

TWO GREAT ITALIANS.

The *Century* magazine is publishing a serial autobiography of Salvini, the eminent tragedian, in which many interesting things previously unknown are told. One of these is his early love for his distinguished country woman Ristori. Referring to his constant efforts to commit his "parts" to memory, he says: "I will not seek to deny that I was spurred on not only by my love of art, but by a softer sentiment—by my resolution not to be unworthy of the affectionate encouragement bestowed on me by Ristori, whom I loved with enthusiasm. But when we came to Rome in the spring I perceived that her generous and confidential encouragement was intended not for the young man but solely for the artist. I did not prize it the less for that, and I continued to love her as a friend and to admire her as an artist."

It does not detract from the interest in the foregoing in the least that both the great actors spoken of have performed in this city. Salvini played the *Gladiator*, and though he could not or did not speak a word of English, his work was grandly successful and as keenly enjoyed as any we have ever had. His performance was of the most intense and he imparted to it the finish of a steel engraving, while his massive frame and expressive countenance were of themselves studies for an artist. He is undoubtedly the greatest actor now living. Ristori, on the other hand, spoke English almost perfectly; there was scarcely an accent or inflection betraying her Italian nativity and her rendition of *Mary Stuart*, while somewhat dreamy in places, was altogether a tragic poem, once seen never forgotten.

UTAH SELENITE.

The latest number of *Science*, a periodical published in New York, and whose object is sufficiently expressed by its title, gives the place of honor to an article from the pen of Dr. J. E. Talmage of this city, on "A Remarkable Occurrence of Selenite." This deposit has been already referred to in the columns of the *NEWS*, mention having been made of the securing and transportation of the specimens to this city for the Deseret Museum. Much that is interesting on the subject, however, has not been published; and at the risk of offending some readers who would prefer a description written in less scientific language, we quote a few paragraphs from the Doctor's article. The unusual compliment paid him and his subject by *Science*, namely the publishing of numerous sketches illustrative of the text, the *NEWS* is compelled for obvious reasons to withhold:

The writer is pleased to report a deposit of selenite in southern Utah, which is remarkable for the size, perfection and variety of the crystals there to be found. It is situated in the newly created county of Wayne, in what is locally known as the South Wash, which is connected with the canyon of the Fremont river, and this in turn is tributary to the Colorado.

The formation in the neighborhood of the deposit in question is mostly sandstone and argillite, with a top dressing of erratic boulders of lava. Innumerable

fantastic forms in stone declare the cutting power of water and wind; indeed, the entire region has been the site of wonderful eroding action.

The crystals occur in a cave, and this is inclosed by a thick shell forming a mound which stands in relief on the side of a hill bounding the Wash. The mound is somewhat of an egg-shape, 35 feet in length east and west, 10 feet in breadth, and of an average height of 20 feet from the ground on the lower side; all outside measurements. This selenite mass seems to have been left exposed by the weathering of the loosened friable sand and clay, of which the hill whereon the mound is situated is composed. The mound consists entirely of selenite, the outside having a somewhat battered and roughened appearance from the action of the wind-driven sand; yet the whole exterior is made up of the exposed ends and sides of crystals, and in the sunlight the formation glistens with indescribable beauty. The outer walls are generally regular, though there are a few depressions and sheltered niches, within which small prisms of selenite nestle snugly, in groups.

The entrance to the cavern faces the east, and when first observed by the writer it was about six feet in height, and three and a half in width. The cave can be traversed to a depth of 26 feet. Generally the crystals project from either side toward the central line of the cavern, approaching each other within about three feet, though some of the largest crystals extend entirely across the cavern like huge beams.

The floor of the cavern consists mostly of sand, probably deposited by water in flood times, and carried in at all seasons by winds. Projecting out of the sandy floor are the terminations of many superb crystals. Inside the cavern, a yard from the entrance, the crystals descend within three feet of the bottom, so that one has to stoop to pass, but further in there is room to stand erect, and near the back wall a person may clamber up a height of fifteen feet. Looking upward from the bottom of the cavern one sees a mass of mammoth prisms, suggesting, but for their singular beauty, the heavy timbers of a deep mine. The entire deposit is a colossal group of crystals, the like of which is seldom seen.

The writer's attention was first attracted to the place through receiving several small specimens of the selenite from sheepherders, who had discovered the deposit while searching for feeding places and who claimed to have found a mine of mica, which they called "isinglass." Their disgust was great when assured, by the conclusive experiment of holding a bit of the material in the flame of a candle, that the stuff was not what it seemed. I first visited the place in April last, and my rapture at the superb display of crystal beauty was checked by the evidence of vandalism on every hand. Some of the finest crystals had been hacked and carved, and cowboys' initials were scratched and cut on almost every prismatic face which the light could reach. Visiting the place again six months later, I found that still greater destruction had been waged, and, becoming convinced that good crystals would soon be difficult to obtain, I took steps to secure legal claim to the land, and proceeded to remove the remaining crystals of greatest value to a place of safety. Under the auspices of the Deseret Museum of Salt Lake City, the work of removal is still in progress. Already over twenty tons of most beautiful crystals have been taken out and shipped to this city.

Prisms of perfect form and varying in length from one to five feet, and in weight from ten to one hundred pounds, are, of frequent occurrence. One of the

most regular yet taken out is four feet long, and the widest faces are six inches across. Cleaved slabs are obtainable six feet in length, and two and a half feet in breadth. One of the longest perfect prisms yet obtained extends fifty-one inches, and from one of its faces nineteen smaller crystals sprout. Twins are common, as are also compound terminations of very complicated structure. A magnificent group weighing over six hundred pounds, was removed from the floor of the cavern. * * * Some of the finest specimens will probably be on exhibition in Chicago next summer.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

Eighty-six years ago today (March 1st, 1807) in the county of Hartford, state of Connecticut, he whom we now know as President Wilford Woodruff was born into the world. The swinging cycles have brought many changes to mankind, particularly to the inhabitants of our own land of America. Nor have they been without wonderful developments to the beloved veteran who notwithstanding his four score and more of winters is still left to us a hale and hearty fellow-citizen, a trusted and revered leader, an honest and steadfast friend. These columns are not the place, nor is this occasion the time for noting even the leading features of the world's swift march during the long period that he has dwelt upon it. We need not speak of the growth of our nation, which, just then emerging from the cruel baptism of war, had still two stout fights to wage in order that the world might see, first, that Columbia was not the nursing of any foreign power, and second, that the Union, with all its citizens free, was indissoluble. The day does not suggest enumeration of the empire-making events of European history—of the meteoric career of the Corsican in France, the steady consolidation of English interests under the Jew, the woes of the Poles and the Hungarians, the emancipation wrought by the revolutionist Garibaldi, the conquests and statesmanship marking the iron Hohenzollern in Germany. There is too much to be said of the triumphs of steam and electricity, of amazing advancement in every branch of science and discovery, to permit of an allusion to those fruitful themes just now. It is true we may not pass by without noting that the Gospel of life and salvation, to which the best years of Brother Woodruff's long life have been devoted, was not reached until he had reached early manhood; nor that when we speak of the founders of Utah, he ranks among the first on the ground, and the most active as well in counsel as in manual toil in the mighty work that has been done in redeeming the desert places.

But upon these incidents of history it is not necessary to dwell. This much, however, can and ought to be said: It is no common thing among mankind in these degenerate days to walk the earth for six and eighty years, and to preserve to that time every faculty of mind and body, as our honored President has done. He is a living instance of sturdy American manhood and Heaven's preserving care. His career is a constant lesson that the prolonged span of