

take the mines in the condition they were in then, would do all necessary "dead work," furnish all necessary props and "T" rails, lay all required tracks in the mines, furnish mine cars, keep the mines in first-class condition, furnish all foremen, clerks and other help, all at his own expense, and would load the coal on the cars, for one dollar and five cents per ton. In other words, the total cost to the company for mining the coal and keeping the mines in first class condition was to be the figure named. The party making the proposition only asked, in addition to this price as the total cost of producing the coal and loading it in the cars, the privilege of cutting timber for props on the company's land surrounding the mines, and the exclusive privilege of running a store and boarding house at the mines. He was willing to guarantee to furnish any amount of coal that might be required, and to give a suitable bond for the faithful performance of his contract.

At that time the miners were being paid 70 cents per ton for mining the coal, and, he says, there was no complaint among them against that price, which was what the party making the above proposition expected to continue to pay. Good miners easily made from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per day. The amount paid the miners, 70 cents, deducted from the price the company were to pay for the coal on the cars, \$1.05, left 35 cents on each ton mined, out of which was to come the cost of "dead work," timber, track, foremanship, clerk hire, and the operator's profits. The latter, according to the expectations of the party making the proposition, based on forty years' experience in the business, would have been fair.

The proposition was rejected, presumably for the reason that the company could keep its mines in good condition and put its coal on the cars for less than \$1.05 per ton. Since that time conditions have changed but little at these mines. The cost of taking the coal from the earth has not necessarily been increased, and it is to be further presumed, he says, that modern appliances and methods have made it less, and that the miners are now being paid sixty-five instead of seventy cents per ton.

The Pleasant Valley coal mines are situated about 125 miles from Salt Lake City; yet citizens have to pay \$5.25 delivered, or \$4.75 at the yard, for a ton of coal which costs, laid on the cars at the mines, including every item entering into the expense of its production, not more than from one dollar to one dollar and five cents.

It is stated that about one half of the coal consumed in this city comes from the Pleasant Valley mines, and that the dealers of this city sell, in the aggregate, about a ton per minute. The mines named may, therefore, be credited selling about thirty tons per hour, or say 250 tons per day, in this city alone, which certainly is not an over-estimate.

There is comparatively little complaint at paying 50 cents for the delivery of a ton of coal. Purchasers, therefore, take the price at which it is sold at the yard, viz.: \$4.75; deducting the cost of mining, which is put at \$1.05, leaves \$3.70. At the time the

above proposition was made the News informant states that the railroad company charged the enormous rate of \$2 per ton freight to this city, and allowing the road the same rate now, there still remains \$1.70 profit on every ton of Pleasant Valley coal sold in this city. He says also that on a staple like coal, where a cast iron "cash down" rule is enforced, as is the case in this city at the present time, 25 cents per ton profit on such an output as the Pleasant Valley mines dispose of in this city would pay better than any ordinary line of merchandising, and one dollar per ton freight would be a high rate from the mines to this point.

From the foregoing he says it can be seen that Pleasant Valley coal might be sold in this city for: Cost on the cars at the mine, \$1.05; plus freight, \$1.00; plus profit, 25c; total, \$2.30. In any event, the gentleman claims that coal ought to sell in this city to the retail customer for not to exceed \$3 per ton at the yard instead of \$4.75, and to the wholesale customer at a considerable discount. He concluded his interview with the News representative by saying rather emphatically:

"The railroads and coal mines combined are robbing the inhabitants of this city to the extent of at least \$1.75 on every ton of coal sold at retail to them. The question is: How long will a city as large, wealthy and powerful as ours submit to this state of things?"

AN OHIOAN IN UTAH.

A few words before I return home to my family in the great and distant state of Ohio. I feel as if I want to say something about the "Mormons," having lived nearly five months among them. When I was eighteen years of age, running a paper machine at Watertown, New York. I went up into the paper sorting room and found the Book of Mormon and read it. I also remember the Mormon missionaries at Little Eaton, England, forty years ago and the converts they made. I have read Readler's Book of Mormonism, have it in my library. Most of its contents I now know to be false representations. I have heard Ann Eliza Young talk, so that I have known something for and against Mormonism for a long time. My conclusions now are based on facts, not theories. "O Jerusalem, that killeth the Prophets and stoneth them that have come unto you!" The murdering of Joseph and Hyrum Smith was barbarous. They had a right to live if their doctrine was false. The crescent floats over the hills and vales of Judea today although a million souls perished to drive out the followers of the false Prophet Mahomet. Joseph Smith did not say that he was the Christ or the one who was to come to redeem Israel; nay, only that he had a revelation. In 1873, while my wife, two daughters and I were on our way to Watertown, New York, our youthful home, an old gentleman boarded the train at Palmyra and I asked him to show me the mountain the Book of Mormon plates were found in. He did so, and I inquired if he was a "Mormon" and if he believed the plates were found there from which

the Book of Mormon was written. He said he was not a "Mormon," but that he did believe Joseph Smith's statement as to the finding of the plates.

Now as to revelation. Has there not always been such? I will not weary you with a long article, but say the "Mormons" are a remarkable people, and if the providence of God is not their protection I am puzzled to know what is. Your valley blossoms as the rose, and you have everlasting streams of water. You have gathered in from all lands, and God has blessed you surely, because He maketh the sun to shine on the hill top and in the valley, and He clothes the smiling fields with corn. When the "Mormons" came here through Emigration Canyon they came to escape persecution and to be enabled to worship God according to their own ideas. Did not the Pilgrim Fathers do the same? But they burned at the stake their supposed witches. John Calvin of revered memory had his servant burned to death. I see no such spirit in the "Mormon" Church. They have a good and correct way of maintaining the church of the living God. "They that honor Me I will honor," saith the Lord, "and bring your tithes and offerings into the House of the Lord and see if I will not pour out a blessing upon you." The unfortunate are taken care of among the "Mormons," and "Mormonism" is one of the three great "isms" of the world. I see no more wrong doing here than in Puritan Massachusetts, where the boys and girls are not allowed to sit together in meetings.

Now another question: Why should the government of the United States take the Church property from the "Mormons?" I cannot comprehend. The different sects have their valuable property and enjoy it unmolested. Well, all I say is it is unjust.

Now a word about your beautiful Temple. David could not build the first because he shed too much blood. On Gilboa's top fell noble Saul, who spared the women and children and choice oxen—"Oh, the son of Kish!" Now you have a beautiful Temple and the angel with his trumpet in hand standing on its high pinnacle—calling forth the Saints is a beautiful emblem. (Chronicles 6th chapter.) And when you dedicate your Temple to Jehovah, no doubt from the chapter named, 32nd and 33rd verses, you will proclaim: "Moreover, concerning the stranger which is not of thy people Israel but is come from a far country for thy great name's sake and thy mighty hand and thy stretched out arms if they come to pray in this house, then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all the stranger calleth to thee for, that all people of the earth may know thy name and fear thee as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name."

In conclusion, I wish to say I attended the service of the Granite ward last Sunday, and was greatly pleased with the preaching of the truth as I there heard it. It was the first "Mormon" sermon I had ever heard. I wish some of my Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist friends could have heard it. The line of thought was to elevate man and lead him to love God and his neighbor. JOHN W. BARBER.