

## EDITORIALS.

## CURTAILING THE UTAH RESERVATION.

We are in receipt of a copy of the bill, now pending in Congress, to return to the public domain a portion of the Utah Reservation, and of the report of the House committee on Indian affairs, recommending its passage. The latter document explains at some length the character, objects and intended effects of the bill, and the reasons for the committee's favorable report upon it. It recites the discovery of the mineral substance called Gilsonite, from which asphaltum is produced, and the locating of the mine by certain citizens of Utah. At the time the discovery was made and the mine located, the locators, the officers at Fort Du Chesne, and the Indian agent on the reservation, supposed the mine to be outside of the reservation. A careful survey, however, disclosed the fact that it lay about 1000 feet inside the reservation. The report says:

"Inasmuch as these deposits are the only known deposits of this mineral in the United States, and a new industry was developed by their discovery, it is deemed advisable to restore to the public domain a small portion of the reservation on which the veins are located. This action has been recommended by the present governor of the Territory in the interest of the general public as promoting the general welfare. His views are concurred in by other prominent citizens of the Territory."

It is further represented in the report that the Utah Reservation embraces 2,059,040 acres; that that portion of it which embraces the Gilsonite mine is a sandstone desert, unfit for agricultural or grazing purposes, and is unused by the Indians for any purpose; and that it is proposed to restore to the public domain only 7,040 acres.

The bill provides that the locators of the mineral deposits heretofore discovered on the tract to be restored shall have priority of right to secure their claims; that the price of twenty dollars per acre shall be paid for them, and for like claims located on the tract in future; and that the proceeds shall go to a trust fund for the benefit of the Indians on the reservation. The bill is not to take effect until ratified by a three-fourths vote of the male adults among the latter, and the Secretary of the Interior is required to submit it to them.

The suspicion that the well known longings of stockmen and would-be-settlers to get possession of a portion of the fertile lands embraced within the Utah Reservation, which was created by reference to the above bill in the telegrams from time to time, is thus removed. The measure is designed only to throw open for development the deposits of Gilsonite which have been discovered in one corner of the reservation, and the fact that the Indians will get twenty dollars per acre for all the land to be possessed by whites, will go far to offset any objections that might be made to the passage of the bill.

A dispatch this afternoon states that the bill has been signed by the President.

## A MIGHTY LABOR.

THE completion and dedication of a temple is a link of the Gospel chain which connects the living and the dead together by a bond of holy union. It causes joy and rejoicing on both sides of the veil, extends the dominion of God and curtails that of Satan.

This extension is visible in its operations among the Saints, whose minds are naturally directed with increased intensity by such events as that which recently occurred at Mantle, toward their progenitors. They are stirred in their hearts with the spirit of Elijah, directing their thoughts and desires toward the fathers. The visible result will be that many who have probably been indifferent in that respect will push the labor of searching for genealogical information, that they may enter the House of the Lord and perform baptisms and other sacred ordinances for the dead who passed to the beyond without having had the opportunity of hearing and embracing the Gospel in its fulness in mortality. Thus will the work go forward with increased impetus on the earth and in the spirit world.

The prosecution of this God-given labor has a preservative effect, causing the heavens to smile upon those who engage in it; otherwise, in accordance with the declaration of Malachi, the earth would be smitten with a curse. The Prophet Elijah having been sent, however, and in the Kirtland Temple, conferred the keys of turning the hearts of the children to the fathers and the fathers to the children, the earth is preserved. The building and dedication of temples and the work for the dead performed within their sacred pale proves demonstratively that the keys were not only bestowed, but that the spirit of that department of the Lord's work has a deep abiding place in the hearts of the Saints, manifested by their works.

There are other effects connected with the extension of the dominion of Christ here and in the world of spirits, the contemplation of which may not be quite so pleasing. The powers of dark-

ness do not propose to yield an inch of ground without a determined struggle. Advancement and activity on the part of the Saints, especially in relation to the redemption of the dead, as a rule is met by a corresponding activity on the part of the powers of evil. Consequently the Saints need not be disappointed should there be an awakening in that quarter, in unexpected shapes. But the assurance remains that if the people will keep along in the lines of truth and righteousness such attacks, providing they do present themselves, will not prevail, and will merely result in the accumulation of power among the Saints and their assuming a higher plane than heretofore occupied. The work of the Lord will advance as does the individual Saint, line upon line and precept upon precept, increasing by every species of experience. There is indeed satisfaction to the righteous in every pathway trodden, even if it be through tribulation, for when victory is reached the joy is greatly intensified by the struggle undergone to attain it. Its fruits are sweeter than if they had been obtained comparatively without effort, which latter process, however, does not appear to be compatible with the genius of the divine economy.

Some of the honest in heart are inclined to be disconsolate because they are unable to participate to any great degree in the ordinance work connected with the redemption of the dead, and look upon others as much more fortunate than themselves in that respect. They are perhaps unable to catch the genealogical thread which leads from them up to the line of their ancestry. If such will make all the effort within their power that is all that the Lord requires, for no mortal can do more. For the rest they must trust in God, in whose hands is the power, when the proper time comes, to make all the communications necessary to enable all needful labor for the dead to be performed.

As was related at the recent dedication, people who have had no connection with the Church have been stirred by the Spirit associated with the bestowal of the keys upon Joseph Smith the Prophet that were held by Elijah, but they knew it not. Their hearts have been turned to the fathers, and they have, by assiduous research, provided a great amount of genealogical information, relating to lines of ancestry which have representatives in the Church, and the work has thus been extended by unwitting instruments. Doubtless that class of people, who have traced and published genealogical records have, together with the work performed by the Saints, aided in the preservation of the earth from being smitten with a curse. They will in the development of the divine economy, obtain their reward in connection with those whom they have benefited to an extent they know not of.

As the work in connection with the dead progresses, as it will, the partition between this side of the veil and the other will become proportionately thinner. There will be a closer condition between the workers on one side and those on the other, and thus the facilities for the furtherance of this grand operation of connecting the families of mankind together under the plan and order of the Gospel will be increased. There need be no despair among the faithful in regard to their particular cases, so long as they do their part. But the sluggish and indifferent will not be entitled to the facilities that are in the hands of the heavens to bestow. And when such pass beyond the veil they may possibly be liable to reproach because of having done nothing for those who preceded them and whom they could have represented.

The heavenly manifestations heard and witnessed by many who attended the late dedication services at Mantle have caused much talk among the people. Such spiritual experiences are in unison with the character and objects of a house of the Lord. They will develop as time rolls along and progress is made, until the promise of the Lord to the faithful is fulfilled—that all who purify their hearts and keep His statutes shall behold His face and hear His voice. These things admonish us to eschew the spirit of the world and cultivate the Spirit of the Redeemer.

## A METEOR IN CHINA.

CHINA has recently been the scene of phenomena of a very startling and destructive character. Thousands of the inhabitants of that country have within the last few months, been destroyed by earthquakes, and, according to one statement, five millions have perished by floods. In one locality, from rents and chasms made in the surface of the earth by internal commotions, there exuded water colored with blood. The Canton River, by changing its channel, deluged a vast tract of densely populated country, destroying in a few hours, the population of several large cities and numerous villages.

An event lately happened in that unhappy country, which, though not destructive to life or property, seems to have created widespread awe among the populace, the highest governmental officials being affected by the feeling. This was the appearance of a remarkable meteor. It was of a globular form, its diameter being more than half that of the full moon. Its color was a brilliant white with a violet tinge, and it was followed by a long

train of light continuing nearly thirty seconds. A few days after it was first seen, which was at Tay-Ninh and Saigon, the chief official of Tay-Ninh received a letter from the chief official at Triem-Hoa, announcing that in the village of Than-Duc—south of Tay-Ninh—an uncommon animal had appeared, its advent being accompanied by rain and peals of thunder. "The animal had returned to the sky!" It had, however, left behind traces of its presence in the form of a hollow place in the soil 65 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 13 feet deep. The official felt that it was his duty to make a report of the extraordinary phenomenon.

Further investigation showed that the meteor had touched the earth at the point referred to, and, scooping out a hollow in the ground, as described, had bounded away into space, to fall a great distance from where it first touched the earth. The point where it finally alighted has not been ascertained. China is being made of late the scene of remarkable events.

A French scientific journal, *L'Asronomie*, publishes the facts relating to the meteor, which are reproduced with comments by the *Scientific American*.

## THE "STAYING QUALITY."

THE death of another of those valiant and capable men who bore the heat and burden of the day in doing battle with the formidable obstacles that confronted the Church when it was seeking, under divine direction through human instruments, to gain a broader foothold on the earth in its earlier stages, reminds us that we are in the midst of momentous changes. A retrospective glance over the history of this peculiar work will enable the intelligent Latter-day Saints to group a large number of important occurrences that have taken place in a surprisingly brief time. Many of them are intimately associated with the departure from this sphere of action of some of the most heroic spirits that ever graced the world. We are impressed with the fact that the last few years have been strikingly fruitful in that regard.

One special lesson is taught the present generation by the examples that have been set by the brave men whose lives have been a constant struggle with apparently overwhelming opposing forces—the value of unflinching tenacity to truth and honest conviction. It is the under current of a noble character. Without it the individual is like a house with a flimsy foundation built upon an uncertain site. He may build a handsome and comely structure, but a powerful storm arises that tests the stability of the materials on which it stands. It gives way, the whole edifice becomes a chaotic ruin, and its beauty vanishes in an hour.

Let the lives of the heroes of the last dispensation be scanned and it will be seen that this undeviating peculiarity is, under the divine blessing, their greatest quality. It is that enduring element that enables them to continue the race to the end, and entitles them to a realization of the saving promise of the Lord. They take it with them to the eternal world, and on the firm basis laid in mortality they continue on the road of everlasting progression, going forward step by step until all heights, breadths and depths are theirs, reaching ultimately the highest destiny of man based on the purpose of his creation.

Such men are worthy the highest respect and esteem. They are not only benefactors of the human race because of the beneficent results of their acts in the cause of truth, but also on account of their examples, which are emulated by others, and thus the sum of good is increased. They beget their likeness in their fellow men, and the emulators are as branches spreading outward from the parent trunk which they provide.

A man's mortal life resembles a book, and this is probably true in an actual sense. The record should be in harmony with itself from the opening page to the closing sentence. The subject writes his biography by his acts. If he has trusted in God and been inspired by a steady purpose the pages will not be marred with black and unsightly blotches; neither will it be incomplete but present a harmonious whole. It will be pleasant for the subject himself to read and for others to peruse. It inspires the latter to make a similar record.

It is gratifying to note that many of the youth of the community are awakening to the necessity of placing themselves in a position to take a capable part in carrying onward to the full fruition of triumph the work that the veteran heroes of the last dispensation, under divine guidance, have carried along to the present point of advancement. In connection with this desire they should ever lose sight of the need of cultivating that greatest of all traits of greatness, integrity—that continuing quality that tolerates no departure from stability, come what may. The Gospel race admits of no stepping aside from the track.

## AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES.

COGNATE truths support one another, and the more of them that are brought together the stronger does the mass become. The Book of Mormon being a true history of the ancient inhabitants of the American continent, is sustained and confirmed by all of the

accurate knowledge and reliable discoveries which have been brought to light in relation to American antiquities. Hence the more light thrown upon the latter subject, the more proof there will be of the truth of the record brought forth by the Prophet Joseph Smith. It is gratifying to the believers in that record to note the progress which is being made in the direction of a scientific vindication of its contents.

We have heretofore published references to the work of an archeological expedition which has been operating in Arizona, under the patronage of a wealthy lady of Massachusetts named Mrs. Hemenway.

Relative to the work of this expedition an eastern exchange says:

"Many thousand relics of the prehistoric races, which have been dug up near Tempe and Phoenix, Arizona, by a scientific expedition under the direction of Frank H. Combing, are on their way east and will be stored at Salem, Massachusetts, where an iron building has been erected for that purpose. The objects include pottery, stone utensils and weapons, ornaments and skeletons of men and animals. There are also drawings and photographs of the ruins, and of the ancient picture writings and maps of the places visited. The expedition has been at work for over a year, their expenses being paid by Mrs. Mary Hemenway, who has long taken an active interest in archeological research in this country. It is conjectured that Mrs. Hemenway means to establish a museum where the specimens may be kept and exhibited permanently. Such a museum would certainly stimulate the interest in American antiquities, which already gives signs of being keener than ever before.

The result of the establishment of such a museum; and of a scientific examination and investigation of its contents, would be the throwing of light upon the history and civilization of ancient America, and thus the claims to credence of the Book of Mormon would inevitably be strengthened.

## APPROPRIATE AND BECOMING.

WE ask any sensible, consistent Latter-day Saint whether, after viewing the chaste, beautiful, yet simple decorations at the funeral of Apostle Erastus Snow, he does not come to the conclusion that they are vastly more appropriate for funerals than the usual concomitants of such occasions? Why should the faithful who depart from this life be surrounded by the emblems of gloom, which can only tend to deepen the sorrow of bereaved relatives and friends in place of pointing their hopes and thoughts to the glorious condition of those who fight the good fight of faith and retire behind the veil to continue to labor in the cause of redemption until all enemies are put under the feet of Him whose right it is to reign? It is too often the case that while the aim of the speakers at funerals is to comfort and console, the general surroundings are of a nature to produce the opposite effect. Consequently, the substitution of white for black at the services of Apostle Snow should be appreciated. The former color is suggestive of shadow, while the latter is the symbol of light and purity, emblematical of the hope and assurance of a glorious resurrection.

Nothing could have been more harmonious with the tastes of Brother Snow than the floral decorations. He delighted in flowers, his fondness for them amounting with him to a passion. He frequently watched little children as they came trooping down the cañons with bouquets of wild flowers they had gathered from the hill sides. As he looked at them he would exclaim "God bless the children with their flowers."

Besides the appropriateness of the decorations, the simplicity of the entire surroundings as a whole was a marked feature of today's occasion, including the casket of native wood, neatly embellished. It was similar to that which enclosed the remains of the late President Taylor. We have always been opposed to anything having even the semblance of ostentation at funerals, and have thought that in this respect our people have occasionally exhibited too much anxiety to imitate the fashion of the world. Some even go to elaborate and needless expense to gratify this sentiment, which we do not regard as in keeping with the genius of the Gospel as embraced and understood by the Saints. We hope to see a reformation in this regard, and think that the exceedingly consistent character of the embellishments and other surroundings at the funeral of Brother Snow will have a salutary effect in that particular.

The committee of arrangements have done their duty competently, and the ladies who manipulated the department of floral decorations exhibited a taste that could hardly have been excelled. They are, Mrs. Priscilla Jennings, Mrs. Priscilla Staines and Mrs. M. Barratt. The draping, which was also executed with commendable taste, was done under the immediate direction of Brother Henry Dinwoodey.

Thomas Mann, aged 70 years, living on Dry Creek, who was kicked by a horse a few days ago, was brought to town and died shortly after arriving. The horse struck him in the forehead and the blow fractured and raised the whole top of the skull.—*Boise (Idaho) Democrat*.

## SKELETONS FOUND.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Sallina, Sevier County, on the 26th inst., states that a Mr. Pollard, a prospector, lately found, in a cave on Lost Creek, a stream flowing into the Sevier River, four skeletons, the remains of a man, woman and two children. With these human remains in the cave were pieces of clothing, which, so the correspondent states, on being put into water, revealed blood stains. A tin cup, a string of beads, pieces of a parasol and other articles were found in the cave. At or near the cave was also found a cache, which had been opened and robbed of its contents. In the same vicinity were also found five other skeletons, and pieces of clothing with them, which proved beyond doubt that the remains were those of white people.

At the time the correspondent wrote, no investigations had been made by the authorities for the purpose of discovering the identity of the dead people, or the cause of death, though the supposition is that this will be done. As is well known, during the Indian troubles incident to the early settlement of that portion of the Territory, numbers of people, who had fled to escape from Indian attacks, or who had been subjected to raids, were missed, and their fate never discovered. A plausible theory in relation to the skeletons found on Lost Creek is that they are the remains of white settlers who fled to a place of refuge on the occasion of an Indian raid, but were overpowered, slain and robbed.

## RAILROAD SCENERY.

A Round Trip Ramble to Denver via the D. & R.G. and U. P. Rys.

Editor Deseret News:

Possibly no railroad has been better written up, more elaborately described or pen pictured than has the little giant of the Rockies—the D. & R. G. As a matter of course parties who are paid to work up the points of interest are not guilty of underestimating all that is wonderful. One often looks for the stupendous rocks and frightful chasms that flowery writers weave into their descriptions, after the style of a view of Cape Horn on the Central Pacific that can be seen today where the railroad winds around a mountain of Cotopaxian height and majesty; when in reality 1400 feet is the total height from the valley to the road bed. The lack of truth spoils all our calculations when we seek to find the pictured marvels seen on the usual advertising boards.

Enough can be said of the pleasures of travel over the lines just passed over to make such an outing truly enjoyable, and always tell the truth. "There is beauty all around" when we seek for it. This and lightning express trains are not the true methods of seeking health, pleasure and an intelligent change.

If you have no means of getting a pass buy a ticket and make up

## A SMALL SOCIAL PARTY

of congenial spirits; provide such luxuries as you wish, or if you do not want to be annoyed with a provision chest, take chances at the eating stations, which are all good. Take as little baggage as possible. Provide yourself with fishing rods and necessary baits for trout fishing, and take your ticket, first over the D. & R. G. returning via the U. P.

Scene 1:—Salt Lake and Utah Valleys; buy some fruit at Provo or Springville; encourage home enterprise.

Scene 2d:—Spanish Fork Cañon—Red rocks—steep grades, beautiful vistas of cañon and river—charcoal kilns—coal trains. Soldier Summit, so called for the reason that Johnson's army passed this point when they returned east. Good hunting on the mountains, good fishing in Pleasant Valley; cool atmosphere in summer. Stay off a day or so, and look at the coal mines at Scofield, reached by a branch road.

Scene 3:—Enter Price Cañon. A roaring river of the same name is on your right—pine trees and deep gullies. Wonderful rock quarries all around you, enough to build

## THE FUTURE PALACES

for Utah's boomers, all of the most acceptable quality. The cañon deepens—the waters roar. The shrill whistle of the engineer is shouting "clear the track" as we wind around the rocky points, with half of the train out of sight. At times the front cars are hanging over the river, while the rear ones are leaning towards the bank.

Scene 4:—We are approaching Castle Gate, noted for its abrupt, rocky, almost perpendicular cliffs, the highest 500 feet. As we are whirled along the effects are kaleidoscopic and all beautiful. This may be said to be the first real object of scenic curiosity on the west end of the D. & R. G. Western. East of this point and out on to the plains is a continuation of abrupt rocks towering up to dizzy heights. Coal abounds in this region. The rocks are old and time worn, with a plentiful supply of timber to hide up their nakedness.

Scene 5:—We have passed through the mountains. Price, a thriving town, is reached. Farms are seen along the river. The patient granger is wrestling a living from a country that looks as poor as a crow. Canals are being built. A townsite is laid out and many of the hardy pioneers from Utah's Dixie are