

The country is divided into climatic divisions. They are known as the hot lands, the temperate lands, and the cold lands. There are in the temperate region some of the finest and most fertile lands in the world, and cereals of all kinds can be grown there to perfection.

The capital city, Caraccas, has a population of 90,000. It is a well laid out, and well governed city. It is about ten or twelve miles from the coast, and located some thousands of feet above the sea. In 1874, when the writer of this article visited it, Guzman Blanco was President.

The climate is beautiful. The people though of the volcanic nature of Latin-Americans in general, are much superior to Mexicans. They are more tractable, more honorable, more hospitable and more intelligent than any of the Latin races to the north of them. But Americans are better liked there than Englishmen, and Germans better than either.

Of course a war with England is an unequal contest for such a small power as Venezuela. It must result in disaster for the weaker nation unless the quarrel should be taken up by some more formidable antagonist which is not very likely under the circumstances. In all probability the weaker will have to go to the wall.

DANIEL H. WELLS.

ON SUNDAY March 29, at 12 o'clock p. m. the funeral services over the mortal remains of Counselor Daniel H. Wells will be held at the Tabernacle in this city. A brief sketch of the life of this valiant soldier of Christ and faithful Latter-day Saint has already been made in these columns, but we are now able to give a more detailed epitome of his career. Only a few of the principal incidents can be presented, for a complete account would fill many columns, and no newspaper article could do anything like justice to the subject.

Daniel Hanmer Wells was the son of Daniel and Catherine Chapin Wells and was born at Trenton, Oneida County, New York, October 27, 1814. His father served in the war of 1812 and was a descendant of the celebrated Thomas Wells, the fourth Governor of Connecticut, who was several times elected alternately as Governor and Lieut. Governor of that colony.

Brother Wells' mother was the daughter of David Chapin, a revolutionary soldier and connected with one of the oldest and most distinguished New England families. He served under the immediate command of

Washington during the greater part of the War of Independence.

In 1826, when he was but 12 years of age, Brother Wells lost his father, and six years later, with his mother and sister, he moved to Ohio and the following spring to Illinois. He took up his abode at Commerce, then a small village, but it was afterwards noted as the "Mormon" city of Nauvoo. Here he was elected constable, then justice of the peace, and was an officer in the first militia organization of the district. He was a Whig in politics and figured prominently in the political conventions of the period. He was an ardent champion of universal liberty and a foe to oppression in every form. He was highly esteemed by people of all parties and creeds, and frequently acted as arbitrator in difficulties between neighbors and families. "Squire Wells" was noted, in that early day, as a man of strict integrity, with a high sense of justice and impartiality.

In 1839, when the Saints, fleeing from Missouri, settled at Commerce, he aided in securing for them a cordial welcome. He owned, among other pieces of property, eighty acres of land on the bluff. This he platted into city lots and let the poor and persecuted "Mormon" refugees have them at very low figures and on long time for payment. This endeared him to the people and determined the location of the chief part of the city, and of the Temple which was built on land that had belonged to him.

On making the acquaintance of the Prophet Joseph Smith he became strongly attached to him, though then unconnected with the Church. When the Church was granted by the Illinois Legislature to the City of Nauvoo, he was elected an Alderman and member of the City Council, also a Regent of the University and a Brigadier-General in the Nauvoo Legion. He was prominent in the city affairs and supported every public measure for the progress and welfare of the citizens. When the opposition to the "Mormons" reached its height, General Wells remained on the side of the assailed people and would not join in any of the movements for their injury. The murder of the Prophet and Patriarch, Joseph and Hyrum, aroused his deepest indignation, and he strongly protested against the demand of the Governor of the State for the arms of the Legion, which was made under the pretext that the people of Nauvoo might attempt to avenge the slaughter of their leaders.

But it was not until the exodus of the main body of the Church, and the people who remained in the city were

in their direst extremity, being attacked by their enemies in violation of a solemn compact, that this sterling champion of the oppressed cast in his lot for life with the Latter-day Saints. He joined the Church and gave it his full faith and support. He was baptized August 9, 1846.

Six weeks later the battle of Nauvoo occurred. General Wells was practically the leading spirit in this gallant defense of the city. Col. Johnson was taken sick and Lieut. Col. Cutler assumed the command. Brother Wells was his aide, and on his white charger was a prominent target for the enemy's bullets. His house also was fired upon repeatedly. He escaped unharmed, and during the three days' siege was a tower of strength to the men who were fighting for home and family.

When the city was evacuated he was one of the last to leave, and being fired upon by the enemy's cannon after crossing the river into Iowa, he sent one of the balls with his compliments to the Governor of that State, as a specimen of Illinois respect for its obligations. One of the terms of the treaty between the Saints and the mob was that the former should cross into Iowa unmolested and have their arms returned to them.

Brother Wells rode day and night in a one horse buggy to reach the main body of the exiled "Mormons," that teams might be immediately sent back for the remnant that had been expelled from Nauvoo. After settling up his affairs in Illinois, he started for the West and came to Utah in 1848, acting as aide-de-camp to President Brigham Young on the second journey of the pioneers.

When Salt Lake City was laid out Brother Wells drew a lot in the Eighth Ward. But President Young desiring his near presence, he moved to the East side of the Eagle Gate, and subsequently to the land east of the DESERET NEWS office, where he occupied the small adobe houses still standing there, and where most of his children were born, and in one of which Sister Emmeline B. Wells now publishes the *Woman's Exponent*.

Brother Wells took an active part in the organization of the provisional State of Deseret, and was elected to the first Legislative Council and appointed as State Attorney, and was also elected Major General of the Nauvoo Legion, the State militia, by the General Assembly May 26, 1849. On the 27th of March, 1852, he received the rank of Lieutenant General of the Legion and was commissioned to that office by Governor Brigham Young March 7, 1855. On the passage of the territorial militia law