

A most interesting visit was that at Capt. Hooper's. His residence is spacious and elegantly furnished. It is as comfortable inside as it is beautiful outside. Occupying a block, its front and rear are tastefully adorned with trees, fruit and flowers. The grounds back of the house are terraced with stone into many narrow plateaus, one rising above the other, each devoted to some distinct variety of fruit, the grape surmounting all. There is no home so humble in Salt Lake as not to be surrounded with trees and shrubbery. And so perfect is the system of irrigation that there is no tree so large, nor rootlet so small, as that a water course has not been provided for its supply. The little ditches around the roots, or along the sides of all trees and plants, are seen everywhere, fed by streamlets that enter the city from all quarters. Sometimes they circle around their base, and again run along either side of the plant or tree in the closest proximity—their universal presence suggesting the great agent, and the perfection of that organized labor system, which have converted the desert into a garden. Although we are not clear on the point—no burning notes save in memory—but we obtained the impression that water is supplied to all under the most rigid regulations. For instance, when the supply is short from any cause, it is distributed only at stated times and in limited quantities to all alike. Brigham Young, and Jennings, and Hooper, and Eldredge, and Wells, and Canaan, and Stenhouse, for example, leaders, as they are known to be, like all the rest, would stand and see their dearest treasures in grain and fruit consume away under the burning heat and drought before they would violate their own law governing the water supply. This is a case that illustrates the implicit obedience which marks every feature of the Mormon rule, and it is the self-gratulatory boast of its leading subjects that there is no other people on earth by whom it would be so cheerfully yielded. It all turns, as the whole rule turns, upon that Faith which is the bond of its unity and power, as well as the social rock upon which the whole Mormon system is based.

Concerning the future water supply of the city and country, that ruling mind which plans, organizes, and directs with, as Gentiles will admit, something akin to superhuman foresight and wisdom, has already projected a stupendous system of canals which are to turn the waters of the Jordan to the use of the people.

An hour or more with Capt. Hooper, and we commence our journey under his guidance to various portions of the city. Objects of striking interest are pointed out as we pass along. Walking towards the center of the town, we find a man engaged in cutting plain and ornamental grave stones. The work is that of the skilled artisan. The material used is from the adjacent mountains, and consists of the red stone and other varieties. But the most striking of all are the two blocks of beautiful white marble, of which Mr. Hooper assures us "there is a mountain" near.

We note the character of buildings as we walk along. Aside from the more imposing structures, they are chiefly made of adobe brick, without much regard to architectural taste or ornament. But all are buried in trees, shrubbery and flowers, and the rivulets of clear and crystal waters continue to flow everywhere. Flora is in her glory all around us. The golden acacia and cactus are here, and so are members of the whole floral family. The richest fruits in rarest variety are, still unripened, clustering in the trees shading every Mormon home. The apricot, so new to our eyes and grateful to our taste, is ripe, and so are the most luscious varieties of the smaller fruits, the gooseberry on which we feasted so liberally in the simple and beautiful garden of William Jennings the day after the experience we are now relating.

Following our genial friend Hooper, we bring up on the grounds dedicated to the Tabernacle, now nearly completed, and to the Mormon Temple, whose foundations are now laid in the granite of which the whole future structure is to be composed. It is a solid and beautiful building stone, mottled with black spots all through it, which is mica. As we enter these spacious grounds—we are not attempting to describe them—a solitary stone-cutter stands in the distance, working out his labor fitting in the building of the Temple. We enquire of Mr. Hooper: "Does that man do that work voluntarily? Is it to him a cheerful labor?" Mr. Hooper answers: "Yes sir; go and ask him," which we did not do.

We instantly saw that there was a representative artisan of these toilers in the desert, whose religious delusions lead them to any sacrifice, however great, for that Faith which they are at all times ready to support with their labor and to defend with their lives. Our party has considerably increased in number. Several strangers have joined us in this interesting walk around in the City of Salt Lake. Before us stands the Tabernacle. It is an immense structure. Its great oval roof gives its upper portion the appearance of a gigantic mud-turtle, as we take our first view of it from the rear. The great dome, or roof, rests upon massive stone columns, entrances being provided at convenient distances along its sides. It is not intended to describe the Tabernacle in detail. Like every thing else of the kind in this City of the Desert, it is the exclusive work of Mormon artisans, whose superiors are not in the world.

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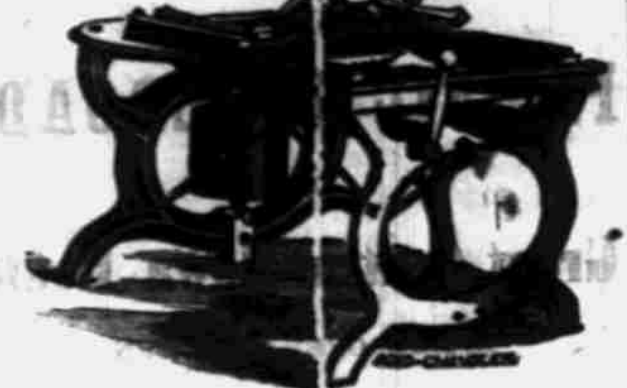
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