

It was finally decided to incorporate a company, with a charter something like that of the Indian Empire company, which should provide for the purchase of Cuba for \$100,000,000—one-fourth to be paid down in gold and the rest of the debt to be funded in a twenty-year bond, secured by a lien upon the revenues of the island at six per cent interest. The island was to be controlled by a board of directors, chosen every four years, who should select a governor and such other officers as might be necessary. The chartered company was to hold the same relation to the United States that the Indian Empire company holds to England, having a right to maintain an army six thousand strong, and a fleet of revenue cutters—all to be held and operated under the suzerainty of our Uncle Samuel. It was a wonderful fascinating scheme, and the Astors, the Vanderbilts, Marshal C. Roberts, William H. Webb, and many other New York millionaires were glad to come into it. The first payment was immediately subscribed. Hon. John N. Forbes, of Boston, went to Madrid to act for the Americans. General Serreno, as regent of Spain, had a cortes that would obey his slightest wish; and the Cubans, who had intended to revolt that autumn, concluded to wait and see what would happen. As usual, it was the unexpected that happened. Just when all was ready and Serreno had his messages written announcing the sale to the Spanish nation and the richest man in Cuba, Domingo Aldama was prepared to buy two million dollars worth of bonds on this island at par, General Prim was assassinated, and the storm that broke, September 30, 1856, in the exile of Queen Isabella, struck Spain like a cyclone. The sale of the island had to be dropped, the house of cards tumbled after having cost its promoters half a million dollars, chiefly distributed in "gratifications" at Madrid to bring the affair so near a successful issue. A few months later, the Cuban revolt began at Yara, and that ended all hope in the United States to acquire the island from Spain by friendly means.

The third time that the acquirement of Cuba seemed imminent was in 1873, just a quarter of a century ago. The capture of the ship *Virginius* by Spain, with seventy-five persons on board, who were held to be filibusters, resulted in sixty of the passengers being shot, as all the world knows. The day of reckoning was nearer to Spain than perhaps she realized—or she never would have undertaken the tragedy of the Maine. FANNIE B. WARD.

BOTH LAND AND WATER.

Salt Lake City, May 28, 1898. Special attention is now being given in this State to the subject of colonization. Numbers of the people are anxious to find localities where they can build up the country, procure homes and lay foundations for future prosperity and comfort. Such opportunities are now, or soon will be, afforded in a portion of Millard county, 154 miles south of this city. The locality is eight miles northwest of Oasis, a station on the Oregon Short Line railroad, and a short distance from Deseret. A number of years since a company was formed in this city for the purpose of procuring and developing an extensive tract of land in that region. The leading obstacle heretofore to the progress of this laudable project has been the lack of a permanent and adequate supply of water for irrigation. This difficulty has at last been overcome, and the way is now open for the establishment of several promising settlements in a part of the State, which has abundant facilities

awaiting the application of the energies of thrifty home-seekers.

The undertaking has been and is operated by the Deseret and Salt Lake Agricultural and Manufacturing Canal company. By an equitable arrangement with the Deseret Irrigation company as to water rights the former has utilized a splendid reservoir site. For this purpose a large dam has been constructed under the supervision of the State engineer, as required by law. An appropriate spill for the waste water has also been built, together with a suitable headgate and other appurtenances. The necessary main canals have been in existence for a number of years.

It is unnecessary to give an elaborate description of this reservoir. All that the ordinary reader desires to know is its capacity and strength. When filled it contains 10,000 acre feet of water—sufficient to cover 10,000 acres of land one foot deep. Heretofore there has been no difficulty in relation to early irrigation water, which, as a rule, has been plentiful. The reserved amount will be more than ample to assure the crops when they need irrigation to mature them.

If it should be found necessary to add to the supply at any time in the future, this can be done by simply raising the levee four feet, which will increase the reserve fully one-half—5,000 acre feet. This might seem incredible at first glance, but the largeness of the addition would be produced by the increase of water surface in throwing the river back a further distance of four miles. This important structure has been examined by a number of men experienced in the matter of reservoirs, and all opinions are to the effect that it is there to stay.

The land in that part of the State has the advantage of being level. There is probably no part of this region where the soil is deeper—it being from twenty to thirty feet. It is light and sandy in places, while in others it is of a clayey consistence. It has some alkali, but this mineral is not troublesome unless excessive irrigation or flooding is resorted to. It lies deep in the soil and does not come to the surface except through carelessness of the farmer. The old settlers know exactly how to guard against difficulty from this cause.

The uncultivated land is covered with a heavy growth of greasewood, the roots of which are so short and the soil so light that it can be readily cleared by what is called railing—dragging a length of railroad iron over it by team. A large tract can be cleared by this process in one day. This is an advantage to a new settler who desires to obtain a quick return, to give him a start. He can clear the land in the spring, sow it in grain without plowing and obtain a fair crop in the fall. He can then give it a better preparation for the crop of the following season. The average crop of wheat to the acre is 35 bushels, and other kinds of grain in proportion.

The greasewood growth is remarkable for size, and when it is allowed to develop on watered land it is prodigious. This brushwood is by no means to be despised, because it serves a very useful purpose. It makes excellent pasturage. Horned stock which feed on it exclusively thrive and look "slick" and attractive, while the cows who have this provender give as good milk as any lacteal production to be found on the globe, and the butter, of course, is of the same superior quality.

It frequently occurs that locators on unbroken ground are reduced to straits for temporary dwellings to live in until they get fairly started on the way to prosperity. Dugouts are a favorite recourse. These are easily obtainable in this new field for initiatory private en-

terprise, and can be fairly protected against the weather by brush roofs covered with soil mixed with straw. The climate is temperate, and snow never lies on the ground any great length of time. Excellent building rock is obtainable at a distance of from five to eight miles from the center of the tract, and Fillmore supplies lumber at \$15 a thousand feet. Cedar wood is the fuel in general use and is obtainable from the adjacent bench lands.

A unique feature of the part of the State now considered are its wells, the water of which has decidedly curative virtues in cases of kidney trouble. It is from this source that the noted lithia water sold in this city is obtained. There is a slight variation in the water in different localities, but all of it has medicinal properties. In order to obtain wells for this character it is necessary to go down about 140 feet. The water from those that are obtainable about 40 to 50 feet from the surface is not good.

Among the many good qualities of the land in this section is its adaptability for raising lucern, and the settlers in Hinckley, which is adjacent to the tract under consideration, obtain profitable returns from the seed of that growth. President Ira N. Hinckley made a statement a few days ago, in the hearing of the writer, to the effect that that section afforded better facilities for settlers than any other part of his diocese. He afterwards illustrated this remark by giving an instance: A son of his offered forty acres owned by him for sale. He could not obtain the price he wanted for it. He had sowed it to lucern. He cut the first crop and let the second go to seed. His net return for the seed, for the season, was seven hundred dollars.

Last Tuesday—May 24th—a party from this city, most of whom have interests in this enterprise, returned from a visit to Abraham—the initiatory settlement. They were President Woodruff and wife, President Joseph F. Smith and wife, A. O. Woodruff and wife, Charles H. Hardy, engineer; Charles H. Wilcken, superintendent of construction; L. John Nuttall, Alfred Solomon, George M. Cannon, James Jensen and your correspondent. All were highly gratified with the situation and prospects of the project.

There is land for sale at figures that will enable honest home-seekers to purchase. It is a region of much promise, and attention is directed to it with this view. Full information is obtainable from Chas. H. Wilcken or L. John Nuttall secretary of the company.

But the best course for intending settlers to take, if they can, is to visit the locality and inspect, examine and inquire for themselves on the spot.

JOHN NICHOLSON.

LETTER FROM DAMASCUS.

Damascus, Syria,
April 12, 1898.

Leaving Hama we also left the peculiar Syrian villages to the north. South of Hama the villagers built their houses with flat roofs, like those in Palestine, whereas those north built their houses like Cones. These singular structures look like great domes or wigwags in the distance. Then they are usually white, which makes them shine out in the barren country. Most of the houses are so constructed that they need no timber of any sort. They are built up entirely of adobe, and into a perfect peak, so that the arch supports itself. Many of them are neatly finished on the inside, according to Syrian fellah style, an architecture peculiar to the country and its people. In the corners from the base it is often square, and in other places of the house are built bins, so that when filled