

dino at \$1.45 per ton, I did not state the land rent. For this choice land rented for more than the cost of raising the crop, and the work is reported to have been thoroughly done. Not more than \$1.50 per day was allowed to any laborer; the three brothers counting their labor at this figure, and they did fully one-half of the work themselves. At Watsonville, California, the yield was not so prolific. In 1888 the yield was only an average of 7½ tons to the acre on 2,000 acres. But in 1892 the yield was 18 tons to the acre from 4,157 acres, and these results have only been attained by slow degrees and many costly failures to both farmers and mill owners. But with the aid of the government bounty of 2 cents per pound it enabled the factory to pay \$5 per ton for beets. In 1893 6,225 acres were planted, as it was considered the best paying crop that could be raised, for there was a sure local market for the product.

So that if Mr. Fisher only realized ten tons to the acre at \$4 per ton would be \$40 per acre return. Estimating the cost of raising beets at \$35 per acre, this would give \$5 per acre for land rent (besides leaving the land in a first-class tilable condition), which is far more than the grain raiser can afford to pay at the present grain prices.

The Nebraska department of agriculture makes the average cost per acre at \$33, with a yield a little larger than the Utah product.

Mr. E. H. Dyer of the Alvarado factory in California, makes the cost per acre at \$46, upon an average yield of fifteen tons to the acre, so that at \$4 per ton would be \$14 per acre for land rent.

In conclusion permit me to say to friend Fisher if he lost on his last venture it will never do to give it up so, but up and try it again.

Yours, P. L.

HONORS TO THE AGED.

The people of the little town of Draper witnessed a scene last Saturday which has never had a precedent in its short history. The society known as the "Loyal sons and daughters of Utah," royally entertained the poor and the aged. The hall was beautifully decorated with evergreens and on the walls were two banners, "Honor the aged," and "The loyal sons and daughters of Utah." Two large tables were set around which were seated about forty guests, consisting of all the poor of the ward and all over seventy years of age. The people were brought to the hall in sleighs decorated with flags and bunting by the "Loyal sons." Upon reaching the hall they were met by the "Loyal daughters," who escorted them to the tables and entertained them with music, songs and recitations. In response to the call of the presidents, C. B. Stewart and Thida Boberg, toasts were given by each of the white-haired veterans. After partaking of the delicious repast prepared solely by the members of the society, an excellent program was rendered, consisting of speeches from the Bishop, Henry Day, John Ennles and others; remarks bearing upon the object of the society were given by some of its members, all interspersed with music, songs, and recitations. At the close of the social the honored

guests were taken home by the "Loyal sons."

It was indeed a beautiful sight to see these young ladies and men taking hold of the arms of their aged fathers and mothers, showing them that respect and reverence which is often fancied but not often realized as it was on that happy occasion.

This society was organized for the purpose of furthering the prohibition of tobacco, liquors and profane language. In their meetings they have lectures upon morality, religion, history, civil government, etc. A great interest is being manifested among the young and that which seemed at first a failure is now a glowing success.

ROYAL M. STOKES, Sec'y.

DRAPER, Feb. 3, 1895.

MAJOR JOHN H. GILBERT.

On the 28th of January last there appeared in the News an announcement of the death, at Palmyra, N. Y., on January 26, of Major John H. Gilbert, known as the first printer of the Book of Mormon. The Rochester, N. Y., *Union and Advertiser*, gives the following sketch of his life:

Major John H. Gilbert, the oldest printer in New York state, died Saturday evening at 5:35, at his home, on Gates street, at the age of 92 years and 6 months. Major Gilbert was born August 13, 1802, and at the early age of twelve years he was thrown upon his own resources, his father dying and leaving a widow and a large family of children in reduced circumstances. Mr. Gilbert, when a lad of sixteen, entered the office of the old *Canandaigua Repository*, and graduated into one of the best all-round printers in this section. After remaining there several years, and thinking more money could be made in city offices, he resigned his position and worked for a short time in Utica, Albany and other eastern points. Not liking city work, he came to Palmyra in the early '30's, and went to work on the old *Wayne Sentinel*, Pomerooy Tucker being the proprietor.

At about this time the Mormon excitement broke out under Joseph Smith, who claimed he had dug up plates in the side of a hill, some three miles south of this village, which is now known all over the civilized world as Mormon hill, with divine messages upon them, from which the Mormon Bible was printed.

This book was brought to the *Sentinel* office to be printed, and it fell to Major Gilbert to do the type-setting, proof-reading and press-work upon this volume. Mr. Gilbert was known over the United States as the man who printed the first Mormon Bible. In 1827 Mr. Gilbert was married to Miss Onloe P. Thayer, who died some fifteen years ago. Twelve children were born to them, five of whom are still living: Miss Sarah, of this place, who kept house and cared for the major in his declining years; Charles, a successful business man at Detroit, Mich.; William, of Rochester; Mrs. J. C. Williams, of New York city, and Miss Belle, of the same city.

Major Gilbert was authority on matters pertaining to the Mormon Bible and the period of the Mormon excitement in this county, and when the faithful from far off Utah visited Palmyra he was always sought out for a

personal interview, and piloted the excursionists over Mormon hill, while they gleaned from him interesting bits of the Prophet's early life and doings in this place. In printing the Mormon Bible, Mr. Gilbert kept the first "true" sheet together, unbound, which he sold to Hon. Pliny T. Sexton of this place, who is the possessor of the first Mormon Bible ever printed.

Major Gilbert was a life-long Democrat of the Jackson type, and had held local offices, being at one time collector at Palmyra for the Erie canal, when that waterway was in its palmiest days. He was an expert violinist.

On each birthday the major used to visit our local printing offices and set his "stick full of type," as he would say, "just to show the boys how the old man did it," and tell them jokes of his early career as a printer, when local offices, as the occasion demanded, used carpet tacks for type.

In the passing away of Major Gilbert the connecting link of early Mormon times with the present is gone.

In the "early training days," when the local militia was each town's pride and glory, Mr. Gilbert was a well known figure, and it was here he won his title of "major," being in command of the local organization for some time.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder William G. Patrick Tuesday returned to this city from a mission to the Southern States. He left his home December 3, 1892, and was assigned to the South Carolina conference. He labored there for one year, when he was called to preside over that conference, in which capacity he served until his release to return home. Elder Patrick has enjoyed good health during his absence, and reports having received the best of treatment from the people of the South, whom he found to be very hospitable. He reports that there has been an entire change of feeling toward the Elders since the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple, mob violence having become a thing of the past. The South Carolina conference is in a prosperous condition, there having been fifty-nine baptisms during the past year.

Monday evening the News received a call from Elder Willford O. Ridges, of Ogden, who returned Sunday from a mission to the Southern states, on which he left home October 11, 1892. He was appointed to the South Alabama conference, his field of labor being in Florida, where he performed missionary duty, until released to return home. He enjoyed his mission, and had excellent health. He found the people quite hospitable, and prejudice against the Latter-day Saints was diminishing.

Leonidas Lamb, Ben Young and Jim Lamb engaged in a drunken orgie at Marysville, Cal., on Saturday evening. Young placed a pistol to Lamb's breast and fired. The bullet struck the seventh rib just left of the right nipple, passing into the lung cavity. The pistol used was 22-caliber. Young, who is about 20 years old, claims that he did not know the pistol was loaded, although the young men had been shooting with it for an hour. All belong to the hoodlum class. Lamb's injuries may prove fatal.