

place" for their home, and theirs the destiny to awaken the arid waste to life by an inspired touch.

The spirit of those Pioneers and their compatriots may be discerned in a manifesto issued to them in camp on the Missouri river, January 14, 1847, just previous to the commencement of the long and arduous journey into an unknown country. This "word and will of the Lord concerning the Camp of Israel in their journeyings to the West" had these paragraphs among a long list of its rulings:

Let all the people of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and those who journey with them, be organized into companies, with a covenant and a promise to keep all the commandments and statutes of the Lord our God.

And this shall be our covenant, that we will walk in all the ordinances of the Lord.

Seek ye and keep all your pledges one with another, and covet not that which is thy brother's.

Keep yourselves from evil to take the name of the Lord in vain, for I am the Lord your God, even the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.

I am He who led the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, and my arm is stretched out in the last days to save my people Israel.

These Pioneers were Mormons—exiles from the beautiful city of Nauvoo, where their Prophet and Patriarch had been martyred and themselves despoiled of their possessions. In the light of the past half century who can fail to see that they were truly the Camp of Israel—the arm of whose God was stretched out in the last days to save His people? The darkened hour of that time, the sublime faith manifested, and the salvation in this promised land—rich above all other lands—whom we now behold, bear a witness that is beyond refutation.

The toils and trials of this vanguard of progress and those who augmented their ranks have been often told. There is no space to recount them here further than to suggest a few chief features; but they should be inscribed indelibly on the hearts of every son and daughter of Utah, that the sacrifice may be comprehended and the blessings which followed be appreciated. The Pioneers struggled and suffered, and in the hour of their necessity there was brought forth the great scheme of irrigation, to render the parched soil capable of yielding food for man. In the first five years after 1847 the science of irrigate on had become a part of life itself in these valleys; settlements stretched out north and south hundreds of miles; the State of Deseret had been organized and served its purpose, Statehood had been asked and refused, and the Territory of Utah had been created; the savage inhabitants of the land had been met in fierce battles and had been overcome; a newspaper—the DESERT NEWS—had been instituted; the University of Deseret [now Utah] had been chartered; municipal and county governments had been securely established; a thorough system of securing desirable emigrants had been adopted; a perfect scheme of colonization was in vogue. In brief, in those five years of privation and comparative weakness there was laid in this region the foundation

for the greatest empire of civilization which the world has ever known.

Within the same period the band that brought the Camp of Israel to safety had been performing a mighty work throughout all the West, and towns, cities and states came into existence almost as if by magic; millions were added to the precious wealth of the world, and the domain of the United States had been extended from ocean to ocean, so that at the opening of the second half-decade from the Pioneers' entrance into Salt Lake valley, those same people were prepared and did apply to the government for the construction of the great Pacific railway that should bind the oceans together with a commercial chain; and they also began the erection of the greatest Temple to the Most High yet built in this age. In this same second half-decade they struggled against and overcame grasshopper visitations, famines, Indian outbreaks and other direful calamities, declared against human slavery, made another appeal for Statehood, and were brought face to face with a hostile expedition sent out by the government under a misapprehension of the true state of affairs; but there was no faltering in their fealty to God and their country, or in the great mission of redeeming the desert and building up a glorious commonwealth which they and begun.

For the succeeding four decades there was the same indomitable spirit of progress manifest. There were difficulties to be met which no other Territory or State has had to cope with. Religious persecution was rife, and the struggle was long and determined. But the arm of the Lord was stretched out in the last days to save His people Israel; and in the face of every obstacle their material progress was of a character that would have been marvelous under favorable circumstances. Railways and telegraphs came to the people of Utah, the farms and gardens yielded in abundance under a system that is now the admiration of the world, the mountains gave of the precious and other metals, and commercial and industrial prosperity marked the face of all this western land as an outcome of the inspired labors of the Pioneers of Utah.

The wonderful contrast of today cannot be comprehended save by those who saw "the valley" in 1847 and have beheld the progress ever since; and even these cannot fully realize the change because of the pains and tribulations that have become shrouded in memory. But there is one thing they do not fail to recognize, and which may be easily learned by those of a later generation who study Utah's history, and that is that the hand of God has been manifest in the dealings with Utah and her people as clearly as it was in establishing the children of Israel in the promised land ages ago. Our State has entered now upon a new era, full of bright and glorious promise. We may know the future by the past; that while Utah's people keep the covenant with the Lord made by the Pioneers, who secured this land as a heritage for the children of God, His power will be with them to eternal triumph. Their dominion shall not be taken away nor given to another people, for to their

kingdom and their increase there shall be no end.

HAIL TO Governor Heber M. Wells,
first chief magistrate of the State of Utah!

RUSSIA'S PLANS.

A few days ago a report was circulated that Russia had offered the United States a loan of \$500,000,000, and according to an exchange, the question of what interest would be charged, the Russian ambassador in Washington ironically answered by the little word None.

A Russian, Dr. E. B. Rokyta, in an interview now gives some statements concerning Russia's financial condition and political plans, which if true are exceedingly interesting at present. Among other things, he says, Russia will soon open a bank in New York with a capital of \$5,000,000, to act as the financial agent of the czar's government in this country. For years Russia has hoarded gold which now is deposited in the strongest forts of the empire and must amount to a billion dollars. The intention of the government is to move part of this to places where it can be invested with absolute security and be available in case of need.

It was Emperor Nicholas I who first commenced to store up gold. He had found that the country that possessed the greatest quantity of the yellow metal was the strongest in war. His successors followed the same policy, adding yearly to the existing gold reserve. From 1878, when England stepped in and forced Russia to give up the fruits of her victory over Turkey, the aim of the Russian statesmen has been to humiliate England, and they have steadily been pursuing this course. In the first place they aimed at the emancipation of Russia from the Rothschilds and other European capitalists, in order to be able to strike at the commercial interests of England. At present Russia has a larger gold reserve than any other country in Europe and has been able to stand against the repeated attacks of the Rothschilds against her credit. At the same time the railroad system has been extended. Through the Siberian road China will be in a position to drive the Indian tea out of the European market and neutralize to some extent the advantages of the Suez canal. Russia's support of China against Japan was a blow directed against England and her interests in the Orient, and this will be followed up by the occupation of some port in China or Corea as a coaling station and a naval harbor.

The present desire of the Russian government is that the United States shall build and control the Nicaragua canal. It is thought this would secure to the United States the control over these continents, as the Siberian railroad will give the control over Asia to Russia. The latter country is willing to divide the government of the globe with the United States and aid in rendering us financially independent of Great Britain, simply because this is one of the necessary steps in the further progress of Russia on its career.