth, dip it in the lime, and rub the articles until polished to suit me. Wipe off the dust from the knives and forks with a dry cloth, and they are ready to put away."