

poorly clad. The real tramp who would not labor would have to move elsewhere; and all those willing to work would have sufficient at least to keep them and theirs from being destitute.

PHILIP ST. GEORGE COOKE.

The announcement of the death of Brigadier General Philip St. George Cooke, which occurred at Detroit, Michigan, yesterday, March 20, will awaken in the minds of many Utah people memories of a brave, talented and patriotic officer with whom some of the founders of this Territory had an intimate association and acquaintance during times of extreme hardship and peril. General Cooke was born near Leesburg, Virginia, June 13, 1809; he graduated from the U. S. military academy in 1827, and remained in the military service of the government for over forty-five years, until placed on the retired list Oct. 29, 1873. He took part in the great military events of his time, Indian wars, the Mexican war, and the war of the Rebellion. He was an author as well as a soldier, and has published several books connected with the experiences of his military career.

It was in connection with the Mormon Battalion that Gen. Cooke's acquaintance with Utah people began. He had performed effective military service in Kansas, Texas, New Mexico and other localities, and immediately after the arrival of the Mormon Battalion in Santa Fe, in October 1846—six months before the Pioneers left Winter Quarters for the Great Salt Lake valley—Gen. Cooke, then a lieutenant-colonel, was appointed to the command of the Battalion by Col. Kearney, continuing in that position until March, 1847. Of the memorable journey across the country much has been said and written. It is but recently that the NEWS published a brief account thereof in the biographical notes of a member of the Battalion, in which frequent reference was made to Gen. Cooke. In orders to the Battalion, at San Diego, Jan. 30, 1847, the general himself said of the trip:

Lieutenant colonel commanding congratulates the Battalion on its safe arrival on the shores of the Pacific ocean, and the conclusion of its march of over two thousand miles. History may be searched in vain for an equal march of infantry; nine-tenths of it through a wilderness, where nothing but savages and wild beasts are found, or deserts where, for want of water, there is no living creature. There, with almost hopeless labor, we have dug deep wells, which the future traveler will enjoy. Without a guide who had traversed them, we have ventured into trackless prairies, where water was not found for several marches. With crowbar and pick-ax in hand we have worked our way over mountains, which seemed to defy aught save the wild goat, and hewed a passage through a chain of living rock, more narrow than our wagons. To bring these first wagons to the Pacific, we have preserved the strength of the mules by herding them over large tracts, which you have laboriously guarded without loss.

The garrison of four Presidios of Sonora, concentrated within the walls of Tucson, gave us no pause; we drove them out with their artillery; but our intercourse with the citizens was unmarked by a single act of injustice. Thus

marching, half naked and half fed, and living upon wild animals, we have discovered and made a road of great value to our country.

Arrived at the first settlements of California, after a single day's rest you cheerfully turned off from the route to this point of promised repose, to enter upon a campaign, and meet, as we believed, the approach of the enemy; and this, too, without even salt to season your sole subsistence of fresh meat.

In the trouble in California with Colonel John C. Fremont, when the latter refused to recognize General Kearney's authority, Kearney, backed by Colonel Cooke and the Mormon Battalion—the principal force at his command—had Fremont arrested for insubordination, and supremacy of control by the United States was established.

The next association of General Cooke with Utah's people was in connection with the Buchanan expedition of 1857-8. He commanded the cavalry in Johnston's army, and passed through a severe experience en route, near Bridger, in November, 1857, from hunger and intense cold. On the 14th of June, 1858, he was made colonel of the 2d dragoons, and twelve days later—June 28—entered Salt Lake City with the army, on its way to Camp Floyd. Whitney's History of Utah, referring to that event, says of him: "Colonel Cooke, as he rode through the silent streets, bared his head in honor of the brave men so recently his foes, many of whom he had formerly led in their country's cause against Mexico." He succeeded General Johnston in command at Camp Floyd, and when the post was broken up, presented its flag-staff to President Young as a memento of the events which had occurred and as a token of friendship. In his actions he recognized that the Mormon people were not rebels, notwithstanding the assertions of General Johnston and others; and that his judgment on this point was based on loyalty is witnessed by the fact that while Johnston espoused the rebel cause in the war with the South, General Cooke declared his own allegiance to the Union rather than to his native state, which had seceded; and he did valiant service in the Union cause to the full extent of the demands made upon him. After over twenty years of retired life, following upon more than double that time in the active service of his country, the stern, rugged, honest soldier has laid down his aged mortal frame in honor and in peace; and "the boys" of the Mormon Battalion who still remain, with their friends will feel in their hearts to make an offering of respect to their old commander, who was with them during the time of that struggle which brought a large area of the Great West, including Utah, within the domain of the United States.

THE RED CANYON DISASTER.

There are occasions in the experience of human beings when words seem inadequate to express the feelings of sorrow and sympathy that fill the heart. Such an occasion follows the terrible calamity at Red Canyon, Wyoming. Fifty-nine men in the full strength of manhood, hurled into eter-

nity! Half a hundred widows and three hundred fatherless children weeping around the mangled and torn remains! To Heaven alone can those poor bereaved ones look for comfort and consolation equal to their grief. But it is only natural that friends and acquaintances should feel with them, that their tears should flow together and the burdens be lightened to some extent by such aid as can be rendered and may be needed.

In calamities of this nature the first thought is apt to center in the cause thereof with a view to ascertaining that cause and fasten the responsibility where it justly belongs; this is as it should be, because the only way to escape a repetition of the disaster is to understand its immediate source. But after all the highest wisdom will be manifest in the acknowledgment of the hand of Providence in this, as in all things; by faith it can be perceived that the final outcome of even the worst that can befall the children of men may be so planned and overruled as to result in their eternal welfare. When looked upon in this spirit it will be possible for the mourners to feel, with earnest conviction that, in the language of the ancient sufferer: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

FARMERS NEED NOT BE ALARMED.

In the last issue of the NEWS, March 21, there appeared in the Logan department a statement that many of the local agricultural societies in Cache county had passed resolutions protesting against the proposed article of the Constitution which "vests the right of control of all waters in the state government." Upon this subject the NEWS suggests that there is evidently a misapprehension of the facts connected with this matter. The attitude of the resolutions passed clearly indicates this. The original article suggested for the Constitution was objectionable, and as such received criticism. But when it comes to agriculturists or others protesting against the right to control irrigating water being vested in the state, it certainly appears that the protestants have a mistaken view of the situation. That control cannot be left to corporations or to individuals. If every man or water company shall be made exempt from control there will be trouble indeed. There must be control of this matter in the hands of the people. Who are the people in the broadest legal form? The state. Therefore the state must control.

We do not believe there is the slightest necessity for any alarm on this subject. The matter of irrigating water is too important for any of the representative men on the Convention committee who are dealing with it to take any position that will not be for the welfare of the people, and the protection of all rights. Hon. John R. Murdock is chairman of that committee. He is one of the pioneers of this country and as deeply interested in preserving irrigating water rights as anyone here. And the NEWS can assure its readers that Mr. Murdock and his experienced colleagues are not proceeding upon any line that the farmers of this Territory need