

We embarked on the *Forest Queen* on May 14th, amid weeping and wailing among the natives. The air was laden with wild, quavering "urves," and genuine anguish was depicted on many of the faces of these dusky children of nature. After getting out of the bay we stayed around on the lee side of Oahu all day Monday. In the evening we went on deck in the soft tropical moonlight, sang and chatted and watched the shores of Oahu as they slowly disappeared from view.

From the captain down all were as kind to us as they could possibly be. We were, it seemed, in the midst of friends. Captain Winding is a genial, even-tempered gentleman. The mate, Mr. Molle, is a Norwegian, and on acquaintance we found him to be an intimate friend of our musician, Professor Monson. The Italian steward is a character "all by himself," and to describe him it would need half a chapter at least.

It seemed strange to be awakened in the morning by the barking of the steward's large Newfoundland dog, the quacking of ducks, the "meow" of the cats and the crowing of the cocks. However, the ducks and chickens were silenced and sacrificed for our sakes before the voyage was over. The journey had all the elements of uncertainty which is said to belong to past times, and we speculated on wind and weather, asked questions daily—and towards the last hourly—and after our sea sickness was over we really enjoyed the trip.

If I had time I should like to speak of one of our fellow-passengers, named White, a Grand Army of the Republic man, who talked on three distinct and highly interesting subjects, morning, noon and night, and every spare moment between times; first, of course, Mr. White (with variations); second the domination of the Catholic party in America; third, the mighty republican party. In the course of Catholicism he would occasionally veer round to the subject of England and "her dotage;" whereupon another passenger, an English youth of 22, and of solid, inflexible belief in the immense superiority of the mother country to every other insignificant strip of dry land on the globe, would flare up immediately and then "the fur began to fly." But the climax was reached one evening when Mr. White found out that I had the audacity to be a Democrat and to vigorously defend its policy and our Ex-President Cleveland.

After two weeks of pleasant traveling, we sighted land on the morning of the fourteenth day, and were tugged into the harbor, casting anchor at half-past eleven o'clock Sunday, April 28th. The captain was delighted with our quick and pleasant voyage. I sent word to him by the steward who called to see us last evening, that he might attribute his success to the fact of his having such a faithful people as the "Mormons" on board. The Lord never forsakes his dutiful children.

We witnessed the grand parade

here yesterday. It was a magnificent pageant. Glittering uniforms, stately men, fine carriages and hundreds of splendid horses. The natives enjoyed it immensely.

We are being detained because of our freight and numbers, but hope to get away tomorrow.

"Home again," and "Home, Sweet Home," are the tunes we sing—the words oftenest on our lips and the thoughts which spread a warm glow over every hour and moment. All well and send "Aloha."  
HOMESPUN.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 1st, 1889.

### STAR VALLEY.

Afton is near the center, on the east side, of the beautiful Star Valley. This valley is about 25 miles long and will average about five miles wide, is furnished with plenty of water, flowing in crystal streams on either side, sufficient to irrigate the whole section of country. There are now located here about 150 families, and more are coming every day. We have at present four large meeting houses, which are filled every Sabbath day—in the forenoon by Sabbath schools and in the afternoon by religious worshippers. During the week the children assemble in the capacity of a day school, taught by competent teachers.

The valley at present is divided into four districts, each presided over by presiding Elders and all under the supervision of C. D. Cazier. Last week we had a visit from President Wm. Budge and Counselors, of the Bear Lake Stake, of which we form a part. They held meetings in the various public buildings and gave the Saints many good and timely instructions, which had a tendency to encourage us in the arduous toils in which we have to engage in making homes in these new valleys.

We are blessed with many natural facilities such as good land, water, timber and grass, with a climate that will produce grain and vegetables of as fine a quality as can be raised in Salt Lake or Cache Valleys. We believe we will also be able to raise many of the hardy varieties of fruit.

We have most of the organizations that older communities of the Church are blessed with, such as relief societies, mutual improvement associations, primaries, etc., all of which are doing a good work in assisting the poor, and educating the rising generation in the principles of the Gospel.

Although this is a very healthy place, a few have been called to mourn the loss of dear ones, who have been ushered into another and, we hope, a better world. Notable among those was Elder E. D. Mecham, who met with an accident while hunting in the mountains last winter, which resulted in his death, leaving a family of small children and a faithful wife in poor circumstances.

Last Sunday the president of the Relief Society, Sister Harriet Cazier, invited a number of the sisters

and some of the brethren to go and give Sister Mecham a surprise on the first day of May. This invitation was accepted, and on May Day a number of wagons, loaded with happy souls and a goodly amount of the substantial we mortals need, both for the outer and the inner man, wended their way toward the home of the bereaved with the intention to cheer and comfort. About seventy persons, old and young, assembled at a near neighbor's, a large table was soon constructed and loaded down with good things, the variety being too great to describe. The viands received justice at the hands of those assembled, while enough was left to feed as many more. After this was over, the President of the society called the assembly to order, and a short and interesting meeting was held, at which words of consolation and encouragement were offered by those who spoke. A large number of presents were made to Sister Mecham in the shape of cloth of various kinds for clothing, also groceries and some money. All then returned home, feeling they had celebrated May-day in a pleasant and profitable manner.  
AFTON.

AFTON, Uinta County, Wyo., May 2 1889.

Some of the manners and customs of different peoples of the earth appear to the ordinary Caucasian profoundly ridiculous. The Polynesians and the Malays always sit down when speaking to a superior. The inhabitants of Mallicollo, an island in the Pacific Ocean, show their admiration by hissing; the Esquimaux pull a person's nose as a compliment; Maories greet each other affectionately by rubbing noses, a feat which our New Zealand missionaries can generally accomplish after a short practice; a Chinaman puts on his hat where we should take it off, and among the same curious people a coffin is considered as a neat and appropriate present for an aged person, especially if in bad health. If the latter suggestive operation were to be applied in this country to a rich consumptive uncle it would doubtless have a material effect upon the old gentleman's last will and testament.

The Manchester (England) *Guardian* mentions a new departure by a provincial surgeon. A small tumor was removed from an important nerve in a patient's arm, and in the course of the operation some of the nerve itself was taken away; this was naturally followed by loss of sensation in the part of the skin to which the nerve was distributed. After forty-eight hours the surgeon, having obtained a piece of healthy nerve from a leg which had just been amputated, proceeded to restore the continuity of his patient's nerve with the borrowed piece of tissue. The result was that sensation returned in thirty-six hours, and there was, apparently, every prospect of a complete and healthy recovery.