

a trifle as the omission of the mustard? How often do you tell me not to fret myself about trifles! Besides, I do not think either pepper or mustard agrees with you; and I have been reading lately that too much of such things is unwholesome. 'Yes, too much of anything is unwholesome; but what do you say to too little or none at all?' 'I have read, my dear,' retorts Mrs. Slovenloof, 'that man in a state of nature requires none of these things, that half-broiled beef or venison, of which you so often complain, is devoured by the savage without salt, or pepper, or anything else, and reckoned a most savory meal; and I do think, that all the niceties of cookery are very useless, and I am sure they are very, very troublesome!'

'The savage,' replies the husband, 'takes his food thus because his squaw knows no better; but depend upon it, did she present him with a well-cooked and well-seasoned mess, he would eat it with a double relish, and thrive under it too, in a way quite different from what he does under his ill-cooked fare. But even your instance of the savage is an unfortunate one. Your 'man of nature' is just as fond of aromatics and other stimulants as a civilized man. Witness his avidity for salt, for aromatic and bitter roots and herbs, for the intoxicating cava, for beer, for tobacco. Nay, if we stoop to the analogy of the lower animals—whose appetites you will allow are under the guidance of unerring instinct—we shall find that they, too, are equally incited by appetite to take along with their food stimulants, such as salt and aromatic herbs and roots.'

Mrs. Slovenloof, however, was unwilling to be convinced. There are none more fertile in evasive excuses than the really indolent and negligent; and she spun out the argument for two hours after dinner, advancing, however, nothing but common places in support of her theory, till at last she unconsciously gave it a practical deathblow, by partaking freely of both tea and coffee in the evening; both of which, according to her view of the question, were equally unnecessary as pepper and mustard.—[Chamber's Edinburgh Journal.]

THE DESERET NEWS.



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Strange.

Truth, though eternal and known to be so, and though every element of it, that goes towards completing the limitless sum of all truth, may in strictness be deemed an axiom or self-evident proposition, is nevertheless scoffed, jeered and most bitterly opposed by the great majority of those who style themselves reasoning and reasonable beings. This fact proves the great wisdom exercised by the Councils of Heaven in devising a probation, and the great power the adversary of righteousness has over all who are not strictly manful on the side of integrity and uprightness.

Were this not the case, mankind would either have retained so much of the intelligence gained in a previous state of being that evil would have had no power over them, or else so little of that spirit that the small number who have embraced and clung to the truth, through a love for it, would have been materially lessened or entirely wanting.

Although truth is known to be the only abiding principle, and its lovers and followers are known to be the only beings that can reasonably expect a full salvation and exaltation, yet its opposite has had such a peculiar influence that truth and its followers have ever found it difficult to retain a foothold upon an earth they will eventually inherit. For this reason Enoch and his city had to forsake this planet, Noah and seven others take to an ark and leave the millions to drown, John the Baptist cry amid confusion with few to heed him, and the Savior to be called by vile epithets than ever the world have used towards the Prophet Joseph, and that too by the pharisees, sadducees and scribes, the professedly religious classes of their day.

The same overbalancing power of error has in our day repeatedly driven the Latter Day Saints from their homes, has martyred our Prophet, Patriarch and numerous other Saints, has striven at all points to hinder the work of God on this his earth, and is now opposing the wise, fatherly and righteous plans and counsels of our President Brigham Young and his Counselors, devised by them as dictated by the Holy Ghost, and for the best interests of all who will hearken and obey.

That the world, who love not the truth, should persist in their mad course of rushing upon the 'bosses of Jehovah's buckler,' is not so very strange. Neither is it wonderfully strange that the religionists of the day should proclaim that the gifts of the Holy Ghost are done away, seeing that their fore-fathers for-

feited those gifts and they themselves discard them, notwithstanding they were promised to always follow those that believed. Nor, again, that the priests of Baal should continue, like the devil in the garden of Eden, to preach part truth and part error and asperse the character and doctrines of the righteous; nor that the great majority should follow those blind leaders, or take other devious paths, and join in the hue and cry against the only plan and persons at present given to guide them to a celestial glory. All this, with the howlings, gnashings, rage and foul misrepresentations against Utah and her people, is readily understood, as also are the cause and the final results.

But that those who have once embraced the truth in the love of it, and have tasted the sweet fruits of its present and future rewards, should turn away therefrom is not merely strange, it is, indeed, passing strange. Yet such is the case, hence the necessity for a thorough reformation from time to time, even among the Saints, as corroborated by the experience of the present and all past dispensations. Even very good men are liable to become dozy, amid the cares and anxieties of this existence, and to lay aside a part of their armor, or let it become rusty.

But the cry of reform is waking all such as with an electric shock, and causing fearfulness to surprise the hypocrites. For this cause some are finding the place too strait for them, and are leaving for localities inhabited by more congenial spirits—vacating room for their betters. While others upon whom the reform is operating for their good, are rapidly forsaking their unrighteous courses and practices, and are making restitution and 'growing in grace and the knowledge of the truth'. They are more alert in giving heed to the counsels and teachings of those over them in the Lord; wives are beginning more clearly to comprehend the necessity of listening to husbands, children to parents and parents to the proper authorities.

On this account also numbers dropped their home labors and plans, took wagons, provision, clothing, horses and mules and at once started to the rescue of men, women and children exposed to starvation and death on the plains. Among those thus promptly going forth to encounter cold, storms, suffering and the risk of a snow blockade in the rugged Wasatch mountains, that portion of the Elders so lately returned from foreign missions most particularly evidenced their faith by their works, and that their armor was on and bright, by starting back almost before they had taken time to greet their families and friends.

Their conduct will appear most strange to the world, but by Saints it is readily understood and highly prized. And thus it is; often what the world marvel at and lightly esteem, we comprehend and cherish; for they are un mindful of the laws, ordinances and covenants of the Almighty. The Book of Mormon, with its plain and truthful narration of the ancient history of this continent and its inhabitants, is rejected by the world and implicitly relied upon by the Saints. The world discard the ministration of the Prophet Joseph, who was not learned, wealthy and noted in the acceptance of the pharisees and like classes, but the Saints shout, 'Hail to the Prophet ascended to heaven.' They stumble over and are amazed at the power and influence of President Brigham Young, striving to break it and hoping to succeed; while we know that Jehovah is constantly increasing that power and influence, and that the efforts of the wicked are futile and vain, when seeking to again destroy from the earth truth and its followers.

TANNERIES AND WEAVING.—We are not aware that there are any tanneries in Utah, except in this city, Provo, Manti and Fillmore. This may appear to many, as it somewhat does to us, rather singular, for the few tanneries now in operation cannot supply the demand for leather.

That there are no more, may be partially accounted for by the spirit of a farmer as manifested in a conversation with br. Winder, of the firm of Jennings & Winder. The farmer enquired whether the firm had boots for sale. 'Yes.' 'Well, I like your boots much better than I do the same kind of imported boots, for your leather is good and you warrant your work. What do you ask a pair?' 'The same price that they do at the stores.' 'What do you pay for wheat?' 'The price they allow at the stores.' 'Then I will take my wheat to a store and buy imported boots.' 'But I thought you said that my boots were the best. Why

not buy of me, when you can get BETTER boots for the same amount of wheat?'

There was no reply to the last question, but the farmer took his wheat to a store and encouraged a foreign market to the obvious detriment of his own prosperity, as well as that of the community; for, according to his own statement, the home-made article was the best, and offered for the same price and kind of pay. Our mechanics generally have disadvantages enough to labor under, without having to compete with the above mentioned unwise course of purchasers; and if there are many who trade in like manner, it is not so much to be wondered at that there are but few tanneries. Extravagant prices on the part of mechanics are equally disastrous with jewing and neglect by customers; but when mechanics offer their articles at fair rates and of good quality, how long, think you, can they withstand the cold shoulder and continue in business? And if the little money yet remaining is thrown into the stores, and they will take but a limited amount of wheat and other produce, where and how, think you, will you purchase leather, boots and shoes?

It may not be amiss to mention an incident which lately transpired between a weaver and one of his creditors, as illustrating that some mechanics lack wisdom, as well as some buyers.

The creditor requested the weaver to weave a piece of cloth for him, the labor to be credited on the debt. 'No,' says the weaver, 'I will not work up your yarn, except for cash or a store order,' two articles which he knew the creditor did not receive for his own labor, at least not to the extent of his wants. Upon such a principle how much cloth would be manufactured in Utah, unless each family went to the expense of purchasing a loom and weaving for themselves?

'Soft and fair go a great way,' and so does a spirit of mutual accommodation, if we expect to become disenthralled from trade-dependence upon enemies. And so constant a demand of 'cash or store orders' for labor and home-products, tends greatly to the retardation of both private and public progress and improvement, and sadly evinces how difficult it is for many to wean themselves from the vain world notions of trade, and adopt the safe, progressive, independent and accommodating principle of fair exchange.

If all exact 'cash or store orders,' especially while those articles are so scarce, how much and what business can be successfully prosecuted?

EXPRESS.—Elder Joseph A. Young and br. Abel Garr arrived, from the three immigrating companies yet due, at 4 a.m. on the morning of the 13th inst. Elder Young reported the condition of the immigration to be very favorable, considering the lateness of the season, and that abundant relief would reach them soon after he left Fort Bridger.

Cap. Martin's company, the only hand-cart company out, is expected to arrive on or about the 23d inst.

Particulars of the condition and whereabouts of the three companies yet back, will be found in Cap. Grant's letter and Elder Young's 'Remarks' printed in this News.

The express found no snow between the South Pass and the Big Mountain.

The Companies yet on the Plains.

DEVIL'S GATE, Nov. 2, 1856.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG:

Dear Brother:—Knowing the anxiety you feel for the companies still out, and especially for the Hand-cart Company, I have concluded to send in your son Joseph A. and br. Abel Garr on an express from this place.

We had no snow to contend with, until we got to the Sweet Water. On the 19th and 20th of October we encountered a very severe snow storm. We met br. Willie's company on the 21st; the snow was from six to ten inches deep where we met them. They were truly in a bad situation, but we rendered them all the assistance in our power. Br. Wm. H. Kimball returned with them, also several other brethren. The particulars of this company you have doubtless learned before this time.

[They arrived on the 9th inst., as already noticed.—Ed.]

Previous to this time we had sent on an express to ascertain, if possible, the situation and whereabouts of the company yet back, and report to me. Not thinking it safe for them to go farther than Independence Rock, I advised them to wait there. When we overtook them they had heard nothing from the rear companies, and we had traveled through snow from 8 to 12 inches deep all the way from Willow creek to this place.

Not having much feed for our horses they were running down very fast, and not hearing anything from the companies, I did not know but what

they had taken up quarters for the winter, consequently we sent on another express to the Platte bridge. When that express returned, to my surprise I learned that the companies were all on the Platte river, near the upper crossing, and had been encamped there nine days, waiting for the snow to go away, or, as they said, to recruit their cattle.

As quick as we learned this, we moved on to meet them. Met br. Martin's company at Greasewood creek, on the last day of October; br. Hodgett's company was a few miles behind. We dealt out to br. Martin's company the clothing, &c., that we had for them; and next morning, after stowing our wagons full of the sick, the children, and the infirm, with a good amount of luggage, started homeward about noon. The snow began to fall very fast, and continued until late at night. It is now about 8 inches deep here, and the weather is very cold.

It is not of much use for me to attempt to give a description of the situation of these people, for this you will learn from your son Joseph A. and br. Garr, who are the bearers of this express; but you can imagine between five and six hundred men, women and children, worn down by drawing hand carts through snow and mud; fainting by the way side; falling, chilled by the cold; children crying, their limbs stiffened by cold, their feet bleeding and some of them bare to snow and frost. The sight is almost too much for the stoutest of us; but we go on doing all we can, not doubting nor despairing.

Our company is too small to help much, it is only a drop to a bucket, as it were, in comparison to what is needed. I think that not over one-third of br. Martin's company is able to walk. This you may think is extravagant, but it is nevertheless true. Some of them have good courage and are in good spirits; but a great many are like children and do not help themselves much more, nor realize what is before them.

I never felt so much interest in any mission that I have been sent on, and all the brethren who came out with me feel the same. We have prayed without ceasing, and the blessing of God has been with us.

Br. Charles Decker has now traveled this road the 49th time, and he says he has never before seen so much snow on the Sweet Water at any season of the year.

I am sorry to inform you of the death of br. Tennant, among those who have fallen by the way side.

Br. Hunt's company are two or three days back of us, yet br. Wheelock will be with them to counsel them, also some of the other brethren who came out.

We will move every day toward the valley, if we shovel snow to do it, the Lord helping us.

I have never seen such energy and faith among the 'boys,' nor so good a spirit as is among those who came out with me. We realize that we have your prayers for us continually, also those of all the Saints in the Valley. I pray that the blessings of God may be with you and all those who seek to build up the kingdom of God on the earth.

GEORGE D. GRANT.

THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM.—The fern vegetable—sometimes pronounced vegetable—is probably derived from the peculiar long and pointed form of this description of esculents, hence originally called wedge eatables, then vegetables, and now refined into the present term. Annual flowering plants resemble whales, as they come up to blow. Flowers are very warlike in their disposition, and are ever armed with pistols.

As with the human family, the lower portion of all plants are radicles. They are migratory in their habits, for wherever they may winter, they are sure to leave in the spring; most of them very polite and full of boogies. Like dandies, the coating of many trees is their most valuable portion, cork trees and boot trees, for instance.—Grain and seeds are not considered dangerous except when about to shoot.

Several trees, like watch-dogs, are valued mostly for their bark. A little bark will make a rope, but it takes a large pile of wood for a cord.—Though there are no vegetable beaux, there are a number of spruce trees. Most trees are respectable, but a variety of locusses may be found among them.

It is considered right and proper to ax trees before you fell them. Fruit trees have military characteristics; when young they are trained; they have many kernels; and their shoots are straight. Grain must be treated like infants; when the head bends it must be cradled; and threshing is resorted to, to fit it for use. Trees are mostly found with the smaller grains—which require sowing. Great indulgence in fruit is dangerous—and too free a use of melons produces a melon colic effect.

Old maids are fond of pairs—but cannot endure any reference to dates. Sailors are attached to bays; oystermen to beeches; love sick maidens to pine.

LUNACY IN ENGLAND.—The tenth report of the Commissioners of Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor, states that—The number of lunatics confined in asylums, hospitals, and licensed houses in England, is somewhat startling in amount.

There are in asylums, including private patients as well as paupers, 6,298 males and 6,525 females; in hospitals, 791 males and 827 females; in metropolitan licensed houses, 1,195 and 1,486; and in provincial licensed houses, 1,386 and 1,215; making a total of male and female lunatics so confined of 20,640. In addition to this large number there are 559 lunatic criminals, of whom 438 are males and 121 females.

FROZEN POTATOES.—An Exchange says:—We are assured by one who has tried the experiment, that potatoes, though frozen ever so hard, if put into boiling hot water, without previous washing in cold, are as sweet and palatable as though the frost had not touched them.