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LAND AND LABOR IN UTAH.

There is a strong desire manifested by some to disparage and speak lightly of what has been done by the Latter-day Saints, in settling and opening up this Territory. As the great difficulties that had and have to be contended with gradually disappear before the industry, energy and perseverance of the people, new-comers, imbued with a disposition to underrate their labors, will look around and in the evidences of comfort and prosperity to be seen, with the apparent age of the settlements, will foolishly think and incorrectly say that the settling of Utah was a comparatively easy task. But apart from the peculiar circumstances under which we came here, there are certain facts, sustained by figures, concerning labors performed which will, to a limited extent, show that in reclaiming this once inhospitable wilderness, the labor and expense of time and means were such as would have discouraged almost any other people situated as we were. These thoughts have been induced by reading a succinct report of the labors and expenditure involved in bringing into cultivation the lands occupied in the southern portion of this Territory. The report was furnished by Br. J. G. Bleak to Pres. E. Snow, of the southern mission. That some idea may be formed of the labor done and the cost at which southern Utah has been settled, we submit the following facts which we have gleaned from the report:

The St. George field, on the Rio Virgen contains 420 acres, 300 of which have been cultivated during the past season. The canal to irrigate this field is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and has cost from its commencement in December, in 1861, until August, 1866, the sum of \$26,611; of this amount \$4,020 were expended on 54 rods of tunnel. This makes a tax of a little over \$63 per acre to merely bring the water to the land. For the last two years it has cost \$10 per acre annually for water tax, or to keep the canal in good condition, and bring the water unto the land. This field is fenced, the fence being $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and protecting 175 acres of grass land as well as the cultivated land.

St. George has a field on the Santa Clara, watered by a canal nine miles in length, which has cost in the past four years nearly \$12,000, besides \$2 an acre annually, as water tax, for the last two years.

St. George has also another field at Heberville, watered by a canal three miles long, made at an expense of nearly \$7,000, including the labor on a dam. Or, in other words, the people of St. George have expended in bringing water to the land they cultivate nearly \$45,000, and for this they have a fraction over four acres for each man—not each person—which has cost not far from \$70 per acre. This is independent of water tax and all assessed taxes, and of every kind of labor on the land to produce crops; being simply the cost of cutting the canals to bring water for irrigation to it—or, that which the settlers had to pay to the arid and forbidding soil for the privilege of cultivating.

It is not so much wonder that recent arrivals should look upon the country and desire to possess it, where avarice

and unscrupulousness are the prevailing characteristics, after it has been made valuable at such an enormous expense. It is much easier to enter upon land in this Territory, that has cost those who first opened it such an amount to make it cultivatable, than it is to open up new places where all the difficulties that exist here in the way of opening up settlements have to be contended with. But it does indicate strong presumption, and borders somewhat on the ridiculous, to hear men talk of having made this country what it is, who never cultivated a foot of soil in the Territory, and never expended a dime here except for their own personal use and gratification.

Assertions of this character have been made, exposing those who uttered them to the contempt of every sensible, informed person in the Territory; and it may be we will next be told that those individuals came here first, performed all the labor that has been done in opening up the country, and that they look upon the Latter-day Saints as having newly arrived here where they found a beautiful country, well cultivated and well watered farms, and all the comforts of life which the old settlers have by years of industry, toil and economy gathered around them. Statements have been made as far from the truth as this one, were it made, and people who did not know the facts may have believed them.

But there is another view which can be taken of this matter. Neighboring States and Territories are occasionally referred to in a eulogistic manner, to show how much has been done in them for enhancing the greatness, wealth and importance of the nation. Their precious metals are spoken of, with the large expenditures in machinery and labor to develop them and thereby add to the national wealth. In tending to increase the actual—not fictitious—wealth of the nation, and its corresponding greatness, Utah is entitled to a much greater degree of credit than she ever received; while her actual expenditure for that purpose reaches figures that would astonish statisticians. We have not space to refer to any but one of the settlements named in the report; but if any competent arithmetician will take the trouble and labor to reckon up the various settlements in the Territory, with their canals, water ditches, fences, roads, bridges and other public works for the purpose of making property valuable and useful, independent of private improvements, he will find that the amount of actual expenditure will reach a figure that but few have begun to imagine.

Granted that this has been all done by the people to insure their subsistence and comfort, and increase their property; where are the public-spirited people who invest that which might well be considered colossal fortunes for the national wealth and greatness without individual interest being involved? All that has been done here has tended to make more valuable this part of the national territory, and adds to the intrinsic greatness of the Republic. And if States and Territories are to receive merit and encomiums for their expenditure and labors for this purpose, Utah is entitled to occupy a place in the front rank. By these that we have noted, and by kindred labors, she has opened up a country scarcely known and deemed utterly valueless until her citizens came and settled it, the pioneer of a number of States and Territories rapidly rising in wealth and importance. Thus, directly and indirectly, unaided by outside capital, she has materially aided in accomplishing all that is claimed for her surrounding neighbors and to a degree that compels honor to yield her the point of excellence.

The field of thought thus opened up is extensive; and no doubt many reflections will be suggested by the few facts adduced.

A DIFFERENCE, AND THE CAUSE.

During the last thirty years and over, many well meaning people throughout the Christian world have made and are making strenuous efforts to ameliorate the condition of mankind, by the application of those practical principles of the gospel which are, somehow, but seldom associated with the gospel by its professed teachers. Peace Societies have been formed; Peace Congresses have met and discussed national and international affairs; benevolent associations have been called into existence; societies have been organized to reclaim the fallen, relieve the destitute, succor the afflicted, enlighten the ignorant, reclaim the wicked and convert the heathen.

For centuries thousands of paid and trained priests have been professedly endeavoring to lead mankind to obey the precepts of, and pattern after, the Prince of Peace, whose life was lustrous with pure and holy actions. But during the last quarter of a century extra efforts have been made,—some by professing Christians, others by avowed infidels—to lead the human family into better and happier ways than those in which they were treading.

What is the result? It would be mournful to relate it, were it not for the conviction that where man has failed a Higher than man will succeed. With thousands on thousands of paid teachers, declaredly inculcating virtue, morality and holiness, corruption, immorality and impurity have increased with a rapidity that is sadly terrible; with Peace Societies, Peace Congresses and Peace Conventions at work, aided by men of vast influence among their fellow-men, the spirit of war and bloodshed was never more rampant and never so wide spread as it is to-day. Iniquity spreads over the earth like a fearful epidemic; it festers in high places, eats into the heart of the nations, and grows so fast that the efforts made to dwarf and keep it within bounds seem but to give it fresh vigor. These are not rash statements, but stern facts, fully borne out by the daily record of crimes against Heaven and man, which darken the press of entire Christendom.

Now the very word which we have used to designate that portion of the earth inhabited and governed by professed Christians, leads us back to the origin of the name, and the reason why it has been adopted and used by so-called civilized nations. The inhabitants of those nations profess belief in Christ, and in the principles that he taught. His mission was to bring blessings to mankind; the gospel he taught was a gospel of peace; it demands purity of thought and action, brings unity and love, and where obeyed and practiced produces permanent peace with all the accompanying blessings. The condition of Christendom does not exhibit these. Discordant sects, warring parties, nations arming or engaged in conflict, crime increasing, corruption overwhelming,—these do not look like the effects of the gospel. They are the very opposite of that which it was revealed to produce.

It is with no boasting or spirit of vain-glory that we turn to the people who inhabit these valleys; and invite attention to their unity, peace, good will and fraternal feeling. It is simply to show that obedience to the gospel can and will secure all the blessings which have been promised to accompany it. We ask right-minded men who travel through our cities and settlements, if they cannot bear testimony to the existence in them of those very things which philanthropists have been trying to secure to mankind. Peace, good order, virtue, comfort and happiness prevail; crime is comparatively unknown in most of them, and but very rare even in those which have a floating population of that class who are the bane of

all frontier settlements. And this condition of society exists in a degree of excellence in proportion as the principles of the gospel are received and obeyed.

We do not draw this distinction to make it manifest that our people are better than all the rest of mankind; but to show that the gospel of Christ produces all that the scriptures declare it will produce, and that the peace, union and virtues therein inculcated are not merely theories set down to be dilated upon with rhetorical display, but are realities which can be practically demonstrated by every man who will conform to the condition of life required.

We honestly say to all the world, that so fast and so far as they travel from the gospel which has been offered freely to them for the last thirty-six years, so fast and so far will they travel their present downward career to greater disunion, increased crime and more terrific struggles of bloodshed. The assertion may be unheeded, but its truth remains the same. As for the slanders uttered against the Latter-day-Saints, prompted by prejudice, malice and even meaner motives, they but prove how utterly base men can become, and how much they can disregard honor and honesty of principle.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETING.—Elder John Taylor delivered an interesting discourse in the forenoon, treating on the carrying of the gospel to the nations, his own early acquaintance with the truth, and some of the blessings to be derived from obedience to the commandments of God.

Afternoon.

Elder George Q. Cannon spoke of the blessings we enjoy as a people, the fulfillment of prophecy in the present condition of the Saints, the rapid progress of the work and its future glorious prospects; and pointed out that we have received every blessing promised by the Lord which we have been prepared to enjoy.

THEATRICAL.—On Tuesday evening the fine little comedy, the Follies of a Night, was performed. The situations and dialogue are lively, and the characters were well sustained. The Irwins appeared as the Duchess de Chartres and Pierre Palliot, and in both parts well sustained their reputations. Mr. McKenzie as Druggendraft was very good. The piece gave much satisfaction.

Kate Kearney followed, and was again well received.

On Thursday evening the Irwins made their last appearance. The bill for the occasion was a varied and excellent one, commencing with Dot, or the Cricket on the Hearth, which was followed by Dominique the Deserter, and the entertainment closed with Advertising for a Wife. In the first, Mrs. Irwin appeared as Dot, Mr. Irwin as Perrybingle, Mr. McKenzie as Caleb Plummer, Mr. Dunbar as Tackleton, Miss Adams as Bertha and Miss Alexander as Tilly Slowboy, while the spirit of the cricket was sustained by the favorite little Delle. The piece was very well rendered, each "chirp" finding a sympathetic response with the audience.

Dominique is a character in which Mr. Irwin appears to advantage. His supposition that he has, though unwillingly, received the especial protection of Satan in the Gentleman in Black, leads to much ludicrous business, which was admirably played. Mr. McKenzie was the Gentleman in Black; Miss N. Colebrook, Lady Blanche; Miss Alexander, her piquant waiting woman; Mr. Lindsay, the villain De Lache, and Mr. Graham, Blanche's brother D'Anville.

Advertising for a Wife kept the house in a state of laughter throughout its performance.

At the close of the first piece the Irwins were called for and appeared, when Mr. Irwin made a few remarks, tendering thanks for past courtesies, and bidding the audience and the public here good-bye.

We are pleased to be able to speak favorably of the style and appearance of Miss E. Snow and Miss N. Colebrook, late debutantes.

The playing on Saturday evening was spirited, natural, and did not continue too long. The Gunmaker of Moscow was rendered in capital style and gave much satisfaction. Pouter's Wedding is an excellent farce, with some good character parts for so short and light a piece. He cast in it was an unusually strong one for an afterpiece, and the ladies and gentlemen engaged did justice to the author. It is gratifying to see our home talent thus efficient and capable, and manifesting a desire to exert themselves for the enjoyment and amusement of the public.

The singing of Mrs. Careless was well executed and encored. She is an accomplished songstress, and becoming very popular.

THOMAS THORPE has a stocking-frame, which he has brought from Europe, and he will weave all kinds of hose on it. He is a capital workman, and can turn out excellent articles. See his card.