

almost 100 miles each way, surrounded on nearly all sides by barren, rocky but picturesque hills and mountains, covered with a thick growth of cotton-woods, ash, umbrella and fruit trees, which from an elevated position, appears like one vast forest, while almost through the center of the valley runs the Salt River, sparkling and glistening in the sun; here and there throughout the valley little "buttes" of rugged peaks rise abruptly from the plain, relieving the monotony of its levelness; while stretching out on every hand from your view lie broad fields of alfalfa, beautiful and green the entire year and on which vast herds of cattle may be seen grazing and fattening for the eastern and western markets. Immense orchards of oranges, lemons, almonds, olives, peaches, pears, plums and apricots are also visible, all tending to reveal the possibilities of this great valley and to show what has been accomplished by irrigation, for without it this whole valley would not sustain comfortably a single family. You may drive for miles on smooth, level roads, lined with immense cottonwood trees which overhang the road, making an archway that is certainly unique, delightful and cool.

If you want to see what artists call color harmony, a view of Salt River valley when the sun is sinking is worth a long trip and can only be compared to a sunset upon the Great Salt Lake. There is every imaginable combination of purple and rose, and crimson, and pink, with tinges of blue and shades of red, crossed at times with hues of gold and green. The minerals in the bare mountains are of every variety of shade, and blending in the distance unite in a mass of color that has no equal in any of the rainy land; and its beautiful moonlight nights are incomparable.

The balmyest sigh which vernal zephyrs breathe  
In evening's ear were discord to the speaking  
quietude  
That wraps these moveless scenes; yon ebony  
vault  
Studded with stars unutterably bright,  
Through which the moon in unclouded splendor  
rolls,  
Seems like a canopy which love has spread  
To curtain her sleepy world.

While I do not desire to exaggerate, still too much cannot be said in praise of this valley's winter climate; for while the north enjoys the cold, bleak blizzard and biting frosts for several months, here snow is almost unknown, and there are only occasional frosts. Vegetables are grown all winter; while at this writing the fragrance wafted from the blossoms of the almond, peach and apricot most pleasantly informs one that spring is here and that summer draweth nigh.

On the south side of the Salt river, about eighteen miles east of Phoenix (the capital of Arizona), on a slight elevation of the land called "mesa" (table) is situated the beautiful town of Mesa, the chief city of the Saints in the Maricopa Stake, and the envy of both Phoenix and Tempe. The latter cities have just reason to be envious, for Mesa has the best and most-desirable location of any city in the valley, and has an ambition of one day becoming the capital. Being above any danger of floods or freshets, which are liable to occur on the Salt river, gives it a certain precedence over the cities situated on the

bottoms or near the river. It is laid out like all Utah towns, square blocks of ten acres, its broad streets, which are now being nicely graded, are lined on either side with beautiful shade trees, while sparkling streams of water run at their side—so characteristic of all cities laid out after the pattern set by our great and noble pioneer and colonizer. It is quite a busy town, doing extensive business with surrounding mining camps. There are six merchandising establishments, carrying an extensive and complete stock of goods, two hardware stores, two butcher shops, two restaurants and a bakery, two drug stores, a barber shop, two hotels, a bank and a weekly newspaper. Nearly all these business houses have nice brick buildings, one and two stories high, while some would do credit to a more pretentious town.

Mesa has connection with the outside world by means of telephone and railroad. It is now the terminus of the Maricopa & Phoenix & S. V. railroad, but it is proposed to extend the same in the near future to Globe, through a rich mining district, opening up a good market and furnishing cheap transportation for farms, fruit and dairy products which are produced in abundance near the city. Close to the railroad station the only one laid off ten acres for a park, and W. B. Johnson, the enterprising nurseryman, has just completed stocking it with umbrellas, ash olive and tamarack trees; while palms are in profusion. In a year or two this will afford a shady corner for public gatherings and certainly will be a credit to the city. The Methodist and Baptist religious societies are well represented by neat brick churches, while our own Stake house, recently erected at a cost of \$12,000, is one of the handsomest church edifices in the valley.

A flour mill, cream separating plant and three wineries are industries well patronized; while an electric light plant is being erected on one of the nearby canals, and proposes to furnish Mesa with modern lighting facilities.

I might go on and enumerate a great many other of Mesa's advantages, but ear that already I have taken up too much valuable space. Suffice it to say that our people here seem to be contented and happy in the enjoyment of a fair show of prosperity during these dull times.

R. CUTLER.

#### A GERMAN PROPHECY.

SIoux CITY, Iowa,

March 10, 1897.

In looking over my scrap book I found an old prophecy that I clipped over ten years ago, which explains itself. A portion of it has been fulfilled, and taking into consideration the condition of affairs at Orete it looks as if that portion referring to certain powers in Europe is on the eve of fulfillment.

We as Latter-day Saints recognize the hand of God in all things, and this prophecy points to the judgments of the Lord that are to take place in the last days; and all things certainly go to show that the coming of the Son of Man is not far distant.

The Latter-day Saints as a people and as individuals are blessed more than any people on the face of the

earth, in having Prophets and inspired men to lead them, and if they live up to their covenants have the promise of the Lord that the Holy Spirit will abide with them, which guides into all truth. That they do not fully appreciate the blessings which they are possessed of is fully evident from their actions at many times. Bickering and faultfinding should find no home in the heart of a Latter-day Saint; but a willing and anxious spirit to obey the counsels of God as given to them by the Prophet whom the Lord had raised up to lead them.

The counsel of Nephi to his people is just as good as it was in the day he gave it; to pray to the Lord always lest they enter into temptation.

We know as a people that the Lord desires us to have a spirit of humility and obedience to Him in all things, and this spirit will not abide with us when we are possessed of the spirit of contention, for that is the spirit of the devil.

That the Latter-day Saints are to be a tried people has been foretold by all the Prophets. As a people and as individuals we should be on the alert always that we be not led away by the sophistries of men who are agents of the evil one. I did not intend to write anything except an explanation why I sent the article, so I will close with presenting a full copy of the same, thinking it might be of interest to your readers.

Your Brother in the Everlasting Covenant, GEO. W. CROCKWELL.

#### A CURIOUS PROPHECY.

"Over forty years ago an old German hermit published in a Bavarian paper a curious prophecy. In it he foretold the Austro-Russian and the Franco-Prussian wars, the death of Pope Pius and the Turco-Russian debate at arms. He said that Germany would have three emperors in one year before the end of the century, and indicated the death of two United States Presidents by assassination. All which have come to pass.

"In the same article he said that when the twentieth century opens, great seismic disturbances will take place which will cause the submergence of New York City and the western half of Havana. Cuba is to break in two, while Florida and Lower California are to suffer total extinction. The shocks of these earthquakes will raze buildings to the ground in almost every city on the continent. Millions of lives and billions of dollars worth of property will be lost.

"There is to be a change in the economic conditions of almost every civilized nation. He foretells the growth of a democratic spirit in England which will result in a revolution that will overthrow the present form of government and make the country a republic. He says the last ruler of England will be the best the country ever had, and that the first president of the new nation will be one of the royal family.

"Queen Victoria is by long odds the best ruler England has ever had, and in a recent speech the Prince of Wales said it is his desire to live to see England a republic.

"According to the hermit, Russia, France and Italy will form an alliance and will enter into war with Turkey.