



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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HELP HOME THE POOR.

THE emigration of our brethren and sisters from foreign lands is a subject of great interest to the people of Utah, and should be close to the hearts and arouse the keenest sympathies of all Latter-day Saints; but especially of those now here who have been gathered from foreign lands. This matter was urged upon the attention of the people at our late Conference by President Young. The necessity of refunding loans, due from some here to their friends and acquaintances in the old countries who are anxiously waiting the opportunity to emigrate, was also dwelt upon in a most pointed manner; and it is to be hoped that the counsels and exhortations in relation to this matter will not be forgotten, but that they will be promptly acted upon.

We have been favored with the perusal of a letter to President Young, from Bro. Wm. Sawyer, of 115 Roman Road, Victoria Park, London, in which he makes an earnest appeal for deliverance, not to President Young personally, but to those with whom he was formerly associated, and who, he believes, if they knew his present position, would, for the sake of "auld lang syne," stretch forth their hands unitedly and help him.

Brother Sawyer, according to his letter, the truth of which we have not the least reason to doubt, has been an active and useful member of the church for nearly twenty years; he is getting into years, and being now too deaf to follow his usual avocation, and having a wife, and a family of eight children, he finds himself utterly unable to effect his own deliverance, and pathetically adds, "unless I have help how shall I get home?"

We do not take up this case because it is at all an exceptional one, and needs assistance more than hundreds of others. There is scarcely a Saint who has been gathered from Great Britain, and perhaps we may say from the Continent of Europe, who can not recall or recollect similar instances. In this case, and others of a like nature, the immediate personal friends or acquaintances of such parties, might, with a little effort, if made unitedly, effect the deliverance of some of the poorest, but at the same time, some of the most deserving of the Saints, who are hoping, praying and striving to their utmost for, but are unable to accomplish their own deliverance.

The people of this Territory have, for many years past, done a great deal for the emigration of the poor from abroad; but as each year rolls round there is a necessity for continued and increased exertion; for with each succeeding year, times, with the poor in those countries, become worse and worse, and the difficulties with which they have to contend become deeper and more inextricable. Who is there among the Latter-day Saints in Utah, who has been gathered from Great Britain, who has not seen hard times? Not one in a thousand. Who among that class, can not recollect the continued, and almost hopeless struggle they had to endure to "keep the wolf from the door," and to eke out a sorry subsistence? There are very few indeed whose experience has not been of this character? Even in what are called good times there, by the working classes, it is all they can do to live and appear half decently; but when hard times come, caused by stagnations in trade, so very frequent in that land of competition and avaricious and hard hearted capitalists and employers, the struggle for life is often almost unendurable.

These things have been experienced by nine-tenths of the British Saints now in Utah, and to-day many of them, who are in more comfortable circumstances than they ever saw or could have hoped for there, seem to forget the "rock whence they were hewn and the pit whence they were digged."

Very many of those who have been gathered to Utah are still very far from being rich, and many, no doubt, find it exceedingly difficult to obtain money, — the only thing now available for emigration purposes. There are, however, many, who, if they are not rich and have not money at command, possess stock or something they can turn into money; and if, in cases like the present they should have to make a sacrifice, and even have to deprive themselves and families for a brief period of some things they deem necessities or comforts, such a sacrifice or deprivation might be made or endured, and it would redound in blessings upon the heads of those making or enduring it.

In cases like Bro Sawyer's, his personal friends and former associates, some of whom he mentions personally, if they are unable to give their fifty or a hundred dollars, might club together, each giving their two, five or ten dollars, and having raised what they are able to, hand it over to those who have control of the fund, making known the object for which it is intended, and there is not a doubt, but that, in nine cases out of ten, if the parties, upon inquiry, be found worthy, they would be helped by the P. E. fund with the amount still necessary to bring them to Zion.

We make this appeal not specially in behalf of brother Sawyer and his family, but of the hundreds of Saints still in Britain and on the Continent of Europe, who need assistance to reach the gathering place of the Saints. Brethren and sisters throughout the Territory, think of these things; lay them to heart. Think of the time when many of you were as anxiously yearning for the opportunity to emigrate to Zion as any who are yet scattered abroad; and while thinking, show your gratitude to the Lord for His mercies in gathering you by giving your mite to help those who, battling with misfortune and poverty abroad, are anxiously looking to you for help and deliverance.

WHAT SHALL OUR CHILDREN READ?

THE novels of the old school that were so popular in our youth, mostly bore a striking resemblance to each other in their moral and denouement. However greatly they might vary in incidents and plot, still they generally closed by bringing off the good triumphant and foiling villainy in all its macinations. There were the traditional hero and heroine, loving and constant under every trial, always exemplifying the old adage "the course of true love never does run smooth." Associated with these was the rich suitor for the maiden's hand, favored by her parents, backed by his riches, aided by circumstances, and assisted by villainous creatures bought with his gold. Everything goes swimmingly with him; the heroine is in his clutches, there is no escape for her; she must become his or die; when, presto, in leaps her lover through a window, guided by some faithful bloodhound, or devoted old nurse. She (the maiden) flies to his arms, he claims her as his own, shows the vast wealth he has accumulated to her father, "bless you my children" exclaims the old hypocrite, ogling the shining gold. The villain and his gang, if not shot, drowned or otherwise summarily disposed of disappear to parts unknown. The hero and heroine are married, live happily for ever afterward, and have children by the dozen.

This kind of novel may perhaps be truthfully compared to what in theatrical parlance is called "the legitimate," whilst the romances and fictions that are popular now, are twins to the Black Crook, White Fawn style of the nude or leg drama. To be popular these romances must appeal to the lowest and most brutal passions of the crowd; they must abound with sensational outrages, they must deal with the terrible, and be crowded from beginning to end with adultery and arson, murder and mystery, gloom and ghastliness, bastardy and bloodshed, perjury and profligacy; in fact must be seasoned with every sin denounced in the Decalogue, and a few never thought of in the days the Ten Commandments were given. Added to this they very often bear a most pernicious moral? gilding vice with every grace and accomplishment necessary to render it romantic in the eyes of inexperienced boys and foolish girls, whilst virtue is made to appear a very humdrum, antiquated, unfashionable, old fogyism, while those who practice it get no reward in this life and have but little hope in the future.

Are such books fit to be placed in the

hands of the children of the Latter-day Saints? Let every parent who is seeking to lead his children in the way they should walk answer this question for himself. We say, as far as we are concerned No, emphatically No! Yet such books have been sold by the hundred in Salt Lake City; they are subscribed for by the thousand by the people of this Territory, and their pernicious effects, if not as yet manifested, are bound to be made plain, by the actions of the weak-minded and inexperienced amongst us, at some future day.

In some portions of the States and Great Britain very accurate statistics are made out of the causes that fill their prisons and reformatories with youthful criminals. One very prolific cause, is the love of the adventurous and outrageous, engendered in their untrained minds, by reading such works as Jack Shepherd, Claude Duval, Dick Turpin and kindred productions of a debased press in which the hero is a felon. Such works sell by the million to the young people of the masses in Great Babylon. In their unripened judgments the gentleman thief becomes their beau-ideal of a true man. They seek to imitate him, to make themselves heroes and they become criminals. They stand up in the felon's dock as thieves, housebreakers, foot-pads, etc.; breaking many a fond mother's heart, and bowing many an honest father's head with shame.

Then again there is another class of works emanating from the same grade of minds that do, perhaps, even more mischief than the lives of highwaymen and pirates. Though not actually so obscene as to be repressed by the conservators of public morality, yet they are full of innuendoes, *double-entendres*, so-called love episodes and the like. Coming out in weekly numbers and published at a very low price, they have an almost fabulous circulation amongst the girls and young women who have to earn their bread in the great cities of the world. Could we get the statistics of the causes that have crowded the streets of modern Christendom with fallen women, as easily as we can those that have filled their jails with youthful criminals, we should find that these same publications have had much to do with it. True, they may not be the direct cause; but their sly hints and half expressed immorality gradually familiarize the minds of those budding into womanhood with such ideas, and brush off the first blush of maidenly modesty, thus opening an avenue in their thoughts, which afterwards proves a resting place for some villain to work out his hellish purpose.

A girl filled with the ideas of the heroes of romance, becomes acquainted with some libertine on the look out for prey. He is so gentlemanly, so handsome, so noble, so loving, in every way so like the Clarence Mounteagle or Herbert De Courcey, about whom she has just been reading, that she thinks he must be just as true and pure as these imaginary characters are represented to be. Her whole nature is wrapt up in him, she falls into his toils; his ends are accomplished, she is deserted, and

"Alas for the rarity
Of Christian charity,"

the open streets are her only refuge, and strong drink her only consolation.

Of course the untrained minds of the young, if not guided by the more matured judgment of their elders, will seek that reading which is most fascinating. But few will read from choice, those works that are really beneficial, when they can obtain an inexhaustible supply of what is aptly termed "light reading." But we hold it to be just as much the duty of a parent to supply his children with proper books, as it is with wholesome food. What man would be justified in giving his children arsenic when they asked for sugar, simply because arsenic is sweet. Nor is a parent any more justified in permitting his offspring to peruse the moral poison of a shameless literature when their minds crave for intellectual food, simply because the print in one book looks very much like that in any other.

Nearly all intelligent children love to read, and ours are no exception to the rule. They should have their desires gratified. Every father should, according to his means, help to make his home happy by supplying his children with good books and periodicals. Besides this there are many ways in which this general good can be helped along. We were pleased to notice that in the organization of the Sugar House Ward Co-operative Institution one of the objects sought to be accomplished, is the establishment of a library for the use of its members. Our Sunday schools also wield a very potent influence in this direction. Most of them have li-

braries for the use of the scholars. These libraries, if carefully selected, must do much good, but care should be taken in the selection, that they are not of a sectarian character. We should not object to religious books, for we regard all books as truly religious that proclaim the truth, that give us more enduring and nobler ideas of the Great Creator by explaining His works, by drawing our attention to the beauties of nature, and the various forms of animal life that surround us, that from history we may draw morals that will help us all to become better and wiser. But the kind we object to is the namby-pamby style of tracts, that are so popular amongst the creeds of Christendom, that contain false doctrines and notions, and imbue the mind of the youthful Saint with ideas opposed to the revelations of God given in these days. We say with the sensational, the impure, and the obscene, keep these away from the youth of Zion.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.

THE citizens of this Territory have been aware for many months past, that a great rivalry has existed between the two companies who are building the Pacific Railroad, as to which should finish the longest stretch of road before the two lines meet, causing each company to make almost superhuman efforts to push the work under its direction forward with the utmost dispatch. As the road neared completion this feeling grew in intensity, especially when the grading parties of the two companies began to work side by side, and at one time there appeared to be a great probability of both companies running separate lines through the valley north of us from Ogden to the northern shores of the Great Salt Lake. This feeling ultimately developed into charges and counter charges being presented before Congress, asserting that the lines were not being built according to the requirements of the law which granted Government aid to the builders of the Pacific Railroad. The Union Pacific Company were charged with building an inferior road, with gambling with the interests of the shareholders, with neglecting the requirements of the Government and with grading far beyond the distance in advance of the completed line allowed them by law. Charges of a like, if not entirely similar nature, were made against the Central Pacific Company, and Congress was called upon to decide the points at issue.

The most important item, however, in the dispute, that concerned the people of this Territory, was where the joint terminus of the two lines should be located. It was certain to be somewhere in the vicinity of the Great Salt Lake, either at Ogden, the Promontory, near Monument Point or even west of that. The Central Pacific had graded to Ogden, and were very anxious that their terminus should be there, as by that means they hoped to secure a large percentage of the Utah trade for California. The majority of those interested in the Union Pacific road claimed that the termini of the lines should be wherever they met, and as their line had long passed Ogden, they would probably have had the common terminus somewhere on the northern shore of the Lake.

Our readers will however see by the bill that we published in our issue of the 20th inst. that Congress has decided that the junction shall be "at or near Ogden," or, in the words of the bill, provided "that the common terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad shall be at or near Ogden, and the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall build and the Central Pacific Railroad Company shall pay for and own the railroad from the terminus aforesaid to a promontory summit, at which point the rails shall meet, and connect and form one continuous line." By which we understand that the Union Pacific Company will have to sell to the Central Pacific all the road they have built north of Ogden as far as the summit of the Promontory, and that there they will cease work; whilst the Central Pacific will continue to move eastward until they reach that same point where they will connect, and form one line, which line as far east as Ogden shall become the property of the latter company.

For ourselves we deem this legislation eminently wise, not only to quiet the difficulties that have existed between the two lines, but also for the credit of the Government, and for the sake of economy. Ogden is certainly the best place for the terminus; its advantages are far greater than any point for many