

RICHNESS GOING TO WASTE.

HARRISBURG, Wash. Co., Utah,
July 29th, 1895.

The place carrying the above title received frequent notice in your columns many years ago, but of late there has been little or no mention made thereof. The early records of the place show the mention of a number of prominent historical persons as being once settlers and occupants of property here, and it appears to have done its share as a "nursery" for the persons who were to colonize the further southern countries of Arizona, New and Old Mexico and Nevada. Now, it is occupied by only a few families and has been in this half-deserted condition for many years. Your correspondent finding what he deemed cheap and valuable property here, made haste to secure himself a home, where many valuable products of the soil, most desirable and precious in the eyes and appetites of the dwellers on higher altitudes, grew in profusion and were suffered largely to go to waste for the want of hands to save and market to offer price. Yet within a radius of one hundred miles are thousands of inhabitants whose location will not produce grapes, figs, almonds, peaches and other tender fruits which require a warmer climate and are produced here.

The half-deserted condition of this place seems to have taken place at the time of the prosperity of the Silver Reef mining enterprise, at which time many of the settlers sold their water rights to the mines, and others drawing their water rights off in other directions—notably to Leeds a new location, it seems to have been thought that the town was totally killed. But a few still hold on to their properties, and while some buildings were torn down for the lumber they contained, and orchards cut down for fuel, a number escaped, and there are today several good habitable houses empty and quite a number of buildings of which nothing remains but the rock walls. Surrounding most of these are what should be valuable orchards and small vineyards with lucern patches and garden ground. A stream of water having been preserved by those who did hold on and preserve their homes seems now sufficient for the use of nearly all of these neglected properties so that now they are all negligently tended for the hay and pasturage they afford and some fruit according as the trees may or may not have been destroyed. Nothing prevents the growth of hundreds of grape vines, whose roots are in the ground, but the scythe or the cutter of the mower, which three or four times a year clips them down to the ground.

Ten per cent. of what these properties would fetch in Salt Lake and adjacent valleys is about what they can be bought for here; and here is a rare opportunity for a few good men to secure at a cheap rate what it would require years to build up and accumulate. We are members of the Leeds ward (three miles distant) but we have our own meetings and Sunday school which are well attended, and as the suitable season of the year arrives we expect to see the young folks busy studying the program and principles

laid down in the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Manual. We have a good substantial school house with loud toned bell, and the age and size of our beautiful shade trees give the place a most delightful rural and suburban appearance. Surely the labors of the early founders are appreciable to the present inhabitants. Rock seems to have been a convenient fencing material, for nearly every lot (one and a half acres) is fenced to itself with a stone wall, and it is said that the best grindstone rock in Utah is found in this locality.

Peaches, plums and grapes are now beginning to ripen, and "here beginneth" the large end of our troubles. Thirty miles of very rocky, broken mountain country intervenes between us and a country where a road can go without making or grading. And perhaps a hundred more through a smoother country to where the people live who need these precious products. But if they are not lost or sold to hogs, or dried for next to nothing, they must be jolted over these rocks upon a road everlastingly cut up (no matter how good or smooth it may have been when first graded) by narrow, and in most cases worn tires, which remove all movable earth and leave the tender fruit to be jammed from the point or corner of one rock to the next, ad infinitum until the journey is made.

One would think that the people of a county thus situated would see the necessity of some united and determined effort to secure and protect a good road leading to an unending market for their products, even if it should require a new set of wide tires or wheels to every wagon required for the road. Wouldn't it pay? Why, a wagon that would run for years with a given load on a good road (free from rocks and ruts, will not run the same number of weeks with the same load on this same thirty mile stretch northward. Then a new wagon must be had, which if it be not a size heavier than usual must be bantered to pieces before it could begin to wear out.

But all the same we all speculate in hope of some day seeing a railroad run through here. May be so; may be not. That help is best when people help themselves. Improvements or conveniences owned by persons at a distance, foreigners or non-residents, are apt to be of only imaginary real value to the residents, being in the nature of mortgages upon real estate, the obligating necessity of raising money for interest, depresses prices, so that all values suffer and people worse off than before. They become slaves instead of free people.

Believing the above ideas to be of public interest, they are respectfully submitted for publication.

JOB SMITH.

PRIESTHOOD MEETING.

The Priesthood of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened in the Assembly Hall today, (Saturday) at 11 a.m., Elder Angus M. Cannon, president of the Stake, presiding.

The meeting commenced with singing and prayer, after which the roll was called and responded to by five High Councilors, Three Patriarchs,

Elders George B. Wallace and Wm. C. Dunbar of the Presidency of the High Priests' quorum, fourteen presidents and eight home missionaries.

All the wards in the Stake were properly represented excepting the Tenth and Fourteenth city wards, and Big Cottonwood of the county.

The first, second, third, fifth, tenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth quorums of Elders were represented by their presiding officers.

The quorums of the Lesser Priesthood were represented by members from the Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Twentieth and Twenty-second city wards, and Centre, Mill Creek, Riverton and Brighton of the county.

The Sunday schools were represented by Elder Thomas C. Griggs, stake superintendent of same.

Upon the recommendation of their respective Bishops, eleven brethren received certificates authorizing their ordination to the office of Elder, each of whom promised to honor and magnify his office and calling if ordained.

Elders Charles W. Penrose, John B. Mahee, Angus M. Cannon, John Nicholson and Joseph E. Taylor addressed the meeting in a very spirited and interesting manner.

A variety of subjects were touched upon, the most prominent of which were the necessity for the Latter-day Saints living humbly and faithfully continually; the great danger there was for any Elder or other persons in the Church discussing things unknown; importance of each one of us, as members of the Church, obtaining all the knowledge and information possible tending our salvation as individuals here and hereafter; necessity of serving God in every particular and of living in such a manner continually as to enjoy every blessing He has in store for the faithful; duty of ward teachers in seeing that no iniquity exists in the Church, and the great necessity there is for throwing all the safeguards possible around the youth of Zion that they be not overcome and led down to destruction and death by the many allurements of sin introduced among us by the evil one.

The impressing of the people with the necessity of attending the fast meetings in greater numbers than now attended and the performance of every good word and work was also strongly advocated.

Adjourned to meet on Saturday September 7, 1895, at 10 a.m. in Stake Conference.

In the United States court at Portland, Or., Thursday, Judge Bellinger rendered an important decision, refusing to grant compensation for a receiver appointed to take charge of a farm property and its growing crops, and laying down the rule that such appointments are illegal and should not be made. The case is entitled, William Thompson, plaintiff, vs J. T. Shurley, defendant, and is similar to a number of cases in eastern Washington and northern Idaho which have come before the state courts. The judges of the superior court in those states appointed a number of receivers for growing crops, and the farmers, it is said, threatened the life of one judge if he appointed any more receivers for crops.