SALT LAKE CITY AND BEYOND.

[From the *Lafayette Journal.*]

The American people have ever held in just veneration the moral heroism of the "Pilgrim Fathers," which induced them to brave the perils of the ocean in midwinter to seek a home in the New World, where they might worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience.

Without excusing, but, on the contrary, repudiating the religious views of the Mormons, no one can fail to admire that devotion to conviction, which induced three women and *one hundred and forty men*, under the lead of Brigham Young to flee from persecution and seek a home among mountains, which should be inaccessible to their enemies.

The patient toil, the long suffering, the fatiguing journey, of these 143 Mormon pioneers, over desolate plains, arid and cheerless as those of Arabia—and over mountain ranges and through mountain gorges, until then only traversed by the savage Indian; exposed to hunger and thirst and disease, will form a page in our history long to be remembered.

Each recurring anniversary of their landing in the valley is daily observed and celebrated, and on the 24th of July, 1869, at least 140,000 Mormons, in various parts of Utah, will join in this anniversary. We regretted very much that we could not prolong our stay in this Territory long enough to witness so interesting an event.

Every portion of the Territory through which we passed gave evidence of the industry, thrift, sobriety and economy of the Mormons. They have taken possession of a valley sterile by nature, and, by a system of irrigation, costing much labor and money, have converted it into a land of beauty and exceeding fertility.

The farms, villages and cities all bear the impress of their constant thrift and industry. Good houses, highly cultivated fields, and abundant crops are visible on every side. As a general rule, all towns and cities have their parallels. In each of them are found the same general characteristics, but Salt Lake City is an exception to all, and in hardly anything resembles any other city in the world.

Its location is exceedingly beautiful. On the east side it is encircled by the Wasatch range of mountains, whose snow-clad peaks apparently overhang the city—yet distant twenty miles, such is the illusive character of their pure atmosphere—furnish streams of the purest and sweetest water in great abundance, for irrigation and other purposes. On the west stretches the Great Salt Lake, a body of water fifty by seventy miles in extent, while north and south is the valley teeming with its busy population.

The city occupies a level plain, and all its streets are threaded by pure snow water from the mountains, giving cheerfulness and health, and promoting the growth of trees, so that what was, twenty years ago, without tree or even shrub, now presents almost a forest of shade and fruit trees of almost endless variety.

The squares are large—from one to four acres—in the center of which you will find neat, substantial and, in many instances, elegant residences.

The population is about 20,000, of which less than 400 souls are Gentiles, and a more quiet, cheerly, peaceable and orderly community I have never seen.

The structures of most general interest are the tabernacle, theatre, and city hall. The "temple" is not yet above the foundation, and my prediction is that it will never be erected—at least on the scale of its projector—though a devout Mormon assured me that if "President Young" so ordered it could be finished in ten years, as 20,000 men would, in that event, abandon all else and devote themselves "to the building of the temple." But "President Young" is too prudent a man to issue such an order.

The tabernacle is a massive and elegant edifice, and will easily seat 3000 persons. We visited it on Saturday night; the play was well rendered, mostly by amateurs, including some members of Young's family.

The general demeanor, comeliness of person and neatness of apparel, the audience (not less than 2000) would compare favorably with any similar audience in an Eastern theatre, and yet this is 2500 miles west of the Atlantic, and in a community where the earliest settlement dates only twenty-two years in the past.

The new tabernacle is most unique and peculiar in its design and architecture. I shall not take up the time of your readers in its description, except to say that in approaching the city its roof looms up in the distance like the back of some gigantic elephant.

It contains an organ, not yet finished, which, when completed, will be second only to the Boston organ in size and power, and is being built by Mormon artisans exclusively.

Rev. Dr. Tiffany, of the M. E. Church, (one of our party) was tendered the use of the tabernacle by Young, which he accepted, and on Sunday afternoon preached a most eloquent and powerful sermon to the largest in-door audience in his life, there being nearly, if not quite, 6000 persons present, of whom less than 250 were Gentiles.

Brigham Young closed the exercises of the day with an half hour's exhortation to the faithful.

The liberality of the Mormons in tendering their house of worship to a Gentile, (and which, I am told, they do on all occasions) is worthy of praise as well as imitation on the part of some of our Christian churches and divines.

On Saturday afternoon, we had a brief interview with Brigham Young and some of the leading spirits of the church. The interview was purely social and the conversation entirely confined to the ordinary topics of the day.

"The President," as he is called by his people, is a gentleman of refinement and intelligence, about seventy years of age, and in a fine state of physical preservation.

That he is a "man of mark" is most abundantly attested by his success in life, and the authority which he possesses over the thousands who acknowledge him as their chief.

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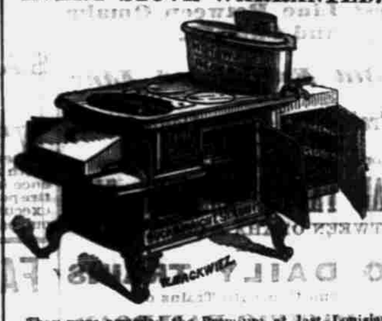

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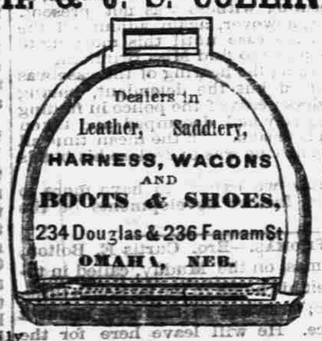

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