

The summit once passed, you descend towards vegetation that has no fac-simile north of you. Trees all disappear, in its stead the plain is dotted with the Needle-palm, called in Dixie *Joshuas*, scientifically (*Yucca Brerifolia*). These grow as high as twenty feet in some places. On the crest of ridges is a beautiful flowing plant called the Spanish bayonet, by the Indians *Yant*, by scientists (*Yucca agastifolia*). The root is used as food by the Indians. Another curiosity helps to fill up the picture. Although the ugliest plant I ever saw, it is very singular. It is the barrel cactus (*Cereus Ceanotii*). It grows as high as six feet, is often two feet in diameter, and is covered with thorns so thickly that you can hardly see the plant itself for them. The flat leaf cactus (*Opuntia Ratilla*) attains an immense growth, in this arid, scorched up locality. Woe to the man who essays to cross this desert in the hot months with a poor outfit. For as sure as you get where water is scarce, you want more to drink. The same is noticed in animals. Travelers therefore are generally provided with huge water kegs in the sides of their wagons. Other kinds of shrubs make a living on these plains, but they are all thorny and unpicturesque.

Scientific men say that the cactus plants absorb moisture in the wet season, and close up their pores in the day, thus husbanding their source of life. The Indians cut them up and rub the moist slices over their bodies and keep themselves alive by the absorption of the moisture, but it is to horrible to taste. It is like looking at a pyrotechnic display to see one of the Needle Palms burn on a dark night. We set some on fire and got cheap fireworks. The leaves, after serving their purpose, dry up and hang down, forming a kind of bark, which burns readily.

In the month of June, these uninviting cactus plants are clothed with beautiful flowers, that spring in profusion from them, helping to make the desolation agreeable. The botanist finds here the widest field for study, and no part of our country is more curious and interesting than this one.

A too long stay among the rocks and sand plains of the south will make any one dry, and as this epistle is reaching in its length the dry stage, we must about face and move north where the gushing streams are clear, cool, and inviting to the thirsty traveller.

The South has its advantages over the North, and the North has its over the South; the balance is thus preserved and the reader can take his choice.

C. R. SAVAGE.

The Brigham City Co-operative Cotton Farm.

Editor Deseret News:

Below is an extract from a letter which I received from James May. He has charge of thirteen men that went from Brigham City last Fall to open a cotton farm for the co-operative institution in that city, near the Virgin River, Washington Co.

PHILO DIBLE,
Centreville, Davis Co.

"We are five miles east of Washington on the Virgin river. We have about 100 acres of land on the west side of the river, and 300 on the east side. We have dug a ditch one and a half miles long, three feet wide; blasted through a point of rocks 55 feet long, 11 feet deep, and 5 feet wide; built a dam across the river, 150 feet long, 40 wide, 4 1/2 high; cleared the brush off fifty acres of land, plowed thirty acres, put out 625 grape vines, and 1800 grape cuttings, planted 100 peach trees; and are all well at this time. The Lord has blessed us in all our labors, for which we feel truly thankful. There is no swearing in camp. I have not heard an oath since I left home. We have no smoking, chewing, or card playing, but we have plenty of books and quite a variety, so we need not get lonesome for the want of amusements. Is not this a good showing for thirteen young men? We expect to plant 35 acres of cotton, 10 of corn, and 5 of lucern.

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Remarkable Cure—Virtues of the Eucalyptus.

A gentleman named John Quinlan came to this city last October for the benefit of his health. He had been afflicted with rheumatism in its most painful form for nearly two years, and had undergone an amount of suffering that cannot be measured or described. In the hope of obtaining relief he applied to the best physicians in the State, and traveled extensively in various countries, going as far west as the West India Islands, but all to no avail. The disease, one of the most distressing and painful in the whole category of human ailments, clung to him with durling tenacity, and made life almost unbearable. He went from place to place by the advice of friends and doctors, and at last, as we have said, found the long sought relief. One of our hotel keepers, with whom Mr. Quinlan was acquainted, noticed among his guests one who had his arms and legs bound up with leaves. Upon questioning the party he learned that he was afflicted with rheumatism, and that he had bound the diseased parts with the leaves of the eucalyptus tree, from which he had experienced great relief and apparently almost a permanent cure in a few days. This intelligence was communicated to Mr. Quinlan, who immediately tried the experiment, with the most gratifying results. He procured a quantity of rank green eucalyptus leaves and, heating each one slightly, bound them upon the parts in which he felt the most pain. The effect was marvelous; the pain ceased in a short time, and in a little while the long-suffering patient felt like a new man. He continued to apply the leaves and to wear them while walking about the streets, and now at the end of two weeks he feels entirely well. He has gained six pounds in weight during last week, and says no amount of money would purchase from him the power of applying this remedy should he be attacked again. This remedy may not be equally efficacious with all, but Mr. Quinlan desires that the world should know what it has done for him, and to that end has communicated to us the above information.—*Petaluma Argus*.

The Shifting Sceptre.

We republish elsewhere [see DESERET NEWS, April 6th,] a remarkable editorial from the London Times on the political tendencies of our territorial system. While the writer errs frequently in matters of minor detail—dates, the population of districts, &c.—he sees clearly what so often is not seen in this country, the fact that the sceptre of empire is rapidly and surely passing westward. Very probably there are those living who will see it beyond the Mississippi.

When England sees the impending domination of the "States astride upon the Rocky Mountains" we need not hesitate to accept the fact ourselves. We do not accept it, however, because we do not see it. Missouri, the threshold State beyond the Mississippi, is now the fifth State in the Union, and St. Louis is the fourth city of the United States; but who ever gives a thought to the grave inference that this fact demonstrates, and records, with more than dramatic force, the westward march of power.

The United States Senate now represents not the small States against the large ones, as was its original idea, but the new Western Commonwealths, with their thousands of population against the old States of the East with their millions. The control of the Senate to-day has passed beyond the Ohio. Even Connecticut and Rhode Island and Illinois Delaware and New Hampshire and Vermont have failed to keep it.

It is not a movement, however, on which we look with regret or distrust. It is a step forward which marks our advance towards continental supremacy, and the shifting meaning of the Senate, although a radical one, is not in danger. That body still holds its original intended function as a part in a system of political checks and balances. The United States Senate of the future will represent the geographical empire of the North American people; the House of Representatives the popular empire, and so the great idea of the framers of our constitution holds yet entity and force, although times and the world have changed.—*Philadelphia Press*.

Spring of 1875.

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