

I have thought much, without reaching very satisfactory conclusions, as to the situation and character of this country. It lies in the center of the pole of the earth, half the year absent, and the other half circling a little above the horizon. From the general direction of my boat, while I was able to note it, I judge that I am on the northern part of the continent of Greenland, or an island near it; and I think, but of course cannot know, that the known part of that continent lies beyond the high mountains that shut in one side of this valley. I cannot, of course, designate any direction, for here there is no east, no west, no north—nothing but south. Opposite the mountains, on the other side of this great basin and its vortex, and far away beyond the line of low hills, the country gradually slopes to the ocean, as I am told, but it is inaccessible, and I have not ventured far in that direction. I have heard "the Gills land" mentioned, as seen by whalers when north of Spitzbergen. Perhaps this is it. I only know that, with all its wonders and charms, it is not pleasant to me. I have exhausted it. I pine for something more real, and will welcome the suffering and peril that must be encountered in an attempt to escape from it. Oh! for a day before I die with the men and women, even though they be sinners.

Of the number of inhabitants in this polar valley I can make no accurate estimate. There are thirty-two villages, averaging, I should judge, some 2,000 people each, which would make 64,000 in all. There can hardly be less; there may be many more. The Wahnos have not much knowledge of numbers, and when I ask any of them how many inhabitants there are in the country, they seem to regard me as seeking for use, less knowledge, and all they can answer is "tens of tens of tens," which is their phrase for a great and unknown number.

I have taught my alphabet of the Wahno language to some of the young people, and they read and understand most of their own ballads as I have taken them down, and have helped me to correct them. But I cannot make the people feel that a written language will be of any use to them. They look at it as a curious amusement, but involving too much study and care for such perfectly satisfied creatures as themselves. The lack of materials for writing has also prevented me from being very zealous to create a literature among them. My own supply is nearly exhausted, but half a lead remaining in my pocket pencil. The people, young and old, are always eager to listen to my accounts of the outside world, since I have been able to speak their language intelligibly, and half my time I am surrounded by an attentive group, lying and squatting upon the fragrant moss, while I tell them of other lands and peoples, especially of Germany and the wisest people of the globe. They manifest curiosity and wonder, but express no desire to see other parts of the world, or to open communication with them. On the contrary, when I question them, they express fear of the other races of men, as I describe them, and evidently prefer not to be disturbed in their own simple and happy life. I grow impatient of their easy satisfaction sometimes, and thank Mother Eve that she ate the apple and delivered her progeny from a paradise like Wahno. I cannot see how, in such circumstances as control life in this polar valley, men can ever be trained to industry, order, self-control, self-sufficiency and courage, in any way to acquire the moral discipline essential to a higher life in the future, which elsewhere seems to be the prime purpose of our life upon this planet, and is in some good degree accomplished.

AN ANSWER

TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE HISTORY AND DOCTRINE OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND THE SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS OF UTAH TERRITORY.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

The organization by act of Congress of the Territory of Utah in 1850 went into effect in 1851. By the organic act the executive power of the Territory is vested in the Governor, who is appointed by the President of the United States, and holds his office for four years and until his successor is elected and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President. Until 1855 the governor was ex-officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He approves the acts passed by the Legislative Assembly and fills all vacancies occurring in offices until the meeting of the Legislature. He is commander in chief of the militia. He may grant pardons for offenses against the laws of the Territory, and reprieves for violation of the laws of the United States until the decision of the President is known. It is his duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed.

The Secretary of the Territory is appointed for the same time and in the same manner as the governor. He records the laws and proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and the official proceedings of the Executive, and transmits copies annually of the laws and journals to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate for the use of Congress, also to the President of the United States. In case of a vacancy in the office of Governor the Secretary becomes Acting Governor.

The Legislative Assembly consists of a Council composed of thirteen members, and a House of Representatives of twenty-six members. The former are elected for two years, the latter for one year. The members of the Assembly must be qualified voters in the district in which they reside. The apportionment of representation was made in the first instance by the Governor, and subsequently by the Assembly, by giving each district representation according to its population as nearly as may be. Each branch of the Assembly elects its own officers. The respective sessions of the Assembly are limited to forty days. The Legislative powers of the Assembly extend to all rightful subjects of legislation consistent with the Constitution of the United States and the provisions of the Organic Act. Copies of all laws passed by the Assembly

and signed by the Governor are forwarded to the presiding officers of both Houses of Congress and if disapproved by that body become null and void.

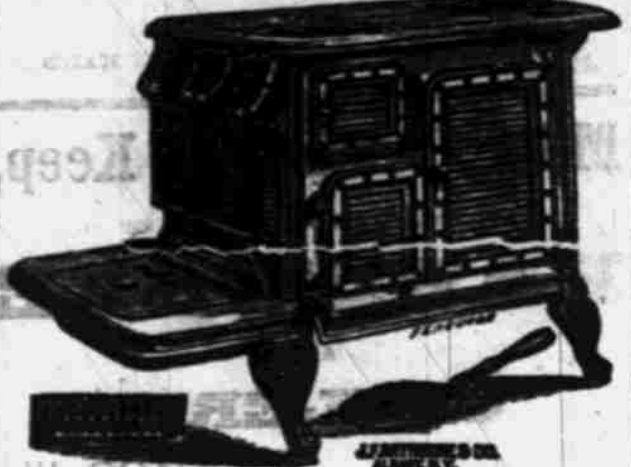
(To be continued.)

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