

ago. Poor creatures, they had only one religion. They were poor, lowly tent makers, fishermen and carpenters. They did not know how to make even one religion in those days, and had to call upon God to provide one for them. They had not sufficient ingenuity to establish another, nor to effect improvement in the old one. But in these days religious science has been the means of creating scores of new religions, and that, too, without God's help; though depend upon it if Peter and Paul, James and John were on the earth today, they would not exchange their old system, which fitted and worked so well in every way, for any that exists in our generation, even with all the others thrown in.

I feel sorry for you, Mr. Editor, in discussing and arguing against evils, wicked men, and measures that existed in the long ago. You cannot help those suffering people now. But hello! what's that noise in the streets awakening me from my sleep? Why, the newsboys calling out the various editions of the newspapers, and informing us of those who have gone down to the "shades of Washington" to tell bad things of the Mormons. Friend, I guess you are right after all. J. F. D.

OGDEN, Jan. 16, 1889.

Our correspondent should take the DESERET WEEKLY, as it comes nearer his ideal of what a paper should be than any other we know of. [Ed. D. E. N.]

STATEHOOD.

This morning the Committee on Territories of the House of Representatives met to hear arguments in reference to the admission of Utah as a State. A formidable delegation of "Liberals" had arrived, under the impression that a desperate attempt was being made to push Utah into the Union at one stride. They found everything quiet, the House in a deadlock, and on the 9th inst., when they supposed this huge effort was to be put forth, only a few members of the committee were present and there was no appearance of war or of any demonstrations in that line. Their coming precipitated the very thing they feared. A day was set for a hearing, and this morning at 10 a. m., the time appointed, Judge Jere Wilson, with Delegate Caine and F. S. Richards, Esq., chairman of the Utah constitutional delegation, were on hand. On the other side were Governor West, E. P. Ferry, J. R. McBride and last, but not least, Patrick H. Linnam, all eager for the fray.

The proceedings did not pan out to suit the opposition, apparently, for Mr. Richards, introduced by Mr. Caine, made an address which created a profound impression and signs of great uneasiness were exhibited by all the liberals, especially the Governor. The following is a synopsis of the argument of F. S. Richards, Esq.:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen

of the Committee: This is the fifth time that the majority of the people of Utah have appeared at the bar of Congress and petitioned for admission as a State. At first we were told that our numbers were insufficient and that we were without the self-sustaining qualifications requisite for a sovereign community, and so we were relegated, by the organic act of Utah, to a condition of territorial tutelage, until we should gain the strength and experience to fit us for the higher sphere of statehood. But in our later applications for admission it has been conceded again and again that we have obtained all that was lacking in the beginning, in the way of numbers and resources, and yet our prayers have not availed to give us membership in the great family of States. I shall endeavor in the remarks which I make on this occasion to show that the withholding of this sacred boon is an act of injustice to a patient, patriotic, industrious and law-abiding people.

And at the outset of my remarks I desire to remind you of a few pertinent facts which history has recorded, in undying characters, upon the annals of the republic.

On the 24th day of July, 1847, when the "Mormon" pioneers entered the Great Salt Lake Valley, all that part of our great nation lying west of the Missouri River was an uninhabited wilderness—a barren desert. These brave men and courageous women blazed the way across prairies, over mountains and through rugged defiles which have since become the great highway of nations, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They opened up this new country and demonstrated that human existence could be maintained in the midst of ruthless savages, ferocious animals and deadly insects. By a system of irrigation, for which they had no precedent, they succeeded in transforming the scene of barren desolation, which met their gaze as they emerged from the deep canyons of the Wasatch, into an earthly paradise.

Through following their example and partaking of their indomitable courage other colonies have been formed and other commonwealths created, until today we can point with pride to five great States and nine populous Territories that have been carved out of the inhospitable wilderness of 1847. So that the "Mormons" have not only been the pioneers of the inter-mountain region, but the pioneers of the Great West, that part of our nation which bids fair to become a controlling factor in the destiny of the Republic.

Nor were these people, who braved the dangers of the wilderness and the hardships of the desert, wanting in patriotic devotion and allegiance to the country which gave them birth. Although driven from their homes in Missouri and Illinois, because of their religious beliefs and practices, they could not quench the thirst for liberty which they had inherited as a sacred birthright from their patriotic fathers, who had gained undying fame and won immortal laurels in the service of their

country during the revolutionary war and the struggle with Great Britain in 1812.

So strong in them was this love of country that it prompted as one of their first acts on reaching the valley—then Mexican soil—the unfurling of the glorious stars and stripes on Ensign Peak, as they poured forth their songs of joy and prayers of gratitude for the Divine guidance and preservation which had carried them safely through their perilous journey in the wilderness. At this time five hundred of their brethren were regularly enlisted in the service of the United States, and were taking an active part in the war with Mexico. At a late date some of these very men became the first discoverers of gold in California, and from them went forth the clarion note which drew a stream of wealth-seeking humanity across the continent in 1849 and 1850.

I trust that you will excuse me, gentlemen of the committee, for detaining you with this brief historical recital. My purpose in so doing has been to show what kind of men our fathers were, and to assure you that the fire of liberty which burned in their souls has been transmitted to their children.

I was born in Salt Lake City, and Utah has always been my home. My great-grandfather was a revolutionary soldier, my grandfather served in the war of 1812, and one of my father's brothers lost his life in the war with Mexico. Will it be said that I have no claim on the sacred heritage of liberty for which these men fought and bled? I mention my own case because it is like thousands of young men in Utah, whose mouthpiece I am on this occasion. We love the glorious institutions of what we believe to be the only government on earth founded on Divine inspiration, and it is repugnant to every impulse of our natures to remain in territorial vassalage, when we know that we are entitled to the rights of freemen. It is for the purpose of convincing you, gentlemen, that we are so entitled that I now appear before the committee.

Mr. Richards then gave in detail particulars of the population, wealth, resources, prospects, and condition of the Territory, showing beyond controversy that it possesses all the material qualifications for statehood. He further explained the extent of the school system and its non-sectarian character.

"Every indication," he said, "points to the speedy growth in Utah of a populous and magnificent commonwealth that will prove a source of riches to the nation and of added glory to this great government. Every requisite to the structure of a grand and prosperous State is to be found in this the oldest of the Territories, which has plead for statehood from its beginning—forty odd years ago. All that is needed now, for its development and full growth into the proportions and prosperity promised by her immense and diversified resources, is a stable government, republican in form, which will give that assurance of safety which capital demands, and will