

beginning — strangers may well ask with surprise, why have they not been known? Good sense will teach every man that a people having such bad traits as have been ascribed to the Latter-day Saints cannot change them in a few days, weeks or years. A murderous, dishonest, cruel and wicked people cannot be changed in a brief period to be a people of the very opposite character. A man of this description may be changed, though very rarely; but an entire community, never. With a community such traits are ineradicable.

The world will yet perceive this. The true character of the Latter-day Saints will yet be known. Lies may obscure it; misrepresentations concerning a Mountain Meadow massacre, a Dr. Robinson murder, or some other alleged atrocity may pass current for years; but the truth will break through and be known and the refuge of lies will be swept away.

GEORGE Q. CANNON.

MONTEZUMA LAND.

COLONIA DIAZ, Mexico,

Jan. 9th, 1893.

The weather in these parts is warm and summer-like and all kinds of outdoor work are going ahead fully as well as at any season of the year. So far as climate is concerned we have plenty of it and of a quality that is not easily excelled in any part of the world; but with some other things we are not so well supplied.

Farming facilities are not numerous in this part of the state and our colonists have acquired but a very limited portion of the little there is. As yet all the colonies are drawing the great bulk of their bread supply from the Mexican farmers in the neighborhood of Casas Grandes, and of course are paying such prices as they choose to impose. The outlook for raising our own bread in sufficient quantity is not yet very promising, the main reason for this being a lack of water for irrigation at the places where the colonies are situated. Several attempts have been made to purchase an interest in the lands and waters at Casas Grandes with a view to bettering the agricultural condition of those who desire to make homes here. The colony of Dublin was founded in that vicinity, and lands were cheap and owners desirous of selling, but owing to certain adverse circumstances over which the promoters of that enterprise had no control, the matter has met with but indifferent success up to the present.

I am fully convinced that the day is not far distant when the large reservoirs in that vicinity will be utilized, and by the storage of the high waters and the inaugurating of a better system of cultivation the producing capabilities of that naturally fertile district will be multiplied many times, and then, and probably not until then, will the poor of these colonies feel as though their bread were secure.

On a recent visit to the city of Chihuahua I had an opportunity of conversing with a number of mining men, and find that as a rule they are doing well. One reason of this is that they mine considerable gold as well as silver, and the Mexican laws being

liberal toward the miner, he feels like he can get along here as well as in any part of the world.

The small rebellion of the people of Tomadit near Guerrero in the western part of the state culminated about the 19th of November last; about five hundred people were killed in all, of these about three-fourths were soldiers, the rest being the residents, among whom were some women and children. It is difficult to understand the reason for this desperate resistance on the part of the people to the authority of the government. It is of course claimed by many that it was oppression on the part of the government; but as everybody else seems to get along well with the officials and to do about as they please, it seems strange that one small community should be so oppressed. The most likely explanation of the affair and one that is well authenticated by people dwelling in the vicinity, is that it was prompted by religious enthusiasm. A prophetess is said to have spent some time among the people previous to the outbreak and worked them up to resist the government. While the affair is much to be lamented, yet it is difficult to see how the government could have acted much different from what it did, and any other government would have done about the same under like circumstances. There was no alternative — either the government had to conquer or back down. It is generally believed, however, that the management on the part of the military officials was bad, and that a short siege instead of storming the stronghold would have saved many soldiers, as well as some of the rebels, and would have been more creditable all around.

It is generally thought in these parts that the supposed revolutionary movements on the border along the lower Rio Grande county are much exaggerated, and that Yankee newspaper reporters want no better subject for a sensation than the raiding of a few discontented individuals into Mexican territory.

More soon,

GEO. M. BROWN.

ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Congress, or at least a goodly portion thereof, is just at present making a concerted bluff on the silver question. With a great flourish of trumpet bills for the repeal of the present silver law have been favorably reported to the House and to the Senate, and people who only look at the outside of things may believe that the silver law is really to be repealed or modified. But those familiar with the undercurrents of things Congressional know that the passage of either of these bills would be the greatest of surprises to Congress, individually and collectively. The reasons for this make-believe policy are easy to locate. The principal one is Mr. Cleveland's desire to have the silver law repealed, or at least that portion of it compelling the monthly purchase of 4,500,000 ounces of silver. This is the lever that makes the Democrats active; they wish to stand well with the incoming President in order that their constituents may not get left out in the cold. The Eastern Republicans

are naturally inclined to be opposed to silver, and in addition they are being stirred to activity by the great business interests of the big cities, which are loudly demanding the repeal of the silver law. This being the situation, why will there be no silver legislation? is a natural query. Simply because, leaving the House out of the question entirely, there are enough senators who will oppose it to prevent its going through the Senate, and the men who are making the loudest noise on this question are perfectly aware of that fact, as any one else may be who cares to take the trouble to interview the Senators of all parties from the South and the northwest; they make no secret of their intention to defeat silver legislation, and even if they cannot control an actual majority of the Senate they can easily, under the Senate rules, talk the proposed bill to death, and, mark the prediction, they will do it, if a serious attempt is made to pass it, which is doubtful.

There is some very plain talk in the minority report of the House committee on commerce, on the bill authorizing the interstate commerce commissioners to allow railroad pooling in their discretion, which was prepared by Representatives Lind of Minnesota, and Mallory of Florida. "It is," the report says, "the first measure that ever received the sanction of a committee of the House to make legal and enforceable at law contracts for the division of traffic. It proposes to legalize railroad wrecking and stock speculations by authorizing not only agreements for the division and apportionment of earnings among the carriers themselves, but also by authorizing the carriers to divide and apportion these among other carriers. Under these provisions stockholders will be as much at the mercy of railroad managers as will the public. The Standard Oil company, the dressed beef combine and other monopolies can obtain rebates by contracts enforceable in the courts, instead of by stealth as heretofore. The bill takes away the only safeguard that we have had heretofore against railroad extortion." If an attempt be made to pass this bill there will probably be some still plainer talk on the floor of both House and Senate.

The House has put itself on record as favoring the election of Senators by direct vote of the people, by passing the joint resolution authorizing the change, but if the determined opposition by the Republicans of the House is an indication of the position of the Republican Senators on the question its prospect for getting through the Senate is not so good as its friends might wish it to be.

Senator Peffer not only wants Senators but also President and Vice-President elected by popular vote, and he made a long and able speech on the subject this week, showing that he had made a deep and careful study of the subject. His speech lost much of the attention it might have received, because of the arrangement of business before the Senate, which compelled him to deliver it in sections, as it were, a little every day for several days.

The Chicago people who are here in the interest of an amendment to the World's Fair act of the last session of Congress, permitting the opening of