

THE REWARD FOR OPENING UP AN EMPIRE.

LESS than a quarter of a century ago Missouri and Illinois were viewed as the Far West of the American Republic. The States of Iowa and Nebraska were inhabited by Indians. What is now Colorado and Wyoming was a portion of the Great American Desert, and the Pathfinder, Fremont, for his explorations through the West, was considered to have done enough to entitle him to the nation's gratitude, and, by many, to give him a strong claim upon the highest gift in the power of the people—the Presidential chair. Utah, Nevada and California were Mexican territory, over the larger portion of which a few tribes of the most degraded Indians roamed at pleasure, living on small game, fish, berries, and a few roots of spontaneous growth.

But what a change in so short a period! Some few advanced minds at that time thought of a transcontinental railroad, to unite the waters of the Atlantic with the Pacific. But they were looked upon as dreamers. Giant and impassible mountains were believed to intervene, rendering such a work impossible; and the idea was deemed a chimera of the wildest and most unreasonable character. Yet to-day China and Japan shake hands with Europe across this continent. The "Great American Desert" is pierced, penetrated, opened up, settled; hundreds of thriving towns are scattered over it; population is pouring into it; vast mineral deposits have been discovered, and, to an extent, developed in it; agriculture flourishes in hundreds of lovely valleys; rich vegetation offers support to countless herds of stock; and the foundation has been successfully laid and is being built upon for a chain of rich, populous and powerful States, that may, before the close of the century, outrival the proudest on the Atlantic sea-board. And all this, and much more, in less than a quarter of a century; in less than twenty-three years.

This extension of the national domain the development of so vast an increase of the national resources; the opening up of millions of acres of land, capable of supporting millions of men and women; the preparing the way and laying the foundation of these young States, that will soon be able to put forth a giant strength; and the making possible that Pacific Railroad barely dreamed of a quarter of a century ago; these are matters which the future historian of America will rank among the brightest achievements of the race for national development and social progress. And an enlightened stranger, unacquainted with the history of the West during the past twenty-five years, but who saw its present condition and learned what it was then, would naturally ask: What honors are heaped upon the daring pioneers of this vast region; upon the men and women who had courage to dare the unknown perils of the desert and prove amid dangers and privations the feasibility of increasing the national greatness, glory and power, by increasing its habitable area in so vast a region deemed uninhabitable? When the mere fact of one man having simply passed over it with a few guides and hardy attendants, entitled him to a candidature for the Chief Magistracy, while he reported the impossibility of settling this region; what honors have been paid the man who led a community of people here and successfully colonized the heart of that desert? and what extra privileges have been extended to those hardy pioneers who followed that man, and aided him in establishing the colony?

The future will not fail to ask these questions, or others very like them; for whatever respect may be entertained for dead prophets, the acts of dead statesmen are as apt to be critically examined as those of living statesmen. What estimate would our imaginary stranger, or will the future, put upon those in the nation who would not only bestow no honors upon the people that were the pioneers in bringing about the great progressive change spoken of; but would actually strip them of every right and privilege guaranteed to their fellow citizens, and of the very possessions they had acquired at such risk and with such noble heroism; and all because this people believed in a religion which differed from those of others, and sought to worship God according to the light they enjoyed?

The Latter-day Saints pioneered the

West, under the protection of God and the leadership of President Brigham Young. They wrested their homes and possessions from an unwilling soil. They struggled for existence in the face of the most adverse circumstances. They made a storehouse in the heart of the continent, from which supplies could be obtained while the great work of national development was being prosecuted in the West—a development which they had first proved possible and practicable. They advanced the great inter-oceanic railroad, at least half a century; indeed, no one can say, or with any degree of correctness guess at, when the Pacific railroad would have been begun much less completed, had it not been for the Latter-day Saints in Utah. And for all they have done, which we have referred to, as well as for much more in increasing the national greatness and power they are threatened with pains and penalties. Were the great dramatist's Hamlet, living now, well might he say, after calmly considering the matter of which we have been treating—"The world is out of joint," when such reward is proffered for such services.

The following article, from the Honolulu, (Sandwich Island), *Commercial Advertiser*, of the 7th ult., on the management of the Church plantation at Laie, superintended by Elder George Nebeker, will be perused with considerable interest by many of our readers:

FREE VERSUS CONTRACT LABOR.

A writer in the last *Gazette*, appears very anxious to display his ignorance on the labor question, and especially on the manner in which the Laie Plantation is conducted, signing himself "Planter," though we cannot believe him to be engaged to the extent of one dollar in sugar planting. His whole article betrays entire ignorance of the various subjects on which he writes.

Mr. Nebeker, the proprietor of that estate, who has been in town the present week, has called our attention to some of his misstatements. Instead of 45 acres, as stated by the writer referred to, there are 170 acres of cane growing. The regular supply of men during the grinding season is 45, but during other months, the number varies, while frequently 60 women are also employed in stripping cane. On occasions, when no work offers, the number of hands is reduced to ten or twelve.

And herein is the great advantage of the free labor system which this plantation has over most others—when there is little or no work, all the hands may be discharged, and the expenses are almost nothing; while under the contract system, the laborers have to be kept at work, and expenses run on the same as during the busiest season.

A keen and experienced planter, who recently visited Laie, after examining the system adopted there, said that he believed it was the only system by which a sugar plantation can be made to pay. He had been in the sugar business for ten or fifteen years, and had not for two years past made a dollar, while the Laie Plantation has shown itself paying a handsome interest from the very start; and this is owing mainly to its cheap and economical labor system.

Another misstatement of the *Gazette* writer needs correction. Although a portion of the natives living on the estate are Mormons, yet the laborers employed are taken without regard to their religious belief, no questions ever being asked on that point, while a considerable number are known to belong to other sects. Who ever heard of religious belief making industrious workmen? It is not any superiority in the Mormon belief but the system of free labor adopted on the plantation which makes the laborer faithful and perform double the amount of work that a contract laborer will.

We urge our planters, the editor of the *Gazette* and any others interested, to visit Laie, and learn for themselves. They will see with their own eyes facts demonstrated which cannot be gainsaid, and be able to learn much that has not been referred to in print. If by the adoption of free labor, sugar can be made for three cents a pound, which under the expensive contract system costs four, four and a half or even five cents, then the sooner it is adopted the better for the planters. Free labor, by being called in only when wanted, is economical; while the contract system, which compels the employment of laborers at all times, whether there is work or not for them, is necessarily expensive.

Correspondence.

70 ROBERT STREET,
Everton, Liverpool,
February 9th, 1870.

Editor *Deseret News*:—Dear Brother. Having a few leisure moments, I thought I would drop you a few lines, knowing the interest you have in the spread of truth and righteousness upon the earth. It is eight months to-day since I landed upon the shores of old England, some 28 years having elapsed since I left this country, while but a child, with my parents, for the then, far distant west, the City of Nauvoo, the place which had been appointed for the gathering of the Saints of the Most High God. I can assure you that peculiar feelings ran through my mind when I put my foot on the land of my nativity, and thought of the great changes that had taken place during that time.

From the time I first gathered with the people of God up to the time I took my departure for this land, the kingdom of God has made rapid progress. It seems to me to be almost impossible for a person to realize the blessings that the Saints of God enjoy in the peaceful vales of Utah, without experiencing the opposite. To see the degradation and poverty in this country is enough to make the heart bleed with pity and sorrow. Wickedness and abomination stare you in the face in broad daylight. The Saints in Utah are a blessed people far away from civilization, so called, and my prayer is that the civilization that the enemies of truth would like to bring among us may never take root in our mountain home.

The work of God in this land at the present time is making but slow progress. The hearts of the people seem to be closed to God and godliness. There is but very little enquiry after truth. The minds of the people are taken up with the things of this world, they have no time to spare in thinking of their souls' salvation. It seems to me that the day is not far distant, when the nations of the earth will be preached to in a different manner than what they have been accustomed to. The Lord will preach a sermon that will make them think of the testimony of His servants which has been faithfully delivered to them. Then there will be a famine in the land, not for bread nor for water, but for the word of the Lord. The world is fast ripening in iniquity; villages thirty years ago that were comparatively free from many of the vices of old cities are now as corrupt as they know how to be.

The Saints are feeling well in the work of the Lord, though they are very poor as a general thing; they are very anxious to be gathered home to Utah, where they may assist in building up the kingdom of God. Many who left this country, that promised to help out their friends, have seemingly forgotten them altogether. They must have forgotten the feeling that filled their breasts while in this land of tyranny and oppression. Their brethren who are left have got the same anxious desire to be delivered, and the majority of them are not able to emigrate without help. They must be helped by their friends in Zion or else they cannot gather. If the Saints in Zion would keep their promises to their friends it would cause more pleasant feelings to exist among the Saints throughout this country.

I feel well in trying to disseminate the principles of truth to this dark and dreary world, the Lord has blessed me with His Holy Spirit. I am thankful that I was considered worthy to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ to the nations of the earth. My desire is to be an humble instrument in the hands of God in doing some little good, and as little harm as possible. I trust I shall be able to profit by the experience that I may gain while upon this mission and that I will be able to hold out faithfully to the end is my earnest desire.

I will now close, praying God to bless you with His Holy Spirit that you may be able to magnify your high and holy calling.

Your brother in the new and everlasting covenant.

GEO. ROMNEY.

GRANTSVILLE,
February 23, 1870.

Editor *Deseret News*:—Dear Sir—As Grantsville is seldom heard from through the columns of your paper, I thought that I would venture to write a short communication, hoping that it may find a place in your columns. The first sub-

ject that I wish to write upon is that of a grand military pic-nic ball given by the cavalry company of Grantsville on the anniversary of Washington's birthday, Tuesday Evening, Feb. 22nd.

The people began to assemble at the Social Hall at an early hour. At half past seven prayer was offered by Maj. Barrus (commander of the infantry). After prayer, the cavalry formed into line for roll call. They were then numbered for the dance according to rank, by Capt. S. W. Woolley, who is in command of the cavalry forces of Grantsville, and was chief manager of the party. Of the invited guests present, were the commissioned officers of the infantry companies, also President T. H. Clark, President E. Hunter, and a number of other influential gentlemen. The hall was well decorated with flags and weapons of war, and everything was so well arranged for the comfort of the company, that too much praise cannot be given to the committee of arrangements, Capt. Samuel W. Woolley, Lieut. Alma H. Hale and Lieut. Wm. R. Judd.

Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock p. m., and was kept up until 11, when the company took up the line of march for the meeting house, headed by the Grantsville string band. On arriving there we found the tables spread with pic-nics of great variety and of the choicest kinds, and the company, which numbered about two hundred persons, ladies and gentlemen, sat down at the tables, and a more lively and sociable company I have seldom if ever seen. The manner in which the tables were spread showed great skill and judgment on the part of the ladies who arranged them. After supper a few speeches were made and songs sung, and at 1 o'clock dancing was resumed and continued until near five in the morning. Good order was maintained throughout the evening. And I think that the anniversary of Washington's birthday will be long remembered by the civil and military citizens of Grantsville.

I will now describe our Grantsville theatre in as brief a manner as possible. The Social Hall has been fitted up with a stage and some very good scenery for the use of the Grantsville Dramatic Association, which has given several exhibitions during the winter, which have been satisfactory to all who have witnessed them, and notwithstanding the inexperience of the actors and actresses they do exceedingly well, and we think that some of them bid fair to become brilliant stars in the dramatic world.

J. R. CLARK.

The above came to hand Wednesday, rather behind time, but a desire to oblige our correspondent induced us to publish it in the NEWS.

OGDEN.—Improvements are rapidly going on in Ogden. A considerable number of buildings are being finished or in course of erection. Business, however, is not very lively at present, but "hope springs exultant on triumphant wing," or something of that sort, as everybody is looking for brisk times when Spring fairly opens. Last night there was a Female Relief Society ball, in Mr. C. Woodmansee's building, on Main street, which was numerously attended and was a success. There is some mud around; in fact a man wearing No. 13's might help himself to enough real estate to make a respectable lot, by walking about a day or two and regularly scraping off in one spot; but dry weather will soon settle that matter, until it begins to "get up and dust" under the influence of a sharp breeze.

RICH COUNTY.—Brother Osmond, writing from Paris, Rich county, on the 26th ult., says:

"A gloom has been cast over this town by the death of Sister Rebecca K. Eldredge, who died on the 24th inst. She was the daughter of William and Eliza Derr, and wife of Elnathan Eldredge, jr. It will be a great consolation to her many relatives and friends in Salt Lake City to hear that Sister Eldredge received every care that human sympathy or foresight could suggest. All business was suspended on the day of her funeral. The full attendance of the brethren and sisters to the services of which showed the great respect and sympathy felt for our sister and her husband. Suitable addresses were delivered on the occasion by President David P. Kimball and Elder George Osmond.

Sister Eldredge was twenty-five years of age and died five days after childbirth, leaving behind her the record of a faithful saint and affectionate wife.

"The Saints in Bear Lake Valley are very generally enjoying the blessings of peace, union and good health."

There are 260,000 negroes in Maryland including 50,000 children.

Nearly 1,000 buoys are moored around the coast of England, and in the channels of its chief rivers.