

of the 24th the Pioneers began planting, first putting in their potatoes. Having planted a few acres they turned the waters of the creek upon their little field and gave the soil "a good soaking." This was the beginning of their vast and successful system of irrigation—since famous throughout the civilized world—which has done so much toward redeeming the desert Basin, and making Utah a veritable Eden in the midst of a barren waste.

Two features contributed to the adoption of the plan of irrigating by furrows, which since has been proven to be the most satisfactory and profitable of all known methods. One was that it was the most feasible plan of getting the water, which was by no means overabundant, to the various parts of the field; the other was the experience that flooding the field often had the effect of baking the soil and rendered the growing crop liable to scorching by the heat of the sun. The events and conditions here recorded show conclusively that the irrigation system of the West had its inception in and owes its development to Utah, and Old World nations have no claim to credit therefor. In respect to that system—"the foundation of the success of future happiness and prosperity of this great western empire"—the honor for instituting and developing it belongs, not to Rome, but wholly to America, the home on earth of the earliest as well as the latest civilization.

#### THE PROBLEM SOLVED.

A subject uppermost in the minds of many at the present time and extensively discussed in the press is, the cause of the inequality existing among men with regard to their temporal circumstances. That some are immensely wealthy while others are comparatively poor, and still others actually suffering for want of the necessities of life, and that this has been the condition as far back in the history of mankind as records go, are stern facts. The tendency of the present generation is to regard it no longer as the unavoidable effect of a natural law—the opinion prevalent in the past among the wealthy, favored few—but as an anomaly, a result of violation of natural laws. Hence an eager desire to find the cause of it and the true remedy.

To a reflective mind it must appear strange that the bounties of nature should be so unequally distributed. Leaving out of consideration altogether the physically disabled, the slaves of their vices and the mentally weak, there still remains a large class to whom life means perpetual toil with but inadequate compensation therefor. Sinbad the Sailor is represented as having met, in his fictitious career, a monster which established itself on his shoulders, compelling him to carry it day and night and driving him with irresistible power from one place to another, until finally by a well conceived strategy he succeeded in ridding himself of the horrible burden. There are millions of such unfortunate beings in the world, carrying on their shoulders the hideous monster of poverty and want, from the cradle to the grave, without ever succeeding in finding the means whereby to throw it off and enjoy independence, but rather

leaving it as the only inheritance to their children after them. This seems a great mystery, especially when it is remembered that the resources of the soil, not to mention the food supply of the ocean, are almost inexhaustible, and that the mechanical appliances for the utilization of these resources have steadily increased in number and perfection. One would think that no human being capable and willing to work would be under the necessity of suffering in this age.

Those who have considered the subject have arrived at various conclusions. It is perhaps but natural that the first impulse among the masses should be to lay all the blame on the government. That is convenient for those who live on agitation and turmoil, like certain birds of prey on the stormy waters, but none capable of a deep thought will allow himself to be carried away with that shallow idea. Governments are generally just as good as the people they govern, and it will not be contradicted that the condition complained of is as much a fact in republican France as in imperial Austria, in monarchical England and despotic Russia, although the circumstances may vary in many respects. To be sure, the position of a ruler or chief executive of a nation is a responsible one and much can be expected of his supposed wisdom and experience, coupled with those of his advisers. But there are storms which the most experienced captain has no power to avoid, throwing his vessel on the destroying rocks, and there are circumstances which no government can control. To blame the latter for all the evils of a nation is unjust and unreasonable. The clamor for its total destruction or partial reconstruction on socialistic lines will therefore be listened to with reserve by all right minded citizens. It is not believed that the root of the evil is in the governing as much as in the governed.

The claim must also be dismissed that the so-called capitalists are solely responsible for the ills of the human race. Of course when a man is in a position to turn over part of his acquired wealth to another on the condition that the latter shall pay it back several times in the form of interest and besides carry all the chances of losses, while the former is amply secured against any loss, an inequality is created which is deplorable and which is the cause of ruin to many. But it is plain enough that the man who borrows is himself responsible for the position in which he is placed. A desire for the luxuries of life beyond his means is often the cause of the debt in which he plunges himself. The capitalist may be a party to the transaction, but no one who fears debt need to rush into it beyond rescue.

If all the various causes assigned for the ills of mankind were carefully examined it would be found that they all can be summed up in one. The human family have departed from the ways of the Lord and launched out upon the sea of life without heeding the heavenly star for guidance. The mistakes committed by the religious pilots are innumerable and palpable. But they are not less conspicuous in every other department of human society. The world is suffer-

ing as a result of the departure of its nations from the principles of true religion. Its politics, its commerce, its social and international dealings are all conducted on principles at variance with the teachings given to mankind in the beginning by the Father of all, and further explained by Jesus of Nazareth, and in this day and generation by inspired servants of God. This is the true cause of all the trouble. Mankind is suffering for its deviation from the truth. Like a caravan in the desert that has killed its only sure guide, it wanders about, following mirages, on the verge of death.

The Saints have been prepared from the beginning to expect the condition now prevailing. They need not be carried away with the many new ideas presented to the world; nor need they fear the outcome. If they will closely consider their mission in the world and conform to the principles laid down in the Gospel they have accepted, they will yet be able to show to mankind a social structure reared after a heavenly pattern, like the Tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness. They will be able to solve the great problem now before the nations of the earth, and give their fellowmen what they are seeking to obtain. By faithfulness to the truth on the part of those who have it, all will finally be benefited.

#### THE SOUTH MINUS HER SLAVES.

A startling statement recently put forth by a recognized authority in statistics, Mr. R. H. Edmonds, editor of the *Manufacturers' Record* of Baltimore, has been exciting no end of notice and, especially in the South, criticism. He asserts in cold plain English that the assessed value of property in the South is today a little less than it was in 1860, a third of a century ago—a condition which, if true, would indicate a retrogression all the more surprising when compared with the enormous increase in every other part of the Republic. Mr. Edmonds's high character for accuracy was the only reason that prevented his statement from being jeered into oblivion, and naturally this has led to close investigation of its correctness and the causes pertaining to it. The interesting fact is thus brought out that the seeming standstill, or even decline, referred to, is due to the elimination of the valuation of the slaves from the record. This important item of property was valued thirty-four years ago at about twenty-four hundred millions of dollars; deducting this sum from the comparison it will be seen that, inasmuch as the decline on the face of the returns has only been slight, the South has really made great progress in industrial growth, and its property valuations are perhaps two thousand millions greater than before the war. It is valuable as a reminiscence of a baser civilization to know just what the human chattels held in slavery's bonds were appraised at when the change was about to come; and it is not without pride that the South can point to the fact that during a little more than three decades, the earlier years of