

houses. The "city" is a mile above, under the base of the range of mountains, watered, as all the country is watered between it and Corinne, by mountain streams diverted from their course by canals.

Ogden is a pretty, quiet town, somewhat larger than Brigham City.

ALTA.

Of Alta City itself there is little to be said. It is a small mining camp that is dignified by this high-sounding name, and a mining camp anywhere in this region is simply a collection of rough cabins and drinking "saloons."

A little half-finished shanty among the grog-shops and team-stables of Alta serves for a house of Methodist worship on Sundays and for a court-house on days when justice is to be administered.

On Sunday evening, as is my wont among Mormons or Gentiles, I directed my steps to the house of worship. Alas for the Christianity of this mining camp! All the denominations could number only two hearers thus far. The minister, who sat patiently behind the rough deal pulpit stand, waiting for more to come, rose with a smile of satisfaction on his countenance when I entered, and shouted, "Welcome, my brother, you make three, and the Lord hath said that wherever two or three are gathered together in his name, he will be with them and bless them. I was going to start on two, but now I have got the full number I feel still more encouraged."

So he started and bellowed as if he had been preaching in the open fields to an audience as numerous as one of those preached to by Wesley or Whitfield. One by one the congregation increased, each addition giving him encouragement to scream the louder, until before the services closed the assembly amounted to eight and a half, including a woman and a nursing baby.

The cellar of the building is used as a prison, and a few gentlemen who were confined beneath for various infringements of the law, such as stealing, shooting, and stabbing, occasionally interrupted the exercises with their cat-calls and imprecations. This only caused our Boanerges to exert his lungs the more to overcome the disturbance.

Religion of any kind, I am sorry to say, is at a low ebb in Alta; while bar-rooms, faro-tables, and licentiousness are in the full tide of prosperity.

On the next day court was held in the same building. The judge, a miner clothed in imaginary ermine for the occasion, occupied the pulpit of yesterday, which was a literal bench then, and now besides was a judicial one. The ermine was truly metaphorical, for he sat with no dress over his shirt-sleeves, eager in mouth, his feet resting upon the desk. The lawyers, one of whom was a teamster and the other a miner, were in the same loose attire, and paid this deference to the Court, that they smoked pipes instead of Havannas.

The case was one of larceny. A Chinese cook of a restaurant had been accused by his employer of giving away provisions, notably cucumbers, to some of his countrymen outside. To every point of the direct examination of witnesses, the defendant's lawyer cried, "Your honor, I object." And to every item brought out by the cross-examination, the plaintiff's lawyer shouted the same words.

The defence admitted that his client had the master's cucumbers in his hands, but his hands were not out of the window when the cucumbers left them. "They were inside the window, and the outside Chinamen reached in and took them. Therefore they, if they could be found, should be declared guilty, not my client."

The plaintiff's counsel argued in this wise: "Was his hands clinched on the cucumbers when t'other Chinaman come for 'em, or was they open? Why the ——— didn't he hold on to 'em?"

His Honor by this time had finished his cigar. Then he rose from the bench and commanded silence by striking his fist on the desk. "This here case is dismissed," he said. "It's too thin; thinner 'n any slice of cucumber ever I see. The time of the Court is too valuable to be took with any such nonsense?" So the Court, the lawyers, the plaintiff and defendant all adjourned to the saloon where the larceny had been com-

mitted, and "took a drink all around."—*The Mormon Country, by John Codman.*

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