

sail under "close-reefed topsails" until they are in smooth waters, with all the sea room they can ask; and from all our friends who are of the great body, that they will not cease their efforts at extricating themselves from the bondage of indebtedness, so that when stock-taking comes again the balance sheet may be in their favor. They will thus secure an independent business condition—one without incumbrance to them, their families or their posterity. May this be the realization as well as the promise of this eventful year to our Territory or our coming State!

Written for this Paper.

MORMONS IN MEXICO.

From a warm friend of the NEWS, G. H. Snell, Esq., of this city, but now traveling in the southern countries of the North American continent, we have received the December 21 number of *The Two Republics* published at the City of Mexico, containing the following interesting account of Mormon colonies in the land of the Aztecs:

The following particulars regarding the Mormon colonies of Mexico have been obtained by a *Two Republics* reporter from Mr. S. C. Bentley, a very intelligent colonist of the colony of Juarez. There are five colonies altogether, four being in the state of Chihuahua and one in the state of Sonora, all being within a radius of about 100 miles.

The first colony established was the colony of Diaz in the state of Chihuahua, which has been in existence about 7 years. The lands are situated 70 miles from Casas Grandes and 4 miles from La Ascension. The colonists number about 700. Irrigation is resorted to, the water being obtained from springs and by means of windmills. The colonists manufacture brooms from broom corn, which are sold in Chihuahua, Durango and other places. Among the other products are honey, corn and cattle. One flour mill has been erected and another is being built. Lately, an artesian well company has been formed for the purpose of obtaining more water, which has already commenced operations. The colonists own one threshing machine and several mowing machines, and a new reaper has recently been introduced.

The colony of Dublin consists of about 300 people, and is located about four miles north of Las Casas Grandes, on the river of the same name. Water for irrigation purposes is largely obtained from the river, and windmills are also used to increase the supply. Wheat, corn, barley and oats are the chief cereals raised. Cattle-raising is an important feature, the land being well suited for stock. Butter and cheese of very fine quality are produced. A new roller mill has recently been established, embodying all the latest improvements. The colonists own two threshing machines, two reapers and several mowing machines.

The colony of Juarez was established, about six years ago, some ten miles southwest of Las Casas Grandes, in the state of Chihuahua. Their land is somewhat mountainous.

Irrigation is resorted to all the year round, water for the purpose being

tolerably plentiful. Fruit, including peaches, grapes, apples, plums, nectarines, strawberries and blackberries, etc., is freely raised. A cannery has been established, not only for the purpose of preserving the fruit but meat as well. The colonists have two shoe shops, a tannery, grist mill and brick manufactory. The bricks manufactured are for the purpose of building their houses. They also possess a harness shop, threshing machines, reapers and mowers.

About five years ago the colonies of Pacheco and Cave Valley (really one colony) were established on the top of the Sierra Madre mountains, where famous old caves are found. This was, some years ago, the stalking ground of the Apache Indians. Seven of said Indians visited their ancient haunts a little more than a year ago and brutally murdered a woman and her child belonging to the colonists. Her husband had left his house one evening to start work threshing next day some distance away. The woman and three children remained behind, the latter consisting of two boys and a girl. The children, soon after, started out to feed some pigs. While thus engaged the Apaches fired upon them, instantly killing one of the boys and wounding another. The mother, thereupon, came out of the house, when she also was fired upon, and afterwards her head was beaten in with a big stone. The little girl all this time remained unharmed, and while the Indians were maltreating the mother the wounded boy took his sister into a chicken coop, where they hid themselves. The Indians subsequently made search, but were unable to find the children. The brutes then looted the house and took away all the horses they could lay their hands on. After the Indians had departed the little children crept out of their hiding place to get to their nearest neighbors some six miles away. On the journey the boy faltered from loss of blood and was unable to proceed further. The little girl, however, went on her way, soon met a colonist, and told him what had happened. A vigorous pursuit of the Indians was at once made, but none of them were overtaken, although all the stolen horses were recaptured. This is the only trouble the colonists have had with the Apache Indians, and since its occurrence, all the houses have been fortified with stockades, etc.

The colonists own two saw mills and shingle mills and supply lumber and shingles for 100 miles around. Pine is the principal timber. Potato raising is carried on with great success, the tubers being of excellent quality. Oats, and some barley, are raised. Irrigation is unnecessary.

A colony of from 300 to 400 people has also been established in Sonora, which is doing exceedingly well, but Mr. Bentley was not in possession of details concerning it.

The colonists spent over \$7,000 last year in purchasing machinery, wagons, etc. They do all the corn-cutting and threshing for their Mexican neighbors. They have also introduced short horned Durham cattle and Holsteins as well as horses for the purpose of crossing and improving the native stock. They contemplate raising alfalfa for their cows. They raise fine merino sheep.

The colonists individually own their holdings, but they co-operate for the purpose of establishing stores, purchasing and working threshers, erecting and working factories, etc. The co-operation, however, is voluntary.

Good schools have been established and among the subjects taught the Spanish language is included. Children above 8 years of age are expected to attend the schools, but they are not compelled to do so.

The colonists and the natives are on remarkably good terms, and the prospect of the colonies is so good as to encourage the Mormons to extend their colonizing efforts. Most of the colonists come from Utah.

Want of transportation is their chief drawback, the nearest railway station being Gallego on the Central railway—about 120 miles away. Had the Deming to Chihuahua railway (the concession for which has recently been declared forfeited) been proceeded with, it would have run through the lands belonging to two of the colonies and near the others.

Y. M. A CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Young Men of Israel,

Dear Brethren:—The manifest interest taken in our systematic course of instruction, as shown by the calls for advanced lessons, is very encouraging, as it bespeaks careful home reading and preparation, weekly progressive class exercises, and general advancement of the entire associations, which are truly strong educational factors in the midst of the people and therefore direct aids to the local and general authorities of the Church.

This universal system of education, through our young men, is carried to every home in the land, and only requires proper recognition and application to bring about the results for which the associations were established, namely, testimony of the truth, development of the individual capability, and a practical knowledge of Theology, History, Science and Literature.

For the benefit of those associations that have completed Part 1 of the Manual, sets of lectures are prepared and published in the current numbers of the *Contributor*, the direct organ of the associations and exponent of the thoughts of our young men. We thus call attention to these advanced lessons that there may be no cessation of interest in the line of progressive related work.

Your Brethren and co-workers,
WILFORD WOODRUFF,
JOS. F. SMITH,
MOSES THATCHER.

General Superintendency of Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association.

William Francis Perry, past master of Live Oak Lodge of Oakland, (Cal.) Free and Accepted Masons, has been arrested on a charge of felony and embezzlement. The plaintiff is on the board of trustees of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, and the sum which it is charged he has misappropriated is in the neighborhood of \$6,000. Perry is a real estate man doing business in Oakland.