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## THY WILL BE DONE.

Out in the darkness, out in the storm,  
Groping about to find our way,  
Striving to bear our burdens along  
Not daring to hope, scarce daring to pray.  
Weary with waiting, weary of strife,  
Caring for nothing that might be won,  
We ask in our hearts the meaning of life,  
And it is hard to say, "Thy will be done."

We have not then learned that grief and woe,  
Sorrow and pain, may all have their place,  
That through struggle alone the soul can grow  
The virtue that adds to its beauty and grace.  
That God's best works can bear the test  
Can stand in the cold when the clouds ride  
the sun,  
Trusting the Father will do what is best  
And striving to say, "Thy will be done."

Around, above, in all heavenly space  
Are joys that are higher than those of the  
earth;  
Joys that will come to each soul that can trace  
Their beauty, their goodness, their worth.  
All truth, all love, and peace are there,  
Waiting to crown each victory won,  
Waiting to answer each earnest prayer  
Whose language is, "Thy will be done."

Then grieve not in darkness, ye that are sad,  
Turn to the light that will lift you above  
All sorrow and sadness, make our heart glad,  
Wait your acceptance and fill you with  
love.

Learn then to trust in the powers that be  
Reach for the blessings that wait the dear  
one,

When the great purpose of life thou shalt see,  
It will be easy to say, "Thy will be done."  
ANNIE E. GARDNER.

—In St. Louis Magazine.

## IN THE GILA VALLEY.

The most ready and convenient means of transit from the Southern Pacific railway to the Gila Valley, where a number of flourishing settlements of Latter-day Saints are to be found, is by a well equipped stage line owned and operated by President U. Layton. A ride of forty miles from Bowie Station, which is accomplished in about seven hours, takes one to Solomonville, the county seat of Graham Co., where I. E. Solomon comes very near being monarch of all he surveys. Eight years ago this man, who is a shrewd, calculating, but unostentatious Jew, arrived in this valley from Tucson with a small stock of goods which he had purchased on credit,

not having the means to pay for them. He located here where he could tap the emigration which was then flowing to the valley, located upon what land he could and began to purchase other lands from the few Mexican settlers who resided here, and whose language he could speak as well as his own. By extending credit to the natives he soon had them under obligations to him as peons and by knowing how to manipulate them to advantage got good service out of them in cultivating his land, which yielded well and the product of which sold at fabulous prices in the surrounding mining camps and military posts. He extended his landed possessions and entered into the stock-raising business, being located in the centre of an extensive grazing region, and, as a result of his shrewd management, is today immensely rich, being the owner of almost the entire town and valley for several miles in extent and of numberless cattle besides merchandise and other property, all accumulated within eight years.

About four miles below Solomonville the Layton ward, the first of the settlements of the Saints, commences, and then follow in succession, but more or less widely scattered, and occupying the land on both sides of the river, clear across the wide valley and for about fifteen miles of its length, the others known as Safford, Graham, Thatcher, Central, Pima, Matthews and Curtis. I visited all except Graham and found the Saints in possession of an abundance of good land—more than they can cultivate to advantage, some very well and all fairly well supplied with water, able to raise good crops of nearly all kinds of grain, fruit and vegetables, and with a ready market and good prices for all they can produce.

Two crops a year, that is, one of small grain and one of corn, potatoes or squash, are easily produced and found to be better for the land, as well as for appearance, than allowing it to lie idle and produce weeds, as it will spontaneously, almost as high as trees, after one crop has been harvested. If an abundance of weeds is an indication of the strength of soil, and it is generally accepted, the Gila valley must be a rich region. And nobody could doubt this who would see, as I did, in President Layton's field in Thatcher, corn eight feet high and not yet in tassel, and Lombardy poplar

trees which, four years after being planted as mere twigs, measured fully eight inches through at the butt. In all my travels I have seen no better chance for lucrative farming and gardening than in the Gila valley.

In view of the possibilities in this line I was greatly surprised at so great a proportion of the people devoting their time and means to freighting to the neglect of their farms, gardens and families, and at rates which would not pay them nearly so well as a rule as cultivating their land would. I was reminded of what President Young used to tell the Saints in Utah in early days, when freighting by teams to Montana was common, that those who would stay at home and cultivate their farms, improve their homes and look after their families would be the gainers in the long run both in property and morals over their fellows who took to the road and were dazzled by the prospective profits on freighting. The truth of this has been exemplified in numerous instances.

There is room in the Gila valley for many more settlers. Many of the Saints now here have more land than they can cultivate to advantage and other land can either be located upon under the homestead or preemption law or purchased at reasonable rates from those who have obtained patent thereon, and the mining camps, military posts and Indian reservations which took to this valley as the source of supply in the lines of provision and forage insure a permanent and profitable market for all that can be raised here.

The idea has prevailed to a considerable extent that malarial fever was very common among the residents of that valley; in fact, if I had believed all I had heard about the place I might have expected to find the people shaking their false teeth all out with the ague, and been deterred from going there myself lest I might, as predicted, be prostrated with it myself within a few hours after my arrival; but the truth is, I never found a case nor heard of a recent one in the valley.

The most common ailment I found there was an affection of the eyes, from which a number in every settlement seemed to be suffering, and which was perhaps due to some local cause, but just what the cause was or what the most ready or effectual remedy, nobody appeared to know. There is no alarm felt, how-