

## THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

### THE COMING RAILROAD.

It has long been said that what is known as "Mormonism" ought to be overthrown. A means to accomplish this has been sought. Mobbing, expulsion from houses and lands, killing, persecution, and violence of every kind, have been tried; but they have failed. Despite of every thing it has grown and flourished. At last an agency, it is thought, has been found that will bring about the consummation sought for. It is the Railroad. The opinion has been freely uttered and widely circulated that the construction of the Railroad through this country would destroy the "Mormon" organization and be the death-knell of the system. Those who have indulged in this opinion have appeared to expect opposition from us to the Railroad. They have given the people here the credit of seeing some things as clearly as they thought they saw them. They imagined they saw in the Railroad an agency that would bring us to a "civilized" standard, and they have thought that we were aware of it also, and, therefore, dreaded its approach.

How such people will be disappointed when they know that our citizens expect to do all in their power this Summer to grade the road for the rails between the head of Echo Cañon and this valley! It is gratifying to think that we have such an opportunity offered to us. No number of words would have such an effect, as the grading of this road according to contract will have, in disabusing the public mind respecting us and our views. Our protestations die upon the air; but our works live. They are the tangible evidences of our thoughts and views, and speak in a manner that can neither be misunderstood nor disputed. It may be that the world will believe after awhile that we are not afraid of our principles and system being fairly tested in the broad light of day, and that we have no disposition to seclude ourselves or to run into a corner to hide ourselves from scrutiny. We have too much confidence in our system and its great Author to shrink from any trial we may have to meet while in the path of duty.

The Railroad is coming. It is a fixed fact. We intend, as a community, to do all in our power to push it through. We need it; for we can see many advantages that it will bring to us. Some of our contemporaries say that, when it is completed, "Gentiles" will swarm into every part of Utah. But if they do, the railroad that brought them here will carry them out again. If they come here to settle and work for a living, we can have no objections to their doing so; for any man that will come to this country and make a living by honest industry, and not by speculation and fraud, will have no time to break that great commandment, "mind your own business." In every instance, with scarcely an exception, such men are good citizens.

The men to be dreaded are the rowdies, the gamblers, the patrons of drinking saloons, the speculators, the idlers, the men who, too lazy to earn their own living, expect to live in some shape at the expense of the community. Such men are to be dreaded everywhere. They illustrate the truth of the old proverb, that "idle men's brains are the devil's workshops." They hatch mischief and breed trouble wherever they go. Vice and vicious indulgences are congenial to them. Such people think the world owes them a living, and they are bound to have it, if they have to steal it. We have no room for such characters, much less sympathy. Our hatred of their practices is open and undisguised. If we had our way, we would make short work of them. But industrious, peaceable, virtuous, law-abiding men, whatever their faith may be, are not to be dreaded. They are a benefit to a country, and we expect to see the time when such men, disgusted with the condition of affairs elsewhere, will flock here in considerable numbers.

The contract for this grading, which has been obtained by President Young, gives employment to a large class of our citizens, and keeps out from our settlements an element that would be annoying and disagreeable. It has been said that if our city and country were to be infested by such characters as have been so numerous on the line of Railroad east, it would take more men to watch our property and keep that element within bounds than it would to grade the road and perform all the

labor necessary to fill the contract. This is a very truthful remark, as every one who has traveled on the line must admit. Such characters would take delight in making this country, if they could, a pandemonium. Of course we could never submit to such proceedings, and to prevent them would require considerable watching, which, when all the consequences are taken into consideration, would be very laborious and unpleasant. As it is, there is a prospect of our not suffering, to any great extent, from the annoyances which the presence of such characters would bring. In this respect, if in no other, we should view the taking of the contract by our leading citizen as a fortunate occurrence.

### PROSPECTS OF THE PAST—PROSPECTS OF THE PRESENT.

When it was resolved to take measures to send help to Europe to bring out our poor co-religionists the prospects for the success of the plan were not very flattering. As the winter advanced they became less so, for times grew more stringent, money more scarce, and obstacles of various kinds presented themselves to operate against the successful carrying out of the counsel which had been given. Many of the people were in debt, and those who were not had but little means that they could control with which to carry on business and employ others. In addition to everything else there were the grasshoppers, whose deadly ravages in 1855 cut off nearly all the crops; and they were known to have deposited more eggs last Fall than they did in the Fall of 1854. Taking all our circumstances into consideration, and viewing them as men usually do, the prospects never looked more gloomy than they did this Winter and Spring. It seemed as though the entire community was on the verge of bankruptcy.

If we could only raise a good crop, it was felt that it would be our salvation. But what hope was there of our being able to do this in view of the myriads of grasshoppers there were hatched out? It is not improbable that some few thought that the sending for so many poor people and the bringing of them into the Territory at such a time was a very hazardous project. How could they be employed, when there were hundreds already seeking for employment? How could they be fed, when if the crops should fail, there was not enough breadstuffs in the country to supply the present population? Yet there were very many—in fact, the great bulk of the people—who were convinced that the movement for bringing the poor was a wise one, and that it would be overruled for good. They had these feelings and heartily endorsed the plan, not because they could clearly comprehend the steps by which the good would be brought about, but because of their past experience. With them it has been a matter of faith. They believed that the call to send for the poor was from the Lord, and they could not think that if they did their duty, and contributed money to send for them, that He would make their willingness and liberality a means of bringing trouble upon themselves and the immigrants whom they should help.

Although it would be premature at the present writing, while there yet remains a number of weeks before harvest, to count upon our crops as secure, and to indulge in gratulations respecting them, yet we may, without impropriety, allude to the change which has taken place in our prospects. From the extreme north and the far south, and the intermediate settlements of the Territory, we receive the most encouraging reports respecting the crops. A great breadth of land has been planted and sown, and the ravages of grasshoppers thus far have been comparatively limited. We have never had a more favorable season for farming, since our settlement in this country, than the present. Rains have fallen in unprecedented abundance. At previous times when the grasshoppers have eaten off the vegetation, it has rarely, if ever, grown again. Their tooth seemed to poison it. But this year, probably owing to the rains which we have had, the grain has been killed only in very few instances, and where it has been eaten off, the ground could be replanted without the trouble of irrigating. These destructive insects may yet do considerable damage. But their numbers have been greatly decreased. Immense quantities of them have been washed away by the heavy rains which we have had; and it is hoped that, having been favored thus far in preserving so many fields from their devastations, we may be equally successful during the

remainder of the season, and yet reap a plentiful crop.

A great opening for labor also now presents itself. When the immigrants arrive here their services will be needed. There will be no necessity for them to remain idle a single day for want of employment. The construction of the railroad will give labor to all who desire it. Their coming this season will be an advantage in filling the contract, and the securing of the contract offers an advantage in bringing them; as when the railroad company receive reliable assurances that it is the bona fide intention of the men to work on their line, the expense of their passage will be greatly lessened.

There is employment now for all the surplus labor of the Territory for the next five months. The prices offered may not be such as men have been in the habit of asking and receiving of late; but the pay is money, and money is needed to meet liabilities and to free the people from debt. Where the money is due from one to another in the community, it would not take a very large amount, if it were kept circulating, to pay off all indebtedness. Instead of our cattle, grain, flour, butter and eggs and other produce, having to be sent out of the Territory, a cash market can be obtained for these things at home. This will be a double advantage. We will keep our own products to consume ourselves, and the money with which they are purchased will still be in circulation here. If we have good crops, and economy be used in the management of them and the means which will come into the hands of the people, this community will be in a most prosperous condition. Should this be the case, it would almost seem to be more than we deserve, for we have misapplied our means and misused our prosperity, and pursued a reckless course generally. Our prospects to-day are very encouraging, and especially so, as the change in them is clearly traceable to the obedience which the people have manifested to the counsel they have received. This should be an incentive to all to profit by the experience of the past and be more wise in the future.

### REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG,  
at Bountiful, May 17th, 1868.

REPORTED BY EDWARD L. SLOAN.

I have been looking back over my own experience a little, with regard to the religion that we have embraced. I have been asking myself what proof have the Latter-day Saints that they are actually in the path that leads to everlasting life? Have the Saints any evidence that they love and serve God? I will tell you my experience in a few words. Before the gospel came to me, the world was dark and thorny; and I studied for myself to do business as a man of the world. I soon became disgusted with the world as it was, for I found that I could scarcely trust anyone. When the gospel came I found what I wanted. It filled every wish, desire and hope pertaining to this life or that which is to come. I received it and the spirit and life of it, and I have asked myself, while sitting here, what proof have I that I do love God, that I delight to serve Him and build up His kingdom? It is natural to love somebody, or something or other. If you find a person who does not wish to love some object, you would call that man or woman an unnatural person. If I am asked what I love, I would answer "I love this gospel which I have received." "Do you love the wicked?" No. "Do you not like to converse with them?" No. I have no delight in the wicked, in their conversation or society, only to do them good. This proves to me that if I do not love God I do not love any being. If I do not love His gospel which He has revealed in the day in which we live, I do not love any principles upon the earth. If I do not love the people who are gathered out from the nations, who compose the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth, I do not love anybody. If I do not love to talk about our religion and to teach it to others, have it in my house and with me all the time, I do not love anything. If I spend a minute that is not in some way devoted to building up the Kingdom of God and promoting righteousness, I regret that minute, and wish it had been otherwise spent. This proves to me that the Spirit of the Lord is with me.

Our teaching to the brethren and sisters is for them to purify themselves. I shall not ask them to love the Lord our God with all their hearts, it is a requirement of Heaven, and you know it as

well as I do. But I will ask some things. Will our brethren cease using language which they should not use? This is one of the rules in the School of the Prophets. Will the Elders of Israel pray in their families? Will they pay their tithing? We can ask this, for it is an outward labor. If they do not love the Lord with all their hearts, they can pay their tithing, and pay it as an old gentleman in the east said he could do when he was paying a poor man some grain. He said the devil stepped up to him and whispered "scoop out a little." He stood and listened, and something said to him again, "scoop out a little," tempting him. Said he, "Mr. Devil, leave my barn; if you don't, I'll heap every half bushel for this poor man."

They can heap up the half bushel, and send in the butter and eggs for the Public Works, and to feed the poor a great many of whom are supported from tithing; they can perform required labor, if they do not love the Lord with all their hearts; and they can cease to take the name of the Lord in vain. If you say you get tempted to use language you should not use, I will tell you what to do. If you are in the cañon and your cattle are likely to fill you with wrath, fill your mouth with India-rubber and keep it close that the words cannot get out. Do not say a word to grieve the Spirit of God. Cease contending with each other. Keep the Word of Wisdom. There are but few of the Elders now who use tobacco, and our sisters can do without their tea and coffee. They can keep the Word of Wisdom, for many of them do keep it. I only saw one cup of coffee last summer during my trip south, and it was for an old lady eighty years of age. She asked me if she might not take her cups of coffee; and I told her to take it, and blessed her and her coffee. We can stop the use of liquor. We can be wise in our work and not labor beyond our strength. We can cease running in debt and purchasing things that we could do without.

If the Latter-day Saints could look at things as they are, they would see that there is a grievous sin upon this people for neglecting their stock and letting them perish; turn their sheep on to the range for a few hours, and bringing them up and penning them twenty hours out of the twenty-four, until they become diseased and sickly. If the people could see as an angel sees, they would behold a great sin in neglecting the stock which the Lord has given them, for it is the Lord who gives us the increase of cattle and sheep, yet many of the people treat them as a thing of naught. I heard a man say, in 1853, that it was a curse to the people to have so much wheat. He said he could not get anything but wheat for his work. I told him if he did not see cause in this life, to repent his saying, he would yet repent it. These are all the gifts of God; and when we treat lightly His gifts, it is a sign we desire that which we should not possess.

These are things concerning which the people need to be instructed. We should take a course to preserve our lives and the lives of the animals committed to our care. We should refrain from using swine's flesh. We should breathe the pure mountain air in our bed-rooms. We should have lofty rooms, high above the ground, for though this earth is pure, compared with miasmatic places, the air that is above the ground is preferable to that close to it. We should have plenty of pure, fresh air. If children are kept in close bed-rooms, they become puny and weakly. Let them sleep where they can have abundance of pure air, in well ventilated rooms, or out of doors, in the summer time, in a safe place; it will be most beneficial for their health.

In building up the Zion of God on this land we must become very different from what we are now, in many respects and particularly in financial matters. I look at myself and ask myself what have I done to become wealthy? Nothing; only to preach the gospel. Yet I have nothing but what is the Lord's. He has only made me steward over it, to see what I will do with it. I have never walked across the street to make a trade. I do not care anything about such things; I desire to preach the gospel and build up the Kingdom of God. True, I have considerable wealth, but it has not been my wisdom that has put it in my possession. There are many men who are so anxious for wealth, that if they cannot make a fortune in a few months, they feel they are not succeeding according to their desires, and they turn to something else. I do not do this; nor am I anxious to spend a dollar as fast as I make it. Some people feel as if a dollar would burn a hole in their pockets; and you will see a great many almost crazy to spend whatever they have. When they see wheat selling for a price