

confederate money at the beginning of the war and this fell day by day as we neared the end, until it was at last not worth more than ten cents a yard."

"What did Lee do after the war had closed?" I asked.

"He had numbers of positions, connected with which were very large salaries, offered him, but he cared more for quiet and congenial work than for money and he accepted the presidency of Washington College at Lexington. He was for five years president of this institution. He reorganized it and built it up in many ways and was still its president when he died, in 1870, in the sixty-fourth year of his age."

Frank G. Carpenter

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

INDEPENDENCE, Missouri,
May 30th, 1896.

Your paper gathers items of interest from all parts of the world where the missionaries of the Church are so conscientiously laboring to enlighten the minds of the people concerning the coming great upheaval in the world's affairs, as predicted by the Prophets concerning the last days; but it is seldom that your readers hear from the place around which their fondest hopes are centered, and where the hearts of tens of thousands are looking with yearning expectation for great developments which will usher in the new order of things, and where the capital city of a new era eventually will be built. Slowly but surely are the problems of prophecy being solved towards the consummation of the great work, and the preparation for the great transformation. Scarcely a day passes but what we as a nation are visited with some great disaster, such as the terrible storm one of which so recently destroyed so many lives and so much property in St. Louis; then add to this the unrest, the actual panicky feeling which is almost driving the people wild with fear of some impending calamity which they seem to realize hangs over them, and we have a perfect picture of the fulfillment of prophecy concerning this generation.

Everybody but the bankers and brokers are crying hard times; and they are truly hard. What little work is going on pays labor scarcely enough to live on, and it is driving many to commit suicide or other crimes that they might be cared for in the state or county penal institutions, all of which is a disgrace to our boasted civilization. Agriculture is languishing because it has become the policy of our government to contract the currency of the country to such a degree that all other products are reduced in comparative value far below the cost of production. Such a state of affairs is certain to cause the direst complications in all our commercial and manufacturing enterprises, and will drive the producers to ultimate revolution. The whole country is cursed with a mortgage indebtedness which they can never pay under this great depression policy of the government.

There are a great many of the Book of Mormon believers gathering into this county now, and are building in

many instances elegant homes. Most of them are of the Josephite persuasion, and they are becoming quite a factor in local politics, but few of them are ever given an office, as the other citizens, while apparently friendly enough, do not have much use for them except at election times, when they court them for their votes the same as they do the colored brother. The famous Temple lot case having gone against them in the courts a pall of crushed hopes is hanging over them as a church, and they feel as though the heavens were closed against them; but they are still after the lot and are starting other legal proceedings in the hope that they will ultimately win, for if they do not obtain that lot their great claims of superiority will vanish and with it their hopes. There seems now to be such little difference in the belief of the latter-day factions, that it seems strange they cannot get together and work for a common cause and not fight each other.

While there have been many destructive storms around us this spring, we have had one of the finest spring seasons ever known in this country. The usual heavy wind storms have escaped us so far, and we have had plenty of rain and sunshine to make everything beautiful. Wheat is all in head. Corn looks well, and garden is perfect. The foliage of the trees looks bright and beautiful, not having been torn by hail or wind. The fruit prospects are splendid and everything is abundant; but yet hundreds of people are in destitute circumstances because of the power of oppression exercised by the money power and politicians.

I would like to explain to your readers a system of money or exchange which is making great headway in solving the money problem in many parts of the country, and would find a genial acceptance in Utah when it is understood; for nowhere on earth are people inclined to work together and help each other as in Utah. Some of the greatest works which have made Utah great were accomplished without a cent of legal tender money, but merely an exchange of products by a system of accounts and a fellow feeling for mutual development. This system, which is known as the labor exchange, is a systemized method of handling our products based on labor as a unit of value instead of some scarce metal which can become such a curse to humanity when in the hands of unscrupulous sharpers. Mr. G. B. De Bernardi of this city is the founder of the system, and his book, *Trials and Triumphs of Labor*, should be in every household, for more can be learned about conducting our own affairs and making the people of this country independent of the money power from that book than any other now in the world. It is a system which will go hand in hand with the Order of Enoch, and make that order a speedy and practical success. The book sells for fifty cents and can be had by addressing the author.

This city has recently adopted the tower system of electric lighting, and the effect is wonderful and beautiful, because of the many trees in and around the city. It is a grand sight on a dark night to see so many brilliant lights far above the tree tops.

My letter is perhaps long enough for this time, and I will close.

E. PETERSON.

LETTER FROM STOCKHOLM.

STOCKHOLM, May 12.—[Special]—The four hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Gustavus Vasa, the liberator of Sweden from Danish oppression and the founder of the famous Vasa dynasty, has been celebrated today all over Sweden. Gustavus Vasa, the grandfather of Gustavus Adolphus, the hero of the Thirty Years' War, was born May 12, 1593, at the Lindholmene estate in Upland.

It was in 1521, at the outbreak of the rebellion against the Danish King Christian II, who was also king of Sweden, Gustavus Vasa was elected commander-in-chief of the sturdy Dalecarlians. The rebellion lasted about two years, Christian and his army being forced to leave Sweden. On the 23rd of June in 1523 Gustavus held his victorious entrance into Stockholm, the capital, having a short time before been elected king of Sweden at a meeting of the Diet in the city of Strängnäs. The liberator of his country died Sept. 29, 1560, and lies buried in the great cathedral of Upsala.

The celebration today embraced patriotic festivals in all the public schools. Tonight three gala performances are being given at the Royal Opera, the Royal Dramatic and the Arena theaters. Most of the public and many private buildings are decorated.

No tides of any importance prevail in the waters that surround Sweden, and this circumstance of course greatly lessens the risk of a grounded ship being wrecked by the tides, which so often happens on the coast of England and the continent. The better chance of saving a vessel grounded in the Baltic, and the comparatively large number of vessels which are annually damaged in the waters which surround Sweden, have given rise to several salvage enterprises in northern Europe, and the most prominent of them all is considered to be the Neptun Salvage and Diving Company of Stockholm. This company was founded in the year 1870 on a paid-up capital of 1,500,000 crowns, and has since then gradually developed by continued building of larger and more efficient salvage vessels, supplied with specially designed appliances of the most elaborate description, and manned by specially drilled officers and men. This staff of about 200 men, most of them trained experts, are always living on board the vessels, which themselves are usually kept with steam up, ready to start at a moment's notice.

During its existence of twenty-six years, the company's services have been requested not only on the home waters but also at distant foreign places nearly all over the world, the declared salvages being as follows: Five ironclads, 269 cargo steamers, 78 coasting and passenger steamers, nearly 400 sailing ships, 600 sundry cargoes, representing in their salvaged damaged state a value of \$30,000,000. The salvage plant is the largest and best equipped of any salvage company in the world.

The work on the great industrial exposition to be held here next year is