

the future, for we have been told for upwards of sixty-six years that these things would come to pass; and God has commanded us to gather together to escape these judgments. The spirit of gathering has rested upon all who have received this Gospel. This gathering of the Latter-day Saints from all parts of the world is probably as great a miracle as ever was witnessed. As soon as they become members of the Church they are seized with a desire to gather together, to go to what they call Zion, and dwell with their brethren and sisters. This movement is not confined to one race or one tongue, but people come from many races and from many nations. Their hearts are filled with this spirit to gather to Zion, and we have difficulty at the present time in regard to the Poly-nesians because they want to come here and we are not prepared to receive them. They want to be with us when calamities go forth, and they want to drink of the same spirit that we enjoy here.

My friends, I bear testimony to you that this work is true. I have proved it by innumerable evidences. I have heard men wish that they could have lived in the days of the Apostles and heard the voices of inspired men, and they would have been willing to endure all things. There is in the hearts of many people a yearning desire to have the gifts and graces of the Gospel. A man ought to be willing to give everything on the earth, even life itself, for the sake of the testimony of Jesus. He ought to be willing to suffer as His Master did. He was persecuted unto death, and no disciple of His should be afraid of persecution, or afraid of death. If we go into that glorious presence, it will be a grand consolation to know that we have endured, to some extent, what our brethren who have gone before us have endured. I testify to you that that Gospel has been restored to the earth, and the authority has come down from heaven. It was necessary that it should come from heaven, because it was not on the earth. The Pope might ordain a man; the Archbishop of Canterbury might ordain a man; or any other ecclesiastical dignitary might ordain a man; but that ordination would not bring back the power and the authority that God withdrew from the earth when His servants were slain. It required angelic ministrations. It is most logical, therefore, to state that through angelic ministrations that authority has come from heaven. This Church does not derive its authority from any organization on the earth; it derives it from heaven. Hence the authority is perfect authority and it is able, through the blessings of God, to show the people that the promises which are made will be fulfilled.

God bless you all, and every honest man and woman upon the face of the earth. Every one of you that desires truth, God bless you in your efforts to find it. I testify to you that God has restored His Church, that He has restored the everlasting gospel in its purity, that He has restored the ordinances of life and salvation, and the authority to administer these ordinances. I bear this testimony in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OUR BLACK DIAMONDS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28th, 1897.

I have spent the last few days at the

United States geological survey looking up facts about coal and coal mining. The geologists know more about coal than any one else. They can tell you just how the world looked when coal was made, and they describe how there were ages of luxuriant growth consisting of pine trees, fir trees and all kinds of mosses and plants, which, dying down year after year, became a great matted bed of vegetation. They tell you how this bed was bottled up by being covered up with rocks and how it finally turned into coal. They can tell you just when this happened and how long it came to pass before Noah was a baby or Cain killed little Abel outside the Garden of Eden.

Men lived for thousands of years upon the earth before they knew that coal was good to burn. All the iron made before the days of the middle ages was with charcoal, and a fairy tale is told in Belgium of how a poor blacksmith discovered the first black diamonds. He found that he could not get along, for it took so much time to make his charcoal for his furnace. He was just about to commit suicide when a white-bearded old man appeared at his shop and told him to go to the mountains near by and dig out the black earth and burn it. He did so, and was able to make a horse shoe at one forging. This is the Belgian story of the discovery of coal. The first coal found in America was near Ottawa, Illinois. It is mentioned by Father Hennepin, a French explorer, who visited there in 1679. The first mines worked were about Richmond, Va. This coal was discovered by a boy while out fishing.

He was hunting for crabs for bait in a small creek, and thus stumbled upon the outcroppings of the James river coal bed. Our anthracite coal fields have perhaps paid better than any other coal fields of the world. They were discovered by a hunter named Nicholas, when George Washington was President. Allen camped one night in the Schuylkill regions, kindling his fire upon some black stones. He awoke to find himself almost roasted. The stones were on fire, and anthracite was burning for the first time. Shortly after this a company was gotten up to sell anthracite coal. It was taken around to the blacksmiths, but they did not know how to use it, and it was very unpopular. Some of it was shipped to Philadelphia by a Colonel Shoemaker and sold there. It was not at all satisfactory and a writ was gotten out from the city authorities denouncing the colonel as a knave and scoundrel for trying to impose rocks upon them as coal. Still Philadelphia has largely been built up by anthracite coal, and 50,000,000 tons of this coal were taken out of the Pennsylvania fields in 1896.

Since then some of these coal lands have been sold as high as \$1,200 an acre, and the Philadelphia and Reading Company in 1871 paid \$40,000,000 for 100,000 acres of coal land in this region. As a sample of the amount of business done in anthracite coal, the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company paid \$5,000,000 in one year for mining, and their coal sales that year amounted to more than \$10,000,000.

It is hard to estimate the enormous amount of money the United States makes out of its coal. We get more than three times as much out of our coal mines as out of our gold mines and

the silver metal is not in it with the black diamonds. There is a little region in eastern Pennsylvania, about a hundred and twenty-five miles from Philadelphia and not more than two hundred miles from New York, which produces every year coal to a greater value than all the gold mines of the Rockies, Canada and Alaska. It is our anthracite coal fields which turn out between 50,000,000 and 60,000,000 tons of anthracite every year. We have in addition to this a hundred and thirty odd million tons of bituminous coal annually. We have, in short, the biggest and best coal measures on the globe. It is estimated that our coal east of the Rocky mountains covers 192,000 square miles, and within the past few years coal has been found in many parts of the far west. Colorado will eventually be a great manufacturing state on account of its coal.

Utah has large coal fields, and so have the states of Montana, Washington and Wyoming. We are now getting something like 20,000,000 tons of coal a year out of Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, and the great Appalachian field produces more than four times this amount. There is more good burnable earth in the Appalachian mountains than anywhere else in the world. The coal is easy to get at, the veins are thick, and in some places they are almost on the top of the ground. They are better than any other coal field in this respect, with one single exception. This is the new coal field of Alaska, where, one of the geological survey men tells me, comes right out over the water, so that the coal can be dug down and almost fall into the ships below. This Alaskan coal will probably be used to supply the Pacific trade, and its importance will be appreciated when it is remembered that the largest fleet that sails the Pacific is the coal fleet. Most of the coal from that region comes from Australia and Japan. Much Australian coal is brought to San Francisco. During my travels in Japan I visited one coal mine which had fifty miles of tunnels under the sea, and I learned that the Japanese were making a great deal of money out of their coal.

They were shipping it to China, notwithstanding the fact that the geologists say that China has some of the largest coal fields of the world. I doubt the extent of the Chinese fields. The people are thrifty and it is curious that they do not use the coal if they have it. They are among the most economical of people, and in the different Chinese cities coal is so valuable that it is ground to dust and then mixed with dirt, being sold in balls about the size of a biscuit. It is interesting to know the coal fields of the world, as estimated by the geologists. Here they are:

China, 200,000 square miles; United States east of the Rockies, 192,000 square miles; Canada, 65,000 square miles; India, 35,500 square miles; New South Wales, 24,000 square miles; Russia, 20,000 square miles; United Kingdom, 11,500 square miles; Spain, 5,500 square miles; Japan, 5,000 square miles; France, 2,080 square miles; Austria-Hungary, 1,790 square miles; Germany, 1,770 square miles; Belgium, 510 square miles.

From the above table it will be seen that the English coal area is small. Still England has for years been the center of the coal production of the world, and for years it mined more than half