

of Ohio, as a romance and which the latter had left with a publisher named Patterson, father of the editor of the *Presbyterian Banner*: that after stealing it he submitted it to Joseph Smith, of Palmyra, N. Y., who, in connection with Rigdon, published it and palmed it off as a revelation from God.

Learning that a daughter of Rigdon was living in Pittsburgh, a reporter called on her yesterday, and at first she declined to say anything at all on the subject, but finally, on the scribe promising not to use her name—she is married—she said: "I have never had the honor of seeing this so-called Rev. Covert, who of late has been so free in his use of dead men's names, but I understand he parts his hair in the middle of his head, a fact which, from what I have heard and read of him, is no surprise to me. Now, while I most emphatically decline to be drawn into any controversy over that story of Covert, which, if there was any foundation for it, I cannot, for the life of me, see why it was allowed to remain quiet for years after all the actors are laid in their graves; yet I will say this, that my father, who had the respect of all who knew him, and at a time when he had but little hope of living from one day to another, said to the clergymen around him, of which there was a number belonging to various denominations: these were his words: 'As I expect to die and meet my Maker, I know nothing about where the manuscript of the Mormon Bible came from.'"

The lady said further that she believed as firmly as she believed anything, that Joseph Smith (who was, she believed, at one time a good man) had a revelation, and that the Mormon Bible was founded on that revelation. But she was satisfied the Rev. Covert had never seen a copy of it and consequently did not know what he was talking and writing about."

Further comment is needless. The Spaulding story was thoroughly and completely exploded years ago, and never had a leg to stand upon. It was a mixture of mere conjecture, wild imagination, and desire to oppose by improper means that which could not be suppressed by truth and fair argument. And those who desire to investigate this matter fully, will find all the necessary data, pro and con, in the little work by Elder George Reynolds, which can be obtained at this office, entitled "The Myth of the Manuscript Found."

SOMETHING MORE ABOUT WATER.

THERE seems to be a misunderstanding in the minds of some of the people living on the "north bench" in relation to the status of the water question, so far as it affects them. A considerable time since—early in the present year—a numerously signed petition was presented to the City Council on the subject of water supply for the people of the locality named. It was referred to the appropriate committee, and no report was made on it. The petition left the matter of the source of the requested water supply with the Council to determine, without any special suggestions from the applicants.

Subsequently the Council was again petitioned by the same people, who prayed that a ditch might be made from City Creek to the "bench," in order to convey to the thirsty land the surplus waters of that stream. When the prayer was presented an argument was made before the Council by a representative of the people residing on the "bench" who briefly reviewed the whole question. The entire subject was referred to the committees on irrigation and waterworks, who were associated for special deliberation on the matter.

The result was a report from the committees recommending that the petition in reference to surplus water from City Creek be not granted, and that an appropriation of \$5000 be made for the purpose of developing certain sources of supply existing in Dry Cañon and utilizing them with all the despatch possible for the relief of the people. The report was adopted.

The Council were influenced in their action by sound reasons, of which we are cognizant, and heartily coincide, so far as they go. Surplus water is always unsatisfactory, as it is in the nature of something given by somebody to somebody else and that same somebody else can be deprived of when ever the donor considers that he wishes it for his own use. Nine times out of ten when the person who depends upon it is most in want of it.

Another very important consideration in this connection that should be kept in view by the applicants is the fact that had the Council granted the petition for the surplus from City Creek that action would in the very nature of things have delayed measures for more permanent and consequently more satisfactory relief. We must emphasize the fact that it is not a transitory or uncertain supply that the people need, but a reasonably continuous one to which they will have a right not in any degree susceptible or open to question. No movement that would injure or even delay measures looking to so desirable a consummation could be beneficial to the "north bench" people.

The corporation had already expended over three thousand dollars in

developing the Dry Cañon source, and to abandon it for another and altogether uncertain project would have been unwise to say the least. The Council have, to our thinking, taken the most proper step they could have taken under the circumstances, and we are pleased to be able to note the fact that the measure is being actively pushed, so that within two or three weeks at the outside the petitioners will be deriving some benefit from its operation.

Soon after the adoption of the committee's report by the Council an order was forwarded to California, to Mr. George Romney, to purchase 35,000 feet of redwood for the construction of a flume to conduct the stream now running to the Forks of Dry Cañon down that defile to the northeast bench adjoining this city and empty it into the upper ditch now used above the regular water line. The material has arrived and the flume is now being constructed by Mr. Robert Patrick and a force of men, who will make quick work of it.

The volume of water now running is not large, but is sufficiently so to constitute it a valuable acquisition, and it is reasonably sure that it is permanent, a good evidence of this being that it did not cease running all last year, although the season was an unusually dry one. It is confidently expected that the quantity of water can be greatly increased by skillful development, and work with that object in view is about to be begun. In order to make a careful survey of the prospect and decide upon a plan of operations a few days ago Mayor James Sharp, Councilor Junius F. Wells, Watermaster Winder, Mr. Charles H. Wilcken and Mr. John Sharp, Jr., made a personal visit to the springs in the cañon. The city officials named and a number of others take an active interest in the matter, and they enlisted the aid of the gentlemen last mentioned because of his practical knowledge of geological formations. The result of the visit and inspection was a decision to tunnel a hill in the vicinity of the springs from two directions, and it is hoped by this means that a considerable stream will be obtained, which will be very satisfactory to the thirsty residents of the "bench."

We do not think that there is any good reason for finding fault with the Mayor and Council for declining to grant the prayer of the petition in reference to City Creek surplus water, so long as a measure of relief has been adopted, and is in progress that gives promise of better because more permanent results. A smaller permanent supply is better than a larger one that is uncertain. Indeed the greater proportion connected with a surplus might be more apparent than real, as the longer time the smaller quantity could be used might more than offset a larger quantity enjoyed during a comparatively brief period.

We understand it to be the policy of the Mayor and Council, speaking in a general sense, to work toward a permanent and satisfactory water supply for the people living on the "bench." In this light the present location of the flume now being constructed may be only temporary. Should the work of development of the springs produce the desired increase, we understand it to be the intention ultimately to move the flume up the cañon to be used to conduct the water from the springs to the forks and to convey it from the latter point to the "bench" in pipes and construct a system of waterworks.

A POLITICAL IMPROBABILITY.

THERE appears to be a belief, or perhaps it would be more proper to call it a hope, that notwithstanding the well known animosity existing between Conkling and Blaine, the retired New York statesman will step forward magnanimously and work heroically to place his old enemy in the Presidential chair. The Omaha *Republican* is one of the hopefuls and gives the assurance that:

"When the time for action shall come 'the greatest Roman of them all' will take off his coat and work like a beaver for the election of Jim Blaine. We have indisputable authority (a person who was 'on deck' in Chicago) to the effect that Roscoe Conkling not only desired to see Blaine nominated, but urged prominent New York men to work for his nomination, promising his own support and that of the 'old commander.'"

To this the *Herald* of that city responds:

"Our esteemed contemporary does not seem to be aware of the fact that there are several 'indisputable authorities' on record (persons who were 'on deck' in Chicago) to the effect that Roscoe Conkling consented to the disagreeable outcome of the convention as affording him the highly possible gratification of a double funeral. When it comes to taking off his coat and working like a beaver, it is highly probable that the Hon. Roscoe Conkling will not be present or accounted for. He is not responsible for the birth and will not mourn the death of the republican ticket. It is a good thing sometimes to be 'out of politics,' and the ex-senator knows well enough when to keep out. However we will watch and see."

If Roscoe Conkling honestly works

to exalt James G. Blaine to the summit of his ambition, we shall think a miracle has been wrought, equal to an Ethiopian changing his skin, a leopard his spots, or a politician truly loving his greatest enemy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING UTAH LAKE AND HIGH WATER.

LEHI, June 10th, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

As the high water and reservoir questions are being considerably discussed as matters of importance, permit me to offer the following: Utah Lake is a grand reservoir, and can be used to store a vast amount of water for the use of the citizens of Salt Lake County if proper measures are taken. It can be done without injury to those owning land on the Lake shore, and in dry seasons be a benefit to many.

There has been a long controversy between the citizens of the two counties (Utah and Salt Lake) in reference to this matter, which after years of experience with high and low water has resulted in the following agreement: That no boards or other obstructions should be placed in the Jordan dam, until after the season's high water has passed and the Lake receded to a point three feet nine and one-half inches above low water mark, at which time enough boards could be put in to hold the water up to the above named point until after irrigation is over—some time in October.

Then the boards are to be taken out and remain out until after the following season's high water has passed, when the boards could be placed in as before; provided, that when, in the opinion of the committee who were appointed to watch the lake, there is not enough snow in the mountains to raise the water of the lake to the above-named point, then the boards could be placed in sooner, according to the apparent or supposed supply to follow. And when this agreement is not violated, the owners of the canals below are not to be responsible for damages done by high water in Utah lake.

The violation of this agreement has been and is now the cause of much high water and damage in both counties this season. There has been most of the time between October and April last, boards in the dam, and often four or five feet high, thus holding back during the winter and spring the natural flow of the stream, causing an unnecessary rise of a foot or more of water upon the surface of the lake, upon which the spring freshets come, doing much damage in this county, as well as causing a corresponding unnecessary raise in the Jordan river, and the cause of much of the trouble and damage now sustained by the people of Salt Lake county. Somebody is to blame. Let those who know explain, and avoid trouble in time to come.

Utah Lake can be used as a reservoir only to a limited extent without damaging the owners of land along its shore. The land thus liable to damage is not of the best quality generally. The right to raise water upon it, say one foot above the present agreement, probably could be bought at a reasonable price, which would at least double the supply, which is certainly needed, and the people of Salt Lake County have even now the facilities and canals for using double the amount they have a right to hold back. The amount of land necessary to purchase would not exceed a strip half a mile wide by 35 miles long—15 square miles. The lake is 25 miles long by 6 wide on an average—150 square miles—thus getting 10 square miles of water a foot or more deep for every square mile of land purchased, which would certainly be a good investment, if not too expensive. It would also settle a long and tiresome controversy. If such a scheme should be deemed advisable, while the water is now up would be a good time to ascertain how much land would be damaged, which could be pretty correctly done.

ISRAEL EVANS.

LETTER FROM A MISSIONARY.

Illogical Method of Meeting Truth.

ZUNI, Isle of Wight, Co., Va., June 10, 1884.

Editor Deseret News

Myself and companion, Elder George A. Biglow, of Millville, Cache County, were assigned at our last August Conference, held in Burk's Garden, Tazewell County, Va., to travel in the counties east of Bedford and Franklin and south of the James River, to open up

A NEW FIELD OF LABOR,

where the gospel had never before been heard. We have traveled in numbers of counties and called upon rich and poor, priest and layman, declaring our mission to them and asking permission to preach in their churches and schoolhouses, but met with one invariable answer—with two exceptions, and then we held two meetings and that was all they wanted. So we were forced to move on.

Finally in April we came into this section and have found

SOME HONEST PEOPLE,

but met with refusals as to our preaching in their churches or schoolhouses, but that does not deter us from doing

our duty—whenever we find people that want to know the truth and live it, or we can get an opportunity to warn the wicked of their ways. Our friends have given us permission to

PREACH IN THEIR GROVES,

and have prepared seats, etc., and some are investigating the truth which makes those that "have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof" foam and rage. And so they have received inspiration from the "Father of all lies" to try and drive us out by

RAISING MOBS

but finding that to fail for we are stubborn and won't go, they have now resorted to posting up at our places of preaching

SLANDEROUS FALSEHOODS

of which the following is a sample, purporting to be reprinted from the *Chicago Times* headed Gifts among the Mormons: "The masses of the Mormons are ignorant, superstitious, and sworn to support their Church even to the overthrow of the government. They have murdered miners and apostates in cold blood, and called it religion. They have bought over the Indians of the Territory, who are mostly Mormon polygamists. Many of these people are of course deluded lunatics, many speculating hypocrites. The latter applies mostly to the dignitaries of the church. One of the dignitaries of the Ogden Tabernacle has fifty children. It is said he seriously thinks of branding his children and their mothers as the neighboring ranchmen in the Territory brand their cattle to prevent loss of property and law suits. Last week a political meeting was held in the Tabernacle—a common proceeding in this combination of church and state—to nominate candidates for city officers. A son of one of the Twelve Apostles brought forward the name of Mrs. H., as committee woman. When Mrs. H. was called upon and called out it took some adroitness to avoid confusion as Mr. H. had several ladies present to bear his name. The spokesman avoided trouble by leading up the right one and the other wives gracefully succumbed. Beauty always takes precedence. Indeed the poor dejected looking Mormon women have not much beauty to boast of. They are for the most part either heavy, stolid English or huge-boned, high cheeked, long-toothed Scandinavians; Now and then a good natured Dutch or Welsh woman turning up to relieve the monotony. They have no literature. The following is a fair sample of their literary ability, selected from the 'Harp of Zion':

My Sisters who still look for Hymen's bliss
Deal shyly with your sweethearts when they kiss;
As kissing is the key of Gentile love,
Still watch their fondness, lest they faithless prove;
Reserve that favor until the knot is tied,
Then love with kissing will be well allied.

The knot of which the poet speaks often unites one man to two sisters; in one case, not a square off, to a mother and her twin daughters."

Such infamous lies as the above only cause our friends to cling and come forward to assist us and it

PUBLISHES OUR CAUSE

the more. What will be their next move I know not, nor do I care.

Last spring has been very backward and wet up till May and from that it veered to the other extreme in consequence of which there will not be more than about three fourths of a crop raised in this section if that much. There is a great deal of sickness among the people for this is the unhealthy portion of the year from now on till cold weather sets in.

OUR HEALTH

has been good ever since leaving our mountain home for which we are thankful to our heavenly Father. The News is a welcome visitor as well as a powerful aid in

DISSEMINATING THE TRUTH

and helping to allay prejudice in the minds of the people, for they will read it when we are away, our field of labor is chiefly in Southampton Co., at present although we have an invitation to visit one portion of Isle of Wight Co., which we will do at an early date.

JOHN E. WOOLLEY.

The Smithfield, Cache County Tabernacle is being pushed ahead vigorously. The south side and east end are up to the square.

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