

Correspondence.

We publish the following letter, written by Bro. Peter A. Droubay, an educated Frenchman, and translated by Bro. L. A. Bertrand, not for the purpose of kindling discussion or creating controversy; but that the subject may be thoroughly ventilated, as it is one of great interest to our citizens, and especially those south of the Rim of the Basin. Without becoming a partisan to either of the systems advocated we leave our readers to judge of their merits.—[ED. D. E. N.]

LOUIS A. BERTRAND AND D. BONNELL'S VINICULTURAL POLEMIC. A SOLUTION.

PINE CANYON, Tooele Valley, Nov. 28th, 1893.

Dear Brother.—In order to arrive at a beneficial result, it is time, I think, to regulate the discussion between you and Mr. Bonelli, of St. Thomas, Arizona. If I comprehend it well, you have claimed in behalf of northern Utah the possibility of making there excellent light wine, even superior in quality to that which can be manufactured in the South. And in order to uphold your position, you have mentioned the Burgundy wines which, in enumerating the most celebrated brands in the world, Mr. Bonelli had passed over in silence. As a Frenchman and as a vine-dresser, you have rightly protested against such a forgetfulness; and that incidental protestation is near at hand for becoming the capital question. Let us try together to bring that discussion in the right way.

Mr. Bonelli, agreeing in that particular with the annual Report of the Patent Office at Washington, seems to believe that the thermometrical condition of the atmosphere constitutes the most influential agent, if not the only one, necessary for producing good wine. He appears at the same time not to know (always agreeing with the Patent Office Reports) that the soil and the sub-soil upon which the grape vines are planted contribute as much, and perhaps more, to the quality of their fruit than the condition of the atmosphere. It is thus at least, that I explain to myself his absolute silence on your little problem of the Morache vineyard. Now, we know that for producing a good wine, the conditions above stated are both necessary, viz: first, a suitable soil and sub-soil; second, favorable atmosphere.

Moreover, Mr. Bonelli believes that the more the grape contains of sugar, the more excellent is the wine. It is a common error to John Bull, to Jonathan his cousin, and to every one who has had the taste depraved by the use of strong drinks. It is perfectly true, friend Bonelli, that the burning sun of the south will give you far more sugared grapes than those we can get on the shores of the Salt Lake, but the wines manufactured by you will be always too much alcoholic to become the favorite beverage of a Latter-Day Saint. For the same reason the Sherry, Alicante, Malaga, Porto, Madeira wines, etc., are sparingly used in France, not that they are despised there, but because they have the disadvantage of causing the drinkers to fall under the table. The French wines in general, and particularly the Burgundy ones, being raised in a less warm latitude, are free from that excess of alcohol, and besides, are endowed with a flavor or bouquet which is lacking in the more sugared wines of the south. During four years of my life I drank perhaps half a gallon of water, and that when I was in need of the whole lucidity of my brain. Had I made the same experiment with the Sherry or Madeira wines, I should be dead or an idiot. I have been acquainted with old men as erect and strong as the oaks of the forest, who used only wine for their beverage during fifty years, and whose ideas were as bright as those of any water drinker.

I do firmly believe with you, dear Br. Bertrand, that the wines which will be raised on the shores of the Salt Lake and Utah Lake, will be destined to refresh and comfort the Latter-Day Saints, while those of southern Utah, will be drunk by individuals caring more to carouse than to preserve the lucidity of their intellect.

But, in the meantime, let no man slander our Burgundy wines, for nowhere can be found such a rich variety of far famed brands. There flourish the *Clos Vougeot*, whose exquisite products are always bought, before the vintage, by the princes of Europe; *Beaune* and *Ai*, by which the spleen of many noble Englishmen is cured; *Chambertin*, the favorite beverage of Napoleon the First; *Nuits*, which should cause Mr. Bonelli to forget all the Madeira of the world, and a vast number of other wines, which console the French for their lost liberties and cause them to hope for their restoration.

Before closing my remarks, I will observe here that Mr. Bonelli complains bitterly of being contradicted; but he is greatly mistaken, if he thinks that you have taken your pen only to vex him. I do believe that you have fulfilled a duty in publishing what you know to be true. It is evident that when Mr. Bonelli is applying to the public on the grape culture, a question extremely complex, he must expect to be a little corrected.

Every literary man is responsible for his writings. For instance, when you told me that the notions of Mr. Bonelli were entirely borrowed from Mr. James S. Lippincott's ably written articles entitled "Observations on Atmospheric Humidity" and "The Fruit Regions of the Northern United States and their Local Climates," both articles published in the reports of the Commissioner of Agriculture, you spoke the plain truth. The last lengthy paper on the grape culture, published by Mr. Bonelli in the *Telegraph* is an indisputable evidence of my assertion. He has copied several pages from that gentleman, but has not given credit to his authority.

PETER DROUBAY.

Dear Mr. Bonelli, our vinicultural discussion being over, I offer you a friendly hand. Please send me a little of your best wine, and it will be impartially appreciated by Br. Droubay and by me.

LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

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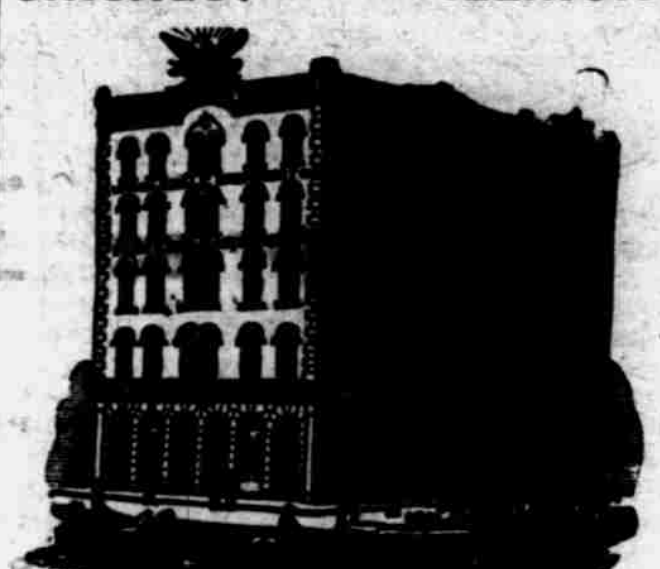
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