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GET THE STORY STRAIGHT.

"One story is good till the other is told," is an old saying that has many illustrations in human experience. The remark may have direct application to the oft repeated assertion made by those unfriendly to the Mormon people that the killing of the Mormon Battalion was intended as an act of kindness to the saints just expelled from Nauvoo, and was a response to their request. This kind of a story may seem plausible to many upon a partial statement of the events of 1846, but when the whole facts are made known it will be found to be thoroughly at variance therewith. Even among residents of Utah there appears to be some misinformation on this subject, as may be seen in the following letter:

HOOPER, Utah, July 25, 1895.—The fifty-eighth anniversary of the entrance of Utah into the Union was properly observed at Syracuse, Davis County. The orator of the day made the statement that while the Mormon people were outcasts in Iowa in 1846, the United States made a demand upon them for 500 able bodied men to serve in the war with Mexico. At the noon recess, a contentious mess between the writer and his old friends, the orator, Bishop David Cook, and others whom I have known since 1851. We mutually agreed to submit the question to the DESERET NEWS, and ask in the cause of truth and justice, that you reply through your non-partisan paper.

The question is this: Did the U. S. government make the demand upon them as alleged, without in hope that the old men, women and children might perish by the Indians or starvation?

My contention is that Col. Jesse C. Little, esq., as agent of the Mormon community, went to Washington, D. C., and proposed to the President of the United States to furnish thousands of men to prey on the Pueblo people, if the United States would arm, equip and pay them as enrolled soldiers of the United States. The large number of men offered caused suspicion to arise. The President and cabinet, knowing that the Mormons had them not in this land, concluded they would only accept five hundred men.

Truth is truth wherever found,
On heaven or on Christian ground.

According to promise, I have stated the question fairly and briefly.

As a matter of fact it is almost immaterial to the writer, as like the noble Pioneers our sons will each all be turned to the stars. But in the interest of the future, and the rising generation, and thousands who have come to manhood in these mountains, it is time this historical fact, or fiction, was settled beyond controversy. Yours respectfully,

EDWARD F. MUNN.

HOOPER, Utah, July 25, 1895.

The main questions involved in the foregoing communication may be briefly stated and replied to as follows:

1. While the Mormon people were outcasts in Iowa, did the government demand 500 men to serve in the war with Mexico? Yes.

2. Did the Mormons offer men if the government would fit them out and pay them as soldiers? No.

As to whether there was a hope that the old men, women and children might perish, that must be judged by the circumstances and expectations of the time. The government did not officially state such a hope, and many leading government officials would have abhorred the idea had it been presented to them in that form; but there were others, and those the designing ones, who had no such scruples.

There was an offer made in behalf of the Mormon people. Col. Little requested government aid for the people to get to the west, and it was thought the national authorities might wish to employ the Mormons in building provisions and naval stores to Oregon and the Pacific coast. This was before the war broke out. There was no offering of thousands of men in a way to create suspicion, and none existed such as suggested. Col. Little stated the number of Mormons already on the way; he also stated the manner whilst being together from the British isles, and he pledged his honor that if, in their new home, that territory should be invaded, they would hold it for the United States and against the enemy.

This offer was not accepted, nor was anything akin to it, although President Polk expressed himself as friendly. Pending the proceedings, war broke out. President Polk and others seemed to a proposition that was acceptable to the Mormons when that it vacate fact to the arrow and persecuted Saints, Senator Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, interposed, and by his influence the whole plan was changed into the demand that was a tremendous burden on the exile to Israel of the sort they had been led to expect. The Mormons were startled, almost dismayed. There had been threats relative to disarming and disorganizing the Saints, and subsequent information that Senator Benton had obtained from the President a pledge that if the Mormons refused to respond to the call United States troops would be sent to disarm and disperse them. The very fact that Senator Benton brought the Mormons might refuse shows that he well knew that the call made was the opposite to that which had been sought by Col. Little.

Further detailed and accurate information may be gleaned on this subject in Whitney's history of Utah, if the extraordinary curse is pursue the subject further. But from what has been stated no one readily see that there was no harmonious connection between the proposal made by Col. Little and the call for the Mormon Battalion.

THE INDIAN TROUBLE.

Opinions differ widely as to the cause of the trouble with the Bannock Indians. The Uintah Epoch calls it an uprising of white outlaws. The paper says:

But who can be at a loss to see the responsibility for the slaughter, even if it what proves a reality? The Bannocks indeed are noted for their pacificism. The treaty they signed with the United States guaranteed them hunting grounds, the right to hold game in Wyoming, but the white settlers in Wyoming, desiring to monopolize the game, passed a law making it unlawful to shoot certain game at the season of the year. This is the regulation followed by Montana, and a regulation which is in direct violation of treaty stipulations to which are pledged the good faith and honor of the government.

With the national violation of a game law as an excuse, a gang of cowardly degrade marauders attempted to arrest a Bannock Indian. He broke away from his captors and was shot to death. He, instead of his chief of Montana, and those who were with him, killed some twelve or fifteen men, two one purposes present and all else is saved.

Who can blame the Bannocks, relative the outbreaks of those brothers in performances if they retaliate and inaugurate the Mosaic law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?"

After the United States troops shall have driven the Bannocks back to their reservation, provided the white thieves are exterminated—or, in their turn, their guns upon the drunken deputies who caused all the trouble. The Bannocks this "war" is an uprising of white outlaws.

The San Francisco Chronicle takes another view of the matter:

The accounts from the scene of the Indian trouble are full of exaggeration, but there is no doubt that the Bannocks are very sore and are committing depredations upon the whites. Their complaint is recurring Indian grievance, the direct provocation being the killing of an Indian by a white man. The Indians are generally dealt with, but they are not permitted to take the law into their own hands and work vengeance upon their oppressors. If the Indians in the United States were treated in the same kind of law as that meted out to white men, there would be fewer outrages, for even a savage may be sought that it is dangerous to defy the power that lies back of the courts.

THE LOST CONTINENT.

Mention was recently made in these columns of the startling conclusions of Mr. Augustus le Plongeon, drawn from his archaeological researches in Yucatan, according to which the continent must be considered the original home of man and the cradle of civilization. Mr. Plongeon's work is the subject of a fascinating paper in the July number of the *Review of Reviews*. In the Hadmaster Review, under the caption, "The Mystery of the Pacific," W. H. G. Kingston also discusses the evidences of a lost continent. The writer has studied the mysterious coins of Easter Island, situated far out in the Pacific, off the coast of Chili, and, curiously enough, arrives practically at the same conclusion as Mr. Plongeon. He draws those gigantic remains of an early civilization the unmistakable features of Egyptian architecture and contends for the existence in ages past of an extensive western continent, of which Easter Island was the terminus, before the terrible cataclysm occurred which practically submerged it below the waves.

Traditions of this lost continent have been preserved, but the scientific corroboration of the various signs seems to have been reserved for this century. And as light is thrown on this lost part, the history of European civilization which, as Gladstone, expatiate in the world as it emerged from heaven," instead of starting from something previous existing, is solved. The broken threads of ancient history are being united.

The most tangible evidence of the lost continent is that of Easter Island. In its "Tablets" Cross relates that his grandfather had been told by Easter that the human bones had come from Egyptian plains in the land of the overthrow of the island Atlantis. This was confirmed by called green than Lotus the Asia Minor brought and was the passage to other islands and settled colonies. The empire of Atlantis reached to Egypt and Tyrhenia and called the countries bordering on the Mediterranean and by the conquest of the Atlantis Hercules was passed to all the nations within the pillars of Hercules.

On account of the great subsidence of the inhabitants of Atlantis the country was shortly afterwards taken by an earthquake. The black continent sank into the sea and its Hindu, Greek were swallowed up in the ocean. Back in the existence of the ancient gleam of the conquests of Atlantis, infinitely powerfully integrated in the mind of Sidon but now on a far way to be demonstrated as historically true.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the theories advanced by the eminent archaeologists mentioned are yet unfinished, and that some of the details must be altered as the research is progressing and new facts are coming to light. But the importance of the discoveries, nevertheless, cannot be overestimated, if it is admitted that they indicate the direction in which science must go in order to find the first home of mankind on earth and to trace the highways along which civilization spread to Asia, Africa and Europe. And the knowledge thus obtained will be rendered the more valuable in so far by the fact that the founder of the Mormon Church was the first to announce as a positive certainty that the progenitors of our race lived and died on the continent of America, as where had been led to believe, somewhere in the polar waters by the river flowing into the Persian gulf.

THE CASE OF FORSYTH.

The probable visit to the Pacific coast of several government officials connected with the national bureau of forestry, to take measures for the protection of government timber, suggests that if these gentlemen can do anything to aid the cause in this military opportunity should be given them to do so. Dr. Allen Graber, connected in the timber division of the Department of agriculture, has been doing good work in disseminating information regarding the timber industry, which could be supplemented by further information regarding the conversion of timber. Dr. Allen says this industry is stripping the country of its magnificent forests. Montana and Minnesota are turning farms into deserts, and Dakota is nothing away. He says there is every evidence that the reckless spirit of commercialism and land speculation will sweep over the Pacific coast section like a cyclone. Pending good timber cutting today is of the most wasteful character. The timber men are so far from the commercial centers of the country East that they can afford to ship nothing but the finest timber or lumber, and as a result only about 20 per cent of what they cut is used. There is a greater waste than that in the shape of waste in the East, for western forests are heavy and so far from shows that millions cannot stop forest fires by what is known as heading. There is more than a million dollars a year, At the rate cutting is now going on the government movements to supervise the timber industry and protect and encourage forest growths should receive the heartiest support, and especially should there be something done in Utah to place her in a better situation with respect to a supply of forest timber. The subject should not be allowed to drop out of sight.

THE DEFICIENCY of obtaining reliable information concerning the progress of the war in Cuba has been apparent through the contradictory dispatches sent out from the island and other places. But it seems almost as difficult to find out the facts regarding the Indian trouble in Jackson's Hole. The probability is that one side is interested in magnifying the dispute beyond proportion, while the other side is equally interested in belittling it, because the region involved cannot very well afford to have its good repute thus and its tourist traffic.

MR. C. D. SCRIBNER always was original. This is the way he settles the question of a married woman's obedience. In an address to the graduating class of a college in which he gave the bride the customary advice about her future lord, "Obey him in the week and do his job for him next and have a which way you please."

The Latter-day Saints College.

The Latter-day Saints College opened its fall term on the 22nd inst. with a good attendance from all parts of the country. The following officers were elected: President, Joseph F. Smith; vice president, Anthon H. Lund; treasurer, Joseph E. Taylor; president's assistant, Joseph Dean; secretary, Joseph Ballard; assistant secretary, Joseph Ballard, jr.; registrar, Joseph Ballard, jr.; assistant registrar, Joseph Ballard, jr.; librarian, Joseph Ballard, jr.; assistant librarian, Joseph Ballard, jr.; [illegible] Joseph Ballard, jr.; [illegible] Joseph Ballard, jr.; [illegible]