

poor, neglected, outcast. They lost their books in the early wars. They were driven to the mountains, away from educational and business centers, because they protested against slavery. There are no infidels among them, although lawlessness abounds.

The lowest forms of civilization in the mountains are the clay-eaters. These people eat clay with a relish, and the only bad effects seem to be the pale, death-colored skin and stunted growth that result. The children who eat clay grow old prematurely, and the glow of youth leaves them. They are utterly without ambition, listless and indifferent of all conditions, present or future.

The clay is found along the banks of the mountain streams in inexhaustible quantities, and is of a dirty white and yellow color. It has a peculiar, oily appearance, and the oil keeps it from sticking to the hands or mouth. When dry it does not crumble, and a little water softens it until it can be rolled into any shape. The clay is tasteless; but it must possess some nourishment, as those people claim they can subsist on it for days without other food. They place a small piece of it in the mouth and keep it there until it dissolves and slowly trickles down their throats. It is eaten in small lumps. The appetite once fully developed for clay means that the victim is a clay fiend for life, its insidious hold equaling the opium habit.

Y. M. M. I. A. MEETING

The Stake superintendency of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of the Salt Lake Stake met with ward officers of the county district at the Murray school house Friday evening. The opening prayer was offered by President W. H. Brown of Hunter ward. Roll call showed that there were thirty-three members present, representing all the associations in the district excepting Buttrillville, East Mill Creek, Granite, Herriman, Riverton, South Cottonwood, South Jordan, Wilford and Granger. The last named forwarded an excuse for non-attendance.

Supt. Lyman said that whatever action was taken at these meetings would be held as binding on all associations alike. When it was decided that these meetings should be held monthly it became the duty of every president to see that his association had at least one representative at each meeting. In order for the best results to be accomplished it would be necessary for the Stake superintendency and the ward officers to keep in close touch with one another. If any of the officers do not like the methods used by the superintendency and their associates, they are invited to make any suggestions for improvement at any time and the same will be gladly received and duly considered.

Supt. Lyman also said that arrangements are being perfected whereby every association in the county district will be furnished with a lecture each month, the same to be given on Sunday evening. The date will be arranged to suit the circumstances of the several wards. He also spoke of the Improvement Era, stating that now is the time for action, and urged the presidents to immediately make a thorough canvass in behalf of the same.

Discussion brought out the fact that a majority of those present thought it would be better if collection week (for the collection of the Improvement fund) were made the middle of December instead of the third week in November. Supt. Lyman cautioned the presidents against trying to collect this fund from those whom they

knew were unable to pay the same, but said that those ought to pay who are able to buy dance tickets.

The meeting then resolved itself into a class, with Counselor Joseph F. Merrill acting as instructor. He conducted the class through a portion of the second lesson in the Manual, commencing with the birth of Abraham. He gave a short sketch of the political condition of the Israelites down to the Babylonish captivity. By means of questions he then emphasized the important periods in such a manner that all present secured a good idea of the leading facts connected with the subject. At the close of the lesson a short discussion of methods was indulged in and President J. P. Terry of Draper was appointed to conduct the next lesson upon the fourth lesson in the Manual. All expressed themselves as being greatly benefitted by the meeting, and after benediction by Elder A. E. White of Sandy, the meeting adjourned to meet again Dec. 3rd in the Murray meeting house.

J. B. HIGGS, Secretary.

WORK IN GERMANY.

Breslau, Germany, Oct. 18, 1897.

We take the liberty of apprising you and the many readers of your valuable paper that the work in this part of the Lord's vineyard is progressing in a very encouraging and satisfactory manner. We have had the pleasure of adding three good honest souls to our branch last month and live in hopes of performing more baptisms in the not far distant future, as there are many who are energetically investigating the truths of the everlasting Gospel.

We are endeavoring to do our part in warning the inhabitants of this large city before the coming judgments of Almighty God and in disseminating seeds of truth and righteousness by tracting, holding public meetings (which are well attended) and preaching the Gospel wherever an opportunity presents itself.

We hope that the readers of this will oblige us by forwarding the address of any relative or friend they may have. Ever praying for the welfare of Zion and the work of the Lord throughout the earth, we remain your brethren in the Gospel of Christ,

W. CRAGUN,

JACK L. DERRICK,
Graebischener, Str. 49th, Breslau, Germany.

RUM IN COLONIAL DAYS

[From the Brockton Times.]

The power of rum as a commercial factor in the colonies was at his height about 1750. That year the royal treasury report gave sixty-three distilleries to Massachusetts turning molasses into rum. This formed the store for about 900 vessels engaged in various branches of trade—400 in cod fishing, 200 in mackerel fishing, 100 whalers, etc. Newport keeps pace relatively with Boston. Refuse codfish paid for much of the molasses.

Connecticut attempted to prohibit distilling because it made molasses scarce, but the prohibition was very hastily stopped when citizens found that business went where rum could be obtained. Rum proved the best New England commodity in all trading choice. In fact his only acceptance, as payment for his peltries, it was chosen with equal eagerness by the Virginian or Carolinian in exchange for his tobacco. The Newfoundland fisherman wished it in return for codfish, and, most important of all, on the Guinea coast New England rum entirely vanquished French brandy as a medium for acquiring slaves. The commerce in rum and slaves afforded all

the ready money that paid for any merchandise in England. It was the driving power of all commercial machinery. The circuit was powerful and very steep. The Yankee vessel laden with home-made rum sailed to the African coast. The rum was bartered to great advantage for negroes. The negroes were carried to the West Indies and sold at large profit, and the distillation in New England and Boston started afresh the round of New England money-making. Sometimes trade was so brisk that the market was stripped of rum.

In the year 1572 Isaac Freeman wanted a cargo of rum for the African trade. He sent to Newport, where there were then thirty great rum distilleries in full blast. His correspondent wrote that he could not have it for three months. "There are so many vessels loading for Guinea we can't get out hogsheds of rum for cash. We have been lately to New London and all along the seaport towns in order to purchase molasses, but we can't get one hogshhead."

The shipmasters were not above watering the rum to make it go as far as possible. Old Merchant Potter instructed his captains to "trade with the blacks, worter ye rum as much as possible and sell as much by short messur as you can."

LEPROSY A HUMAN DISEASE.

The active cause of leprosy is a specific micro-organism, the bacillus leprae. The period of incubation varies from a few minutes to several years.

Two principal types or forms of leprosy that are recognized as the brunt of the disease are determined toward the skin or toward the peripheral nervous system. The first form is termed tubercular; the second, anesthetic, or nerve leprosy. In the first form infiltrations occur in the skin, forming nodules or tubercles, which are especially prominent about the forehead, cheeks and ears; later, these nodules break down, forming ulcerating sores; often they occasion pictures of horrible deformity. The tubercular form is the most severe and rapidly fatal; the average duration of life is from five to ten years. In the anesthetic form the nutrition of the skin is interfered with from implication of the nerves, leading to contractions and deformities of the members; not infrequently there is marked mutilation from the sinking in of the nose, the loss of the sight, and the dropping off of the fingers and toes, so that only the stumps of the hands and feet remain. In this form the course of the disease is slower, and life may be prolonged to ten or fifteen years, or longer. Some patients exhibit the characteristics of both forms (mixed leprosy).

Leprosy is an exclusively human disease; it is not inoculable to animals. It is never of spontaneous origin, but is invariably derived from the lesions or secretions of a person similarly diseased. Its development in a country previously exempt from the disease may always be traced to its importation in the person of a leper from an infected center. We know nothing definitely of the mode of infection or the channels of entrance through which the bacillus gains access to the organism—whether by direct contact by inhalation or imbibition of the germs, or by other intermediaries. Observation proves conclusively that every leper is a possible source of danger to all with whom he may come into intimate and prolonged contact.—From "Leprosy and Hawaiian Annexation," by Dr. Prince A. Morrow in North American Review for November.

Omaha Stockman, Nov. 8: Robert Reeder of Logan, Utah, marketed three cars of cattle.