

with about 2,500,000 inhabitants. Her standing army amounts to about 7,000 but can on short notice be enlarged to 100,000 or even more. Her fleet consists of three or four vessels, and the resources of the country are but limited. Yet, an expedition to Venezuela would be a far greater undertaking than might be supposed from these figures. Every able-bodied man in the country would be under arms within a month after the invasion by a foreign power. The invaders would have to contend against the climate in an undeveloped country with mountains and forests, unbridged streams, venomous reptiles, insects, swamps, cold and heat. They would be much in the same position as the Spaniards now are in Cuba.

The president of the little republic, Crispien, is said to be a fighter by nature. One story told of him is characteristic of the man. When still a mere youth he started a rebellion and the state troops were called out. He had about 600 followers with no other arms than cowboy knives. In the night he commanded them to steal through the camp of the soldiers and seize their arms. By remarkable strategy this bold maneuver was performed, and in the morning all the rebels were armed and the regulars had to make terms. At present he is surrounded by a body guard of uniformed cowboys, and they are looked upon as invincible on the battlefield.

A spirit of war is permeating the whole people, as the dispatches from Caracas sufficiently indicate, and they are certainly much better prepared to defend themselves than were the American colonies in 1776. Then, a war at long range is always carried on at a disadvantage, notwithstanding the boast of the London papers that to a power ruling the waves, three thousand miles of intervening ocean is no formidable obstacle. For all these reasons, and others, it is inconceivable that the British government seriously contemplates allowing the diplomatic negotiations to proceed beyond a stage from which a peaceful retreat is incompatible with national honor.

INTERMOUNTAIN SEMI-CENTENNIAL

A few days ago the NEWS suggested that it would be appropriate for the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing society, as the pioneer organization in the West in the matter of directing general fairs and exhibitions, to assume the initiative in a great Intermountain Exposition in Salt Lake City in the summer and autumn of 1897, that being the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the intermountain region to settlement by the arrival of the Utah Pioneers in Great Salt Lake Valley. Today the following appreciative communication was received:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
Dec. 18, 1895.

To the Editor:

I desire to express my unqualified approval of your recent editorial suggestion, that the advent of the Pioneers into Utah should be appropriately celebrated by a great Intermountain Exposition in this city, in 1897. That year would be the semi-centennial anniversary of the event, and I have no doubt but what our sister states and territories would gladly unite with us. The exposition should be upon

a scale commensurate with our resources and our advancement. It would be a great educator of all the people, and it would reveal to the nation a knowledge of what we have done and of our capacity for future greatness that it does not now possess.

I think that you are right in the idea that if anything is to be done the preliminary steps should be taken at once. Possibly the D. A. & M. society could best inaugurate the movement, but the association having the same in charge should not be limited in its membership to our Territorial lines. Our Legislature should at least endorse the proposition and authorize Governor Wells to invite other states to join with us.

From every point of view your suggestion is a good one, and I hope that you will press the matter upon the attention of the public until the same shall materialize. Very truly yours,

O. W. POWERS.

We are pleased to receive Judge Powers's letter, and to give space thereto, in anticipation that the spirit of patriotism in Utah will arouse in her people sentiments akin to those he has expressed. His suggestion that the State Legislature take the matter up and authorize Governor Wells to invite the co-operation of other states should receive prompt favorable action. In this manner the first month's existence of the new State of Utah need not be passed without starting the ball rolling for an exhibition unparalleled for splendor and magnitude in the history of the West, and which will be of incalculable value to Utah and the states and territories that unite with her.

In its first mention of the subject, the NEWS merely threw out a hint of a Semi-centennial Intermountain Exposition. We will now state further to our view, as intimated in the first article, was not to confine it to the territorial limits of Utah. Beginning with the permanent settlement of Salt Lake City in July, 1847, an era of colonization was instituted throughout the whole Rocky Mountain region. In this vast and important work, dating from that year, Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Nevada, are equally interested with Utah, this being the central point of settlement in the earlier period. To each of these commonwealths Utah contributed a share of pioneer colonists; and each state and territory named should be requested to take a part, not merely as an invited exhibitor, but as a directly interested participant in its co-operative management, that the exposition might be truly representative of the unity of interest of the whole intermountain region. As the pioneer in settlement upon the wave of civilized progress that swept westward in 1847 and successive years, it is the duty of Utah to take the initiative in such a Pioneer celebration.

Three general features that are peculiar to the colonization and condition of the intermountain country would serve to make it at once distinctive and attractive, and establish its great value as an educator, not only of the people residing in the states and territories named, but of all who may visit or may learn of us by more indirect means. These are:

First—The aboriginal condition. Here were the remnants of a people who had occupied this land for centuries, and whose history is, to a very large

extent, shrouded in mystery to the world. Of their development or retrogression for hundreds of years prior to the settlement of this country by modern civilization no man has full and direct information. But the prehistoric remains scattered over this intermountain region, as nowhere else in the country, tell a tale of absorbing interest of a former great civilization and gradual descent into the savagery of the Indian as he was found by the western pioneers. The ruined and half buried towns and villages, remains of great irrigation works, fragments that give evidence of architectural advancement, the strange cemeteries, and the more recent curious cliff dwellings, afford ample field for the greatest archaeological collection known in America, to testify in mute eloquence of the people who once dwelt here and of whom a few wild Indians are the representatives. All the intensity of interest that attends an aggregation of this kind could be brought to its highest pitch by a collection within the area of the states and territories named, and which would be an inestimable object lesson of what was in this country prior to fifty years ago.

Second—The pioneer relics and attendant features which bear witness of the difficulties that had to be met and overcome; with such arrangement and historical data from each locality as shall display the motives which impelled the earlier settlers, and shall, in connection with other displays, describe step by step the progress made by the pioneers and their successors, to the present time.

Third—The country as it is, with its advanced condition of civilization. The arts and sciences; agriculture, mining, stockraising, manufactures, and the industrial situation generally; the schools and the churches—in fact everything that will show the commercial, industrial, moral, intellectual and physical vigor of the intermountain region, arising from both natural endowment and the skill of thrifty commonwealths destined to be a vast power in our great nation.

For such an Intermountain Exposition (open say from July to October, 1897) there is an almost unlimited field within which to score a wonderful success, if it is taken hold of with vim. The present is an ebb tide in affairs in this locality—a glorious opportunity for Utah and sister commonwealths for national prestige, which should not be permitted to pass by without being made available for the common good.

LEAVING, NOT REJECTING.

"A Subscriber," writing from Cache Junction, makes this inquiry of the NEWS:

What are we to understand by the following: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God;" Hebrews, 6th chapter, 1st verse?

In order to make the matter perfectly clear we will quote the whole sentence, which our correspondent has not done (as his question evidently hinges to a great extent upon the word leaving), and also the last three