

Today it is different. A great transformation has taken place. The region is now the home of the rose, the lily and the luscious fruit. Los Angeles has a population of over 80,000, while flourishing villages dot the valleys, where only a quarter of a century ago the jack-rabbit reigned supreme.

In Utah and Colorado irrigation has produced marvelous results. Vegetables are grown there superior to those of almost any other portion of the United States. Corn, equal to the best cultivated in Iowa or Kansas, can be grown in the irrigated valleys. Peaches, equaling the best grown in Delaware, are produced in Utah and in Grand River valley, Colorado. Southern Utah produces fine grapes, prunes and cotton.

Mr. Lateka makes the following statement:

"It will doubtless appear incredible to most readers that a belt of country averaging one hundred miles in width exists in Colorado, Utah and Nevada, where more of the bounties of nature could be enjoyed, if the country were properly cultivated, than perhaps in any like area on the face of the earth. Yet such is the fact."

THE "ONLY LUZON" POLICY.

It seems from all the evidence attainable, chiefly circumstantial of course, that the President's policy regarding the Philippines is to retain the island of Luzon as a permanent possession and let the rest of the archipelago remain as at present so far as the United States is concerned. If this shall prove to be the case there will no doubt be some friction by those who think we ought to retain the whole group as a conquest of war and let not the light of our civilization and the beneficence of our institutions be withheld from even "the least of these." But the plan suggested has many ardent and influential supporters among publicists and newspapers. One of the latter is the New York World. It holds that Luzon alone would be a great enough acquisition and produces some statistics to show this. In the first place, it is shown that Luzon is the largest island of the Philippine group. It is about 550 miles long, with a varying width of from 10 to 130 miles. As no accurate survey of even the larger islands has ever been made, it is impossible to find an exact statement of their land area. Luzon has been estimated by some authorities to contain 50,000 square miles. The National Geographic Magazine gives the area at "about 41,000 square miles, corresponding in size to the state of Ohio." The same authority puts the area of the entire group at 114,356 square miles. According to the most conservative estimate, therefore, the island of Luzon has more than one-third of the land area of the entire group. It is nearly as large as the state of New York. It is larger than the combined areas of the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Jersey. England has but 50,840 square miles, Cuba 43,220 and Porto Rico only 3,550. So that, the World concludes, in retaining "only Luzon" we should get a very "tidy bit" of land.

The population of the splendid island is about 4,500,000, larger than that of any state in the Union except New York and Pennsylvania, and is half of that of the entire group. The population of Manila, the capital and metropolis, with its environs is about the same as that of San Francisco, or somewhat rising of 300,000, and it contains nearly all the inhabitants that are civilized. The foreign commerce with but trifling exception all passes through Manila and amounts to about \$40,000,000

a year. There is but one railroad in the Philippines and it is of course in Luzon.

Probably the exact determination of the question will not be known for some time yet, certainly not till the peace commission has passed upon it, perhaps not even then.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT WOODRUFF.

Under the heading, "Death of a Mormon Pioneer," the Denver Post of Monday has this to say editorially:

"With the death of President Woodruff of the Mormon Church has departed another of the limited number of striking characteristic figures which for half a century have given a distinct tone to the Far West. The number of pioneers of the West is by no means so large that the departure of one should not leave a void in their ranks. Woodruff came from Missouri, and crossing the western border of civilization with his people, went far beyond that border and settled with them in a desert. But they were of the true type of pioneers and it took them no longer than nature required for that purpose to turn the desert into a garden spot capable of sustaining a population many times their number, and incidentally proving to the world that the 'Great American Desert' was fit for something better than a mere pasture for the buffalo and a roaming ground for the Indians.

"But for their untiring energy the Great Salt Lake basin would in all probability have remained for many years to come the uninviting desert which they found it. They placed over a thousand miles between them and civilization in every direction and everything needed to sustain them they were forced to produce themselves. The present generation can have no adequate idea of the privations and sufferings these early pioneers of the West had to endure in their endeavor to open up a new country. Posterity may deal with them more fairly than they have been dealt with by their contemporaries and give them due credit for what they have accomplished.

"While measured by the standard of Brigham Young, President Woodruff had no constructive genius, yet he was of the type and temperament to carry on the great work after it had been well started. For this he was, perhaps, better suited than an abler and more aggressive man."

LOOKING AFTER THE HEROES.

Idealism must be maintained. Those characters of history that are more or less enveloped in the apocryphal past but are still connected with something heroic must be kept in existence, according to the arguments which are now being made. Perhaps this is not when considered as a whole, a bad thing either, since great or worthy deeds that were actually performed but in the misty depths of antiquity might thus be excluded from the pale of credulity. After a great lapse of time during which records have undergone mutation—where there were any records—it is difficult sometimes to determine where facts leave off and fiction begins, and it may be better to preserve something that never occurred if its tendencies be to incite to healthful emulation than to let it go altogether. Take for instance, the patriotic, virtuous impulses imparted by the story of William Tell; yet a great many of our analytical historians regard him as the merest myth.

One of the champions of the doubtful but honorable characters of the

past is Collier's Weekly. It holds that amid the era of heroism we have been passing through, the very existence of a cherished character of the American Revolution (Molly Pitcher) is assailed. Child Harold predicted that an age that doubts Troy may one day doubt even Rome itself. The American people are not prepared to give up "Captain" Molly Pitcher, and her part in that glorious day at Monmouth. Mental anguish has been endured when proofs were offered that Homer never lived, and several times rejoiced at his rescue from oblivion by the sheer force of some intellectual giant. High as Napoleon Bonaparte rose, we have seen that Archbishop Whately was able to logically disprove his very existence. That sort of thing may be tolerated in Europe, but it will not do here.

The Weekly grows rapturous over Molly's exploits, and then switches off to Hobson and the men who assisted him in the Merrimac episode, regarding which some very thoughtful and appropriate words are said, a portion of which are here reproduced:

"Much as every American admires the heroism and patriotism of Hobson, there will be those who doubt the wisdom of putting a ship in charge of a man who has never served as executive or navigating officer. The fact that Hobson was competent and brave enough to run the Merrimac into the narrow channel at Santiago de Cuba does not prove conclusively, it will be argued, that he would be able to extricate his ship from a lee shore in a gale of wind. That is all very well, but Hobson is of the stuff from which commanders are made. Resource, daring, and professional skill he unquestionably possesses, and his accession to the line will be a great acquisition to it. At present, the staff has the hero of the hour in the person of Hobson. The line may truthfully assert that four thousand men on the fleet were anxious to undertake the perilous duty, but the stubborn fact remains that a man from the staff originated and executed the work."

Hall, then, to the eight heroes, says the Weekly, and the "News" concurs; and may their authenticity and that of their achievement never become at all questionable. In this connection the name of one who has been slighted nearly every time the men are named properly occurs. It is Coxswain Clausen, the stowaway, who violated the rules in order to make sure of being one of the party. His is a peculiar case. He is denied a record because he acted without orders and thereby subjected himself to punishment instead of reward. Notwithstanding this, the people have acquitted him in advance; not only this, but given him a place alongside the others, where properly he belongs. The authorities have as yet taken no steps looking to a court martial for him and it will be just as well if they never do take them, no doubt.

The New York World holds that it is not so much a question as to what we are going to do with the 100,000 men that are to be mustered out as what we are to do with the 180,000 that will remain. There is something to think of in that.

The past has been one of the worst seasons for fatalities from heat the city of New York has ever experienced. The temperature of Salt Lake City has been more oppressive than for a long time past, but there have been no fatal cases of over-heat and but little if any prostration.