

free under those circumstances? No; and if we can trust ourselves in the hands of God under those conditions I think we can trust Him to-day. And as far as I am concerned as an individual, not one principle that God has revealed from the heavens do I dare to go back on;—not one principle. I believe in the fulness of the everlasting Gospel. I believe in plural marriage as a part of the Gospel just as much as I believe in baptism by immersion for the remission of sins. The same Being that taught me baptism for the remission of sins taught me plural marriage, and its necessity and glory. Can I afford to give up a single principle? I can not. If I had to give up one principle I would have to give up my religion. If I gave up the first principle of the revelations of the Lord I would prove before my brethren, before the angels, before God the Eternal Father that I was unworthy the exaltation that He has promised me. I do not know how you feel; but I do not fear the face of man as I fear the face of God. I fear lest when I go behind the veil and have to meet my progenitors that I should meet them as a traitor, as a man that had not the backbone to stand by the principles of righteousness for fear of my life; or for fear of some calamity that might come upon me. How would they look upon me? How would be condemned if we dared suggest such a thing as to say that we would give up the first principle of eternal truth. I bear my solemn testimony that plural marriage is as true as any principle that has been revealed from the heavens. I bear my testimony that it is a necessity and that the Church of Christ in its fulness never existed without it. Where you have the eternity of marriage you are bound to have plural marriage; bound to; and it is one of the marks of the Church of Jesus Christ in its sealing ordinances. "Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven." We know how sensitive the Prophet Joseph was to introduce this principle. He knew the feeling that was against it. It had been taught from the days of heathen Rome down to the present time that a man should have but one wife, which has resulted in the prostitution of many of the fair daughters of Eve as mistresses. Here we have too much love for women to see them trampled in the dust. Here we have too much respect for unborn spirits to have them come into the world branded as bastards, illegitimate, in shame, without knowing their fathers. The children we have are legitimate. They are our own. We honor them and our wives. Our children are given unto us of God, for our wives are given unto us of God. We never should have thought of practicing this principle if God had not revealed it from the heavens and commanded it, and we must stand by it and by every principle that He has revealed. It is more than I dare to go back on that principle or any other principle; and I have besought the Lord with all my heart that He would give me strength according to my day that I might never fall in my integrity, but that I might stand firm as the pillars of heaven to the truths that He has revealed for the redemption of the human family. I understand my own weaknesses; I understand my own insufficiency; but my trust is in the living and true God. And I have a testimony that for over 30 years He has sustained me through some very crooked and tight places by His Almighty power. He has stood by me, been my friend; and so far my testimony and my love for the principles of righteousness are as deep and earnest as my first love, and more so; for I have witnessed His loving kindness in the sealing powers and bonds of the everlasting covenant; I have been privileged to see the magnificent manner in which He has provided for His children, in placing them in a position that they may become like unto Him—eternal, without end of years.

That God may give us grace to stand true and faithful to our covenants, and endure to the end, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## A GLIMPSE AT UTAH.

[BY A TRAVELER.]

In marking the progress of our own community, there is something of the feeling realized by most parents in regard to their own offspring, they know of their birth and infancy, of the anxieties and cares, the hopes and fears, the ambition and desire evoked from time to time, as circumstances were considered, difficulties surmounted, and results realized.

They feel that the life of the child is their life, its good, their good; its progress theirs, its triumphs the ultimate of thoughts long shrined by them; probably they have given much labor to this end, made some sacrifices, offered many prayers, and endured much hardship and affliction. They may have had but little sympathy in all this; many may have sought to frustrate their efforts, to ridicule their longings, and to place obstacles in the way of their success. Under these conditions an assurance of progress is doubly precious, in it, "patience has its perfect work," and faith its great reward.

To travel through Utah Territory is to understand this, to ponder the forces at work for the accomplishment of desire and design, is suggestive of thought and prolific of thanksgiving; to gaze upon the old settlers, to note the glistening head and the bent form; to hear the recital of a "busy life," to mark their posterity, sons in the vigor

of manhood, daughters long ago "matrons in Israel," to contemplate down to the third and fourth generations their multiplied posterity is worthy the attention of many thoughtful men, for in this mountain region are vast hosts whose influence will be felt as Shakespeare had it, "down to the last syllable of recorded time!"

There is a wonderful fund of thought in the contemplation of individuality, there are no two personalities the same, the blending of lives in parentage makes this almost an impossibility, but there is an individuality of nations, the product of surroundings, forces and institutions peculiar to each; in nations there is an individuality of cities; even in cities of the same nation there is wonderful diversity: Philadelphia is vastly different from Chicago, New York from Boston, and San Francisco from New Orleans; as to states, Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western are as strongly marked as are the differences in man, parentage counts, "blood will tell," thought, vocation, industry, climate, origin, have much to do in forming the imperishable feature of a nation or a city's life.

Without running a theory into minutia or giving fancy too loose a rein, the observant traveler in Utah must be aware of a very marked individuality in its counties, its very diversity seems to suggest a possible nation and to prophecy a self-sustaining one at that; the semi-tropical south gives wine and fruit, the central, flocks, herds, iron, coke and sulphur; the northern, grain, lumber, lead, silver, coal and gold; save in the south, water is everywhere wooing the presence of more machinery, and waiting to be the willing slave of industry and manufactures. Travelling south from Salt Lake City to St. George, each county in the formation of its mountains, the color of its soil, the character of its valleys, the analysis of its waters and variety of resources seems to say, "we are ourselves;" and however homogeneous we or our populations may become, it will not be by sacrificing our personality, but by laboring for others in the intention to sustain, enlarge and benefit the whole!

It may be that no prophet is needed to tell that nations or communities become great or otherwise from their educational advantages and opportunities; and that men are upright, one-sided, or semi-educated, according to their perceptions of manhood and conceptions of the public good; to educate the mental and neglect the moral; to cater to the political and overlook the social; to care only for the religious and forget the industrial, would only indicate a narrowness which is far too apparent among mankind already; because men, statesmen, educationalists, have not understood this, nations are devoid of equilibrium, communities disagree and disintegrate, and all the elements of ignorance, perversity and discontent abound!

Probably the builders of Utah, the founders of her past, present and future have builded better than they knew, and the power of inspiration, the flood of intelligence has been wider and broader than they have thought; anyway there is an unbounded vitality among her people, capacity for absorption seems to grow by the multiplication of her citizens, and unity seems to crystallize immediately the influx from the nations; save among the few who are chronic in their discontent and diseased in their disposition to say of evil, "ever be thou my good!"

The overwhelming majority of the people of Utah are "Mormons" or Latter-day Saints, it is noteworthy of their history that colonization always brought to the front the school house, the meeting house, these potent forces of improvement and civilization, with habits of morality and untiring industry; from north to south there is an intense earnestness in the cause of secular education, the old past with its lack of books, system, and teachers is forever gone; the influence of the normal school in the Territorial University at Salt Lake City, including Provo, has been a grand success; the liberality of the several counties in appropriations for this purpose has brought good fruit, the practice and routine of teaching, the giving of class books in uniformity has created an impetus once unknown; county conventions of the teachers and friends of education have been prolific of suggestion, and the outlet of expression for experience; there is now more pride in the condition, surroundings, and comforts of school houses, more interest in furnishings, in apparatus for experiment and elucidation, for libraries and helps for this great educational time and far better understood necessity; supplementary high schools; organizations like the B. Y. Academy at Provo, and the B. Y. College at Logan, are powerful both as fundamental and auxiliaries in the common cause, and it is expected that there will be in Beaver at old Fort Cameron (a deserted post of the Government) an agricultural college which will be a yet broader and more attractive educational institution than any in the history of Utah! In the Sabbath schools of the Territory there is a still more abounding vitality than in the secular schools; while morality and the existence of the supreme, coupled with the responsibility of man should be unforgotten in any school yet the Sabbath schools are more naturally conservatories for the growth and cultivation of Latter-day Saints; there the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, the history and literature of the Church find a more congenial home; and none without special observation believe how efficient and thorough these schools are fast

becoming; there is an immense corps of faithful men and women who are devoted as faithful teachers, the plastic element of youth is their material, and their labor has been supplemented by the efforts of the poet and the musician, by the pen and the voice of the very best among the Elders of Israel, the *Juvenile Instructor* has been and is a power in this direction, and the publications which have come from the same office have been grand appliances in awakening and continuing in exercise, the attentions and sympathies of the children of our inland Territory. At the risk of being considered critical, it may not give offense to say that after visiting many schools, Nephi in the South seems to lead the whole in its numbers (over 500), order, general appearance, singing and attention. It carries away the palm. Its character and progress is said to be mainly due to the labors of Apostle Teasdale when President of that Stake, and he gives credit to the willingness and devotion of his aids, in teachers and superintendents, and his successor is not a whit behind in the same field. In the north counties, Wellsville Sabbath School is looked upon as the most famous. It is fine, and the intelligence, the promptitude of replies from classes selected at random, does credit to its officers, while to witness its exercises brings back old experience and feelings when a lad in Sunday School. Many others visited are excellent, and those noted are no reflection upon smaller and less advanced, for surely they have had in connection with them special facilities and also special ability. The Sunday School Unions ensure that life which comes of variety of action, missionary effort, consultation of officers, and the growing literature of the organization will ere long be a library in itself.

Next in importance among the progressive forces of the Territory, are to be found the Y. M. M. I. A., and the Young Ladies organization which is similar; they are a great power everywhere among the youth of both sexes; providing entertainment; giving experience in public duty; blending the feelings and sympathies of Wards and Stakes; creating opportunities for missionary labor, and inviting such consideration of vital questions as shall claim testimony to the truth. These are among the objects sought for and attained by immense numbers of the youth of Zion. Many of our young missionaries have been selected from this organization as well as from the Sabbath Schools, and it is a significant fact that in the multiplicity of marriages which take place in Utah, the thoughtful have made their selections from these associations in mental and spiritual progress, rather than from those who made a good appearance in a ball room, or who were noted for being seen in the public promenades. It seems abundantly evident that this organization is past the period of its infancy, and its growth in influence and power will yet make it, under proper control, a leader of amusement, of intellectual force and spiritual refinement among the people; soon it is to be presumed every Stake organization will have its own building devoted to the needs of the youth of such centre, including a library, reading room, class rooms, concert and dramatic hall, thus giving tone and impetus to every auxiliary in the different wards of the Stake.

Classes for languages, for the study of physiology, natural philosophy and chemistry, with all necessary apparatus and appointments are among the most pressing needs of these associations, including illustrated experimental lectures on these topics. The idea that one night a week is sufficient for class work, needs to be abandoned; particularly during the winter months should the flame of education burn with its intensest heat and the common languishing and sometimes dormancy or mental death of summer, should be among the things that were. This series of Stake centres would be like unto Ezekiel's vision of "wheel within wheel," each revolving upon its own centre, yet in harmony working with and for the whole. It is interesting in this connection to note the increasing circulation of the *Contributor*, which is ostensibly the organ of the associations; the spirit of its contents is always genial, its corps of writers is increasing its circulation, and as manuscript-papers are training numbers in composition, probably it will have to increase its pages to meet the supply of good and vigorous thought. Another way to utilize this accumulating mass of literary effort would be for a central committee to cull the best thereof and in the form of quarterly volumes, to lay the foundation or help build a library of positive home creation.

Among the Latter-day Saints as religionists, however, all these are subsidiary to the educational power and force of the Church and Sabbath. Here is where the ministry of the Priesthood is felt in a special manner, and in its own place the meeting-house is the training ground of the people; the young and the old alike come there, and there is action and re-action, mental, moral, religious and spiritual, in continual exercise to frame and fashion the Latter-day Saints; growth is especially noticeable in the improvement of the worshipping service. In the enlargement and quality of meeting-houses and appointments and in the disposition to maintain these buildings exclusively for worship or kindred purposes; they will not as formerly be identified with amusement and with dancing, these recreations will be enjoyed in places specially intended for such purposes. There are many very fine meeting houses now in the Territory, and they are increasing

in number and in architectural beauty and comfort. Stake houses come first, Salt Lake City Assembly Hall at present taking the lead, and furnishing an illustration of beauty and utility, although far, very far, too small. Logan and St. George are among the best, Manti coming close behind, Beaver also being good both as to buildings and surroundings, the whole will probably be left by Summit Stake house at Coalville or certainly by the Utah Stake house at Provo, which bids fair to be the best. In fact that stake excels in meeting houses. Springville can boast of the best kept-grounds and a good house besides. Spanish Fork, American Fork and Payson, have each good houses, the latter the most attractive and cleanly in Utah. Nephi meeting house is just improved and ranks first class. Ephraim, possesses a very fine house, Moroni is finishing a good one and example is contagious for good among the Latter-day Saints. Millard County is not well supplied. If Fillmore should lead out the balance would indeed follow, Scipio is about finishing one, and Holden is at work improving the meeting house at that place.

In Cedar City the foundation has been laid for many years (perhaps longer) and it is not an uncommon thing for secondary settlements in a stake to lag behind the centre; northward there is also room for improvement and yet there is progress. Paradise, in Cache County, gets a new meeting house and dances in it, Wellsville enlarges, but will build again, Millville meeting house is new and cozy, and Hyrum sets an example, but can yet improve. Providence is alive to the necessity of the times, but not yet finished, and Smithfield struggles under a grand attempt, but by encouragement will succeed and finally feel the better for it; there are other settlements in Cache, and Wards in Logan who aim to be abreast of others, but the Temple has been a load from which none could shrink, and few places had moral courage or faith to provide for their personal comfort and growth in the face of other demands! In Bear Lake County there are some moderate meeting houses. When the Stake House is erected not unlikely those now used will appear so insignificant as to compel a recreation. In Weber County there is improvement in some of the wards. Huntsville has just dedicated an \$11,000 meeting-house, but a unity of effort for a Stake Tabernacle would prompt local improvement, which is sadly needed in many places. Brigham City can boast of a good Tabernacle, (presumably Stake) and no doubt the settlements and wards will profit by so conspicuous an example. Many others might be mentioned, but sufficient has been said to justify the assertion that there is enough religious progress and spiritual desire to harmonize the outward manifestations with the inner spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It can fairly be claimed that the whole Territory, with but few exceptions, bristles with activity in this direction, even where nothing has been done of late, the people and authorities are full of projects, all seem to realize that a good religion, the best religion, should have the best possible house in which to promulgate its doctrines, and that in point of fact, nothing is too good for association with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

In this connection it is also worthy of note, that there is an increase of order in these new meeting houses, worshippers, especially the youth, seem to pay more deference to a clean and beautiful building, and the influences of this is also felt by the choir and by the speakers; music is flourishing almost everywhere in Utah, good choirs are far from uncommon, and there is an earnestness and snap about the singing which betokens advance. To be sure in some places the choirs are highfalutin and exclusive, but the rebound will be congregational singing in some portions of every service. The influence of Conference singing in Salt Lake City is everywhere felt in the Territory. All our visitors have opportunities of contrast when they return home, and this stimulates leading men who also keenly sense the refining influence of orderly and warm-hearted worship, and so general progress is the result of the silent forces of progressive Stakes.

There is also another potent influence in process of evolution among the Latter-day Saints, that is the erection, dedication and using of Temples; all other mentioned agencies have their counterpart among religionists, but this force is unique and special. We realize a little of it, there is something of it felt, but it is as the drop before the shower, or as the simple repast to the most delicious banquet; in these are the possibilities of spiritual culture and experience to which all the past will be comparatively insignificant. In these places thus erected by divine commandment, will be re-welded the broken links of spiritual relationship; access will be had to the immense founts of intelligence pertaining to man, past, present, and future; working in the processes and ordinances of salvation will give keen susceptibility to subtle forces behind the veil, and as communion increases, so will knowledge increase until it "shall cover the earth as the waters cover the face of the great deep!" There will always be a large force of workers in the temples, and these subject continuously to spiritual influence will become each one a centre in a local sense, diffusing the spirit of the sacred places and so purifying and refining in their numberless associations. Each temple city will also probably become a focus of spiritual power and force, and

for many another purpose than ordinance will men and women cluster around these hallowed centres; those becoming weary in the battle and race of life, tired of its glitter and care will retire to these places as to a refuge from the storm; persons who have been prosperous, persons recovering from sickness, persons with out family will, each bequeath to such edifices their silver and gold and precious things; cities of peace and quietude will they be, under the special guardianship of Priesthood on the earth and Priesthood behind the veil. Angelic ministrations will not be thought uncommon there, and votive offerings will be more and more abundant to Temples, as Temple work and privileges are better understood; one will give a picture, another a statue, another a beautiful window, another an addition to its convenience or completeness; its vessels, appointments, vestments will become more and more ornate; tower and turret, and spire and battlement will give the glories of architecture, the expression of love for the Gospel, gratitude to God, remembrance of His Priesthood or devotion to his Kingdom. Temple cities will of necessity be clean, orderly, beautiful; their inhabitants will seek to bring themselves into harmony with the prevailing spirit or seek a more congenial home, it will be a privilege to live and be counted a citizen of a Temple city. Strangers, tourists, visitors from afar, as well as Latter-day Saints seeking the powers and ordinances for themselves or theirs, will visit these sacred shrines, they will cast their offerings into the treasury, and the spirit of love, of beauty, of order and peace will prevail in those cities and in the borders round about.

Such are some of the forces, the educational powers that are and will be at work in the midst of Israel, for the establishment of the Kingdom of God. The increase of the people is surely great, in travelling north and south, every little nook, every lonely valley, every trifling spring seems to have been located by some one, the prairie is subdued; towns, villages, hamlets increase; population is being multiplied, and education, moral, religious and mental, is everywhere desired and sought for as for hidden treasure. No community so full of life, so abounding in vitality could be held in check, yet there is power made manifest, crime is very rare, here and there animal spirit bubbles over into disorder, here and there there is a momentary yielding to temptation, drink finds a victim, tobacco a devotee, foul language a resting place, but purity, decorum, virtue, honesty, intelligence, the fear of God, are the characteristics of the Latter-day Saints and their posterity.

Now and then one apostatizes but hundreds are in the missionary field, thousands enjoy the spirit of testimony; the power of God, the authority of the Priesthood, the spirit of the latter-day work is upon the masses of the people and while the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing, Zion moves on in humility and faith to assured triumph over all her foes! The public pulse is good, the body politic is in a healthy condition, the masses of the Latter-day Saints in Utah are in alliance with the heavens; they are *en rapport* with "the Church of the first born and the spirits of just men made perfect," and while they are not indifferent to the efforts of their enemies, their faith is unshaken in the Priesthood and the promises of the one, only Living, and True God! Nor let this brief resume be accounted the manifestation of enthusiasm or fanaticism, let it not be supposed that everything is perfect, even in so-called Zion; there is some slackness (too much probably); there is ignorance also more than is needed. Some have become possessed of bad habits, some have lost sight of the purpose for which they gathered, some live in neglect of duty, disobedience to right and to authority is cherished in a few instances, and others are in alliance with the most bitter enemies of the people, but the majority are growing, living, progressing, they are humbly seeking to keep the commandments of God, a few are poverty-stricken because of idleness and want of thrift; but the majority enjoy many comforts and are exceedingly blessed in their basket and their store.

Immorality and ignorance are frowned upon, and measures for suppressing the one and removing the other, continually attract the attention and thought of the leading men and women of each village or town. Yet more reading matter is needed, home periodicals and papers, with general church literature should be found in more homes, libraries should be increased, reading rooms established, singing cultivated, worship be made more attractive; all old edifices, with the increase of wealth should give way to new and better ones, industry should be more fully inculcated, and manufactures provided, so that no son or daughter of Zion should eat willingly the bread of idleness, all authority should be respected, all evil frowned down, order should prevail, truth be the pole-star of modern Israel—God's chosen—until He whose right it is shall reign and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven!

After all the elaborate studies made in Germany to enable medical men to differentiate the normal from the so-called criminal brain, Prof. Bardleben is forced to decide that even "the shape of the normal brain has by no means as yet been determined."