



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,.....Mar. 25, 1868.

CULTURE OF SILK.

Attention has been frequently called of late in public discourses and written communications, which have appeared in our columns, to the great advantages which this Territory possesses for the production and manufacture of silk. Those who have tried this business, have become thoroughly satisfied that it can be carried on here with success and profit. Ours is a healthy country for worms, and with ordinary care, a fine quality of silk can be produced. Measures are now about to be taken by President Young to have this industry fostered. He has an abundance of mulberry trees, which he has raised from seed imported by him, at considerable expense, from Italy and the South of France. These he has offered for sale; but few persons have seemed to appreciate their value sufficiently to purchase any of them. Yet there is, without doubt, great wealth to be derived from their judicious cultivation. Mulberry cuttings, if taken from the tree at the proper time and planted, will grow very readily. By taking this course, they can be multiplied without any difficulty.

If the people appreciated the importance of this industry, they would soon fill the country with mulberry trees. These trees are very useful for other purposes besides furnishing leaves as food for silk-worms. Every man who has land might have some portion of it, that otherwise would not be used, occupied by these trees, and with his silk-worms, the eggs of which he will be able after awhile to obtain here, or import from California at comparatively little expense, raise some silk. The great advantage connected with silk raising, as described by those acquainted with the process, is that the business can be carried on by the young and the infirm during the summer when the worms need care and attention, and without interfering, too, with other work. The feeding time, it is said, lasts only two months—between the time of completing the spring work and the harvest. The winding of the silk can be done in the winter.

Already we manufacture cotton yarn superior to everything of the kind that is offered for sale elsewhere. Woolen factories are also receiving their share of attention; and a move is in contemplation to raise wool up on an extensive plan, which there is every reason to believe will be most successful. But while these branches are receiving their share of attention, the raising of silk should not be neglected, as it presents a field for the remunerative employment of a class of labor with which we are likely to be well supplied.

There is nothing clearer to the minds of those who reflect, than that the people of this Territory must seek to develop new industries and means of employment, in addition to those already followed. If we do not, we can not occupy the independent position to which we aspire. We must become a manufacturing people. We shall always be poor so long as we depend upon other communities to furnish us the articles we need. We have all the elements of wealth around us, waiting only for man's skill to organize them for his use and benefit.

FEMALE RELIEF SOCIETIES AND THEIR LABORS.

The organization of Female Relief Societies in the various Wards of the city has been attended, so far as we have been able to learn, by the best of effects. The ladies have entered upon the duties assigned them in relieving the poor with spirit and alacrity, and they have accomplished an amount of good that must be very gratifying to the Bishops and other leading men in the Wards. The movement has been a most timely

one; a class of help has been brought into use that is admirably fitted for the labor, and which only needed the call from the proper quarter to render most efficient service. These Societies, with proper management, and under good guidance, can be made the means of accomplishing an incalculable amount of good. They are auxiliaries which the Bishops can use most effectively in caring for the poor.

We have noticed in several of the Wards that the Bishops have assisted in getting up parties for the benefit of the Female Relief Societies, under their auspices and to furnish them with funds. Last week we attended a party of this character in the 15th Ward Hall. It was an excellent affair, and passed off admirably. Presidents B. Young and D. H. Wells were present. The committee, on the part of the Society of that Ward—Mrs. Sarah M. Kimball and Mrs. Robert T. Burton, assisted by other ladies—deserve great credit for the manner in which everything was arranged. The Hall was so greatly changed inside as to be scarcely recognizable. We understand the young men who acted as committee of arrangements for the party, worked faithfully in assisting their mothers and the other ladies in cleaning and decorating the Hall. The evening was not entirely devoted to dancing. Miss Harriet Jones, daughter of the late N. V. Jones, delivered a very eloquent, original address on behalf of the Society, which was well received. This was followed by an address by Pres. Young, and throughout the evening the company were favored with a few songs and recitations. We admired the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, and concluded that under the supervision of Bishop Burton, who was present, such associations would do good—means would be raised, the ladies be cheered and encouraged, and the people of the Ward be familiarized with the society as an institution that was fully endorsed and that should be sustained.

There is a great field of usefulness opening up before these Societies, and we sincerely hope that they will not fail to avail themselves of the opportunities they now have of doing good. It is not the sustaining alone of the poor that should occupy their attention; but measures should be taken immediately to teach the poor and to provide them with means to sustain themselves. Time is money. The time of the poor should not be allowed to pass away unimproved. To sustain the poor in idleness is to foster vice and to breed a race of paupers that will be a sore burden to the body politic. But let the poor—men, women and children—be provided with work: let them be taught industrious habits; let them be furnished with employment suited to their strength and capacity, and they can nearly, if not entirely, sustain themselves. By this means they will preserve their independence of feeling, and not sink into that condition of abject helplessness that is too much the characteristic of the poor in other countries.

It is very desirable that we should have no poor among us. As a rule those of our poor who are able are willing to work. They feel ambitious to do their part, and would willingly do anything in their power to sustain themselves. By directing their labors in a judicious manner they need not long be dependent. There are many branches of labor that can be carried on here by such persons that can be made remunerative. We alluded to one yesterday—the culture of silk. There are six months in the year when both sexes need coverings for the head made of straw. Yet instead of being manufactured here, they are, in many instances, imported. This is wrong. As good straw can be produced here as any they use elsewhere for such manufactures, and we have as expert and tasteful hands to make these articles in any desirable form as they have in any country in the world. This is an industry that should be fostered, and the money that has heretofore been sent to import these articles should be kept at home and devoted to the production of the home article. We have persons here whose manufacture of hats and bonnets before they came here has sold readily in London and the best markets in England and America. They could, doubtless, be induced to teach others this business, and thus a number of poor people might be employed at a light labor that would be profitable. Lace making, basket making, broom making and a great variety of employments could also be engaged in, and be made remunerative, if the labor of the poor could be properly directed.

Here is a field ample enough to afford scope sufficient to the most ambitious, and we trust that our Female Relief Soci-

ties, under the guidance of the Bishops, will avail themselves of the opportunities they now have within their reach. They can materially contribute in this manner to the independence of Zion. If he who causes two blades of grass to grow where one grew before is a benefactor to the human race, how much more is he or she who contributes to elevate a human being from helpless poverty to comparative independence!

GOLD DIGGING—UNSUITED FOR SAINTS.

When a little excitement was felt here many years ago about the gold mines of California, and some were desirous of going there to dig, a statement was made by President Young respecting the results which would follow their going. He said that they who would stay at home and attend to their own business would make more money and be every way richer than those who went after the gold. At the time the statement was made gold was very abundant in California, the diggings were rich and no capital was required to enable a man to successfully prosecute the business. There was every probability, judging from the reports that came from that country and by the success that many of the Mormon Battalion had in digging, that money could be made there with greater rapidity and ease than it could be here. But those who are familiar with the history of those attempts know how they terminated. The President's words were fulfilled. Those who stayed at home, besides being in the path of duty, and having the satisfaction of knowing they were laboring where they were required by the counsel of the Lord, had the society of their families and friends, and made property faster and upon a surer and more reliable basis than those did who went away. Many who went away made money very fast; but they lost it again, and when they returned here, they were, as a rule, poorer than they would have been had they never gone. This has become a matter of history, and no longer admits of any doubt respecting it.

We hear of gold mines being discovered on the Sweetwater and other places, and understand that some young men and others seriously think of going to dig for gold as soon as the roads will admit of their traveling. If they do, we can assure them that disappointment and sorrow will be the results of such attempts on their part. They will have the faith of this entire people to contend against, for in every household in our land, if the people are alive to their duties, fervent prayers ascend every day to God that the gold and the silver in our neighborhood may be covered up, so that none may be successful in finding them. Gold may be found in abundance at the Sweetwater. Of this we have no wish to express an opinion at present. But no matter how plentiful it may be, it is no place for a man professing to be a Latter-day Saint.

Gold and silver are useful, and sometimes very convenient; but there are other articles which are of more value to us. We did not come here to dig these metals. Our time can be better used than in digging them. Suppose the people of this Territory had spent their time since they came here in exploring the mountains, cañons and valleys in search of gold, what would have been our condition to-day? Our country, instead of being filled with a happy, prosperous and contented people, with beautiful homes, surrounded with all the comforts of life, would have had a scanty and vagrant population, if any, and the country itself, would have been a howling desert.

It is a fallacy, and declared to be so by all history, to suppose that any country can be enriched by its population turning their attention to the digging of gold. Even if they should be successful in the pursuit, the country is not really enriched by their labor. Where gold mining is most remunerative, those who devote their time to agriculture make the most money. The miner must come to them for the necessities of life. We know that it has become popular of late years to view gold mining as a most profitable pursuit. But if the experience we have gained in this country and our example in this Territory are not sufficient to convince those who entertain these views of their incorrectness, then we are quite willing to abide the verdict which further experience will render upon the subject.

There is only one course which Latter-day Saints can take and be justifi-

fied. They are required to build up Zion. The digging of gold on the Sweetwater or elsewhere, is not a part of that labor. This ought to be clear to the mind of every Latter-day Saint. It is a point upon which there should be no necessity for argument, for all should understand it. When the Lord wishes us to dig gold, He will tell us to do so: until then, every man who professes to be a member of this Church should be content to wait. There is plenty to do at home. Agricultural, manufacturing and mechanical pursuits all demand our attention. They imperatively press themselves upon us; and if we wish to live and see Zion become independent, we must not disregard their claims.

The development of home industries is what is needed of us at present. Our facilities must be greatly multiplied. We want a greater abundance of food, of clothing, of everything, in fact, that will contribute to our independence, comfort and happiness. The elements are here, out of which all these essentials can be obtained. If we had gold, we would be dependent upon others for them; but with them, if we never see gold, we still are independent. Let those who have any idea of spending their time in hunting for gold reflect upon these things. They can be better employed. Even if there were not so much to be made, other pursuits are more elevating. The digging of gold is a feverish, ignoble pursuit. We can think of no labor that is not positively dishonorable, the effects of which are more degrading than gold digging.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES.

We are likely to be supplied this Fall with a heavy immigration of people, to whom our modes of living in these valleys will be entirely new. But few of them will know anything about creating employment for themselves, or using their time in a manner that will be remunerative. They have been living in old settled communities where employers furnished the labor daily, without any exercise of calculation or thought on the part of the workmen, and paid for it weekly. In view of their arrival, and the population we already have here, attention should be paid to the counsel which has lately been urged upon the people respecting the creation of new industries. Men who have means and ingenuity and experience, must launch out in siness of one kind and another, which will give employment to the laboring classes in our midst. We cannot continue to thrive as a community if a large portion of our laboring population remain unemployed. There are numerous branches of business which ought to be established in our midst, that if properly conducted would be remunerative. We have alluded to many of these in our columns, and public addresses have been frequently given in relation to them.

The culture of cotton is already receiving considerable attention in the southern portions of our Territory. It promises to become a steady and reliable product. Attention has also been called to the production of wool, flax and silk. The first of these articles—wool—has been extensively produced throughout our settlements, as our citizens have had to mainly depend upon the wool they raised for the manufacture of their clothing. But greater care is needed in the production of this staple than has heretofore been bestowed upon it. Wool-growing must be followed in a systematic and thorough manner by the cultivation of superior breeds and by better management in herding, feeding, etc. The cultivation of flax and silk, particularly the latter, will undoubtedly, under the influence of recent counsels, receive greater attention hereafter.

There are fine opportunities presenting themselves at the present time for the employment of capital and labor in the production of additional articles of food. We are on the eve of a great revolution in our diet. The thinking minds of the community have been aroused to reflection upon this subject by the powerful appeals and pointed counsels of President Young, and the influence of his precepts and examples will be widely felt among the people.

There is no creature in the universe who requires such a variety of food as man. If our people discontinue the use of tea, coffee, spirits and pork, and use flesh more sparingly than they have been in the habit of doing, it must be seen at a glance that other articles which are suitable for diet must be raised in greater abundance and variety than at present.