

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

We have done much, yet much remains to be done, and I hope that the Elders in Israel who have been privileged to go on missions, and those who have not, will all remember and contribute liberally of their means until all who have proved themselves faithful and true among the nations shall be relieved from bondage and gathered to inherit the blessings of freedom in this land.

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem."
 "And it shall come to pass in the last days: that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."
 "And many people shall go and say, com: ye, and let us go up to the house of the Lord, to the temple of the Lord, to the house of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

At the time the covenant I have referred to, to help one another to gather to the Rocky Mountains,—was made, we were surrounded by very singular and unfortunate circumstances. We were in Illinois, a free State, and under a Constitution that guaranteed us freedom of faith and thought, and, in fact, every liberty that could be desired by those who wished to do right. We were an industrious and law-abiding people, being, on all matters of this character, above suspicion. We were the most industrious and persevering citizens on the Mississippi river, as our works plainly showed to the passer-by. Out of a swamp and a wilderness we had erected a beautiful city, crowned by a magnificent Temple, and turned a wild country into gardens, orchards, farms and pleasure grounds in an incredibly short space of time, and under very adverse circumstances. Religious intolerance had murdered our Prophet and Patriarch, and lighted a flame that had consumed hundreds of our dwellings to ashes; many of our barns, grain stacks and fences had also been given a prey to the devouring element and a great number of our people, scattered around in that region, had to flee into the city for protection, leaving their property to the mercy of their persecutors. A convention of delegates, from nine counties, had framed a decree and formed a resolution that the Latter-day Saints must leave the State on pain of extermination. Thomas Ford, the Governor, through General John J. Hardin and Hon. Stephen A. Douglass, had informed us that it was impossible for us to be protected in the State under the circumstances. We had previously sent petitions to the Governor of every State in the Union, except the Governor of Missouri; also to the President of the United States, asking for an asylum and protection from persecution and that our people might be permitted to reside in their States, and enjoy the common rights guaranteed to American citizens by the Constitution. Only one deigned to send us an answer, that was Arkansas. Governor Drew, of that State, advised us to go to Oregon.

An arrangement was entered into with the leaders of the mob in Illinois that, on condition that all vexatious lawsuits should be stopped and mob violence and house-burning cease, we would leave the State, but before doing so, we would, at whatever cost, finish the Temple. One of the conditions of this agreement was that the leaders of the mob should aid us in disposing of our immense property.

Notwithstanding this it was but a short time before murder and the firebrand were again resorted to by the mob against us, and the venerable Elder Edmund Durfee was slain. Others were fired upon and their buildings and stacks burned. In order that they might carry out their agreement to leave the State the people of Nantux organized into companies of a hundred each, and every hundred, and I may say every fifty, established a wagon shop, and almost every man in the town who knew anything about "butchering" wood commenced the business of wagon making. Green timber, just as it was cut in the woods, was boiled in brine and converted into wagons, and thousands of wagons were built in the fall and winter of 1845-6. The Mississippi river was closed up, rendering it impossible to get all the iron that was needed in their construction. All the iron that could be got in the towns of the neighborhood along the river had been bought and used, and the residue of the wagons made at that time, instead of having the necessary iron work, were fixed up with rawhide, hickory withes and every other simple invention that could possibly answer the purpose; many wagons made the whole journey, from the Mississippi to this valley without iron tires.

On the 6th of February 1846 the exodus of the Saints from Illinois commenced. Comparatively no property had been sold. Men gathered up what teams they could; oxen were cheap, and nearly all the old

wagons in the country around had been purchased. Furniture was left in the vacated house, and much property which it had taken years to accumulate. As many as could took a few of their best articles, others only that which was considered indispensable. About two thousand wagons crossed the Mississippi river, a large portion of them on the ice. I remember, clearly, the feelings that thrilled through my breast, when I turned my little family,—feeble in health,—out of doors into a borrowed wagon to commence the journey to the Rocky Mountains in the midst of an inclement winter. Such feelings as we then experienced it is impossible to imagine or describe; the circumstances must be passed through to understand them.

We passed over the river to the opposite bluff, and took a farewell view of our beautiful city. It was like a city of retired country-seats. There were hundreds of beautiful gardens and magnificent buildings, the centre crowned with a majestic Temple, radiant with all the beauty of architectural taste and skill, and which had cost us nearly a million dollars. We bade farewell to all, and pursued our journey. About fifty miles took us beyond the last settlement into the wilderness portion of Iowa, without roads or bridges, a journey of unknown length before us and apparently no possibility of obtaining the necessities of life. During the Spring, which seemed to be the most rainy, stormy and inclement I ever knew, the sufferings of the camp were intense. We sustained our animals with grain that we carried with us and with the grass that we could obtain along the streams; occasionally we sent down to the northern settlements of Missouri and obtained small supplies. In this way we traveled slowly along westward, making the roads as we went along. I think we bridged about thirty streams, among them the forks of the Grand river, the Locust, the Madison, the Hundred-and-Two, the Nodaway and the Nishnabotona, which required considerable labor. Our teams were so weak that we were frequently compelled to double, that is, we took a few wagons two or three miles with double teams, when, unhitching them, we would return for a few more and so continued until all were in camp. In this manner we worked our way through the wilderness portion of Iowa until we reached Council Bluffs, which was about the last of June or early in July.

When we reached the Missouri river, at the place where the city of Omaha now stands, we built a ferry boat and had ferried over a few hundred wagons, when we were visited by Captain James Allen, a United States officer, with a requisition upon us for five hundred men to maintain our country's flag in the war against Mexico. They were required to march, as infantry, by way of Santa Fe. These men were mustered into service on the 16th of July and marched to Leavenworth, a distance of about 180 miles. There they received the arms and accoutrements of infantry, and soon after continued their journey. Before doing so, however, all who were not considered in every way competent for the journey were sent back; the battalion continued their journey, over a route of about 1,850 miles through an unknown desert, to San Diego. I presume that the history of nations might be searched in vain for a parallel to this march of infantry under such adverse circumstances. These men were sometimes on half rations, and sometimes on quarter rations, and occasionally without any; and the blessings of the Almighty, were as apparent to many of them in their preservation, and as wonderful, as the preservation of the Children of Israel by showers of manna when in the wilderness on their journey from Egypt to the Holy Land.

Up to the tieriad that this battalion left it had been the intention to push forward to the Rocky Mountains, a company having been sent across the river for that purpose. But as it was then late in the season, and the camp was badly crippled by the loss of so many efficient men, it was considered absolutely necessary to remain on the Missouri during that winter. A town site was surveyed, which we called Winter Quarters, now known as Florence, Nebraska. There seven hundred log cabins were erected and one hundred and fifty dug-outs, as we called them, were made, that is a cabin half under ground. On the opposite side of the river camps were formed in probably twenty different localities on the Pottawattamie lands, the settlements then formed having since grown to be the towns and villages of the present day. Great quantities of prairie hay were cut, but most of the animals were driven up the Missouri River and wintered on the rush bottoms, with some loss. The people were under the necessity of obtaining their supplies from Missouri, exchanging for them their trinkets, jewelry, bedding and the most valuable articles they had brought with them from Navaho. Missouri at that time was about as interesting to our people as Egypt was anciently to Jacob; there was corn and pork in Missouri. Many of the teams were engaged through the winter in supplying the camp with provisions, which had been rendered very destitute by the journey of the spring and summer. A thousand acres of land had been put under cultivation at two points where settlements had been formed, to sustain them through the winter; one of these places was called Garden Grove, and was on the east fork of Grand River; the other, on the west fork of the same river, was called Plough. When we reached the Missouri river it was too late to do anything in the way of cultivation.

We had barely got our cabins finished in Winter Quarters when a very important personage, claiming to be an officer of the United States, came into our camp and ordered us all to leave, telling us that we were on the Indian lands, and we must get out of the way. We told him of the requisition the War Department had made upon us, which we had answered, and that in consequence it was impossible for us to proceed on our journey. He put on a very stiff shirt collar and threatened us with troops. The Department, at Washington, it seems, thought better of it, for we were permitted to remain for that season.

belonged westward. In the meantime, I believe the Potlatchmen in Iowa had sold their lands to the Government, hence our camp, which had been formed in that country were allowed to remain. As many were able fitted themselves up as well as possible, and we continued our journey westward. As early as the 14th of April, a month before a spear of grass grew in that country, the pioneer camp, consisting of President Brigham Young and one hundred and forty-three men and three women, started forward slowly up the Platte river, our animals subsisting on the buds and bark of the cottonwood trees and the grain that we carried along with us. We took a route that had never been traveled before. The Oregon emigrants and the mountain trappers had always traveled the south side of the Platte river, but we made a road on the north side for upwards of six hundred miles, until we reached Laramie; then we crossed over to the south side of the North Fork and traveled for three or four hundred miles on the old trappers' trail, mending and improving the same, where necessary, as we went along.

The plains for hundreds of miles, were covered with buffalo, and so numerous were these animals that we often had a difficulty in keeping our animals from running off in their herds. We were also surrounded at times with immense bands of Indians, who manifested a disposition anything but kindly; but our organization was so complete that we were able to protect ourselves. When we reached Bridger we struck off for the lake. We had no guide on the journey. Brigham Young was our pilot and God was our guide, and we were determined to find a place somewhere on the face of the earth that nobody would covet. We had made fine farms, handsome houses and beautiful improvements five different times and had been driven from them through religious intolerance; this time we were determined to get so far away and into such an inhospitable desert that none would covet it.

The labor in making a road from Bridger there was very great; and while performing this we were anticipating that the day was not far distant when a railroad would be constructed over the whole route. During our journey we located a route for it, and the railroad now completed, in many parts, has adopted our trail, and would have done much better to have followed us in many other parts.

When we arrived on this spot, on July 14th, 1847, the ground was dry and barren; there were no trees, and scarcely the least sign of any kind of vegetation. The ground was covered with large black crickets, which had eaten up what little vegetation had grown in the spring. There were a few willows along the edges of the creek, but the vegetation was not a rod wide. Providence, however, had guided us here. During the troubles and sorrows that had surrounded the Saints, President Young had a vision, opening out to him this spot, and when he reached it, pointing to Ensign Peak, said he, "I want to stay here." He also told the brethren that they might explore the country in every direction, but they would all come back and say this spot was the best.

We built dam and turned out the City Creek and planted along its sides a few potatoes and other things; but beyond a few of the potatoes, which grew to be about the size of chestnuts, our cultivation of that year was a failure. We cut a ditch from the Temple block to where the 6th Ward now is, and turned the whole creek into it, but the ground was so dry that it took two or three days for the water to settle the soil so that it would run, that distance. Some of the brethren got long noses over it, and said "we shall never be able to irrigate here." Not a man had ever seen irrigation done or knew anything about it. But while we had all the disadvantages of a sterile desert to contend with and overcome, we rejoiced greatly over the fact that there was no mob to disturb us, the only leniencies of the country, besides ourselves, being a few naked Indians, who seemed inclined to steal the mountain goat and grizzly bear.

We laid out and surveyed a fort, and commenced building, with logs from Red Butte Canon. To get out timber from the canons, was the work of great difficulty and labor; even now, after years of labor in making roads and bridges, every man who fetches lumber from these canons pays for it richly in hard labor; but the toll and trouble requisite now are nothing in comparison to then. We built a large portion of our fort with adobes or sundried brick. Some of our party went to the Twin Peaks and carried a barometer with them to ascertain their height. Some of our friends who visit us now at this season of the year, and see the snow on those Peaks feel a desire to visit them. It is much more easy to do it now than then, but to do it now with any degree of comfort they would need a balloon, and if they should happen to land in some of the hollows up there they might find it rather difficult to get away again. I think the reading of the barometer showed that they were 11,800 feet above the level of the sea; we, here, are about 4,800 feet above sea level.

After our company had remained here about a month it was deemed necessary for a portion to go back to our families on the Missouri River; and one party started out with oxen and the other with horses. I would say, however, that during this period the Pioneer Company had been increased by the arrival of one hundred and seventy-five, including a company of Scouts from the State of Mississippi and the invalid portion of the Mormon battalion, who had been left on the Arkansas; these arrivals had increased our numbers, making us a population of about four hundred souls. Of that number one hundred and fifty started back to the States in order to bring their families. The Sioux Indians stole a portion of our horses and we were compelled to perform most of the return journey on foot, depending upon game for our subsistence, and having no horses suitable to chase the herds of buffalo, we had to live on the flesh of old bulls, which is really tough eating; but as these obtained were insufficient in quantity there was little scrambling about quality. Any one who

will try it will very soon be satisfied that the meat of an old bull buffalo requires no seasoning powers of the very best quality; but poor eating as they are, keen appetite will render them palatable. The hand of Providence was over us, for, strange as it may seem, during the last hundred miles several of our animals were so worn out that in the morning, before starting on their journey, they had to be lifted up and set on their feet; but the whole company, and all the animals, except those taken by the Indians, reached Winter Quarters in safety, and were recruited up and ready for the return journey by the following Spring. On our way down we passed six hundred wagons en route for this place; we met the first party at Green River and the last at the South Pass. They reached here that fall and lived in the fort that winter, enlarging it by enclosing about thirty acres more land.

There were both Ute and Shoshone Indians in the mountains, and they were said to be hostile; it was our policy, from the start, to place ourselves in a state of protection and safety, so far as they were concerned, and then by a course of justice and uprightness to maintain friendly relations with them.

On leaving the Missouri river, it was considered necessary for every man to take three hundred pounds of breadstuff for each one of his family; also his seed grain and implements of husbandry, and arms and ammunition for the journey. It was the most desperate sort of a gamble, and the men must start with less; but a great many of the Mississippi company, portions of the battalion, and some others came in here almost without provisions. You could see the people turn out of the fort in the morning and go over these hills and with their little sticks of Spanish lead, bego and bego, and say anything and everything that the wild Indians could subtlet upon.

There was a pretty general feeling of rejoicing among our enemies in the States who had driven us away, that we had got into the mountains, where there was every likelihood of us perishing, for they were full of wild beasts, and the provisions in which we should be placed, we should break up and perish. However our organization was complete, and the division of breadstuff and other provisions was carried on to the nicest extent. A very large field south of this city was put under cultivation, and the cattle were driven to the mountains on one side and the fence on the other. The streams were turned from their beds into different parts of this field, and there seemed to be some prospects of a crop. But myriads of great black crickets, with voracious appetites, came down from the mountains, and devoured the grain, and tens of thousands of young nursery trees, which had been planted and were promising to do well. The brethren fought these foes with every imaginable device. They cut ditches and turned the water into them, thinking that they would prevent them from coming down. The crickets were smart enough to cross them—they would cross a considerable stream,—and they devoured everything before them, and it seemed as if the colony must perish, for it was nearly out of provisions, and what little was growing was being devoured. We were almost entirely without hope, but God, in His mercy, sent gulls, and they devoured them. It was regarded by the people as a dispensation of Providence; and, singularly enough, these gulls have not visited us since, or but very few of them. On that occasion, however, they were very numerous. They would come until filled, and then, vomiting them, they would eat again, and so continued until they entirely cleared the fields. The crickets have sometimes made their appearance again, and injured the crops in places. At that time, but never to so great an extent. We are now understanding the method of irrigation, much of the wheat that was sown the first year had to be pulled by hand; the straw was so short that it could not be cut. It ripened unevenly too, owing to improper watering. All these difficulties were overcome, as the result of irrigation, which was to be learned by experience, became better understood.

It may seem strange to many to realize that even now, every tree and bush, not excepting the smallest currant or gooseberry bush, have their little ditch or water-course from which they draw their moisture and support.

The second year of the settlement here, the numbers were increased by the arrival of a thousand wagon, and by that time it was a town, and the territory was a government established. Up to that time every man had done about what was right in his own eyes. Of course, there were regulations existing amongst us, but very little time or thought was devoted to them. The representatives of the people were elected, and the territory was organized and organized what was called the provisional government of the State of Deseret. Our settlements had begun to increase; that is, outside settlements had been formed in Davis county, a small one in Weber county, and another one in Utah county. We had a few settlements in the Territory with us, and had raised it while this country was Mexican territory. We adopted a Constitution, republican in form, and sent our delegates to Washington to ask admission into the Union as a State. Under our constitution, we organized the executive, legislative and judicial departments of a State government. The principal officers were the Governor, Judges, and members of the legislature; the latter convened and organized counties and precincts, incorporated cities, enacted civil and criminal codes, which still form the basis of the laws of the Territory. The question of slavery, and some other matters, were brought up, and our officers were elected to support our official action. We acted upon the principle of retrenchment. The governor had no salary; the judges had no salary; the members of the legislature had no salary; they all served gratuitously, for the love of their country; and they did as much for their country as we now do. The General Assembly was now organized. The General Assembly of the Territory adopted a rule that any member who was not punctual in attendance should be fined; the fund thus raised was expended in furnishing wood, candles and brooms; each member furnished his own stationery. A tax was assessed upon the people, and the principal amount was expended in developing the country. Two bridges were constructed across the Jordan river by the Deseret government; bridges were also built across the Provo, Weber and Ogden rivers, and the Utah river. The Territory was now constructed. They also built the State House, now occupied by the University, and occupied it as a legislative hall.

In the year 1849 a vast number of people passed through here, on route for California, in search of gold. The excitement and wishes which were spoken here had found, while there, the precious metal, and nearly all the world ran crazy after it. I honestly believe that thousands of persons would have utterly perished on the Plains if I had not been for the assistance I gave to the poor and the help I gave through our settlements. They started across the continent without knowing how to provide themselves with an outfit. Hundreds and thousands of them have reached this city almost naked and without food. I have given them clothing, safety, we shared what we had with them and so saved their lives. The journey across the Plains at that time, was a very trying one, and it took pretty good persons to perform it. I wish to see a well educated gentleman start out on it. Many of our companies would quarrel soon after starting, and a company that started a hundred strong, would divide into fifties or thirties.

they got to the California mountains, and frequently by the time they got over these mountains there would be two in a wagon and had they not been afraid of Indians they would have divided and made three carts of their wagon. The officers of Deseret never had a weighty person to settle their quarrels and difficulties, and in every case where it was possible they would induce the parties to compromise by telling them how quickly they could make immense fortunes in gold if they did not stop here and start out.

While passing through the trials and difficulties which I have recounted the Latter-day Saints attended their meetings, observed their fast-days and contributed their offerings to the poor, and as early as possible they started on their journey in which they were able to control means in fulfillment of their covenant to help to gather those left behind, placed at the disposal of the presiding bishop, Edward Hunter, five hundred dollars in gold with the permission to the brethren to sell for emigrating those who needed assistance.

There were some there, perhaps, who had a team, but could not raise the flour necessary for the journey; another could go if he had an ox; another could start if he could only get the iron to put the tires on the wheels. The Lord, however, was enabled with this small sum of money to extend the necessary aid to hundreds.

The manner in which we formed our companies was particularly characteristic. When a company was formed, consisting of twenty or thirty men, a committee was appointed, the duty of which committee who would see that each wagon was provided with the required outfit. A blacksmith and such other mechanics as were deemed necessary formed part of each company, and when fully organized they moved on, their work being ranging from the line, from time to time, so to give all an equal chance of the road. At night they formed corrals, sent out watches to guard the cattle and to restrain any who might be so disposed from wandering about, so that no person was ever lost and the cattle were secured almost incredible toll of the safe manner in which they traveled through this strict organization; while other companies of emigrants were subject to losses and dangers, many of them wandering off and being lost, and in some of all these camps of the Saints nothing of the kind was ever known. Meetings were held every Sabbath day; Saturdays were usually devoted to washing, repairing wagons, &c., and every useful vocation that could be followed on the route under the circumstances engaged in. At that moment a camp stopped some would be mending shoes; the blacksmith would put up his bellows and go to work at his trade; knitting and sewing and even weaving were going on in many of the wagons, of which the Oregon people complained was not manifested. I was told by a man from Oregon that no man or woman could cross these plains without being brutalized; but the fact is, in relation to us, that we were the only community of peace, order and harmony existing in the camp of the Saints as much as in any settlement in the world.

The irrigation system, which we have been compelled to adopt here, renders small tracts of land a necessity. I know that some of the Indians, who have been Government when she gave such immense tracts of land to the people of Oregon for settling that country, which is five times better than ours, and she would not give us anything. I have since come to the conclusion that that was effected by the overruling Providence of the Almighty. If we were to settle on the land that was granted us by settling on them we should have been exposed to Indians, and should have been unable to irrigate these tracts. To irrigate a tract of land men have to combine to construct the water ditches, and dams; sometimes a hundred are necessary. Sometimes fifty may do it, and sometimes only ten or a hundred are required, according to the condition and location of the land, and under no circumstances, here, can one man, without wealth to hire attendants to the irrigation of a tract that in other parts of this country would be considered a moderate sized farm. Under these circumstances, the small tracts of land are a moderate one from five to twenty acres of land; this is the rule. They who cultivate more are the exceptions, and in this way only, can we till our land properly and protect ourselves from the Indians.

In September, 1880, Congress passed an act organizing Utah into a Territory, and the next day the new Territory was organized. Mr. Fillmore appointed Brigham Young, Governor, he having led the people hither and having been Governor of Deseret, the rest of the officers, with the exception of the marshal, I think, were appointed Easterners. They came here most of them, opened their eyes, and saw a people who were persecuted. From what I could learn a portion of them had been sent to get them out of the way, as they were troublesome. When they got here they raised a howl. Among this class were Judges Brochu and Brandeberry and Secretary Harris. They raised a tremendous howl, calling on the United States Government to send men to destroy the Mormons. Harris had brought money to pay the Legislature, but he took it back with him. What he did with it I do not know; but he did not pay the Legislature. They met, however, and organized the territorial government, and have since acted as a government, and have acted in accordance with the principles of justice, as have they legislated that the Congress of the United States has exercised its power to disapprove of only one act, and their course on that occasion was only an act of persecution to the Latter-day Saints. This is a record of what any territory would do, and I believe that no religious or benevolent institution in the Territories of the United States shall own over fifty thousand dollars worth of property. Now I do not suppose that the organ in this Tabernacle could be built for a hundred thousand dollars, and

brades of men to legislate in this way I do not know. But such was the act, a portion of which was aimed expressly and entirely at the Latter-day Saints. So far as we are concerned, however, nothing was accomplished. We complain of many of the men who have been sent here and paid by the Government to act as officers have undertaken to become book makers and newspaper penny-a-liners, and have in vain endeavored to get reports and sent them back in order to induce the Government to send men here to destroy us. One judge of this class, by the name of Drummond, and his associates, were sent here and have endeavored, because they were troublesome to men of influence, went back with reports and succeeded in inducing the Government to send twenty-five hundred infantry, two regiments of cavalry, and a battery of mountain artillery to destroy us, but, by some means or other, they changed their minds before they reached the city, and our lives were spared.

men here that we have had to exercise our powers to the utmost to protect our settlements from the Indians. The emigrants passing through to California would frequently commit outrages upon them. So far as our relations were concerned we treated the Indians with justice and kindness, and did not seek for their blood; but parties passing along the Indian trails, or an amusement party, might kill an Indian, or quarrel with him, or take his horses, or something of this kind; and then the Indians would come along, and to avenge the wrongs done to them attack some lone settler or workman in a canyon. Circumstances of this character have caused some difficulties, and entailed a heavy amount of expense upon the people. In 1860, in consequence of some such outrages as these, a war was waged with the Utes, which caused much trouble, the settlement being obliged to gather up arms

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Thus he Utah managed her finances, and if our countrymen should see proper to admit us into the Union as a State, and the great principle of justice, that just due having penetrated into and claimed this desert country and founded a State, we should never trouble them so far as our expenses are concerned, for we are able to sustain ourselves and pay our way by our industry and economy. In fact, I have little doubt that we will succeed. When the army under Gen. Johnston came here they paid twenty-eight dollars and fifty cents for their flour; a portion of it was brought from the States, but the greater portion of it was purchased by the soldiers from the Indians at a price of one dollar a hundred. That war however being a contractors' war, and aimed more particularly at the United States Treasury, where it was eminently successful, is only to be remembered as one of the blot on the face of a nation which suffered itself to be so abused.

We are here, and we rejoice in the truth that Travel wherever you please through our cities, towns and settlements and you will find order, industry and happiness. Almost all the inhabitants are working their own land and making their own money and their own education. A man has scarcely been here more than one or two years until he has a home of his own. We gather our people from every part of the United States and from the other nations of the earth and bring them here to make them useful and happy. We have a man who has been here a long time, a man who makes two shears of grain to grow where only one grew before, is a public benefactor. The Latter-day Saints, by the power which God has given them, have made what you see in this country, for six years past, and we have had all the improvements, and the results in agriculture and mechanism have been produced by the Latter-day Saints where nothing was before but wild sage, desolation and alkalal plains. Fruits now grow here that at one time many never dreamed of the climate is not so sore as formerly, the rains are plentiful, and the hundred and thirty miles of water have made their appearance in the desert; our settlements are extending through the southern deserts, already reaching three hundred and fifty miles southerly. Visit the city of St. George—it is a lovely place, a city, but quite as handsome, with good improvements, vineyards, smiling vineyards and cotton fields, where not long since no man would have thought anything could have been produced at all. For these results we thank God and pray Him to continue them. To our friends who are here, we say, "I have seen this country, only tell the truth about us when you go away." This is all the favor we ask. Of course when mercenary men are in the pay of newspapers they must write what is popular, and it is not popular to say much that is creditable about the Latter-day Saints. We have no doubt of the wisdom of the Almighty may rest upon the rulers of our country, that they may realize what we are and what we mean to be and that there are no hundred and fifty thousand citizens of the United States who are more ready to do for their country than we have, by helping to develop this desert, put up the telegraph lines, grading four hundred miles of the Pacific railroad, and extending our strength and protection through these mountains. The vigilance of our police regulations have saved such a number of our life and property that we have been here, and for hundreds of miles through our Territory, strangers while traveling, experience as much protection as in the streets of New York city. We have also furnished a magazine of supplies by means of which the gold fields of the adjoining Territories have been secured.

I will say in relation to the text I read at the commencement, that the missionaries of this people are abroad in the earth, and that the nations are waiting, according to the words of the prophet, "waiting to come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the tops of the mountains, and the hills and all nations shall flow unto it." This text alone would find probably thirty different languages in this congregation; and educated men from almost every country are scattered throughout the world. Although, as a general thing, we gather, of course, the best men of talent, education and skill. We have some of the best mechanics in the world, prepared to engage in any branch of mechanical labor. We have the best blessings of Israel's God be upon you. We say to our friends who visit us, God bless and preserve you, and return you safely to your homes and families and give you joy in the name of Jesus, which we will thank in Jesus' name. Amen.

TIME AND MONEY WOULD BE SAVED by every family in the Territory being in possession of a complete set of the **CURTIS PREMIUM MODELS**; they will enable the possessor to order every style of fashionable garments worn by gentlemen, ladies and children, so as to insure a perfect fit. They are very simple and persons from 14 years old can learn in a few hours, to cut Coats, Pants, Vests, Dresses and Cloaks in all the fashionable styles of ladies and childrens' wear. In the State Fair in California they have taken the first premium. No nervous reticence in the city and country can be given. Parties desirous of testing these facts can do so by calling on **Mr. Joe. Bell** 17th Ward in this city, who is the **Sole Agent** of the Territory. **No Agents Wanted.**