

The Heart of the Continent.

The administration of affairs in the Territory of Utah is of greater importance than is manifest to a casual observer. Utah is too generally regarded as the home of a few thousand fanatics who have outraged the decencies of civilization, and no less punishment is desired for them than extermination, in default of the immediate abandonment of their * * practices. Observant travellers, however, make a different report of the country and its people. They tell us that a desert on the path to the Pacific has been watered and fertilized by the followers of Brigham Young; that rich mines are developing, hundreds of miles of railroad have been constructed, and a multitude of factories have been built, and that nearly two hundred thousand people, industrious, frugal, orderly, and happy, dwell there in peace.

Persecuted in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, the Mormons were driven to the dreary wastes of Utah, where they accomplished a work which no one else had courage or motive to undertake. Isolated from the world at the beginning of their labors, it is not surprising that they fell behind this restless age in some of its methods of improvement. They rather were inclined at first to retrograde to a primitive type, and in accordance with their scriptural education to seek happiness in such pastoral and agricultural pursuits as were the chief occupations of their prototypes, the ancient people of Israel.

The Pacific Railroad was the best boundary that ever entered Utah. * * * * * If Congress had left these influences to work out the problem, there probably would have been no need of special legislation; but as society at large required that its code of morals should be vindicated, the Poland Bill, as it is called, was passed, giving general satisfaction to all whose consciences were troubled by the tolerance of polygamy, although it did not affect them individually, and at the same time meeting with little opposition from the Mormons.

Their * * * * * elders, confident of the divine authority for their practice, and of the unconstitutionality of the statute to prevent it, were willing that the law should be tested and that any decision against them should be carried for final adjudication to the Supreme Court of the United States. If even this condition of affairs had been allowed to take its course, and public clamor had ceased, the material interests of the Territory would have been greatly advanced by the influx of a sober, industrious and quietly influential non-Mormon population, and by the supply of capital, which never dares to trust itself in a community where social commotions are likely to occur. But the hopes of Utah were frustrated by untoward circumstances. There was not a sufficient guaranty of stability for the immigration of such a population as was desirable, and its place was supplied by a small knot of political and avaricious adventurers, seeking to rule over the internal affairs of the great majority, who preferred officers of their own selection.

These adventurers regarded a territory and a city without a dollar of debt as splendid opportunities for plunder. The President injudiciously appointed Mr. McKean Chief Justice of Utah, not regarding and probably not knowing his imperfect legal attainments, his hasty temper aggravated by dyspepsia, and his combination of religious zeal with personal vanity, which would lead him, under the supposition that he was complying with the demands of justice, to take every advantage of legal technicalities against the Mormons merely because they were Mormons, and to find conscientious satisfaction in the applause of the Gentile "ring" who were using him for their own purposes. The administration of Judge McKean was a continual source of dissatisfaction. The Mormons could scarcely fail to regard him as their persecutor, while they yielded a respectful obedience to his associates on the bench, who were men of equal integrity but of less demonstrative zeal. The effect on the outside world was unfortunate for the commercial interests of the territory, the impression gaining ground that there was danger of riot and bloodshed in Utah. This feeling kept capital away, and railroad enterprises and other improvements

were in a languishing and hopeless condition.

Judge McKean (who in accordance with his own principles and with the approval of the world, would have done well in granting a divorce and alimony to the first and only real wife of a polygamist husband), out of animosity to Brigham Young gave every advantage to this woman, * * * to persecute him for divorce; and finally decreed that, pending the issue of a suit which it was an utter absurdity to suppose she could ever gain, she should be allowed enormous alimony and extravagant counsel fees. To cap the climax, when Young had neglected some form of law which made him technically though innocently liable to the charge of contempt, although he complied with the unjust demand to pay the money into court, Judge McKean purposely outraged a great community who held Young in the highest respect as their leader and in absolute veneration as an inspired prophet, by sending him to the Penitentiary for twenty-four hours. For this proceeding he has been condemned by almost every newspaper in these United States, except the organ of the "ring" at Salt Lake, which exulted in the momentary triumph of its party.

The result of what, in kindness to Judge McKean, we will call his insanity, has been his prompt removal by the power that appointed him. Without distinction of party this act of President Grant should be applauded everywhere.

It is worthy of remark that the faith we have heretofore expressed in the orderly disposition of the Mormon people is justified by their conduct at the time of these outrages. There was no attempt at a rescue when the grave indignity was put upon their prophet. They patiently bided their time, thus giving the lie to their slanderers; and they now reap their reward. The instant action of the President has renewed their loyalty.

The present Gentile "ring" in Salt Lake City may perhaps leave Utah in disgust because their schemes are frustrated; but their place will be supplied by Gentiles of a better class. Already the business of the territory is reviving. Capital will find its way there, sure of no danger from violent outbreaks. As an instance of this, we are informed by Mr. John Young, a son of the prophet, who has been for some months in this city negotiating the sale of the bonds of the Utah Western Railroad, of which he is president, that he now finds far greater facilities in accomplishing his object. This is one of the signs of the times, and under the wise administration of the present Governor and of an impartial judiciary we may safely augur * * the speedy admission of Utah to the sisterhood of the Union.

The value of Utah will then become more widely known. Already she possesses four hundred miles of railroad, chiefly paid for in the downright hard toil of her people, built for use as the rapid development of her mining interests has authorized the outlay. The immense mountain ranges, hundreds of miles in extent, are the deposits of untold wealth in silver and lead and iron and coal. The mineral products for this year are estimated at \$12,000,000. With the capital soon to pour into this region, especially when a State organization shall be secured, this product may be quadrupled in a single year, and its future increase is beyond computation.

Brigham Young and his followers have done their work as pioneers, and have done it well. Religious freedom and material progress are now waiting in the natural train of events to till the ground which they prepared.—*N. Y. Post, April 5.*

The Valley of San Bernardino.

The valley of San Bernardino is situated due east of Los Angeles and is distant from that place about sixty miles. Its general direction is east and west with a maximum length of twelve miles, and an average width of eight miles. The northern boundary of the valley is the highly picturesque Sierra Nevada range, which curves to the eastward, in which direction the celebrated Mt. San Bernardino, 11,400 feet in height and "Old Grayback" of 400 feet greater elevation, lift their snow-capped summits and tower up grandly over the surrounding country. It is from this range of mountains our supply of lumber is procured, the mills be-

ing distant from the town of San Bernardino from fifteen to twenty miles.

The Southern boundary of the valley is a range of low hills, or rather what in the East would be termed mountains, which separate our valley from that of San Jacinto. These hills form the south side of the San Timoteo canon—the entrance to which is at the southeast corner of the valley—the outlet to the great San Geronio Pass, the route of the S. P. R. R. to the Colorado river.

The country on the east of us, and which forms another of the boundaries to the valley proper, consists of low rolling hills, embosomed among which is the beautiful little valley of Yucuipe, a portion of the grant to the Rancho of San Bernardino. These low hills form the northern slope of the San Timoteo canyon and extend north in the direction of Mount San Bernardino to Mill Creek, a stream which supplies the inhabitants of that portion of the valley known as "Old San Bernardino" or the "Mission."

The west side of the valley, although quite open to the sea-board, has a distinct boundary formed, during ages past, by the wash of the Cajon Pass, its entrance being in the northwest corner of the valley. This wash has left a series of benches, extending from the mouth of Cajon to the Santa Ana River, which leaves the valley at its southwest corner, and rises in the mountains northeast of Mount San Bernardino, thus cutting the valley diagonally in two.

If the reader has followed the description carefully he will have discovered that there are three slopes to the valley; one from the mountains north towards the river, as well as one from the south in the same direction; the declivity of the river giving a general descent to the whole valley from northeast to southwest. On the northern slope the town of San Bernardino is situated, on the southern "Old San Bernardino," and the grade of the S. P. R. R. now completed to the mouth of the San Timoteo canyon before mentioned.

San Bernardino valley proper, within the limits above described, contains about 8,000 acres of land; the Rancho of San Bernardino taking the heart of the valley, covers 35,509 acres, and the Rancho Muscupiabe 30,154 acres, the balance being Government and railroad land. Nearly all of this latter of any value is now settled on and in some instances titles have been acquired to it.

The character of the soil is chiefly granitic, coarse and highly adapted to the culture of the grape and orange along the base of the hills, and fine as it approaches the centre of the valley, where greater disintegration of the particles has taken place through the action of water. Portions of the valley, however, have a strong clayey soil, but limited in extent. Still less in quantity is a rich alluvial soil formed by swamps created by natural artesian springs in scattered localities throughout the valley.

It is conceded by all that visit us that we have the best watered valley in the State, and visitors express unbounded surprise at the profusion of streams coming in from every direction. As before stated the Santa Ana cuts the valley diagonally in two, it and Mill Creek supplying the southern half with water for domestic and irrigating purposes. On the northern slope we have Plunge Creek, City Creek, Warm Creek—a stream full as large as the Santa Ana—Twin Creek and Lytle Creek, to say nothing of the scores of minor streams and artesian wells, all of which furnish the bulk of the great supply demanded by Riverside, the Hartshorn tract, Anaheim and other places situated along the banks of the River.

Having such inestimable advantages in soil and water, and the entire country being symmetrically laid out, with some of our streets, or rather roads, from three to eight miles in length in a direct line, and the face of the country being one vast garden spot, interspersed with orchards and alfalfa pastures, it is no wonder the visitor utters an exclamation of delight at the beauty of the scene; for taken in the aggregate it is doubtful whether any more charming spot can be found in California, we say in the aggregate, because nature has done so much, and the people so little, in over twenty years, that the valley looks better as a whole, than taken in detail, if we except some of the best improved places; we do not like to say this, but candor compels us to speak the truth.

With ambition and a little capital the valley of San Bernardino can be made the paradise of Southern California, for it possesses advantages in medicinal springs and in climate, and ability to change that climate in a few hours, that will make it the resort for the invalid, so soon as the facts become known. It possesses a location that will eventually command for it a large trade from Arizona and the north country, by its situation necessarily at the junction of the two great railroad routes; whilst its contiguous mineral wealth will unquestionably contribute to enriching and adorning it.—*San Bernardino Advertiser.*

The Progress of Fraternization.

More cheering than the signs of spring are the evidences, now frequently manifesting themselves, of the full return of the old goodwill between North and South. Selfish and base politicians may pass laws intended to reawaken and keep alive the late sectional differences. They may harass the South by legislation designed to cause jealousy and rivalry between whites and blacks, and so to foment disturbances which shall revive Northern prejudice toward her in its full intensity. The administration, by its acts and through its newspaper organs, may strive to create the impression that the Southern whites are rebellious at heart and deserving a constant military surveillance. But the people are not to be misled by these artifices. We of the North see and know that the South is to-day loyal and peaceful, and as obedient to the law as any part of the country. On the other hand the South is well aware that the administration and its Radical allies, in their unjust policy toward her, do not represent the great mass of the men of both parties at the North. The two sections will not let themselves be rubbed by the ears like a pair of bulldogs and set to quarreling again to gratify the hate or serve the ambition of a crew of soulless politicians. More and more every day the leaders in the late unhappy strife are betokening their anxious desire to forgive and forget, and this fraternal spirit sometimes assumes forms inexpressibly beautiful and touching.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

THE NEW MASSACHUSETTS LIQUOR LAW.—This law is a singular compromise between Prohibition and License. It represents the conflicting sentiments of the two branches of the Massachusetts Legislature. The Senate espoused Prohibition, while the House championed License, and the law, as passed, is a blending of the two opposite measures. It is the best reconciliation that could be made between opinions that began by being so far apart. The Prohibitionists conquer in forbidding the open sale of liquors over the bar; while the license men gain their point in permitting liquors to be sold (on a license) in connection with hotels and restaurants. The Prohibitionists also surrender their cherished scheme of a State police and penal seizures. As a whole, the victory is with the moderate and rational friends of temperance. Abandonment of prohibition in the case of hotels and restaurants will surely lead to its complete downfall and the substitution of a general license law under which liquors may be sold openly, at any place, under suitable restrictions. The prohibitory part of the new law will prove as inoperative as the old one. The people who find it profitable to sell liquor will do so, and the local authorities can no more stop it than the State constabulary could. Liquor can be bought not only at the hotels and restaurants, but at all the old stands where it was always procurable under the strictest Prohibitionary regime. What Massachusetts wants is a judicious license law, which will enable her to regulate the sales of liquor—thus preventing some of the pernicious effects inseparable from a contraband traffic in intoxicating drinks, and at the same time harvesting a handsome revenue for the State. When the Massachusetts Legislature attain the height of true wisdom, they will pass such a law.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

The cold of the Winter of 1874-5, commencing with January, is said to have had no parallel in the East since 1741.

THE GREAT SALT LAKE.

The Monument at Black Rock—Rise and Fall of the Waters—Utah Western Railway—No Outlet to the Lake—The Salt of the Earth—Cause of the Rocky Mountains.

Editor Deseret News.

In July last, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., a pillar of granite was placed in Great Salt Lake at Black Rock, by Dr. Park of the University, assisted by other gentlemen, to mark the rise and fall of the waters. A few days since the Dr. and others visited Black Rock to make some repairs, examine the present stage of the water, &c.

FROM THE RECORD

Kept at the Black Rock Branch of the Townsend House, it was ascertained that from the 21st of July (when the pillar was put in position) to the first of Nov., the lake fell fifteen inches. The waters commenced rising again about the tenth of Nov., and from that date to the present (first of April) had risen twelve inches.

A POINT OF CONTINENTAL ATTRACTION.

The construction of the Utah Western Railway, by which Great Salt Lake is brought within an hour's ride of our doors, at once makes it the excursion line of the Territory and invests the lake, its history and its future, with an absorbing interest, as well to our citizens as to the multitudes of pleasure seekers and scientists who will avail themselves of the inviting facilities now afforded for visiting it. In this view I present a few of my reflections on the question:

HAS THE LAKE AN OUTLET?

Though this question, in the minds of most reflecting persons who have given the subject serious attention, has been satisfactorily settled in the negative, there are yet many who entertain the belief that there must exist a subterranean or other outlet, else the whole valley would in process of time become submerged. Captain Stansbury, who explored the Lake in 1849, though failing to discover any such indications, expressed a decided opinion that there must be an outlet somewhere.

WHY IT HAS NOT.

The basis of the negative proposition is substantially that any outlet whatever, whether surface or subterranean, would give us a fresh water lake. There can be no sober question of the fact that, in the dim vista of the past, when the valleys were submerged (as shown by the water levels distinctly traceable along the mountain sides) and this vast inland sea found an outlet to the Pacific ocean by way of the Snake and Columbia rivers, the waters of Great Salt Lake were fresh.

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

And physical changes in the process of nature's wondrous adaptations, completed the excavation of a reservoir into which the abating waters might settle; and when they had succeeded below the level of Snake River, the outflow ceased forever. That the then

UNSETTLED EQUILIBRIUM

Of nature's indefatigable organic forces required here at the summit of the Atlantic and Pacific slopes, some great saline deposit, is not an unreasonable conjecture; especially as the same peculiarity obtains in the Dead Sea of Palestine, the great inter-oceanic saline deposit of the eastern hemisphere; correlative with which, also, we observe the mighty oceans of saline waters laving the shores of every continent and island on the globe and constituting three-fourths of its entire surface. Not to enlarge on this inviting and

DEEPLY INTERESTING

Hypothesis on the present occasion, we may remark that the collection of the waters of a large section of country into a common reservoir,

WITHOUT AN OUTLET,

Was absolutely the only known cause from which, at such an altitude, this great saline deposit could be produced. It is apparent, also, that the presence of salt, in bodies of water that do not discharge directly or indirectly into the ocean, acts as a disinfectant, preventing