

THE ROCK SPRINGS MASSACRE.

HOW IT COMMENCED AND SOME OF ITS ATTENDANT HORRORS—NO "MORMONS" ENGAGED IN IT—RUMORS THAT THEY ALSO WERE TO BE ASSAULTED—DEFENSIVE PRECAUTIONS.

The following account of the recent tragedy at Rock Springs is from a reliable correspondent who has taken pains to get at the truth of the affair. It was written from Rock Springs Sept. 4, 1885:

"I had the good fortune to be in Carbon, 173 miles east during the fracas, and I am only able to gain items as I have gathered them since my return this morning. There are four mines working here at present, numbers 1, 2, 4 and 6, and in these mines between six and seven hundred Chinamen were distributed, as their bosses thought proper. There has existed for a long time

A GRUDGE BETWEEN THE WHITES AND CELESTIALS,

because of the latter getting the best drifts to work in. There is another thing that has worked upon the miners' feelings, recently; a number of white men have been discharged from the sections and Chinamen put in their places. There have also been additions of Chinamen in the mines. There are also reported to be on an average 20 white tramps here beating their way too and fro on the railroad eager for work, but unable to find it, whereas Chinamen are being imported weekly.

The underground boss, Evans, has favored the Chinamen. Some new rooms were laid out and they had the first choice. A man by the name of Whitehouse entered this new entry on Wednesday morning and was told by an underboss he could have his choice of the rooms laid off; he chose the second one, worked for a little while and, for some reason, stopped and went home. Upon his return, after a short absence, his place was occupied by two Chinamen, who claimed they had worked in it the night previous. They came to words about it, and from words to blows. The Chinese rushed into this room to assist their friends, as also did the whites.

Picks, drills, shovels and needles were their weapons, and the Chinese were worsted. Four of them were pretty badly abused; one of them has since died, a pick having been driven into his head two or three times.

After the fight was over in the mine, the whites came out and armed themselves with rifles and shotguns, to protect themselves against the Chinese, as they said. Some forty armed in this fashion marched from this Mine No. 6 to Chinatown, a distance of three-quarters of a mile, and from there to Main Street, where they decided to hold a meeting after the miners came home from work in the evening. Some whisperings were afloat that the officials had telegraphed for troops, and for fear their schemes might fall through they decided to go right to work and not wait for any meeting.

With this in view they marched for Chinatown about 3 p.m. They first fired a few shots overhead, and when that failed to scare them,

FIRE INTO THEIR HOUSES.

This had the desired effect, and they were out like a swarm of bees. Quite a number made for the bridge that crosses Bitter Creek, but were met by two women with six-shooters, who are said to have changed their course, when they took a southeast direction and jumped into Bitter Creek, where the banks are perpendicular, and 25 to 30 feet high. While they thus ran the balls were flying around them like hailstones. One was shot through the head, two through the breast, and another through the thigh, when in the act of jumping this bank, and there he lay the whole night by the water's edge, wounded and bleeding. Another was shot through the lungs. Some of our boys passed him in his last agonies, but

DARES NOT GIVE ANY ASSISTANCE.

When they went to breakfast they found him dead. Some yet remained in the houses who would not come out to be shot at like dogs, and in order to carry out their hellish designs, their assailants fired their houses. Some of the Chinese, to save themselves dug holes in the earth, but were overtaken by the flames before they could get deep enough, and in some cases they stuck their heads and shoulders in the holes they had dug, and in this way were roasted alive. In one or two cases their bodies were found

HALF EATEN BY THEIR PIGS

which, as a general thing, run around loose. It is reported that one hid himself below the seat of a privy, amongst the filth, and was caught and dragged into the burning flames. There are fifteen in all whose bodies have been found, and it is possible there may be twice as many more in the smoldering embers of the sixty buildings that were burned to the ground; only one house was left untouched and it was tenanted.

Almost every Chinaman had a pig or two, and chickens and ducks in large numbers, but all had disappeared before the following morning. One urchin had a half-grown pig swung over his shoulder and held on to it by a front leg while the pig did its best at

making faces and squealing; another was running one barrow-fashion by the hind legs, and when intercepted, exclaimed with an oath, "Do you think I'm going to fight for nothing?" Cook stoves and everything that could be lifted was carried off.

The Chinamen are in the mountains about fifteen miles southeast of here, and one of their number who ventured to come in to-night reports that numbers of them are

DYING OF STARVATION.

Provisions are being sent to them and I believe a number of them who have kept near to the railroad track have been shipped west.

Since my arrival here this morning I have made diligent inquiry to find the particulars, as it was my intention to write and give all the items I could. I feel proud to say that in my inquiries I have not found the first instance where a Latter-day Saint has had his hand in this murderous affair. It was rumored that after the miners had cleared out the Chinamen they intended

TO CLEAR OUT THE "MORMONS"

and the Scandinavians, and as far as I can learn there was some truth in the report. I saw some of the leading brethren to-night and they told me they were all armed and prepared to protect their families, but they were not molested.

All is quiet here now, and the rioters seem satisfied now that the Chinamen are gone.

Boss Evans got two or three hours' notice to leave the town, plead for time to pack up and offered to go the following morning; but his request was not granted, and he had to skip. Superintendent Brown, a man who is respected by the miners, tried to prevent the burning of the houses, and he also was ordered to go, but after a season the order was revoked. Where Chinatown stood there are now a few smoking embers to be seen, with numbers of persons scraping them about seeking for plunder."

We have also received the following from another correspondent, which incorporates some additional particulars of the situation at the scene of the massacre, the letter is dated Rock Springs September 3rd:

"The scene in and around Chinatown this morning was horrible. There were eleven dead bodies found, burned to a crisp. One, the hogs had got at, and eaten most of the flesh off his legs and arms. One more was found who had started to run and had been shot through the hip. He was still alive this morning, when found at 9 o'clock; he was removed and cared for. Four were found who had been shot dead and one wounded, and eleven who were burned were found; but doubtless many more bodies were covered up in the debris that will never be accounted for till the day of judgment. I was surprised to see

MANY WOMEN WALKING AROUND OVER THE RUINS.

this forenoon viewing the dead bodies and picking up whatever of value they could find, apparently indifferent in view of the terrible suffering that had been endured by the victims they were robbing. It is hard to tell what will be the outcome of the affair, but it seems to be only a still stronger indication of the recklessness and wickedness of the people in these the last days.

The Superintendent and other railroad dignitaries, together with the Governor of the Territory, arrived at noon to-day and took in the sight of the ruins. But little has been said this afternoon. Many of the miners started to work this morning, but I think it was only for a blind.

THE CHINESE SECTION HANDS WERE REPLACED

this afternoon by white men from other stations. The carpenters were ordered to work this afternoon, but there seems to be something in the wind with the officers. I think the end is not yet. The miners and working men here appear to be very determined, and I believe that if the company undertake to bring the Chinamen back there will be bad work. And if more Chinamen are not hired the whites in a few days will be apt to demand the same wages they got before the Chinamen came, which will likely be refused, and may make trouble any way.

The citizens, women and all, seem to be quite

JUBILANT OVER THE AFFAIR,

but I do not envy the position which some of them have placed themselves in."

A LIBEL REFUTED.

SALT LAKE CITY NOT THE PESTIFEROUS PLACE IT IS REPRESENTED TO BE—FIGURES THAT DO NOT LIE.

Editor Deseret News:

There seems to be a disposition on the part of some persons in our community to magnify every circumstance that occurs and make mountains out of mole hills. The half-masting of the flag on the fourth of July last was represented as such a menace to the government as to require the presence of troops to prevent a repetition of the insult on the 24th of July, or Pioneer Day; and when no circumstance whatever exists out of which the maligners

of the people can possibly make any capital, their fertile brain will create out of nothing, circumstance, scenery, actors and everything else in the shape of appointments and furnishings, so as to keep up

AN EVERLASTING HOWL

about the Mormons; for to misrepresent, nay lie, is their strong hold and the only weapons they use.

We have had a few cases of diphtheria in our city, some of which have proved fatal during the past few months. This is made to appear as appalling in the extreme, that our city is almost a charnel house that the quarantine physician (with his limited powers) and the municipal authorities generally are responsible for this awful condition of things; and then again the county authorities are guilty (so they say) of the most culpable negligence, because a few cases have resulted disastrously outside of the city limits. Not a word is said about the physicians who have personally attended many of these cases and whose duty it was to suggest the proper precautionary measures to prevent its spread because in the main the physicians are non-"Mormons."

I am not disposed, however, to blame the medical fraternity, the quarantine physician, the municipal officers nor the county authorities, because I am not aware of any criminal neglect chargeable to either of them, and have no disposition to rush into print for the sake of producing a sensation, yet I thought that

A FEW FACTS

sustained by evidence might have the effect of calming the fears of the more nervous part of the community.

In 1881 the total deaths occurring in this city in the month of August were 101. Of these, three were from diphtheria. In 1882 the total deaths in August were 58; diphtheria cases 1. In 1883 the total deaths in August were 57; diphtheria cases, none. In 1884 the total deaths in August were 48; diphtheria cases, 3. During the month of August this year we have the terrible mortality of 49, with 10 cases of diphtheria included, while in the month of July last the total mortality was 43, with four cases of diphtheria. In fact, the mortality of the past month has been less than in any corresponding month for fifteen years past except as follows: in 1870, when it was 32; 1871, when it was 43; 1876, when it was 31; 1880, when it was 24, (7 of which were from diphtheria), and 1884, when it was 48. The mortality during the present year so far, has been unprecedentedly low, while the diphtheria cases for each month are as follows: January, 1; February, none; March, 3; April, 3; May, 1; June, 4; July, 4; August, 10; making a total of 26.

Now, Mr. Editor, in view of these facts what cause is there for representing our city as

A PESTIFEROUS PLACE

or what need is there for abusing either quarantine physician or the municipal officers? Perhaps the Governor of our Territory can help the falsifiers by manipulating these figures in their favor as he did in the Cannon-Campbell case, but unless this can be done the fact remains that another mountain is sought to be made out of a mole hill.

I am indebted to the courtesy of the Superintendent of the Sexton's office for the use of schedules from which this data is obtained.

Yours truly,

CONSISTENCY.

Salt Lake City, Sept. 4th, 1885.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

BOUNTIFUL, Sep. 7, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

An accident happened last Saturday about noon by which a young man belonging to this Ward (South Bountiful)

LOST HIT LIFE.

Three sheepherders in the vicinity of Bear River, east of Ogden, in the employ of Brother William Moss, were out hunting with their guns. One of them, a boy fourteen years of age, named Frank Shepherd, had a Winchester repeating rifle, from which he had fired several shots. On again throwing a cartridge into his gun (which operation also raises the hammer) the boy did not think to put the hammer down, and carried it so for some distance. When attempting to change the position of his gun and place it on his shoulder, he thinks his finger must have touched the trigger, as it

ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGED.

Unfortunately John Burtenshaw, Jr., was a little in advance, and the ball entered his body a little to the left of his back bone and under the shoulder-blade, and came out within an inch of the nipple of the left breast, killing him instantly. The boy who did the shooting was frantic, and begged of his remaining companion, Horace F. Egan, to shoot him.

Horace left the small boy to watch the body while he went to camp for a horse and another boy to assist him. When they returned they found the body deserted; the boy could not stay with it; he got frightened and struck out for camp and they missed each other, so the two boys had to manage the best they could; they lifted the body astride of the horse in the saddle and Horace got on behind and held it in an upright position

in his arms for three miles to camp, the other boy leading the horse slowly, the boys prepared as good a place as they could in their wagon with fine boughs, willow leaves, etc., and

BROUGHT THE REMAINS HOME

to the parents in this place—a distance of about 75 miles—arriving this morning about 4 o'clock.

The funeral services were held this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The deceased would have been 22 years old the 19th of this month. He was quiet, inoffensive, and respected by all who knew him. It has cast a gloom over the entire Ward. An inquest was held and a verdict rendered in accordance with the above facts.

RICHARD E. EGAN.

EXPRESSIONS FROM THE PEOPLE.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LABOR-SEEKERS OF UTAH.

In connection with my last article published in your issue of the 4th inst., I desire to offer

A FEW SUGGESTIONS

which I trust will be considered as coming from a friend—one who is deeply interested in the Latter-day Saints, who immigrated to Utah with the spirit of the Gospel in their hearts.

It is often a source of chagrin to me, while shaking the warm hand of one whom I have favorably known in the "Old Country," to learn that he has been here one, two, three and sometimes six months and as yet has not obtained employment. Such individuals often state their willingness to work at any kind of labor, and my heart has ached because I was personally unable to employ them, though I have done so for short periods in several instances in order to assist and encourage them. But this relief in any case can only be temporary, and does not meet the real want of the situation. Nothing short of permanent employment can effect what is required for the people, who come from abroad for the Gospel's sake to make their home with us in this Territory.

It must be evident to every thinker and observer, that the number and character of

HOME INDUSTRIES

in this city and vicinity, are too limited to offer great facilities in the direction desired—namely, universal and constant employment. Unless these are multiplied to correspond with the continually increasing population, want and distress must follow, and must be relieved by the hand of benevolence. This is not to be entertained to any great extent, except in behalf of such cases as those of utter helplessness. As a community we can neither tender nor accept

SUPPORT AS A FREE GIFT.

It is not in the nature of a people as enterprising and self-reliant as the Latter-day Saints.

What then presents itself? In the absence of labor-supplying industries, and through the getting of the labor market each season, what is suggested but to induce the incoming seeker of home and support to "strike out" for the outlying settlements, where his labors may be a boon to the farming population as well as a blessing to himself? There is hardly a season but what harvest hands are scarce in the farming districts, and remunerative employment could be afforded to many persons who, through desire for "city life" are compelled to spend their time seeking for employment, or what is worse, waiting for some one to come and offer them assistance in that direction.

Again many persons who come from England, and have been in the habit of drawing their weekly wages in money, are averse to working for other kinds of pay. This is

A MISTAKE.

Cash is not required to obtain every thing needed in a family. Many things are obtainable for labor which are useful in the household, such as groceries, flour, vegetables, fruit, wood, coal, and furniture, and which would have to be purchased with cash if not otherwise supplied. It is often the case that in consequence of not getting all of their wages in money, persons accumulate a credit sufficient to purchase some useful articles, which would have seemed beyond their reach if they had undertaken to save money enough to buy it. When wages are received every week in ready money they are frequently

SPENT AT ONCE,

and the habit of exhausting the last dollar becomes so fixed, that it is difficult to change it for the better one of saving a part of their earnings for a "rainy day." Frequently those of the working classes who come here from England, have already acquired the habit of spending all their income. This is the result perhaps of long years of limited earnings, and through being paid in cash, which was always easy enough to part with for what appeared in the market. It has become chronic with some I have seen abroad to be penniless within 24 hours after pay day.

And such people would naturally chafe under the restraint which

BARTER AND TRADE

impose upon them. They do not see

the great advantages they are obtaining by the system of trade, not only in the increasing supply of stock on hand—even though it should be at present unsaleable—but also in the excellent habit which it would engender, of keeping something on hand for future use. Although imperceptibly to themselves, the art of saving is being learned, and its rewards are already to some extent enjoyed.

The writer knows of many who live in their own homes in this city and in various other parts of the Territory, as a result of this very condition. They were unable to expend all their earnings as they went along, and finding themselves possessed of building material and other unconvertible substance, they concluded to utilize the supply in providing a home for themselves and little ones—a luxury which they would never have aspired to perhaps, in a foreign land.

This, then, shows

THE ADVANTAGES OF ACCEPTING WORK,

even if the pay be in other means than ready money.

Another thing to be considered is the price charged for labor. In these hard times employment should not be spurned at even what we call low wages. Better earn a little than to go idle. It often occurs that a man obtains offers of employment through his being seen at work. When if he had been sitting around with his hands in his pockets, he would not have been so favored. Industrious habits soon attract attention and produce their good results. And the people in Zion are no slower than those elsewhere in recognizing the presence or absence of this sterling quality.

Willingness to work at anything that comes along, moderate charges, faithfulness to employers and general good habits will win their way in Utah as well as in any other part of the country. And those who exercise these virtues will find their circumstances gradually brighten, to the comparative exclusion of others who are more grasping, and in other respects less worthy.

JEAN VALJEAN.

A WORD OF CONSOLATION.

September 2nd, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

There seem to be a feeling among some, and I presume it has more or less infected our brethren who have been made a target for hatred and prejudice, that we are

ALONE IN THE WORLD—

a feeling of loneliness, akin to that which the boy feels when thrown in to deep water for the first time.

Well, be it so, such a feeling is right and proper. We must sink or swim by our own exertions; those who strike out boldly and fear not are very apt to float, while the timid and fearful are sure to sink. Let all remember, high and low, rich and poor, you who are clothed with a little brief authority as well as those who linger in tyrants' chains, we have

ONE FRIEND

who is mightier than all, and one who never fails to come up on time. Why should we care for any other? With Him on our side we are able to cope with ten thousand millions. This world is but transitory; in short, but a shadow—this and nothing more. Then what should we fear, surely not a shadow? Let them bark and howl and work themselves up to a pitch of frenzy.

"By the gods, you shall digest the venom of your spleen, though it do split you, for, from this day forth I'll use you for my mirth, yea, for my laughter, when you are waspish."

Talk about putting down polygamy, extinguishing faith! As well talk about stopping the lightning or the rain from falling. If such fools were capable of sensing the thousandth part of the contempt they inspire, they would pray for some one to bury them.

The God of Israel is running this world, though some slimy worms imagine they do, and He does not require any help. He does not stand in need of any favors, and what is more,

HE UNDERSTANDS HIS BUSINESS.

Fear not, you that are poor in spirit and in the friendship of this world. Be of good cheer, firm and faithful to God's given truths. Bravely bear up, though worldly hopes go down.

"Let the sword of truth be boldly drawn and in the name of right, walk firmly on, so shall life's very ills bow to the triumph of thy conquering will."

We find recorded in John's testimony, xiv, 12: "Verily, verily, I say unto you he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go to my father. Let us look up to our Standard Bearer. He made this world for himself, and he is going to have the honor of regulating it according to his own pleasure, the impuissant arrogance of man notwithstanding." EVANGELIST.

By taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla many a poor sufferer who submits to the surgeon's knife because of malignant sores and scrofulous swellings, might be saved, sound and whole. This will purge out the corruptions which poison the blood, and by which such complaints are originated and fed.