

remnants of the fathers who entered this land hundreds of years before Christ.

Two days of this exhilarating air and rest as a change from my arduous labors in Chihuahua braced me up so that I am on my way to the Old City of Mexico.

The Mexican Central railroad has good accommodations in the first class.

The weather is hot now, but sometimes cool winds bring consolation.

EDWARD STEVENSON.

SANTA ROSALIA, Chihuahua, Mexico, May 8th, 1892.

### OUR PRESBYTERIAN VISITORS.

OUR Presbyterian friends who have favored this city with a visit have been made heartily welcome, and they depart with the good wishes of the people here. We regret that anything occurred during their stay to mar their pleasure, but rejoice that whatever was disagreeable did not come from the permanent residents of this Territory. There were two incidents of the meeting held in the Theatre on Sunday evening which have occasioned much emphatic comment and received no little denunciation from members of the party, both ladies and gentlemen. The first was this statement made by Dr. W. C. Roberts:

"When I was here before I read an article in a paper which is published in this city which said the sooner the flag of the United States was introduced and dragged in the dust of the valleys of the Wasatch the better."

We venture to say that Dr. Roberts did not read that in any paper that represented the "Mormon" people or their sentiments. He may have read something of the kind in some paper pretending to quote from "Mormon" utterances or to relate some alleged "Mormon" proceedings, but if he did, the statements were misleading and false, and he has totally misapprehended the facts. If he can give us the date of his visit or of the paper in which he thinks he read those words or anything like them, we will undertake to show that in repeating them he has, whether wittingly or not, succeeded in bearing false witness against his neighbors.

The fact that the "Mormons" brought the United States flag here in 1847 and unfurled it in these valleys, when this was foreign soil, that at the same time five hundred of their able-bodied men were carrying it into Mexican Territory as soldiers of the Union; that the flag has been conspicuous in all public gatherings of the "Mormon" people from the beginning; that in 1849 we sought admission into the Union as a State, and have repeated that application, continually, are matters of unimpeachable history. The "Mormons" have never "traded" or "dragged in the dust" the flag of our country, and never desired to do so. And we are ready to stand by this statement anywhere and whenever it may be necessary.

The other unpleasantness was the manner in which the courtesy extended by the aged President of our Church was met in the motion made by Dr. McNiece. The free use of the Theatre was offered for the meeting, as the free use of the Taber-

nacle had been some time ago but not accepted. This was met by the annexed motion:

"That we accept the motion with hearty thanks, and that the messenger be instructed to welcome President Woodruff into the Presbyterian Church when he gives tangible evidence of being a good orthodox Christian."

We should have taken no notice of this poor attempt at a jest, or snap at the hand that extended a courtesy, or sabby effort to make a fling at an esteemed veteran and pioneer in this community, but for the numerous protests which have been made in our hearing by members of the Presbyterian party. Both ladies and gentlemen have expressed their dissent in vigorous terms, and their opinion as to the manners and Christianity of the originators and supporters of this motion.

We are accustomed to receiving this sort of treatment from persons professing to be "Christians," and to be so superior to a "Mormon" that they could not abide the idea of going to the same heaven with a follower of Joseph Smith. So we have no resentment at this intended rebuff nor wish to retort as we might if so inclined. But we are greatly pleased at the many kind expressions which the motion has elicited from members of the party who, while favoring the proposition to return thanks for the Theatre, were opposed to the latter part of the motion, and entertain only the best of feelings towards President Woodruff and the people of these valleys.

We wish our friends a pleasant trip to Portland, a prosperous conference in that city, and a safe return to their homes in the East. We hope they will speak of the "Mormons" as they found us, and not from rumors and stories and ill-natured prejudices, through which the Latter-day Saints and the good people of various denominations have been kept apart and prevented from arriving at a mutual understanding.

There are many eminent and cultivated people in the party, and their good words of encouragement and cheer far outweigh anything of a different character which has been said during their visit. We have welcomed them to this city; may they now depart in peace, and may God bless them in all their efforts to spread truth and benefit mankind!

### A LAWLESS RESOLUTION.

THE action of a majority of the City Council in relation to Sunday barbering has created quite a commotion among the knights of the razor. Tonsorial artists need a Sunday rest as much as any men who work for a living, and a great deal more than some people, for they often work till nearly midnight on Saturday and are entitled at least to equal privileges as regards Sunday rest with others.

The resolution adopted last Friday by the Council is as follows:

Resolved, That the proprietors of such barber shops as may be located in a hotel or in the basement of a hotel, be authorized in so far as the city government may be able to authorize them to keep their shops open from 8 to 11 o'clock a. m. on

Sunday for the purpose only of shaving guests of the hotels and transient persons stopping temporarily in the city.

This is very peculiar legislation. In the first place it is what is called "class legislation." It confers special privileges not only upon one class of workers, but upon one portion of one class, and upon one kind of business houses. Its legality, therefore, is on that account open to serious question.

But there is another and more serious objection to it. There is a territorial statute which has this provision:

"Every person who keeps open on Sunday any store, workshop, bar, saloon, banking house, or other place of business for the purpose of transacting business therein, is punishable by fine not less than five nor more than one hundred dollars."

Another provision of the same law is:

"Every person who performs any unnecessary business on Sunday is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in any sum not exceeding twenty-five dollars."

This is designed no doubt to meet the case of those who do not "keep open" their places of business and yet violate the Sunday statute. As to the time when labor is forbidden, the law says:

"For the purposes of this act, Sunday shall commence at midnight Saturday, and terminate the following midnight."

These sections are in Chapter Seven of the Penal Code, Compiled Laws of 1888, pages 594, 595. They are of effect throughout the Territory. They can be enforced before any Justice of the Peace, and officers of the law, whether of the precinct or the county, are required to see that the law is executed if it is violated.

The barbers of this city, therefore, who do not want to do Sunday work, nor to have the bars let down so as to open the way for it, have some grounds for their announcement that they will proceed against barbers who ply their trade on Sundays.

City Councilors, particularly those who are new at the business, sometimes have an idea that their legislative powers are unlimited. But they have no authority to override a territorial statute. A resolution or an ordinance of a City Council must be harmonious with the laws of the Territory to be valid. The "Liberal" City Councilors cannot set aside a provision of the law by resolution. This attempt, then, to put an entering wedge into the guard thrown around our city by a wholesome regulation, is lawless and void. It is an effort to give a certain special class permission to violate the law. It is likely to prove a snare to those whom it is intended to favor. They had better be careful before dropping into it. And men chosen to conserve and administer the law ought to be very slow in making resolutions that conflict with it. Such steps are indications both of recklessness and ignorance.

The large Brodfox watch factory in Norway was burned down the other night.

About a pound of wood soot to a gallon of boiling water makes a very fine fertilizer of plants.