

THE MORMON PILGRIMAGE.

The following letter, reprinted from the *American Presbyterian*, printed in Philadelphia, is from the pen of the Rev. A. M. Stewart, a gentleman who preached in the Tabernacle a few months ago:

When driven from Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa, the wretched, starving, half-naked fugitives started on a pilgrimage, which an army with banners dare not have attempted. Even Mahomet and his followers, on camels, would have undertaken it with much caution. How, under their condition, and without all perishing, they succeeded in traversing those fifteen hundred miles of reputed desert, seems even now a mystery. They settled, at length, upon a dry and apparently barren soil, where they hoped never again to see or be troubled with Gentile intruders. At the time of their self-banishment, this hope seemed very probable, as neither explorer nor settler was likely, for ages, to spy into their safe retreat. The tide of westward human interests has gone with such accelerated motion, that, in their imagined retreat, and within a quarter of a century, they have been overtaken and surrounded by an immense foreign avalanche.

AGENTS FOR GOOD.

Whatever purposes the Almighty has to subvert with this strange mass of people hereafter, He has already effected purposes the most wise and beneficent, and for which no other agents seemed fitted. They have most successfully demonstrated, through necessity and thrift, the wonderful capacities and productivity of immense portions of our almost boundless American desert, as it is still termed by ignorant travelers and stupid geographers. The territory they occupy was no more promising than countless other sections of Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, and Colorado, and which would have been looked upon as hopelessly barren by explorers, miners, and emigrants, save for the examples given by Mormon industry. By artificial watering they have turned a dry and parched land into fields, and orchards, and gardens, of more than ordinary beauty and fruitfulness. And this, also, in a climate of unsurpassed clearness, beauty, and healthfulness.

They have, moreover, been the instruments of saving much life. Had they not occupied that far interior and intermediate zone, when a fever of excitement, from 1849 and onwards, caravans of men, horses, mules, and oxen left the Atlantic side for the California gold fields, multitudes would have perished. Each traveler across the continent; every wagon, stage-coach, horse, or footman; every soldier Uncle Sam sent to watch them, together with railroad surveyors, agents, and builders, have all paid the ready, even thankful tribute, in money, for Mormon productions. By such processes, coupled with economy, industry, home manufacture, and consumption, that far interior community, numbering at present a hundred thousand, is fast becoming one of the wealthiest communities in the world. They are rich in horses, cattle, sheep, and poultry; in cereals, fruits, and vegetables; in manufactures and money.

SALT LAKE CITY.

It is the most quiet, orderly, and best governed city in the world. Among the Mormons there is no disorder or outbreak; no profanity or intemperance. The city on the Sabbath is as quiet as a rural parish in Scotland or New England. Whatever disorder there may be, is created by Gentile intruders. The city proper numbers about twenty thousand. Its architectural beauty has certainly been overrated by tourists and writers, and this, perhaps, naturally enough, as such writers had traveled so long and so far without seeing a house, or scarce a human abode. The court-house and theatre are substantial structures. The great projected Temple is as yet only even with the ground. The immense Tabernacle has no semblance of architectural beauty. The private establishment of Brigham Young is quite extensive, comprising several home-like mansions united together, surrounded with trees, and all enclosed by a high wall, the entrance being entered by a rather ponderous gate.

The city, in its winter costume, wears a pleasant and comfortable appearance, but in summer must be especially inviting. The original plan, which has generally been carried out, was for each family to have a lot of an acre and a quarter, thus affording space for shrubbery, fruit-trees, and a vegetable garden. By this arrangement the city covers a considerable space, combining city and country in a very agreeable manner. The streets are broad, cut each other at right angles, and along each side of every street there flows a stream of crystal water, led from the adjacent mountains. These constant streams nourish long rows of beautiful shade trees, which have been planted on each side of every street.

Concerning their domestic arrangements, but little was seen or heard. About such matters they are studiously reticent; when possible, silent. The evils of their system are carefully and quietly hidden away from Gentile intrusion. Of their future we need hardly speculate.

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