

What a few Hardy, Industrious People Have Done.

TUCSON, A. T., Nov. 2, 1877.

During the past few years there has been a great deal written and said about the movements and intentions of the Mormons, and most that has been said has been merely sensational rumor. At one time they have been represented as about to move in force to New Mexico, and by their industry and enterprise it was anticipated that they would soon possess a large portion of the rich lands of that Territory, and in their triumphal march the long-continued sleep indulged in by that people would be broken. It was also said that Governor Axtell was in active sympathy with this movement; that he was a Mormon in disguise and a bishop in the Church. Subsequent events have proved that the Mormons had no such designs, and that Axtell is neither a Mormon nor a bishop. Again, it has been published that they were about to move in force on to Mexican soil, and that the States of Sonora, Chihuahua and Sinaloa were first to be occupied by them. But so far no move in that direction has been made, further than the sending through those States a few missionaries. The facts about their colonization schemes are nearly as follows: They have missionaries constantly in foreign countries laboring mainly to convert the poorer classes. They find these classes generally in abject poverty, and oftentimes in destitution and want. The missionary appears among them poorly clad, meek and lowly in spirit, and in their poverty expresses the deepest sympathy. He reveals to them by degrees the new religion, and points to them in glowing colors a land beyond the sea where the Saints congregate, where every man can become a freeholder, and sit beneath his own vine and fig tree, and enjoy the fruits of his own labor. To move those who become converted to the land of the Saints, an ample fund is provided by the Church. It is, therefore, no wonder that thousands of converts are made among the toiling, down-trodden masses of Europe. It is no wonder that they look upon the missionary as one sent by Divine providence to rescue them from poverty and distress. One of the chief corner-stones of their faith is to increase and multiply, and in this branch of their faith they are sustained by the Bible, and are stimulated by every one in authority or influence in the Church, great care being taken to secure health and vigor in the rising generation. In this way the maiden and mother are surrounded by such influences, and have been subjected to such education that it becomes a pleasing and popular duty to obey the laws of nature, and it is estimated that among the Mormon people each healthy woman becomes the happy mother of ten children to rise up and bless her name. Aside from the polygamy doctrine of the Church, which I loath and despise as contrary to decency, humanity, justice and the laws of nature, still, some of the ideas entertained and practised by the Mormon women might be emulated with profit by those outside of the Church. The love of home and of home duties, the pride and joy of becoming mothers and the love of children, if more indulged in by the fashionable ladies of America, more health to them would be secured, and more enduring happiness would be obtained than by following the changing fashions which, with youth and beauty, must pass away, leaving nothing to cheer old age but remorse and regret.

Thus it is by this system of immigration and propagation Utah has been filled, until it now becomes necessary to find a new field for the surplus population, and Brigham Young, a number of years ago, turned towards Arizona as the natural outlet for the new swarms that manifestly must leave the old hive. Exploring parties were sent out, and reported in favor of starting the first settlement near the northeastern corner of Arizona on the Little Colorado River. Accordingly the advance guard were sent out about four years ago, but they did not prove to be good pioneers, became homesick, abandoned the enterprise, and returned, much to the displeasure of Brigham Young, for he saw the necessity for a new field, and with his usual tenacity he determined that there should be no such word as fail. He therefore

told his people that a new colony must go to Arizona, and he called for volunteers, stating that he wanted only those who would look straight ahead, with no thought of turning back. Elders Lot Smith, George Lake and Balfinger volunteered, and during last year about four hundred men, women and children, under their leadership, settled in Arizona. They brought with them seeds and teams, a few cows, pigs and chickens and some vine and fruit trees. In March, 1876, they selected a location and the next day commenced planting their vines and fruit trees, and as soon as temporary shelter was made over their wives and little ones, they commenced the construction of irrigating canals. From early morning they toiled, the elders taking the lead and shirking no hardship. Then their crops were planted and promised well for an abundant harvest, but unfortunately one of their large dams gave way and their crop was almost a failure. But they were not in the least discouraged. Teams were sent to Utah for fresh supplies, and by fall they had constructed comfortable store-houses and had a good saw-mill in successful operation. They had no money, and to pay their taxes and other expenses that required money, they sent delegations to neighboring settlements to work until the necessary means were raised. The most prudent economy was practised. They do not use ardent spirits, tobacco, tea or coffee, and claim that to abstain from these is no privation, as it saves a useless expense, and is conducive to health. This year they have profited by the experience of the past, and have constructed dams that are substantial, have raised most excellent crops, have erected a flour mill, have taken sheep on shares that will supply more than enough wool to clothe them, and soon intend to start a woolen mill. Their fruit trees and vines are flourishing, and it is only a question of a very short time when they will supply other parts of the Territory with fruit, while other sections of the Territory, more productive, have been under continuous cultivation during the last century, and are still destitute of fruit.

I have mentioned in detail the progress of this little colony more to show what a few determined men can do, if they will, and with the hope that it may stimulate some of the many thousands of poor people who cling to the cities, where labor is in excess of the demand, and obtain a precarious living, and who, in their poverty, endeavor to shift the responsibility on some one else, when, in fact, with strong arms and willing hearts, there is room and to spare on the unoccupied lands of the United States for every unemployed laborer, where he can not only make a living for himself and family, but can become a free independent man, a king over his own domain, where no one can annoy or molest him, so long as he performs the part of a good citizen and obeys the laws. But some one will say he is poor. How can he go to these new fields? Who will pay the expenses? I will guarantee that the larger portion of the unemployed men of America, if they will practise the same industry and economy that the members of this Mormon colony do, before one year is over will accumulate sufficient means to carry them to where unoccupied lands are free. Then it may be asked how are they to live until a crop can be raised. I answer by a continuance of this same industry and economy. There is not an agricultural region in the United States but where industrious, frugal people can rent land and have seed and teams furnished. At the same time they can take up lands for themselves. In this way the poor people from Germany have mostly commenced, and they usually become wealthy, with nothing but their hands to commence with.

It seems to me that this a practical way for the poor to benefit themselves. They certainly cannot do it by following the advice of demagogues, whose soft hands indicate that they are strangers to labor, and who have no sympathy with the poor, except to control them for selfish purposes. They cannot do it by burning and destroying the property of their more fortunate neighbors, because, when the fire king has reduced it to ashes, and the winds have blown it away, nothing is left to benefit either the rich or the poor. And,

in this connection, let the poor man consider how he would like it if he should emigrate to a new country and, by industry and the strictest economy, accumulate wealth, should get broad acres of land, erect stately houses, and possess cattle upon a thousand hills, and felt himself secure in the enjoyment of his hard earnings in old age, and war should be commenced upon him by all those who had been less successful, whether the failure of success resulted from indolence, dissipation or mismanagement. This is a fair illustration, and pertinent, because most of our wealthy men have made value from nothing. And the history of the country shows that the second generation is about as sure to spend wealth as the first was to accumulate it. Therefore there is no danger of an aristocracy of wealth. But don't destroy the property, for the rich man's son is almost sure to spend it, and if the poor man's son will profit by experience, and will take the advantage of the reckless extravagance of the rich man's son, before the second generation passes away the poor boy will become the rich man, and the rich boy will become the poor man. This will not be accomplished by an envious heart, which is made because others prosper, nor by one who expects the world to support him without any exertion on his part, and who becomes sour with the world if the living is not a good one.

But I have digressed too far from the subject. In carrying out this policy of opening a new outlet for crowded Utah, a Mormon settlement has this year been started on Salt River, and another on the San Pedro. These settlers claim that they have come here with the full determination of obeying the laws. They are upright in their dealings, kind and obliging to their neighbors, hospitable and generous to strangers, entertaining with the best they have all who visit them, without compensation or reward. It is evident, if the Mormon Church adheres to these principles, that Arizona will before very long contain a large number of its disciples, and it is not improbable that they may become a controlling element in this Territory. It is also quite evident that their next movement will be into the neighboring State of Sonora. They have already made some attempts towards proselyting the Mexican people. Last spring a Spaniard of the Mormon faith baptized six Mexicans at Tubac, but as soon as the Holy Fathers here learned that a wolf had found his way among the flock, one of them made all haste to Tubac, and such a rumpus was raised that all the converts except one renounced the new faith. But in the State of Sonora there are seven women to one man, and the time may come when they will conclude that the seventh part of a man is better than nothing.

A. P. K. S.
San Francisco Bulletin.

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