

SAN JUAN COUNTY.

A Description of It Furnished the
Chamber of Commerce.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
SALT LAKE CITY, Sept. 23, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

The following letter from Mr. F. A. Hammond of Mancos, San Juan County, is so interesting and instructive and so responsive to the inquiries made by me concerning the resources of Utah, that I beg you to reproduce the same for the information of the general public:

Dear Sir:—Your letter and circular of Sept. 5th asking for information concerning San Juan County, Utah, reached me at this place on the 19th instant. I am heartily in sympathy with this movement of the Chamber of Commerce and every other movement tending to place the Utah before the public concerning Utah and her people.

San Juan County is situated south of the thirty-eighth parallel latitude, northeast to Colorado line, south to a point a little south of San Juan River and there corners with New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado; thence west to the Colorado River, thence north to Emery County or to the thirty-eighth parallel, embracing a vast area of country with a great variety of climate and soil and a generally high altitude, the land on the San Juan River near Bluff being about 4,000 feet above the level of the sea, while the Blue and Elk mountains, which are covered with fine timber and splendid pasture for cattle and sheep, rise to a height of from 8,000 to 10,000 feet.

We have a co-operative institution at Bluff with a capital stock of \$150,000 of which \$20,000 is paid up. Under the management of this company we are caring for 11,000 head of sheep; cost, \$1.40 per head; breed, Spanish merino crossed with native Mexican. Wool sells in Durango, Col. for from \$1 to 14 cents per pound. Wages of sheep herders, \$25 per month and board.

We are manufacturing a few boots and shoes of material purchased in the East. Work is done by the day, wages \$3. A beginning has been made at tanning goat skins purchased from the Navajo Indians who sell large quantities of wool and skins to our co-op. We tan with oak extract imported from the East in connection with a root we call "sour dock," a large yellow root. The tanning principle has also been found in a shrub called "mountain rush," which grows all over these dry high plains or mesas. We also manufacture a few hundred barrels of very fine sorghum, for the production of which both soil and climate are admirably adapted. This is sold in Colorado for one dollar per gallon, and the product per acre is about 125 gallons.

There are about 1,000 acres of land under cultivation on which the crops raised are mostly corn, sugar cane, potatoes, tomatoes, etc., but little wheat, oats or barley being raised, the climate on the river bottom being too warm.

Of corn we raise about 75 bushels per acre on our best lands, and for this a ready market is found at 2 to 3 cents per pound.

For irrigation about one cubic foot of water is needed for every 40 acres on the river bottom, but much less suffices near the mountains. We have about ten miles of water ditches, the cost of which I don't know. The amount of unimproved lands I should judge after traveling all over the country, was about 600,000 acres, situated between great dry washes that are frequently filled with water, which rushes down either to the San Juan or Colorado rivers. Between these water courses are found large tracts of the best land, which will yet be cultivated by means of the water stored in these vast water-ways.

Water for irrigation is obtained from the San Juan River and little mountain streams from the east base of the Blue Mountains. These streams, when properly used with a system of storage in reservoirs, will afford an abundance of water for thousands of acres of the rich mesa lands lying on the east and south of said mountains. On these mountains and easy of access are found large bodies of beautiful saw timber, long leaf pine, yellow pine, black jack, and some fine groves of red pine which furnish a splendid bark for tanning purposes.

There are now about 32,000 head of cattle upon the ranges in this county, mostly owned by large companies, some by foreigners who send the profits away to build up other countries. Eleven thousand head of sheep are being run and owned in the county besides about 100,000 head that come down into our county from Colorado for winter range and to be taxed, as they say in Utah; as our taxes are ever so much lower than they are in Colorado.

Horses—We have about 3,000 head, mostly of the pony variety for use in herding stock. We have some very fine brood mares and a few fine stallions from the use of which our horses are improving.

Durham, Hereford and Poll Angus Bulls are the principal breeds used by cattle men.

Cattle raising, for the past few years, has not been profitable, owing to high freights on railroads and low prices for beef steers in the east.

Hogs—We only raise a few for home consumption, none to export.

Mines—We have no mines in the county being worked. A very rich

copper mine has been located on the San Juan River, some miles below Bluff, but the difficulty of transportation precludes its being worked at present.

In this connection I may state that a grand discovery of gold had been made in all the upper benches bordering on the San Juan River for over 100 miles. A company of capitalists from the east is about to erect machinery at different points and work out the gold by washing down or sluicing these gold bearing mesas, an operation which will, at the same time furnish cheap water for irrigating the lower, rich bottoms on the San Juan.

We have also rich deposits of crude oil, found near the River San Juan a few miles west of Bluff, which will be worked when transportation is cheaper.

Rate of taxation—12 mills.

No county or city debt.

No artesian wells.

To store water in these vast dry wastes is the problem of the future. With aid from the Territory or General Government this could easily be accomplished and hundreds of thousands of acres of choice lands, blessed with as fine a climate as can be found this side of Italy, could be brought under cultivation.

Schools—We have two school houses with three terms each year. About 50 children are enrolled in each district with an average attendance of 38.

Class and Character of Public Buildings—Log cabins with dirt roof, after the most primitive style.

The county is only about eight years old. Up to that time it was held by a few roving bands of Ute and Pi-Ute Indians, who kept the country in a chronic state of alarm, averaging one or two outbreaks in a year; robbing and murdering their chief employment. Now all this is changed and peace reigns between the red and white men. We are trying to teach the Indian to lay aside his former habits and customs and take up with a civilized mode of life, as we have ever found it cheaper to feed than to fight him.

Pasture can be found for a great many more sheep and cattle in this country. The pasture is very rich. There is a fine opportunity for the dairy business all around the foot of the mountains for forty miles, where thousands of dairy cows can be run for eight months in the year and then taken to a good winter range in the south and west of Blue and Elk Mountains.

The foregoing letter is finely written and presents a vast amount of valuable information, just such information as our Chamber is in need of. Though the diffusion of information concerning the agricultural aspects and resources of our Territory would belong more appropriately to a Bureau of Immigration such as has been created in western states by their legislatures, yet the work of our Chamber cannot be successfully accomplished without some data and statistics bearing upon all our resources. A letter like the above covering each of the different counties of the Territory would be invaluable and would enable us to furnish to enquirers a very correct idea of our resources and possibilities. It is to be hoped therefore that others will display the same generous pride in the building up of our communities as Mr. Hammond, to whom I acknowledge myself under a heavy obligation.

W. J. FORHAN.

CONFERENCE IN TENNESSEE.

Sensational Scene in a Meeting—
Manifestation of Mobocracy.

WOLF CREEK,
Lawrence County, Tenn.,
September 17th, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

The Southwest Tennessee Conference convened at 11 a. m. on Saturday, September 17th, 1887, at the Wolf Creek schoolhouse. There were present: John Morgan, president of the mission; Elias S. Wright, president of the conference; Wm. D. C. Markham, Ezra F. Walker, Jno. W. Saunders, Asahel L. Fuller, Milford B. Shipp, Jr., and Richard A. Shipp, traveling elders in the conference.

But few people were present. Called to order by President Wright. A song of greeting to President Morgan, composed for the occasion, was sung.

Prayer by Elder John W. Saunders, after which the hymn on page 408, revised for the occasion, was sung. Elder Wm. D. C. Markham was the first speaker. He read from Matthew 21: "And this Gospel of the kingdom must be preached unto all the world for a witness," etc. Said it was the duty of the Elders of Israel to preach this same Gospel, which had again been restored, for the welfare and salvation of the human family; and to lift a warning voice unto the people of the judgments which were even now being poured out.

Elder Ezra F. Walker next spoke for a short time. Said the Lord had promised where two or three had met together in His name there would He be also, and that to bless. Had he not had a perfect knowledge of the Gospel as again restored he never could have undertaken to preach its principles. This Gospel of the kingdom would produce the same effects to-day as anciently. The same gifts and blessings would follow as in former times if received with proper motives.

Elder Elias S. Wright followed. He was pleased at having the privilege of

meeting in conference, but was not pleased with the small attendance. If the Saints could not afford to come to meeting, how could we expect strangers? The people of this locality had heard the first principles of the Gospel taught for a number of years and had no excuse for not understanding them. The Gospel of Christ inculcated every truth and made the human family free. Felt like Paul of old: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth." Earnestly exhorted the Saints to diligence in duty, and the necessity of remaining faithful to the covenants they had made before God.

Singing "Arise, my soul, arise." Conference adjourned until next day at 11 a. m.

Benediction by Elder A. L. Fuller. On Sunday, Sept. 18, conference convened at the Stuts schoolhouse as per adjournment.

Singing, "Do what is right." President Wright offered prayer. Singing, "Lo, the Gentile chain is broken."

Elder John W. Saunders first occupied a short time. He showed the necessity of faith in God and in His Priesthood, and a godly repentance.

Elder A. L. Fuller next spoke on the principle of baptism. In order to obtain salvation we must obey the Gospel as laid down by Christ. This salvation is not limited to any individuals, and is only obtained on the conditions stated in the Scriptures. Three things are essential to baptism. Authority, object and correct form. Quoted Scriptural passages showing the only form practiced in the days of the Savior and His Apostles.

Elder Milford B. Shipp, Jr., exhorted the Saints to faithfulness in regard to prayer, the necessity of living lives of purity and seeking for the Spirit of God to enable them to keep His commandments.

Elder Richard A. Shipp said we are here as the servants of God sent by a higher power than man can bestow, to show the way of life and salvation.

PRESIDENT JOHN MORGAN

felt pleased to meet again with the Elders, Saints and people of this locality. Could we but see at a glance what has transpired in this land since the first Elders passed through here, forty years ago, we would be amazed. The former Elders who preached to this people, testified to the truth of the prophecy uttered by Joseph Smith concerning the war that would then shortly come to pass, and exhorted those who wished to escape it to flee to Zion. You who have gray heads know the result of disregarding the teachings of God's servants in those days. The present Elders testify that God's judgments will be poured out with increased vengeance upon the wicked and ungodly. Our advice to those who will serve God is to profit by the past and get out of here as soon as possible.

At this point the speaker was interrupted and

A SCENE

followed, which out of charity for a professing Christian community we would like to omit. A young man named Wep Gilbert, whose rude and mysterious actions attracted the attention of all present, jumped from a side desk upon which he was sitting, seized a crutch near by, raised it above his head and rushed forward to strike the speaker exclaiming "G—d d—n your old heart, that's what you said when you were here before. I have had enough of your trying to induce my relatives to go to that country. Now they are there and want to come back but cannot get money to return. Just as if you knew what was coming to pass in the future."

Elder E. S. Wright seized the crutch and wrenched it from the young man. The latter then drew his knife but was prevented from using it by the elders present.

Efforts were made to reason with him, but without effect. He continued to grow more boisterous, brandishing his knife so that none present dare approach him. He continued with his threats and abuse for five or ten minutes, making a number of efforts to get hold of the speaker, and would not yield to the persuasion of friends to leave the house. Finally, a lady seeing the peril of her husband who endeavored to quiet him and upon whom he drew his knife, faltered away.

At this the women set up a wail which reached the ears of the would-be-murderer and was the means of causing him to leave the house. In a short time efforts were made to continue the meeting by inviting the crowd into the house, but without any one feeling inclined to leave proceedings continued. A second effort was made, but an occasional friend would come forward and suggest we make no more endeavors to finish the meeting as there were upwards of thirty in the mob who were growing worse.

KNOTS OF MOBOCRATS

were seen in places outside of the schoolhouse and the general feeling prevailed that if further efforts were made they might result in something serious. It was therefore deemed best to move quietly away, creating as little excitement as possible. No further efforts were made by the mob to carry out their damnable scheme.

We desire to make special mention of sisters Hattie Blackburn and V. E. Grimes, who showed more courage than all the men present in quieting the mobocrats.

A. L. FULLER.

"MORALS AND MANHOOD."

They Do Not Depend Upon Wealth

There is a class of aspirants to gentility who refuse to recognize any person not dressed in the style which they suppose fashionable among the higher classes. A story is told of a wealthy Glasgow brewer's wife, who, attired in all the magnificence of her satins, lace and jewelry, was driving out in her carriage one day in the vicinity of Balmoral. A quiet lady, clad in a plain gingham dress and gray shawl was gathering a bouquet of wild flowers in the hedge, and as the carriage passed by wished the occupant a pleasant "Good morning," to which the brewer's wife answered by a contemptuous nod, but afterwards learned to her great mortification that she had thus lost an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with Queen Victoria. So a large class assume to be the exponents of virtue, integrity, loyalty, etc., who refuse to recognize manhood or morals unless they are decked in the glare and tinsel of wealth.

Well, it may be that we have not read history correctly; but then we do remember some facts which all admit to be true. For example, Ctesus, the rich king of Lydia, does not seem to have had as much wisdom or manhood as the humble Solon. Rome had the spoils of nations—the trophies of wars for a thousand years. As long as she retained simplicity of manners, so long she prospered. When her soldiers became pampered and ruined by the spoils of conquest, and her citizens enervated by luxury, then she lost her manhood and morals and fell—an easy prey to the Goths and Vandals.

In modern history we find other illustrations. Spain at one time was a very rich nation, but she does not seem to have been at that time pre-eminent for either morals or manhood. On the other hand, the nations that Spain despised for their poverty have shown a manhood, which has enabled them to overcome great obstacles and far excel, in moral force, intellectual culture, commercial importance and political power even the land of the haughty Castilian. We never read that the vast wealth which Spain obtained from Mexico and Peru, through the human butcheries of Cortez and Pizarro really increased the morality or the manhood of the Spaniards. On the other hand we find that wealth corrupted her politics, enervated her citizens and brutalized her soldiery.

Similar effects have been visible in our own land. Those sections where wealth has been produced with the least exertion have been noted for the lowest morals, the least mental activity and the fewest useful inventions while those regions where the soil is rocky and sterile, where the fierce winds blow and where the boys sometimes freeze their fingers getting the kindling-wood are the very spots where have been cradled a large proportion of the great men of our land.

If we turn to individual cases this idea is still more strikingly illustrated. Whence come the great lights of the moral world,—the philanthropists, the reformers, the giants of progress? Not from the dwellings of the rich! Why, all the philanthropists who were born wealthy would the world has ever seen could be counted on the fingers.

Shelby tells us of certain poets that they "Are cradled into poetry by wrong, They learn in suffering what they teach in song."

A similar sentiment might be expressed concerning reformers. Look at John B. Gough, pleading with impassioned eloquence against the demon alcohol that had well nigh ruined him. See Fred Douglass, the emancipated slave, spending his life in behalf of his enslaved race. On the other hand Boss Tweed corrupting the politics of the Empire State, James Fisk demoralizing the young men of New York by the influence of his wealth and the examples of his debaucheries, are illustrations of the evil tendencies of some of those who possess wealth.

Allurements are on every side ready to entice our young men. Ambition is one. It points to the summit of power, and bids men join with the struggling combatants for dominion. It looks over bright fields and wide-stretched continents, restless till it conquers all. Victories give it strength; the walls of Acre increase its fury; and the flames of Moscow do not humble it. It bends the ear to the siren-voiced gales of applause, and intoxicates the mind with the martial notes of fame. But the sea blasts that howl around the lonely rock of St. Helena are a funeral wail to warn us of its delusions; and the voice of a Cardinal Woolsey echoes in thunder, "I charge thee put away ambition." Pleasure also lures, and after each draught the thirst increases to a fiery rage. The victim drinks

Draughts That common millions might have quenched—then dies Of thirst, because there is no more to drink.

Is it necessary to add to these allurements and tell our young men that their morals and their manhood will be in proportion to the amount of money they possess? Why such a statement is an insult to the fathers of our country. The pilgrims reaping a scanty sustenance on the rocky soil of New England; Franklin printing an almanac, and selling rags, ink and soap for a livelihood; Jackson toiling in early days for the necessities of life, Lincoln pioneering in the early

days of Illinois; these incidents, and a thousand others which are known to the veriest school boy are not very suggestive that manhood and morals depend on money.

Was it the rich men of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore that turned forth in 1861 and 1862 to save our imperiled nation? Was it the rich and fashionable ladies of Fifth Avenue and Saratoga who formed the "Woman's Sanitary Commission" and went like angels of mercy, to the tents of the wounded? If such was the case we have forgotten it. But we do remember that the sons of toil by the hundreds of thousands left their farms and work-shops, and made themselves a living bulwark for the nation's defense, that freedom might endure. We do remember that poor women, poor in what the world calls wealth, but rich in faith and patriotism sacrificed their ease and often their life, to assure the sufferings of the wounded and dying soldiers.

We know of no better description of an ideal American State than that expressed by Sir William Jones.

What constitutes a state?
Not high raised battlement or lofty mound,
Thick wall, or moated gate;
Not cities proud, with spires and towers crown'd;
Not bays and broad-armed ports,
Where laughing at the storm, peacemakers ride;
Not starr'd and spangled courts,
Where low-brow'd baseness waits to get fame to pride!
No! men, high-minded men,
With powers as far above dull usage, as
In forest, brake or den
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude;
Men, who their duties know,
But know their rights and knowing rights
Shall that much better maintain!"

In all this we have not the least intimation that money has anything to do with either manhood or morals—not the slightest inference that the wealth of the citizens constitutes the greatness of the state. But Sir William never lived on the Pacific Slope. He was only an alien. What did he know anyhow? J. H. W.

MARICOPA CONFERENCE

The Maricopa Stake conference was held in Mesa, Arizona, on Saturday and Sunday, the 24th and 25th of September, 1887. No visitors, but a full representation of the local officers were present. All the wards were represented by their members. The conference was well attended and the instructions given were of an encouraging nature, especially attention being given to proper training of our youth.

The Temple Ward was disgraced on Sept. 1st, 1887. The greater number of the 163 souls comprising the ward will join some of the other wards of the Stake.

The Relief Society, Y. M., Y. L., Primary Associations and Sunday schools each held their conferences which were all well attended, as evidence that much interest is being manifested in such gatherings. All who attend this conference can testify to the Spirit so abundantly poured out on Zion is growing.

GEO. PASSEY, Clerk.

First District Court.

On the 3rd inst., the following business was transacted in Judge Benson's court at Provo:

Judge Henderson returns to Provo and Judge Boreman goes to Utah where there is only a civil case and lighter work awaits him.

Isaac Romel was admitted to citizenship, as was also Peter Morley, under a close call. When asked where the highest officer in Great Britain compared with the President of United States, he said it was a stone. The judge thought him a pretty Americanized.

Mads C. Gothrop was refused a lack of sufficient understanding, and not knowing whether polygamy was right or not.

Wm. Burnside made his first application, which was granted. Niels Jyorth applied for second papers, but under a close examination was denied. He said he was a member of the "Mormon" Church, held position, was 70 years old, and did not believe polygamy right because it was now against the law.

Q.—You know what the doctrine of your Church is in reference to polygamy; suppose your daughter was advised to go into polygamy, what would be your advice?

A.—My youngest daughter is 15 years old and has a mind of her own; I would not advise her at all.

Q.—Could you assist in enforcing the law if called upon, in reference to polygamy, etc.?

The applicant said he could not; he would be against his conscience and enforce such laws against his neighbors. Could not swear to report polygamy, and was refused citizenship.

Peter Anderson was admitted, the following were arraigned:

The People vs. Gabriel Burt for battery; N. J. Fairbanks for assault with intent to commit murder; Robert Edward King, of American Fork, for unlawful cohabitation. All to the statutory time to plead.

The killing of squirrels, prairie dogs, bears, mountain lions, wolves, coyotes is quite an expensive item in the yearly budget of Montezuma. The January to August, 1887, that territory paid in bounties \$93,025.10.