

this city has some 150,000 human beings on an area of about a mile square, with 200 mosques thrown in, one of which is in an enclosure of 1,100 feet by 800.

At 3 o'clock Mr. N. Meshaka, accompanied by two of his friends, called upon us in camp. He informed us that if we wished to establish missions in this country it would be necessary to obtain permission from the Sultan. The Prince of Sax Weimer has just passed our camp on his entry to Damascus, announced by the firing of artillery, and received by thousands of people lining the sides of the road, giving us a good opportunity to see the people, some 5,000 troops, cavalry, artillery, and infantry, had previously gone out to escort him; he is a young man in a plain light grey suit.

Monday, 18.—This morning a servant of the Consular Agent, dressed in ginger-bread Turkish livery, with a curved sword and whip, called at our camp by order of the Agent, and conducted us to the great mosque, or grand harem, or Mosque of St. John. In 705 it became entirely a mosque; previous to that it had been a Christian Church, and from the time of the Saracen occupation half of it was Christian; before that, or originally, it had been a heathen temple, and some of its ancient columns are still remaining. They showed us a tomb containing a gold casket said to contain the head of John the Baptist; behind an iron grating the ankles of Mahomet are pointed out. We ascended one of the minarets and had a fine view of the city, and its surrounding gardens, groves, cultivated fields, and the neighboring villages, beyond which is desert. We then visited Abd-el-Kader, rendered historic by his long and able defence of Algeria against the French, and also for his kind rescue of many Christians in the massacre of 1860. His Highness treated us with much courtesy, and our interview was very pleasant. He said it was 27 years since he was in France, and he had resided here 16 years. It is said that Mahomet, when as a camel driver he first came in sight of Damascus, refused to enter it, saying: "Man can have but one paradise, and my paradise is fixed above;" this may illustrate the difference between the naked desert, and the portion irrigated by the waters of the Abana and Pharpar.

Brothers Snow and Carrington will take the post coach for Beyrout this evening at 6 o'clock, timed to arrive there to-morrow at 8 a.m. 14 hours' ride; we expect to reach there on horseback Friday evening, 21st, if the weather proves as favorable as hitherto.

The party are all well, peaceful, and in good spirits. Many thousand ladies visited our camp yesterday, to see sisters Snow and Little.

GEORGE A. SMITH.

NEW ORIENTAL HOTEL, BEYROUT, SYRIA,
March 24, 1873.

President Brigham Young:

Dear Brother:—On Tuesday evening, 18th inst. Brothers Snow and Carrington took post coach for Beyrout, where they arrived on the morning of the 19th, and posted the letters I wrote to you at Nazareth and Damascus, and other letters forwarded by them, to go by the steamer on the 20th. During the time we remained at Damascus, several thousand women came out to look at our camp, and great numbers of them kissed Sisters Snow and Little, and seemed much interested in seeing them.

Our programme included a visit to the ruins of Baalbec, but it was not deemed best to make it. This arrangement proved to be well timed, as I learned from a Mr. Todd that his party to Baalbec were exposed for several hours to a cold, severe and drenching storm of hail and rain on Wednesday and Thursday. Where we were the weather was favorable.

The French company's road, 112 kilometres of five-eighths of a mile each, is well macadamized, and kept in excellent repair. It crosses the Anti-Lebanon and Lebanon ranges of mountains and the beautiful plain or valley between them, which is irrigated by abundant streams flowing from the two ranges, and is well cultivated. The massacre of the Christians by the Turks at Damascus, in 1860, caused six European powers, including Turkey, to send some 6,000 French soldiers to Damascus, to protect the Christian interests; probably from this move sprang the excellent road between Damascus and Beyrout, made, kept in repair and owned by a French company, who have a charter for fifty years, at the expiration of which time the road is to become the property of the Turkish Government; should that event transpire, Mr. N. Meshaka, U.S. Consular Agent, said the road would at once be allowed to go out of repair. A change from rocky trails to this smooth road seemed very agreeable, though the descents were fatiguing.

During the night of the 18th we had a rain, which changed our rather damp campground into a swamp, making our start on the morning of the 19th an agreeable change. The day threatened rain, but it passed to the north of us. Camped at Dimas, in the Anti-Lebanon range.

Thursday night, 20th, we camped at Kob Elias, an Arab town at the east base of the Lebanon range. The valley between the two ranges is one of the most fertile and best cultivated we have seen, water for irrigating being supplied by streams fed by rains and melting snows.

We arrived at Beyrout at 2:45 p.m., Friday 21st, and stayed in camp until the 22nd, when we went to the New Oriental Hotel, the hotel where Brothers Snow and Carrington were being full. Our dragoman, Mr. Anthony Makloof, proved himself efficient in conducting us from Jaffa to this place, and in providing very comfortably for our wants.

We have had but part of a day's rain during our journey from Jaffa on the 22nd of February. We were provided with good horses, and they performed their part well. We all arrived here in good health.

In my letters to you I have reported rather minutely what has been told us by our guides and the monks, &c., in relation to the old sacred sites and relics, which may be illustrated in the case of John the Baptist. At the Church of San Lorenzo, in Genoa, we were shown the chain with which he was bound, and a casket which contained his head; Pope Innocent having decreed that no woman should enter the chapel containing these relics only on one day in a year. Sisters Snow and Little were not admitted into the chapel; the monk informed us there could be no mistake about their identity. When at Samaria, in the Church of St. John the Baptist, erected by the Knights of St. John in the 11th century, and much dilapidated, we were allowed to look into the tomb and see the bones of St. John and his family. When visiting the Grand Harem at Damascus, once the Church of St. John, and now the Mosque of St. John the Baptist, we were shown an inclosure containing the head of John the Baptist in a golden casket. When in Venice, in a church, I was shown a piece of marble upon which the guide assured me the head of John the Baptist

fell when it was cut off, and a casket containing his remains, which he assured me were brought from Palestine about 800 years ago. I suppose it would be sacrilegious to doubt the identity of all these sacred remains. I visited the Garden of Gethsemane, was shown by a monk the spot where the Savior was arrested, the tree under which he sweat great drops of blood. The garden is surrounded by a good, newly built wall; the olive trees are very old. The Greek monks have another garden near by, which they assert with equal positiveness to be the true one.

Owing to a miss date accidentally made in advising the Liverpool office, we get no mail matter here, but expect to receive it at Constantinople on the 31st. On our way there the ship makes short stops at Cyprus, Rhodes, and Smyrna, giving opportunity for going ashore.

At Beyrout, there are some schools and missionary establishments belonging to Catholics and Protestants, but we are told they are sustained by large contributions from abroad. Most of the business here is conducted by foreigners; and as many as possible, both natives and foreigners, get appointed to some public office of a foreign government, or a dragoman or servant to some officer of such government, to avoid many of the exactions of the Turkish government.

So far as could be observed in a hasty ride through the country the Bedouins and others of Arab descent seem to be tall, lithe, well proportioned and athletic, indicating a goodly degree of physical purity; our dragoman informed us that adultery is punished with death, which aids in preserving from physical corruption and degeneracy. The Jews seem to be a down-trodden race.

In this vicinity the cultivation of the mulberry and the production of silk are carried on to a considerable extent; and in many places the slopes of the mountains are extensively terraced and cultivated and dotted with small villages; and in an intervening valley some good sized groves of pine are well cultivated, while figs, oranges and olives are raised in large quantities, and date trees are tolerably numerous.

Your brother in the gospel,

GEORGE A. SMITH.

A Vitally Important Decision.

In its opinion on the appeal of Mrs. Myra Bradwell from the Supreme Court of Illinois, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that the right to practice law is not a right of citizenship under the Fourteenth amendment, and directed attention to its opinion on the New Orleans slaughter-house case for the reason of the Bradwell decision. As this is the first time that the highest constitutional tribunal of the country has passed upon the Thirteenth and Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States as affecting State and Federal relations, the decision is one of the greatest importance.

The facts of the slaughter-house appeal are not of any importance except as the text upon which the Supreme Court has uttered an exhaustive discussion of the political principle involved in the amendments. The Louisiana Legislature granted to seventeen persons the exclusive privilege of landing and slaughtering all the cattle received at the port of New Orleans. The act was passed March 8, 1869, and was entitled "An act to protect the health of the city of New Orleans, to locate the stock-landings and slaughter-houses, and to incorporate the Crescent City Landing and Slaughter-House Company." The butchers not included in the corporation, and who found their business partially or wholly destroyed thereby, carried the cause through the State, and into the United States Supreme Court, basing the action on the alleged unconstitutionality of the act, under the Fourteenth amendment. The amendment reads: "No State shall make or enforce any laws which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

The court reviews, historically, all the amendments to the constitution. Arriving at the rebellion, it affirms that the condition of slavery in which the negro race had been prior to that event, and the condition of freedom into which it was the national determination to elevate it, was the sole reason of the enactment of the Thirteenth amendment:

"1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

"2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

But this was found to be insufficient to secure to the negroes the benefits of freedom. Says the court:

"They were in some States forbidden to appear in the towns in any other character than menial servants. They were required to reside on and cultivate the soil without the right to purchase or own it. They were excluded from many occupations of gain, and they were not permitted to give testimony in the courts in any case where a white man was a party. It was said that their lives were at the mer-

cy of bad men, either because the laws for their protection were insufficient, or were not enforced."

Hence the Fourteenth amendment was adopted: "No State shall make or enforce any laws which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." But it was found that hostile State legislation was still able to harass the newly made citizens by the enactment of State laws which, while not legally in conflict with the two amendments, still deprived the negro race of its full rights, under citizenship as conferred by the two amendments. The States still denied to them that which the American citizen considers the essential means of protecting and fulfilling his citizenship, suffrage. To confer this right upon the negroes, the Fifteenth amendment was adopted.

The court, therefore, holds that these three amendments refer solely to the negro race. That the Thirteenth declared their freedom, and the Fourteenth and Fifteenth were but its sequences, securing to them the rights included in the Thirteenth.

The court does not hold, however, that the protection of these amendments is to be extended to the negro race only. "While negro slavery alone was in the mind of the Congress which proposed the Thirteenth article, it forbids any other kind of slavery, now or hereafter. If Mexican peonage, or the Chinese coolie labor system, shall develop slavery of the Mexican or Chinese race within our territory, this amendment may safely be trusted to make it void."

But the court denies emphatically that it was the intention, in the adoption of the amendments, to transfer to the Federal government the protection of all the civil rights heretofore belonging to the States. It holds that the cause brought before itself by the New Orleans butchers is not one involving Federal protection of a civil right.

On the question as to whether a State may create a monopoly, its language is, in essence, that a legislature is competent to confer exclusive privileges unless prohibited by the State Constitution. Louisiana, as soon as circumstances will permit, can redress the wrongs inflicted in this respect by her legislature, by amending her constitution in accordance with the anti-monopoly article of the new constitution of Illinois.

The decision, until reversed, settles the question as to whether women may obtain the ballot under the amendments; and Susan B. Anthony will probably withdraw her suit now in the New York courts, which is based on this hypothesis. Chief Justice Chase and Justices Field, Swayne and Bradley dissented.—Chicago Evening Post.

BY TELEGRAPH.

SPECIAL TO THE "DESERET NEWS," PER
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AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The War Department has made extensive arrangements for the protection of engineering parties on the Northern Pacific Railroad. About forty companies of all branches of the service will compose the expedition, which starts June 15, Col. Stanley commanding.

The Treasury Department publishes the correspondence relative to Phelps, Dodge & Co., from which it appears that on January 3d, special agent Jayne reported to Secretary Boutwell, as a result of the examination of the books of said firm, that the firm had violated every provision of the law of 1863, governing the invoicing and entering of imported merchandise and the paying of the ad valorem duty. The total value of the invoices was examined, and it amounted to a million and three quarters, which, under the law, is plainly forfeited to the United States, not by any technical construction or far fetched interpretation, but by deliberately and systematically stating the cost of the goods below the purchase price, by a false invoice, made false for no conceivable reason but to lessen the duties.

LAFAYETTE, Ind. 28.—A house about two miles from the town of Ohio, Ind., was burned on Saturday, and a man named Klees, 70 years of age, and his daughter and her five children were burned to death.

KEENE, N. H.—A riot occurred

on Saturday night. A number of citizens came to the assistance of the police, and the rioters were dispersed. Four of them were arrested and subsequently the Chief of Police was badly beaten.

WASHINGTON, 28.—The commissioner of internal revenue will soon issue a circular regarding the collection of internal revenue, to make two returns during the month of May, from the 1st to the 19th, and from the 19th to the 31st, in order that the liabilities for the new bonds may be determined.

ST. LOUIS.—A negro named Geo. Burke, living on the farm of Henry Hair, about three miles west of Collinsville, Ill., went home drunk on Saturday night, and with an axe chopped off the head and one arm of Maria Bowman, also colored, and threw her body into a ravine. Jealousy is said to have prompted the deed.

WASHINGTON, 28.—An expedition will be organized and in readiness to depart from Fort Rice, Dakota, on the 15th of June next, for the protection of the engineering parties of the North Pacific in making surveys for the location of the road between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains. The expedition will be constituted as follows: A battalion of ten companies of the seventh cavalry, under the command of a lieutenant-colonel. Second, a battalion of ten companies of infantry, four of the 8th regiment, and six of the 9th regiment, under the command of Lieut. Col. L. P. Bradley of the 9th regiment. Third, a battalion of five companies of the 22nd infantry, under the command of a senior captain. Two of these companies are to be drawn from Fort Randall, two from Fort Sully, and designated by the respective post commanders. Fourth, a battalion of four companies of the 17th infantry, two from Fort Rice, one from Fort Lincoln and one from Camp Hancock, under the command of Major R. E. Crofton, of the 17th infantry. Fifth, a detachment of seventy-five Indian scouts, authorized by special orders from the Department of Dakota, and an addition of five scouts each from Forts Totten and Wadsworth, to be selected by the respective Post Commander from those of their commands who accompanied last year, the Yellow Stone expedition. Sixth, a detachment of artillery sufficient to man two Rodman rifled guns, to be commanded by an officer selected and detailed by the commander of the expedition. The men of the detachment will be selected from a battalion of the 17th or 22d Infantry hereinbefore designated, as a portion of the expedition. Col. D. S. Stanley, of the 22d Infantry is assigned to the command of the expedition. Excepting such staff officers as may hereafter be assigned to him, he will select the requisite staff from his command. The expedition will leave Fort Rice with sixty days' subsistence and forage. Subsequent arrangements will be made for the further supplies of the command, either from a depot, to be established on the Yellowstone, or from Fort Buford. Over two hundred and six mule teams will accompany the expedition. A special order also authorizes the employment of mechanics, and is specific in detail as to the movements of the expedition, its subsistence and other necessities for its comfort and safety. The ammunition allowance is fixed at 200 rounds per man of cavalry and infantry. The expedition will remain in the field until the 15th of October, if its services are required for that length of time, and may, at the discretion of the commanding officer, be kept out until the 1st of November, but not later. This expedition has been organized by General Terry, commanding the Department of Dakota, under the instructions of General Sherman.

This p.m., a gang of sixty longshore men refused to allow a gang of New York men to go to work on the steamer *Pembroke*, at Jersey city, and at one time a riot was threatened, but the police appeared and prevented an outbreak.

NEW YORK, 28.—Another secret meeting of the St. Crispin and German shoemakers' societies was held to-night, but no general action was decided on.

ST. LOUIS, 28.—Fifty Chinese have been set to work in the cooper shop of Jaynes & Co.; considerable indignation is manifested by the coopers.

SAN FRANCISCO, 28.—There was an increased number of teams on the streets to-day, and it is thought the epizootic has reached its climax.

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