

Freedom is the other settlement in Salt River Valley. The townsite of that name is on the State line of Wyoming and Idaho, and centers at mile post No. 138. It is surveyed into blocks of ten acres each, with streets six rods wide, which cross each other at right angles. Each block contains four lots. The east half of the town is in Wyoming and the west half in Idaho, but only a few families reside on the townsite, as the majority of the settlers still live where they first located in a scattered condition on their ranches and farms, which on the west side of Salt River extend up and down for a distance of about eight miles. There are also a number of settlers on the east side. Those on the west side irrigate their lands principally from Tin Cup creek and Jack Knife creek, two streams which put into Salt River from the mountain range on the west. The townsite of Freedom is about twenty-five miles northwest of Afton, in Star Valley, twelve miles southeast of the point where Salt river empties into Snake river, and sixty-five miles by a trail or rough mountain road northeast of Soda Springs. The Freedom ward, which consists of about thirty families, or 150 souls, embraces the more central part of Salt River Valley, and contains thousands upon thousands of good, level and fertile land, with splendid water facilities and other natural advantages; but it will require years of patient toil and labor to wrest the country from its present wild and desolate state, and turn it into well cultivated fields. I am, however, of the opinion that this valley possesses as many attractions and natural facilities for the formation of new settlements as any in the western part of Wyoming.

The Salt River Valley, formerly called the lower Salt River Valley, to distinguish it from the upper Salt River Valley, not called Star Valley, is about twenty miles long from southeast to northwest, reaching from the low mountain ridge which separates it from Star Valley, on the south, to the point where Salt River empties into the Snake on the north. Its width varies all the way from two to eight miles, the widest part being near the center, where Freedom is situated, on the west side of the river. The mountains on the east and northeast are lofty and their summits and shady sides are covered with snow a great portion of the year, which makes water plentiful, and the mountain streams putting into Salt river from both sides are numerous and some of them quite large; the water is also good and clear and the climate not too warm or sultry. Hence I do not hesitate to recommend this valley to the kind attention of Latter-day Saints who are seeking for homes and are not afraid to brave the dangers of the mountain wilds and pioneer life generally. In fact, this valley is capable of giving the settlers who choose to locate within its borders nearly all the experience that the Utah Pioneers passed through over forty years ago. Here, indeed, is still an opportunity to kill snakes and build bridges, and to achieve the glory and fame connected with being the first—the pioneers.

There is no doubt but what Salt River Valley in some future day will teem with thousands of families and be dotted with towns and villages

throughout its entire length. And when the Lord shall have tempered the elements here to the extent that He has in many other parts of the great intermountain region (where the Latter-day Saints in former years have commenced their settlements under the most discouraging circumstances) this extensive valley of the north will undoubtedly contain a prosperous Stake of Zion fully organized, and the soil produce all that is necessary to sustain life and give comfort to its inhabitants. But now it is cold and dreary, especially in the winter season, and many of the people so far have had to leave their homes for several months in the year and go elsewhere to earn bread for their families, their own crops having been destroyed by the frosts.

The first settlers in Salt River Valley were Wm. Heap (then of St. Charles, Bear Lake County, Idaho), John S. Rolph and four sons, and John Hill and Moroni Hunt, with their families, who arrived on the present site of Freedom in May, 1879. They went to work immediately and put up four log cabins on the south side of Tin Cup Creek, thus named from the simple fact that a company of mining prospectors had lost a tin cup while camping on the stream some time previous. This first location was in Idaho about a mile northwest of the present townsite of Freedom, and these first settlers came in by way of Montpelier over the mountains to Star Valley, and had to make the first road down Crow Creek for a distance of about fifteen miles. For several years the four families named lived in the valley alone, making their living by ranching, and no attempts were made at farming until about 1885, when other settlers began to come in and the first grain was raised. Since then there has been a slow but gradual increase in the population, until there are at present about sixty families or between three and four hundred people residing in the valley, who, in June, 1891, were organized into two wards of the Bear Lake Stake of Zion, namely the Freedom ward with A. B. Clark as Bishop, and the Glencoe ward, previously described.

ANDREW JENSON.

SALT RIVER VALLEY, Wyo.,
December, 1891.

MALAD STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Malad Stake of Zion was held at West Portage on the 13th inst. On the stand were President of Seventies Seymour B. Young and a goodly number of Stake officers and Bishops. President O. C. Hoskins presided.

On the forenoon of the first day the time was occupied by the Seventies, who delivered practical discourses on the every-day duties of the Saints, and exhorted all to diligence and faithfulness.

At 2 p.m., after the opening exercises, Stake President O. C. Hoskins made instructive and appropriate remarks. A duet was then sung by Prof. Hoozley and Miss Minnie Davis. President of Seventies Seymour B. Young spoke upon "The Resurrection," showing that the righteous occupy a place of happiness during the time intervening between death and the resurrection. He argued that a person

will take upon himself the identical particles that form his body when he laid it down.

During the evening session, First Stake Clerk Jno. M. McCrary and Second Stake Clerk Wm. H. Gibbs spoke instructively, and President Seymour B. Young continued his remarks on the subject of the resurrection.

On Monday, Dec. 14, only one meeting was held. High Councilman Jesse R. Dredge treated on the education of the young, encouraging all to support the Malad Stake Academy. Bishop M. J. Richards advised all to remember that even the Lord will not take the agency away from the human family, and that this should keep us from being overbearing with our family. His remarks were instructive. The High Councilmen and Bishops were then sustained as home missionaries for the next quarter. Stake Clerks Gibbs and McCrary made appropriate closing remarks, after which conference was adjourned for three months.

Prof. David C. Jones and his Stake choir were highly eulogized for their renditions during conference.

WM. ANTHONY, Stake Sec'y.
PORTAGE, Dec. 16, 1891.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW.

HENRY CLEWS, in his report for the week ending December 19, 1891, says the stock market, as already foreshadowed, remains inactive. This is caused by the near prospect of Christmas festivities. Under a quiet exterior, there is the throbbing of great expectations and impatience for the beginning of the promised active campaign.

There has been a lack of disturbing political news from Europe during the week, with the exception of the little affair between France and Bulgaria, which may probably amount to nothing. It seems to suit the purpose of European nations to conceal their belligerency so long as they can not afford to indulge it, and especially the two powers supposed to be most disposed to make trouble.

The prospects of new legislation receive little attention from Wall street. In respect to the silver question, the theory is that public opinion has come to the conclusion that there should be no further legislation on this issue until an international union has been created, establishing the free coinage of both gold and silver among all leading nations.

According to a report just issued by the Department of Agriculture, the market value of this year's crops of wheat, corn and oats exceeds that of last year's by \$310,000,000.

New York, Dec. 27.—Eleven cases of death from grip are reported to the health board of this city today.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The tomb erected by Pope Leo to Pope Innocent was unveiled today with great pomp.

Yonkers, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Lawyer Murphy, one of the victims of the wreck, died last night. Up to late to-night nothing has been heard of Brake-man Herrick whose negligence, it is charged, caused the wreck.