



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,.... May. 13, 1868.

DESTROYING GRASSHOPPERS.

THE necessity of taking measures to check the depredations of the grasshoppers was discussed at a meeting in the Tabernacle this afternoon. Several farmers related their experience in contending with them. All who spoke agreed that by concert of action much could be done to save the fields from their visits. Many had been successful in burning them; others had tried water; but when driven into the water they floated off to re-appear on somebody else's land. The method which met with the greatest favor was that suggested in the EVENING NEWS a few days ago by Col. J. C. Little, and repeated yesterday by VIATOR in his communication, namely: the fastening of brush on a pair of wheels, and driving over the ground infested by them. This is said to be a most effectual remedy.

President Young explained that though the grasshoppers were the Lord's army, the brethren need not be afraid of taking measures to get rid of them. They should do all in their power to save their fields, meadows and gardens from their ravages. If they killed all that were now here, the Lord had plenty more that He could call whenever He should need them. The following gentlemen were selected to act as a committee to direct the labor of the land owners in clearing the fields and unoccupied ground of the grasshoppers: A. P. Rockwood—chairman—E. D. Woolley, Jacob Weiler, L. Turnbow, Chas. Robson and John Gabbott. The Chairman called the committee together immediately after the adjournment of the other meeting. We feel sanguine that good results will follow this action.

POSTAL INJUSTICE.

Considerable feeling is manifested in Davis County over the news, which has recently been received, that the Stoker Post Office,—Sessions' Settlement—is to be discontinued. We understand a letter has been received from the Post Office Department at Washington, instructing the Postmaster at Stoker to turn over all the Post Office property to the Postmaster at Centerville. No reason, that we have yet heard, has been assigned for this action; but the presumption is that misrepresentations have been made by some persons, in an underhand manner to the Department respecting this office. The citizens of the place had no idea that the discontinuance of the office was contemplated, and the first that was known about it in this city was from one of the stage drivers.

The Stoker Post Office is one of the oldest established in the Territory, having been created upwards of fourteen years ago. The office is in a thickly-settled farming district, the population who depend upon it for their mail matter numbering nearly three thousand souls. The salary of the Postmaster amounts only to the paltry pittance of \$9 per quarter, which amount is much more than covered by the postage on newspapers received at the office. There are as many as 192 papers received there, and many of these are daily papers. The stoppage of the office deprives the Post Office Department of the postage on these papers, which alone is more than sufficient to pay all its expenses, and puts the people to the inconvenience of sending a special messenger to this city for their papers, or coming for them themselves. The Department is put to no extra expense in delivering the mail, for a daily mail runs through the settlement, and can pass the door of the Post Office each day without inconvenience.

We think that rank injustice is being done to the people of that settlement by the discontinuance of the Post Office there. We feel assured that if the Post Office Department had been made acquainted with the facts of the case,

the order would never have been issued for its stoppage. This is a piece of business to which the attention of our Delegate in Congress—Hon. Wm. H. Hooper—should be directed. The people interested should get up a spirited remonstrance and petition, setting forth the facts in the case, and forward to the proper authorities at Washington, and at the same time write to our Delegate. He will spare no pains to have the matter rectified.

WHAT THE RAILROAD IS TO DO!

THE Union Pacific Railroad has a great destiny before it. Not only will it bind the Republic together, and unite the States of the Pacific slope with those of the Mississippi valley and the Atlantic, and make the people homogeneous; but upon it depends the breaking up of what is called "Mormonism"! A great many enthusiastic individuals call it the magnificent instrument to civilize (?) the people of Utah! They hold up the Railroad to our view, and shake it threateningly at us, as a severe pedagogue would his ferule at a naughty scholar. "Only wait, and you, Mormons, will see what will become of you. We'll fix you. You do as you please now; you delude yourselves with the idea that you have rights; but we'll show you when the railroad is completed."

The Chicago *Republican* contains an editorial article, under the head of "Mormonism Doomed," in which the writer congratulates the country on the near approach of that happy period when there will be no "Mormons" to vex and annoy, but when civilization, after the Chicago model, will prevail throughout these valleys. Our readers who are familiar with the morals of Chicago—the most notoriously corrupt city of its size in the Union—can imagine what a change is foreshadowed by the promised introduction of such civilization! While slavery, the editor says, disappeared in a maelstrom of human passions which produced a convulsion that shook the very foundations of the Union, polygamy promises to depart without causing any violent societal upheaval. When the railroad is pushed through, our peculiar institution will be brought continually in contact with hostile influences. These, he assures his readers, are to overflow and engulf it slowly and surely, as the ocean tide envelopes and hides the adjacent shore.

When talking and writing about us and the advancing civilization, this metaphor of the wave is a very favorite one with many speakers and writers. The waves of civilization are to boil and eddy and surge around us and burst upon us and swamp us by their violence and overflow. Of course, to make the figure a happy one for those who use it, the presumption is we are to be very passive, and sit still and let these waves engulf and wash us away! But suppose we should not be so easily overwhelmed and drowned! Waves do not overpower every obstacle they come in contact with. We have seen them lash themselves into fury, and with a noise like thunder, dash themselves against a rock in the ocean; but the rock still stood unmoved, while they broke harmlessly in foam at its base! The waves of civilization—so called—will meet with such a result when they precipitate themselves, as the editor of the *Republican* intimates they will, upon "Mormonism." They may fret and fume, and even get angry and violent; but will fall weak and helpless at its feet.

Men, in reasoning upon our system, do so from their own standpoint. They judge of it by those rules with which they, themselves, are familiar. They cannot do otherwise. All their conclusions respecting it are arrived at in this manner. Now, the editor of the *Republican* doubtless thinks the following reasoning philosophical. He says:

"The frontier towns which spring up with magical swiftness at intervals along its [the railroad's] route, and ripen into cities with the suddenness of Jonah's gourd, are the creation of those adventurous classes, who fear neither the world, the flesh, nor the devil, and who not only are accustomed to startling emergencies, but know, from long experience, how to improvise equally well, measures of protection, resistance or vengeance. These Gentiles will swarm into every part of Utah by the thousand as actual settlers, while thousands of others will constantly pass and repass. A free press [a dreadful misnomer] will be set up in various parts of the Territory, and open its batteries daily upon the iniquity of harem life. Various religious sects will soon erect church edifices, and from these pulpits will go forth mighty influences to destroy Mormonism."

What a programme for us to contemplate! If all were accomplished of which he speaks, he could not describe it

more confidently. But there is a French proverb, the truth of which we have repeatedly proved in our history, that such writers would do well to remember "Man proposes, but God disposes." He evidently makes no calculations on any interposition of the Almighty. We do. We are not frightened by big words nor formidable threats. Our system has already endured some very severe tests. From every ordeal it has come forth brighter and stronger, its members possessing greater faith and more self-reliance than before. We should be disappointed if we did not have to come in contact with these hostile influences and civilizing (?) agencies which he describes—border ruffians, men who fear neither God, the flesh nor the devil. Isolation may be more pleasant on many accounts than to be surrounded by such elements. But in isolation we shall not gain the strength, confidence and self-reliance we require to prepare us for the destiny which awaits us. No; we must endure the shock of opposing influences, and of the result there is no room for even the shadow of a doubt, if the people will only be true to the principles they have espoused. Those principles are truth, and in this age, truth must prevail.

Adventurers may come and go, licentious, corrupt presses may publish, church edifices, containing pulpits filled with bigots, may be erected; we shall neither tremble nor object. This is a free land, and while we have power in it, we mean that it shall continue free. So free that every man can think and speak and act as he pleases, so long as, in so doing, he does not intrude upon the rights of his neighbor. Men, if they do not like the "Mormons" and "Mormonism," can so express themselves. They have done so before; it is probable they may do so again. Words break no bones. But they must keep hands off. That's all.

Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY, }
April 26th, 1868. }

BROTHER GEORGE Q. CANNON:

Dear Sir,—Having lately received a letter of some interest respecting Palestine from an old friend of mine, Mr. Von Buren, of Berne, Switzerland, and knowing that anything that transpires in these days, showing the fulfilment of the prophecies respecting the latter-day work in that country is interesting to many, I translate from the German the following from the letter above mentioned.

Your Br. in the Gospel,
JOHN GERBER, Sen.MANVILLE, Jefferson County, }
Indiana, March 18th, 1868. }

DEAR FRIEND GERBER:

After a long silence and absence of several years, I feel to write you a few lines. Since I wrote you last, I went twice to Europe, and was, during the last winter, four months in Palestine, whither I went for the purpose of informing myself concerning the state of things in that country, and to convince myself that the gathering of the Jews, out of many countries, into the land of their fathers, has in reality already commenced; and that the Lord has again restored to that country, the land of Israel, the rain and the dew, the early rain and the latter rain. The latter came again in 1853, to the astonishment of all the inhabitants.

I know of no country where the climate is so delightful or the soil so fruitful. Although the land as yet lays waste and uncultivated, still it will become again as the garden of Eden. Jerusalem rises by degrees, cultivation increases, and the Jews settle wherever they can, according as they have received permission from the Turkish government to return and possess property.

During my stay I had my headquarters at Jaffa, from which place I made excursions into the surrounding country, and formed an acquaintance with many Jews.

There is no winter in Palestine. During the whole year men can sow and plant. I have never eaten better or larger grapes than I did there.

SALT LAKE CITY, May 8, 1868.

Editor *Deseret News*:—Having returned last evening from a two weeks' tour through the settlements north as far as Malad City, I. T., I pen a few brief items for the perusal of your numerous readers who are interested in the advance of our pioneer settlements.

Since I visited Malad City, last June, the population has more than doubled,

This, like many new settlements, was laid out at random, but it has lately been surveyed, and extended to higher ground, and overlooking the broadest part of the valley, which improves its appearance. The blocks are laid off, like those in this city, containing ten acres each, with eight lots of one and a quarter acres each in the block. H. Peck's saw mill has already turned out good lumber, and there is timber accessible to supply all demands. On the first instant, ground was broken for a rock grist mill, that is expected to be ready for an abundant harvest; for which there are excellent prospects, as no locusts have appeared in the valley, and there has been a considerable breadth of land seeded. The season is not so forward as in Box Elder, Weber and Davis Counties.

In these counties the crops look excellent. Some Fall wheat near Farmington is knee high, and corn, cane and potatoes are coming up well. The people throughout the settlements are well, and desire to improve and beautify their mountain homes. They are seeking to keep the Word of Wisdom, dispensing with tea, coffee, tobacco and strong drinks, and preparing to substitute for swines' flesh more healthful kinds of food.

EDWARD STEVENSON.

HOME ITEMS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY

CORRESPONDENTS writing for publication are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Correspondents' names must in every instance accompany their communications, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of reliability.

MORE INDIANS.—The following telegram to President B. Young, we have been courteously favored with:

Scipio, May 8.

PRESIDENT YOUNG:

Four Indians made a raid last evening and drove off fifteen head of horses. Our men pursued, fired on the Indians, and recovered nine head of horses. They go in pursuit to-day.

J. B. MARTIN

WITHOUT IRRIGATING.—The question has been several times asked in our hearing, Can not grapes be raised here without irrigating? It is rather an important one, for if it be correctly answered in the affirmative, there is much land that is now comparatively valueless through the difficulty or impossibility of getting water to it, that could be immediately utilized. It is not so absurd a thing, nor so unfeasible, as some might think. In portions of California where grapes are grown extensively, and where the summer season is said to be as dry as it is here, large vineyards are cultivated without being irrigated; and some of the richest California wines come from those vineyards. The grapes are planted sufficiently wide to allow of a cultivator passing between the rows either way; and the ground is also kept loose by the frequent use of the hoe. There is, by pursuing this course, sufficient moisture absorbed to feed the vines; and hundreds of acres are thus utilized that would otherwise be laying waste. If our bench lands, lying northeast and east of this city, could be thus brought into productive use, it would be a very important matter indeed. Our seasons have lately become more rainy too, and a heavy dew falls here now in the summer season, which makes the idea more feasible. Some of our grape growers might test the matter by cultivating two or three grapes during the season without irrigating, giving them every justice by constant hoeing and keeping the earth loose around them. In this way the question could be practically answered, and if in the affirmative with very excellent results.

IS IT SENSATIONAL?—The number of Indian outrages recorded in our exchanges and said to occur east, west, south and north, indicate either a most extensive and simultaneous movement of the savages upon the whites, or a disposition to manufacture sensational items, with an object. Scarcely a paper reaches us from Montana or Dakotah but contains the statement of one or more Indian tragedies. That the aborigines are troublesome, and that they steal stock and murder whites are beyond all question; but there are some indications that their raids are exaggerated in numbers and atrocity. The *Cheyenne Leader* of a late date has a letter from Fort Fetterman, dated 17th April, which contradicts a statement made, that those who hold the post were in a precarious condition through being surrounded with Indians and every avenue of escape being cut off. The writer characterizes the statement as absurd; says they are not surrounded, nor cut off; nor are there any Indians in their immediate vicinity to cause them any alarm. The same exaggerations and incorrect statements may have been made in other instances. If an Indian excitement, sufficiently large, can be got up, more troops may be ordered to the plains. If so, they would have to be fed, with their animals. And such a contingency presents prospective views of nice little contracts for hay, grain, etc., which would help to swell individual purses, and relieve Uncle Sam of a few more of his superabundant greenbacks. We do not say that it is so, for we do not know; but either such is the case, or the Indians are on the "war path" in greater numbers and over a wider extent of country than heretofore so early in the season. One thing that favors the idea here thrown out, is the fact that the stage coaches do not seem to have any difficulty on the route. If the Indians are anything like as bad as reported, they have kept away, thus far, from the stations much more than formerly.

Down.—Flour is down, as we expected, and the little excitement about high prices has passed away. It was sold to-day for seven cents, and retailed freely for seven and a half.

THUS IT GOES.—From the *Helena Gazette* of April 30th, we clip the following little item:

"We have let two issues pass without noticing the arrival from Salt Lake City of seven mule teams, loaded with the produce of Utah. This little train unloaded at Murphy & Stevenson's on Bridge street."