

## DESERET EVENING NEWS.

GEORGE O. CANNON,  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Saturday, October 31, 1868.

STAGNANT WATERS—A CAUSE  
OF DISEASE IN THIS CITY.

The preservation of health and the prolongation of life are of the highest importance. This all concedes without argument. And a knowledge of anything which will conduce to either is eagerly sought after. Science is brought into requisition, the vegetable and animal kingdoms are ransacked for preventives and remedies, and long years of study—nay, a lifetime spent in earnestly seeking after knowledge—is sometimes not considered too much to pay for obtaining an understanding of the causes and remedies for some of the diseases with which mankind are afflicted.

No people place a higher value on life than we do, although no people look upon death and the future with more equanimity, because none can have a greater confidence or certainty of the future. When we see our little ones taken from us the tear of affection will flow, though we are satisfied and confident of their happiness in the world to which they have been taken. When faithful men and women lay down their bodies, we reflect upon their labors and the years of happy associations we have had with them, and we mourn the loss which we have sustained in their being taken from us; though we have the strongest assurance that our loss is their gain and that they have gone to enjoy the reward of their faithfulness. But we wish to prolong life for usefulness, preserve health that we may labor with unabated powers, until the span of mortality is reached. We long for and labor to bring the day when a "child shall die a hundred years old," and when "as the days of a tree shall be the days of the people of God." For this purpose was the "Word of Wisdom" given, and with this object in view it is taught and enjoined upon the Saints. Teachings are constantly given from the stand and through the press, to live temperately on healthy food, to build our houses that pure air can surround us by night and day, to adopt fashions that will give the human system free muscular play, and in all things to study how to perpetuate our existence in this probation. And our sanitary measures should in all respects correspond with the individual efforts made to preserve health.

It is a fact well known to those who have pioneered or been long residents in any part of this great western country, that new land if at all swampy or covered with stagnant water, will breed chills and fever, and various other diseases which afflict mankind and shorten life. When the Saints settled in Commerce, Illinois, afterwards Nauvoo, that part of the country was exceedingly sickly, and the mortality rate was very high for the number of inhabitants. There was swampy, marshy land in the vicinity, and especially on the other side of the river, and it was deemed by many a very poor place to attempt to build up a city. But by the labors and perseverance of the Saints, under the blessing of God, the place became more healthy, so it was beautiful. The drainage of the swamps and the cultivation of the soil had this effect, and had we dwelt there until the present no place in the U.S. would have been more healthy.

Governor Fenton has appointed Nov. 26th as a thanksgiving-day.

Washington.—Secretary Seward will speak to-morrow on the political issues.

Washington.—General Sheridan telegraphs that Gen. Carr, with seven companies of cavalry struck the Indians of Shiloh Creek, on the 25th inst., and killed ten. The next day he pursued them to the Amatam, Mattoon, Ill.

San Francisco, Cal.—The whaling-ship Active, from the Arctic sea, with eight hundred barrels of oil and seventeen thousand pounds of bone has arrived. The rough weather and sustained gales of damage, and was compelled to throw overboard four hundred barrels of oil to lighten the vessel. She reports the total loss of the ship Hahaipe. The whaling-ship Corinthian went ashore on Blossom shoals, August 30, and will probably be a total loss. The captain and crew arrived by the Active. The Corinthian had aboard at the time the master eleven hundred barrels of oil and twenty thousand pounds of bone. At last accounts the Corinthian had been taken in tow by the ship George Howland, with the intention of taking her to St. Lawrence bay to save a portion of the cargo. The captain of the Active reports his belief that the Seaman Isle is incorrectly placed on the map.

For the past three years the rain fall in this Territory has been much larger than usual. There has been an abundance of snow in the mountains to raise the rivers and creeks in the warm season to their highest amplitude, and rains have fallen in great plenty, at times, swelling little rivulets into rushing streams and covering low and level lands with deposits of water. When dry weather continues for a time in the hot season, miasmatic vapors are sent to impregnate the atmosphere in the neighborhood of such stagnant water, producing disease and increasing mortality, if people reside contiguous to them. But when they collect in the vicinity of a city like this, as they do on the low land to the west and southwest of the city, in the neighborhood of mud, nothing less could be expected than that diseases would be multiplying and some of them assume an almost epidemic form. It does not follow as a matter of course that the disease or diseases should always assume the same form. The malaria produced by such impregnation of the atmosphere acting upon the human system will produce disease, which may be infectious or otherwise according to the condition of the individual affected. It is therefore probable that the increased mortality of the past two months, or over, especially among children, may be to a greater or less extent attributable to this cause. We have learned from reliable authority that in the Fifth and Sixth Wards chills and fever have made their appearance, and that several persons have suffered from them. This is an additional proof that the waters which collect west of that point and which unquestionably breed malaria, provide considerable of the uncleanliness mettally that have been in this city during the

latter part of summer and early fall of the past three years.

Can that land be drained, and can the sources of the miasma be removed? These are questions which, if the position assumed be admitted, demand a speedy and practical answer. It is no unusual thing for water to get blocked up by floating grass, rotting decaying vegetation and other things; and on low grounds the water thus impeded soon spreads over a wide surface.

If the fall to the adjacent slopes enough for water to run, the artificial draining of that portion of land would not be difficult, and the land thus redeemed, being near the city, would more than pay the outlay. But even if the draining should be very difficult, the removal of a great cause of disease, if it is so, and the saving of life consequent upon its removal, should be paramount considerations.

## THE OXYGEN LIGHT.

We have been favored with the perusal of the following letter to Bishop Beulen Miller, of Mill Creek.

PIKETON, Pike Co., Ky., August 1868.

Bishop Miller:—Dear Bro. I feel gratified for the privilege I have in communicating unto you my experience thus far in the work whereinunto I have been called. For it was under your authority, I was initiated into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and under your administration that I received the promise of those blessings that should be bestowed upon this faithful; and my heart being full, this morning, with gratitude to God, for the fulfillment of those promises so far, I could not restrain my feelings from you and the saints in the Valley, thereby adding another additional testimony, to the many, of the great Latter-day work.

I have been a little over four weeks in the Big Sandy Valley, in the eastern part of Kentucky. I am also, and have been so since I left Cincinnati, I started through here, on my road to Virginia to join Bro. Boyle; but owing to that Providence who overrules all things, my progress has been slow, and have endeavored all along to submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and have ever found the power and testimony of Jesus Christ to rest upon me, as promised in the blessings pronounced upon me by Bro. Cannon prior to my departure from my home among the Saints.

I have preached in Johnson, Floyd and Pike counties, in this State, and have been received and treated with the utmost kindness all along; and wherever I have preached the houses have been filled, the strictest order and attention prevailing at all times.

My appointments have been strictly,

thus far, in compliance with requests. Those requests being urged, I could not refuse, and on every occasion that I have preached, the request would come again for me to remain longer and preach again, the remark being made to me, "we will make you comfortable and agreeable if you will stay." Some have ridden ten miles to hear me, taking back with them an appointment for me to preach at their place. It was here under circumstances that I came here, to Piketon. I preached to them, being lawyers, legislators, and preachers present, together with the mass of the people; and without ever consulting me they gave out another appointment for me to-night, sending men out through the country to tell them to come in to hear me.

Several came in to see me, to have private conversations concerning our faith; asking me questions, concerning the many reports that have been circulated against us, but as yet none have objected, except two or three. Some will say, "if your doctrine is not true, then none is true." A spirit of inquiry exists in the minds of all, and a universal spirit to treat me kindly, instead of a spirit of persecution, is here.

I have felt truly that my way has been opened up before me, and the Holy Ghost has rested upon me to guide me into that way, and upon every occasion that I have preached I have felt the power and testimony of Jesus rest upon me. Many believe though have sampled none, yet others say they wish they were in Utah, whilst others say they will go with me on my return. I think I will return to these parts after going to Virginia, as the spirit does not dictate otherwise. But as I said, their doors are thrown open to me, and their church doors for me to preach, and this has kindled the great political excitement of the coming election. Still, the power of the spirit will have them acquire me, and many here would like to get rid of their property. One greater need in the way of sympathy, I am told, points them to the order of things around them, and from that to the misery and woe which pervade the breasts of thousands in their land, and nothing more is said to me, except, simply, "your argument is strong and too true."

I have often enjoyed the blessings of the gospel in the Valley, but never before did I feel and enjoy the true reality of my existence, until thrown into the midst of the people, with a commission to preach unto them the everlasting gospel. My heart is truly grateful, and I am truly thankful, and ready to rejoice in the rich blessings of Jehovah. True, my soul will rejoice when I return to my home with the saints, notwithstanding the trials of life, and the difficulties of the world. Young, and all the Saints engaged in the great cause, but my mind is upon my work here. My prayer is, that God will shield, protect, and sustain all Israel, and bless with success the labors of all.

Yours truly,  
ROBERT L. CAMPBELL.

New York, 30.—The Indians have released the prisoners. On the 1st instant, the 1st division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Sherman, took possession of the city of Havana, Cuba, and the 2nd division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Williams, took possession of the city of Santiago de Cuba. In the mean, however, the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Williams, had been compelled to withdraw to the coast of the island, and had been replaced by the 2nd division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Sherman. The 2nd division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Sherman, had been replaced by the 1st division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Williams. The 1st division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Williams, had been replaced by the 2nd division of the 1st Cavalry, under command of General Sherman. 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