

responsibilities be created to be met by the younger generation, requiring different qualifications in some respects, this spirit, this faith, this enthusiasm for the kingdom of God that distinguished the first heroes is now and will always be indispensable in the work of God. For this reason the influence of the fathers and mothers in Israel, who are still left among us by the providence of God, is an inestimable boon, provided the Saints earnestly seek to obtain as the most precious inheritance their spirit of devotion to the cause.

Profane history tells us that the Apostle John was miraculously saved from death—having by the command of Roman authorities been plunged into a vessel of boiling oil—and spared to the Saints of his age. According to Jerome he at last was so weak physically that he had to be carried to the assemblies of the Saints and when there could only say: "Love one another, my children." Yet his very presence in the Church was a power against the anti-Christian tendencies that threatened destruction. He was one of the bulwarks against which the attacking hosts spent their energy in vain. Others were inspired by him to stand firm to the banner of the beloved Master, and in this way the apostasy was delayed until the purposes of the Almighty had been carried out. The veterans among the Saints today may be regarded in a similar light. That they have been preserved so long, notwithstanding all they have passed through, is a sign and a pledge that the Lord's purposes with regard to His Saints in this age will be carried out according to the promises given His servants.

NOT DOING THEIR BEST.

The agriculturists and stockraisers of Utah have been receiving great credit for the work they have been doing and the system they have followed which has brought them such success in the development of this western country. These words of commendation are deserved in very many instances, yet it cannot be said that the farmers and stockgrowers, and perhaps others as well, have been doing their best under the system outlined for them. They have had the advantage of co-operative experience; and a highly important factor in their success has been the practical teaching of the leading authorities of the Church, who, noting an improvement in one section, or an advantage that appeared in one man's methods, have carried the suggestion of advancement to other parts and have given it public explanation, so that their work in this regard has been that of closely observant teachers who have disseminated knowledge freely and bounteously. Yet in all respects the people have not applied these valuable instructions to their full extent, and therefore have not reaped from mother earth the richness they might have obtained.

An illustration of this point may be made by contrast with the work of some people elsewhere. A few days ago there were sold in Chicago a fine lot of lambs sold at the Minnesota university experimental farm. The price paid was a little more than \$6.25 per head. These lambs were reared in

the southern part of the state, and were purchased for experiment by the state farm. When fed up they were sold in Chicago at six cents per pound, live weight, the highest price paid in that market this winter, up to date of sale. They were a magnificent lot of lambs, averaging 112 pounds in Chicago, although they were not yet one year old when disposed of. These weights are not very far behind those obtained for two year wethers reared on the range. The experiment was very profitable in its results, which suggest the thought that if the experiment station could produce 112 pound lambs under a year old, other people can do as well. The lesson of improvement could also be carried to other animals than sheep.

There has been much discussion of "intense farming" of late; and there is no question that it would show as much advance over many present conditions as did the "intense" idea when applied in the instance quoted. There are some agriculturists here who follow the idea, with almost marvelous results. It was a case of that kind which won for Utah the first prize in wheat growing over all the country, when William Gibby, of Farmer's ward, on his farm a mile south of Salt Lake City, took the *American Agriculturist* prize of \$500 for the highest yield to one acre. It is the same with regard to a Utah county farm of forty acres, where scarce a weed is to be seen, so carefully is it tended, and where all available land is cropped to its full extent. Bountiful, Davis county, also affords illustrations of the same class among the well-to-do market gardeners there; and so do other places that might be named, where small areas and high cultivation bring better returns than large tracts loosely tended.

The instances of good work cited give ample proof that in falling a long way behind the returns noted in these cases, many Utah people are not doing their best by any means; and they are proceeding thus to their own loss. The agitation of these questions is timely, and taken in connection with the need for immediate irrigation organization among the people to preserve their water rights intact, the work in the rural districts should be for an advance along the whole line of agricultural industry, that in the future it may be said of us, what cannot be claimed for the past or present, that we are doing the best we can with the means at our command.

FROM OTHER WORLDS.

The question of the origin of destructive epidemics that suddenly appear upon the earth and carry off its inhabitants has received additional light lately by scientific researches. The idea is now advanced by a writer in the *Medical News* that not only the "black plague," "spotted fever" and similar diseases recorded on the pages of history, but also typhoid, diphtheria and the recent plague, the grip, may be accounted for satisfactorily on the theory that they are of cosmic origin, that is, due to germs of disease transferred to the earth from various other planets by means of meteoric dust encountered in space.

The writer argues from the generally

admitted fact that thousands of tons of meteoric matter are annually precipitated on the earth and that this is permeated with life-germs. Darwin described a shower of strange organisms covering an area of over a million of square miles. In a fall of yellow snow in Germany at one time investigation revealed the presence of myriads of germs. In 1846 a shower of microscopic organisms was observed in France and a multitude of forms were found entirely different from any known species on earth. In 1803 Italy and most of Southern Europe had a similar shower. It is now contended that these organisms cannot all be of terrestrial origin but must be produced somewhere else in the planetary system of which our earth is but a small part.

Many of the germs from other worlds reaching our globe are dead, supposedly on account of the low temperature of the space, but others survive and revive under more favorable surroundings. Thus in the fourteenth century, the "black plague," as it is called, suddenly came upon the world, carrying off nearly fifty millions of inhabitants. The epidemic spread faster than any means of communication on the lines of commerce at that time could convey it. It seemed to be everywhere, on land and on sea. "The impure air," says an old record, "was actually visible as it approached with its burden of death, and a dense and awful fog was seen in the heavens." Peculiar clouds have on several occasions been observed at times of destructive epidemics. If now the supposition is accepted that they are caused by cosmic germs, the widespread character is accounted for. The sudden cessation is also rendered clear by ascribing it to the earth swinging out of range of the meteoric dust carrying the germs, which, not finding proper environment on this globe, cease to multiply and consequently die out.

The theory here briefly outlined is certainly plausible enough to merit scientific investigation. There is nothing improbable in it. The universe, notwithstanding its incomprehensible vastness, is but one great creation. Its various parts are closely connected, affecting each other in many ways. Why, then, should not, by means of the invisible bridges that span the abyss between the worlds, influences both for life and death be communicated? Science in this advanced age will not deny the possibility thereof, whether the reasons so far advanced can be considered conclusive or not.

THE CONFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS.

The Sixty-fifth annual Conference of the Church, which adjourned Sunday afternoon, has been a time of refreshing and rejoicing to the Saints who were permitted to attend its sessions. The instructions given, by those called to address the congregations truly were inspired of the Almighty, for the edification and sanctification of the people. The Church authorities expressed themselves with clearness and force upon those topics which are of deep concern to the Saints everywhere; and among those who attended the meetings there were the spirit of unanimity.