

EDITORIALS.

THE GATHERING.

AMONG the many commandments given to the people of God, in our day, is one to gather together. "Come out of her (Babylon) oh ye my people, that ye partake not of her sins—receive not of her plagues."

"Be ye separate from the wicked." "Flee unto Zion," etc.

In fulfillment of this great command we have the peaceful valleys of Utah dotted over with settlements, peopled with Saints who have come up hither from the various nations of the earth, and peace and plenty smiles upon their habitations.

How the thousands who, in the main, compose these settlements, when in distant lands, bound in the chains of poverty, prayed and struggled for deliverance from the thralldom in which they moved, is best known to themselves. It is enough to say they sought diligently and fervently for the Lord and their brethren to bring them forth from bondage.

Their entreaties and supplications did not go unheeded. The Lord opened up their way. He put it into the hearts of His servants to provide means to assist the poor to Zion, and tens of thousands are here to-day, rejoicing in the possession of peaceful homes, and the blessings of life multiplied upon them to a degree beyond their most sanguine expectations. Yet, strange to say, how soon many have forgotten their obligations for the blessings extended, and have become indifferent to the condition and wants of others in similar circumstances.

The aid rendered by the P. E. Fund was earnestly sought, and gratefully accepted. Contracts to refund the amounts received were freely made. "Only let us gather to Zion, our first efforts will be directed towards cancelling our indebtedness to this fund." Some have fulfilled these contracts, but a great many have not done so. They have put off the day of payment until they "could better afford it." Each year has brought them an increase of wealth and means, and still the debt remains unpaid. Neglect and indifference, on the part of many, keep from the fund what legitimately belongs to it, for the use and benefit of the poor of Israel, yet scattered among the nations.

Let those, who now owe to this fund, pause and reflect seriously upon the importance of the subject, and their duty in connection therewith. There are thousands of the honest poor scattered abroad, who desire to gather, and we should not be indifferent to their wants.

Let every man pay that which he oweth. Though he make an apparent sacrifice, it is nevertheless his duty. Let him part with a portion of the substance the Lord has blest him with. If in lands, stock, grain, or other means, let him dispose of so much as will free him of an honest debt. The hearts of the poor saints abroad yearn to gather up to Zion. Their circumstances are less favorable now than in years gone by. Their only hope for deliverance is through their brethren in Utah, and if those who are now honestly indebted to the emigration fund were to pay up we would find ample means at the disposal and under the control of the P. E. Fund Company, by which the wheels of emigration could roll on, and in a short period all who look to it for assistance would be fully satisfied by realizing the gratification of their long heart-felt, cherished wishes. None who have the means or can make the "turn" should any longer delay; they should at once make arrangements with their Bishops for payment, and it will bring to them the blessings of the Almighty, while they in turn bestow upon others a favor to which they owe, to-day, all their present prosperity and success.

NOT TO BE BROKEN UP.

"MILWAUKEE, Wis.—'Morality'—No, Mormonism is not on the decline. The death of Brigham Young created no confusion, and the saints have smoothly sailed ahead. Instead of the 'institution' showing signs of weakness, over 2,000 foreign recruits have reached Salt Lake within six months, and a new batch of 500 landed in New

York the other day. If you have been told that the next Congress will break up the business you are ahead of the rest of us on information."

The above is clipped from "Answers to Correspondents" in the *Detroit Free Press*, of the 5th inst. The editor's head seems to be level on this question, which generally agitates writers for the press so as to deprive them of their usual judgment. According to rumor and newspaper prophecies, Congress, or some other great power, has been going to break up "Mormonism" every year for a generation. But somehow it still survives and finds devoted adherents and converts among many nations. After a while perhaps editors and common folk will learn that legislation cannot destroy faith, that legal enactments have no power over conscience, and that in the United States, bolts and bars, and fines and penalties, are an utter failure as destroyers of religious institutions, whether true or false. And the day will come when all the world will discover that there is something in "Mormonism" which will never "decline," and cannot be broken up by any earthly power, and that those who have sought to affect its overthrow have actually been fighting against God.

THE P. E. FUND.

THIS fund was established in fulfillment of a covenant made by the Priesthood with the Almighty, that they would "not cease their exertions until all Israel was gathered. Hence the name Perpetual was given to this fund. The labors and efforts manifested by the Priesthood and Saints in contributing to the support of this fund have resulted in extending aid to thousands of the people of God who now inhabit peaceful and prosperous homes in these mountain valleys; but the work of gathering is not yet complete. Thousands of honest poor Saints, yet among the nations look with aching hearts towards their brethren in Zion for deliverance.

The poverty and distress which so universally prevail among the nations of the earth makes it next to an impossibility for them to raise the necessary means by which they can fulfil the great command, "Gather together, oh ye my people!" Those who have received aid from this fund in years past, who have been assisted here and who in consequence at the present time are surrounded with peace and plenty, and are, comparatively speaking, independently rich and happy, should not forget the day of thralldom and bondage in which they moved, ere they received help from the P. E. Fund. All should exhibit some sympathy, and a disposition to help their poor brethren in a day of need. And especially should those who have received assistance under contract to refund the amount when in circumstances to do so, look around and be stirring themselves to cancel their just obligations. A great many have manifested indifference to such an extent in this respect, that it may be said tantamount to a grievous offence before the Lord in that they could, had they the disposition, have cancelled their indebtedness years ago; but they have waited and put it off until "a more convenient season." The church was merciful—did not "push" them—and they took advantage of its kindness and leniency. There are but few out of the thousands indebted to this fund at the present time who could not pay up every cent of what they are owing, and such should not procrastinate but come honestly forward and settle their accounts.

It is strange, but nevertheless true, that if men borrow from each other, as a rule they think it only right to return the favor as agreed. There are many who even mortgage their homesteads, give collateral security for borrowed amounts, and in the event of their not being able to meet their obligations when due, readily and agreeably make settlement through the transfer of their bonded property, while there are but a few who are willing to part with or spare sufficient means out of their comparative plenty, to pay freely and voluntarily a debt to the Perpetual Fund, simply because

said Perpetual Fund Company are not disposed to "crowd" a settlement of their just claims. But men of principle, and particularly those professing to be saints, should not take undue advantage of this lenity and indulgence. Hence, as the Lord has blessed us with another bountiful harvest, and peace and prosperity, by his blessing, are attending every department of labor and business, we hope to see means roll into the hands of the Perpetual Fund Company, from all parts of the Territory, that will brighten the prospects and raise the drooping spirits of the poor of God's people whose faces are directed Zion-ward in the hope of a temporal and spiritual salvation.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Grant still looms up as the "coming man" of the Republican party. The enthusiasm is being worked up in advance and coming political events are "casting their shadows before."

The St. George *Union* published by J. W. Carpenter, comes to us in better print and with a more attractive appearance. Good. Progress and improvement should be the watchword of the *Union*.

Elder John Nicholson, formerly of this office, favors us with a very interesting communication, which we are pleased to present to our readers. He is ensconced in the Liverpool office, is in good health, and is writing for the *Star*.

E. L. Pease, Esq., of Evanston, has been nominated as Delegate to Congress, by the Democrats of Wyoming Territory. If his supporters will unite and all go to the polls on election day, they will secure his return, and a capable and faithful representative of their interests at the seat of government. Wyoming's watchword should be, "let us have Pease."

Another failure in pursuing the "reds." As a rule, the regular troops make poor Indian fighters. Captain Thornburgh's unsuccessful campaign against the renegade Cheyennes adds one more proof of this fact to the long list before the country. Mountaineers and Western volunteers, acquainted with the tactics and habits of the savages make the best "Indian soldiers," when necessity arises for chastising the redskins.

The Collett case has developed no evidence that can legally criminate the defendant. It is very plain to those who know the witnesses for the prosecution, that some of them at least have been prompted to work up this case out of sheer revenge for fancied wrong, and in a spirit of hostility to a people from whom they have separated. In the weakness of his case we now see clearly the reason for the Prosecuting Attorney's insult to the jury. He wants to shift his failure on to "bias."

Gen. David D. Colton, one of the Central Pacific Railroad magnates, who died at San Francisco last Wednesday evening, of internal hemorrhage, was born in 1832 in Maine. He removed with his parents to Galesburg, Illinois, in 1838, and went to California in 1849, where for a time he followed mining; but afterwards studied and practiced law. Since 1871, he was intimately connected with the Central Pacific and was also Vice President of the Southern Pacific Railroad. He was moderately wealthy and was noted for his good culture and excellent social qualities.

Correspondence.

VARNELLS STATION, Ga.,
October 3rd, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Since our conference in August, I have visited those of the saints in the Georgia conference that had not been visited immediately previous to the conference, and found them all in the enjoyment of the spirit, united and growing in grace and knowledge day by day. The opposition is strenuous and vindictive, but it seems to unite the saints and more perfectly show them their surroundings, and the condition of affairs they are living in.

Reports from the different fields of labor throughout the entire mission are encouraging, and the prospects are good. In some localities

the Elders are baptizing, and everywhere they go they have large and attentive audiences. Elder Rogers, of Alabama, writes me that a short time ago, after he had retired to rest, and gone to sleep, a gentleman came to the door and aroused him, stating that himself and wife had concluded to be baptized. Bro. R. arose, dressed himself, and Paul-like, went forth in the night and administered the ordinance for the remission of sins.

The weather is moderating down from the intense heat of summer to the cool nights of autumn; and the Elders will now have a much better opportunity to preach than they have heretofore had. The fall and winter are the true seasons for missionary labor in this section. The Elders generally seem imbued with the spirit of their mission, and are laboring assiduously for the spread of truth; and I find the nearer they come to the exact fulfillment of the commands of God, regarding how to travel, etc., the more of the spirit of God they have. An Elder, abundantly supplied with money from home, will find that his preaching will not have the same force and power connected with it, that will be manifest in the preaching of one who goes forth in obedience to God's commands and travels without "purse and scrip." Our emigration will leave Chattanooga on the 20th of November for the settlement at Conejos, Colorado. I am not as yet informed as to the probable number of the company, but it will doubtless reach from 75 to 100; rates can be obtained by addressing me at Rome, Georgia.

The Elders called to the Southern States, should there be any, at this Conference, can obtain information as to route, rates, etc., by calling on Bro. Geo. Reynolds, at President Taylor's office.

Recent letters from the emigrants who went out last fall, report all well, and well pleased with their new homes, and glad to escape from the bondage of Babylon. They are urging their brethren and sisters to gather out, and become one with the people of God. They especially feel to rejoice at the steps the authorities are taking in sending some experienced and tried saints to live with them, and assist them in locating their homes and pioneering their way for the thousands of Israel to follow after into that land.

We have numerous invitations to different parts of the South to preach; and I am persuaded that quite a number more Elders than are at present in the field could find constant employment, in teaching the people, who desire to come to the knowledge of the truth. But Elders will need the love for the salvation of the souls of the children of men at heart, to enable them to overcome the many, many obstacles and difficulties they will encounter on every hand, and that sometimes seems as though they would overwhelm an Elder.

A number of copies of the NEWS are received in this part of the State and are doing a good work. The copies I receive, as soon as read, are started on a mission, and they preach some loud sermons.

I find that it does but little or no good to preach the gospel to people who have once heard and rejected the testimony of the servants of God, and hardened their hearts against the truth, as a general thing they only grow worse and worse in their opposition, and an Elder is throwing away valuable time in preaching to them.

The terrible scourge that has been desolating the southern States for the past 60 days, seems unabated, and the people are fleeing before it, as they would from an army of invasion, while those who are overtaken are perishing miserably in its track. The dispatches have contained some graphic pictures of the heart-sickening nature of the calamity, but they are too feeble to convey anything like a correct estimate of what has overtaken these sorely-tried people. Their towns, cities and villages have been depopulated, and the inhabitants are scattered over the country, located in outhouses, tents, temporary barracks, and often wandering aimlessly through the woods. The neighboring city of Chattanooga, has but few of its inhabitants left, all have fled who were able to get away, leaving but few to feed the pestilence on. Certainly God is making good his promise to the Prophet Joseph—"After your testimony and the testimony of the Elders, cometh the testimony of earthquakes, of famine, and of pestilence, and of dire calamities." And when I look around upon the

human family and see the condition they are in, and the end they are fast hastening to; it seems as though it is not the day we can be at "ease in Zion."

Bro. Jos. Standing and myself left the Saints in McLemore's care about two weeks ago and came to a new field of labor, located near the line of Tennessee and Georgia. We have been preaching to the people here publicly and privately since our arrival in this neighborhood, and prospects are good for the organization of a branch of the church here, at least we shall preach to them until they go one way or the other.

Mr. Nathaniel Connelly, a well-known citizen of North Georgia, but a non member of any religious organization, has, for some time, been taking an active interest in behalf of the Gospel, and devotes much of his time in talking to the people and securing places for us to preach, a business for which he is well qualified, as his acquaintance is quite extensive and he spares no pains. He distributes our tracts, pamphlets and papers everywhere he goes, and altogether has been of great help in disseminating the truth, for all of which the Lord will reward him abundantly.

Trusting we have an interest in the prayers of the Saints of Zion, I remain very truly your Brother in the Gospel.

JOHN MORGAN.

Letter from Elder John Nicholson

42, ISLINGTON,
Liverpool, England,
Sept. 24th, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

The country traversed in the overland trip, from Salt Lake City to New York, has been so often written about, that a detailed description from my pen would be superfluous.

Having been confined to a region of towering, but comparatively bald mountains, and productive, but usually dry and parchy-looking valleys, the appearance of the eastern contrast was vividly enchanting.

Rugged, bare and precipitous gorges and cañons, such as abound in Utah are by some intensely admired and spoken of in ecstatic raptures. True, such scenery inspires the gazer with a feeling akin to awe, awakening in the human heart a sense of the overwhelming power of an Almighty Creator. But the fresh green meadow, the gently sloping, grass-clad hills, the sombre forest, the majestic river and diminutive, rippling brook, passing in panoramic beauty before the view have far greater charms for me. They inspire the properly constituted mind with the beneficence, kindness and profuse liberality of a most merciful Father who sheds forth his blessings with an unstinted hand. They also impress a Latter-day Saint with the potency of the truth stated in the Book of Mormon, that "this is a land, choice above all other lands."

It was our good fortune to have a very pleasant sail across the broad Atlantic, in the S. S. *Wyoming*. We were well treated by the officers. Captain Gadd was uniformly kind and Robert Thorp, Esq., the purser, is one of the most genial gentlemen imaginable. He aims to make everybody feel comfortable and at home, and is always admirably successful. He is well and favorably known to a large number of our missionaries, whose pleasant recollections of him will be re-awakened on reading this allusion to the kind-hearted gentleman.

In taking an ordinary sea voyage an observant person who wields a facile pen, need experience no lack of matter for lively, yet truthful character sketches of peculiar specimens of the genus *homo*. He will find the crude material ready to his hand. I have in my "mind's eye" sundry individualities that crossed the ocean in the good ship already named, at the same time as your correspondent.

Mr. B.—is a gentleman of mammoth proportions. He constantly wore a scarlet smoking cap, giving him the appearance that might be supposed to belong to one of the Turkish pashas figuring in the late war, as one who stayed at home while the fighting was in progress.

B—is a joker. He tried his hand on the captain, but subsequently had ample reason to repent of his temerity; the gallant mariner occasionally approaching his huge victim and leading him along gently in conversation until a sudden elongation and drooping of Mr. B's