

dian fashion, around a dirty blanket spread on the ground. When the windows of heaven are opened and the rain descends, it is quite another matter! Then all not on duty retire to their leaky dog-tents, to squat or lie on the wet ground and pass the time as best they can. In these peaceful days there seems no need of sentinels pacing the quiet street in a pouring rain; and if "discipline" must be preserved at any cost of life and comfort, is not Uncle Samuel rich enough to provide each of his soldiers with a rubber blanket? If not, the people at large in the United States would be glad to supply the deficiency. A very small portion of the money we have invested in feeding ungrateful Cubans, would have furnished our boys with comforts which would no doubt have saved many precious lives.

When their disagreeable duty is done, the wearied sentinels crawl under their tents and lie down on the sodden ground in their rain-soaked clothes—thus inviting malaria to assist the chilly dews of night and the fierce rays of the noon-day sun in engendering fever. But these men are "immunes," you say. Immune from what—from the natural conditions of the climate and from all the ills to which flesh is heir? Yellow fever is among the least of dangers to be avoided in Santiago—for while it has reaped its hundreds during the last few months, malaria, dysentery and other diseases induced by improper living have been garnering their thousands in the Campo Santos.

FANNIE BRIGHAM WARD.

A VISIT TO THE STATE PRISON.

Salt Lake City, Oct. 11, 1898.

Through the courtesy of the Hon. Secretary of State, with a party of friends from Cache valley, I visited the Utah State prison. In former years I had visited the pen in the old adobe structure, which was bug-infested, inconvenient and ugly from any point of view. It has fortunately been replaced with a modern prison in every sense of the word. As one approaches it he is at once struck with the neat appearance to the place; instead of a rough yard, there is a beautiful lawn surrounded with a substantial fence, and everything on the outside has a neat and clean appearance.

The warden and his efficient aids receive you with every kindness and spare no pains in showing you every nook and corner of the prison. The inside is as clean and neat as the outside. The cells were inspected and found in many instances adorned with pictures according to the taste of the occupant; every cell on each corridor can be locked at once and the neat and clean appearance of everything in and around the new State prison was a wonder to our visitors from the country who had never seen the inside of a prison.

There are about one hundred and eighty persons imprisoned here, and out of a population of two hundred and fifty thousand in the State of Utah, this is a very small per cent indeed. And it must be remembered that a large per cent of these criminals are non-residents of Utah.

Another good feature of this prison life is seen in the appearance of the prisoners. They all look healthy and have the appearance of being well fed. There is no lounging around the yards in large groups, either smoking, playing cards or idling away their time, but the buzz of machinery is heard in every room, and the click of the knitter's hammer. The sound of the shoemaker's hammer, the tailor and other occupations too numerous to mention, show a change not only for good in the prisoners, but also making the burden of the taxpayers much lighter.

The kitchen is a model of neatness, and the bread would be welcome on any table in the land. From the laundry to the library everything is well stocked, the latter with good books and papers, also popular magazines. All go to show that every care is taken to improve not only the moral condition but the mental status of these unfortunate people.

Many pieces of beautiful workmanship were shown to us, but the needle work quilt of a man who a few months ago hardly knew enough to sew a button on, was very fine. The prisoners are divided into three classes, and their good behavior entitles them to many privileges, and they are not slow to see the advantages in this matter. The life of a prisoner in this institution in every feature of it is calculated to make him and honest and a better man, and when compared with prison life in the old world—I have been an officer of the law for several years and have seen their life—bears no comparison. In those institutions he is in every sense made to feel he is a felon and treated on this silent and brutal system but here in the Utah State prison while the best of discipline is kept the criminal by care and kindness is led to feel the necessity of leading a better life when his term shall have expired. I am highly in favor of the system adopted here, and the labor performed here while not hard is both beneficial to the State and the inmates.

The farm also is a model one and is also a source of revenue. Yes, sir; the new system and everything in and around the State prison has a reformatory object in view and the man who has served a term here and does not come out a better man is because he has lost every instinct of true manhood. Thanking the warden and his officers we left the prison with nothing but words of commendation.

SALOP.

IT IS A FINE COUNTRY.

President Andrew Kimball, who was called about a year ago to preside over the St. Joseph Stake, Arizona, reached Salt Lake City October 6. He is decidedly enthusiastic over the conditions as they exist in that country, and says that it is full of wonderful possibilities and undeveloped resources.

He says that with the politicians the question of expansion is one that is causing a considerable difference of opinion at the present time; but with him and the people of the Gila River valley, Graham county, there is no such question, as all favor the extension of their boundaries as rapidly as possible, and that extension is going on in a satisfactory manner. He says there are ten settlements of Latter-day Saints in that valley, comprising about three thousand people. The country has a very agreeable climate; part of the summer season is quite warm and the temperature sometimes reaches 110 degrees; but that is in the middle of the day, and not often. The soil is very fertile, and two crops a year are produced. All of the small grains are harvested in June. Shortly after that the rainy season begins and the ground is in good condition for planting corn, which is at this time of the year ready to be cut and harvested.

This year has been a very prosperous one among the farming community, and most of the people follow agricultural pursuits. He says they have kept twelve headers going constantly, in addition to about fifty self-blinders. Besides that, seven threshing machines with large and busy crews have had all they could do. This, he says, will give an adequate idea of conditions agriculturally. Graham county, or that section of it in which the Mormon

settlements are located, is known as the "Granary of southern Arizona." All cereal crops are productive and profitable—at least as much so as in the most favorable section of Utah. Already, four crops of lucern have been cut and there will be another before the season is closed. The corn, which is now developed, is sixteen feet high, with great ears and fine as any that is produced in the Mississippi valley. This, as well as the lucern, finds a ready market. There are a number of mining camps in the immediate vicinity, and all are ready purchasers of everything that the farmers raise.

Then as to the tuber crop, President Kimball portrays that in most elaborate language. He says that the sweet potatoes raised in this valley are the largest he has ever seen. As an instance, he cites the fact that last year a certain farmer raised one sweet potato that weighed thirty-six pounds and another, nineteen. These, of course, are abnormally large, and not the rule, though one potato will furnish several meals for a good sized family.

As to peaches, the best of them are so large that it is impossible to put them away in ordinary quart or two-quart bottles. Larger vessels, he declares, have to be obtained for taking care of them. The apples raised there are among the best he has ever seen, neither Utah nor Idaho vying with them in any particular. While the country is very warm, no oranges are raised; but nearly all semi-tropical fruits are produced in great abundance.

Regarding the climatic conditions, intending settlers, says President Kimball, need have no apprehensions as to the heat or other unfavorable conditions of the elements. There never has been, to his knowledge or to the knowledge of the people of the valley, a single case of sunstroke. Then the terrific wind and sand storms which are prevalent in some other sections of southern countries, are at their lowest ebb in the Gila River valley. The breezes, he says, are simply refreshing, and in most instances, barely strong enough to run the wind mills whereby water is pumped from the wells to the surface, for culinary and other purposes. These wells, he says, are a great blessing to the people and furnish an abundant water supply and never run dry.

The Gila river furnishes water for irrigating purposes. It is a stream that is very muddy; but the mud that the water contains and carries is a blessing to the people, in that it is conveyed and distributed over the land during the irrigation season. This has gone on ever since the land was cultivated and that which has been producing two crops each season for sixteen years is as rich today, apparently as ever. No other fertilizer has ever been put upon it, and probably will never be necessary.

The country is also well adapted for cattle raising, in that it has large, luxuriously grass-covered ranges. So much so is this the case that many men have become extensively well to do by following this business—in fact, some have become veritable cattle kings. Sheep raising is not so extensively carried on, though it is intended to engage in that business in the future to a greater extent than heretofore.

There is ample opportunity also, for persons desirous of investing capital in manufacturing business and interests. This is something, too, that the people are desirous of encouraging. They would patronize home industries to the exclusion of all others, providing they could get thereby what they wanted. For those who are seeking homes, President Kimball says, there is no finer section of country in the United