

Christianity among the Catholic servants as among the Protestant mistresses. I have had two Catholic girls in my employ for years, and they have as much faith in their religion as I have in mine."

Frank G. Carpenter

UTAH'S DIXIE.

SAINT GEORGE, Jan. 12th, 1899

Speaking of Saint George—one who has not been here can form no idea of the winters that are enjoyed by the residents of Utah's "Dixie." We thought we were prepared for anything in the line of climate she had to offer; but imagine being transported in a day from ten below zero, into the middle of spring, where the robin, the meadow lark, and the quail with their presence and flute like notes mingled with the balmy breezes of the south which are laden with the delicious odors of June at the north. And if your imagination is very strong and vivid, you may perhaps come within shouting distance.

The Sahara desert to my mind would be more inviting to the explorer than was the country over which we traveled when in its primitive condition. Brave indeed, were the men who pioneered this once desert but now fruitful country. All honor to those who have passed away; every comfort should be multiplied for those who are still with us. When we look around and see what has been done, and consider what difficulties had to be overcome—the Indians, the alkali, and controlling the water in the treacherous river, whose freshets would repeatedly sweep away the work of months in the twinkling of an eye—we can form some sort of idea of the stamina required and possessed by those who came first, and are here yet, (the majority in the city of the dead).

From Cedar City the road is one continuous descent for about fifty miles, off from one rock onto two, as some one has said; indeed, for miles it is literally paved with boulders, and where there are no rocks, sand ankle deep, interposes an almost impassable barrier for a wagon with a load. Much work has been done on this road, as is evidenced by the thousands of tons of rock piled on each side for miles and miles, resembling nothing so much as a large canal. An enterprising individual has piled straw and brush across one patch of sand, for something like three-fourths of a mile, and levies 25 cents toll on those who wish to travel that way.

But Saint George is our goal and we at length turn the point which brings us in view of the beautiful snow-white Temple, and we feel that we have been repaid for our journey. How often had we heard of "Dixie," but like every one else who had never been south in our own State, we could never grasp the idea of summer in winter. Now when we see the boys playing base ball in their shirtsleeves, grass fresh and green along the ditch banks, people irrigating, buds swelling, birds in full feather, and feel the warm delicious sunshine, it is just as hard to believe that you, at the north are passing what is called the dead of winter.

They are not entirely without inclement weather here in Dixie. Snows are quite common, deep snows; this, too,

is the home of the frosts. Jack is at present traveling in the north. The peculiar thing about it is, the snow or frosts are not confined to any particular season, you can hear of six inches of snow in the middle of May, to six feet in July; and Jack Frost visits the town sometimes in fruit season without any serious results.

At present the streets of St. George are dry and dusty. We climbed the mesa on the north and from an eminence called Ensign Peak, could see the following named towns: Washington, Leads, Bloomington, Price and Clara. The Rio Virgin could be traced for miles. Its banks are putting on their spring clothing. St. George is a nice place and will some day furnish homes for many times its present population. A line of balloons, or a rail road would be preferable to the present tortuous, rocky, sandy, wagon road. May one or the other come soon, as we intend to eat pickled grapes and paper-shelled almonds another winter with the whole-souled people of Dixie.

HEM MEM.

GIVES HIS VERSION.

BELLEVILLE, Illinois,
Jan. 14th, 1896.

Seeing my name mentioned in the Salt Lake City DESERT NEWS of Jan. 4th, 1896, by Elder Samuel G. Spencer, missionary from Utah, now stationed at Marion, Ill., and having been visited by him, as he has stated of what had been said between him and myself, I would say that he has misrepresented me, both in saying that I endorsed the Priesthood that was had in Utah that "binds in heaven and on earth," and also in saying that I expressed a doubt either in the choice that I had made, or in the claims of the Reorganized church.

And again he misrepresented in his statement that he made the illustrations of the train to me. He told it to me as having been told to a man in Southern Illinois; neither did he ask me if I thought I had missed the train. If he had been kind enough to have mentioned in his statement what I did say in answer to his illustration of the train, it would have changed that feature of his statement altogether. I made answer then: that I could see the force of his illustration and how taking it would be with those that knew no better, but to me it was mere chaff. Seeing by the Elder's letter that I had been so badly misrepresented, and also seeing the name of Mrs. Ann Edwards, of Birkner, Ill., one of our sisters in the Reorganized church, it occurred to me that perhaps she too had been spoken of unjustly, so I made it my business to see her. I called on her on January 10th, 1896, and her statement to me in the presence of her daughter and son-in-law, Mrs. and Mr. John Erwing, was that she was misrepresented by the Elder's letter; but that she may have said she hoped that God would forgive her for the wrong she had done; but with no intimation of implying that wrong to be associating herself with the Reorganized church, but to the contrary. She is perfectly satisfied with the choice she has made.

The Elder's statement with regard to the hospitable treatment he received while here is correct; and the only

opinion I have to offer is that he has mistaken our hospitality for an endorsement of his philosophy.

JOSEPH E. BETTS, SEN.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather there was a very large attendance at the monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Stake Sunday School Union, which was held in the Fourteenth ward hall on Monday evening, January 20, 1896, Stake Superintendent T. C. Griggs presiding.

The roll call showed about three-fourths of the city wards represented and five of the country, besides five Sunday school missionaries, in addition to the Stake Sunday school presidency. Of distinguished visitors present were Dr. Karl G. Maeser, George Goddard and George Reynolds, members of the Desert Sunday School Union board. The singing exercises were neatly rendered by the Fifteenth ward Sunday school choir, which sang as the opening piece: "Brightly Beamed our Banner." Prayer was offered by Elder R. S. Horne. The choir sang, "Arise and Shine."

Superintendent Griggs stated that reports had been received from all the Sunday schools of the Stake of the nickel donation, which amounted to four and a half cents for every enrolled member of the Sunday schools, and reported that four numbers of a continuation of the leaflets series had been distributed for the use of the schools.

Dr. Karl G. Maeser was the lecturer for the evening and gave a practical illustration of the working of the religion classes as established at Provo and elsewhere among the Church Sunday schools, ten boys from the Thirteenth ward, and ten girls from the Fourteenth ward having been brought together to form a class for the evening, their ages averaging about nine years. After some preliminary explanations Dr. Maeser proceeded with his new feature in Sunday school work. He first addressed himself to the children, expressing his pleasure at meeting them on such a stormy night, and promised them if they would do as he wished them they should not go away without a blessing. He then isolated and the children repeated with closed eyes the following prayer:

Our Father in heaven, we ask Thee to bless us this evening with Thy Holy Spirit that we may do everything required of us in such a way that will be pleasing to Thee, which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The lecturer here stated that the opening prayer is preceded by appropriate hymns of a few lines, suitable to the ages of the children composing the religion class.

After a few questions to the children as to how many of them asked a blessing on the food, the following was given and recited in concert by the class:

Our Father, which art in heaven, we thank Thee for the food which is now before us, and ask Thee to bless it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The doctor stated that the children should be instructed to do the work themselves, and long prayers and long sermons should be avoided by teachers, and others as well. He had often said