



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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## FLAX CULTURE.

The cultivation of flax is a subject which should command a great deal of attention from our people at the present time. Exertions have been made to produce a supply of cotton for our use, which would seem almost incredible to those unacquainted with them; and those exertions have been successful. The importance of wool growing is claiming its share of attention, with prospects that we shall, at a not distant date, have better breeds of sheep, and finer and better wool, in sufficient quantity to supply larger, and a greater number of, factories than are now in the Territory.

The manufacture of linen ought to go hand in hand with that of cotton and woolen goods. Its value for articles of clothing in a climate such as ours, especially in the summer, would be difficult to overestimate. And for a variety of purposes,—such as table linen, toweling, sheetings, &c., the home article would soon take the place of the imported material and of other fabrics now in use, its purity, beauty and durability making it much more preferable.

The first steps to the manufacture of linen is the cultivation of flax—of the plant from which the fibre is obtained. There is nothing speculative in saying that we can grow flax in this Territory, as easily as any other crop, and more profitably than many others. In the various processes through which it has to pass, from the time it is ready to pull until the fibre is in a condition to be spun, parts of the plant, which in many other products would be waste and comparatively worthless, are found to be valuable.

The seed alone forms a paying product of the cultivation of flax, being excellent for medicinal purposes, also yielding an oil the worth of which is well known, and the residuum from which forms a very superior article of food for animals. In Ireland, where its cultivation is great, the broken stem of the plant, after the fibre has been taken from it, is found useful, and the hatchelings are used in a variety of ways.

In Ireland, so justly celebrated for its linen manufactures, 175,495 acres were sown with flax in 1853, the latest date of which we have the statistics at hand. Much of the flax grown there, is, of course, worked up by machinery, in its various stages after being "retted," or exposed to the action of water for a time. But much of it is taken through all the processes by hand labor, except breaking the stem of the plant, which is often done by a large rock crusher worked by horse power. There the flax is pulled a little before it becomes fully ripe, and being tied into bundles, with flags or rushes, is placed in water with rocks placed upon it to keep it down, pond retting and stream retting being resorted to according to the facilities of the cultivator.

After remaining in the water some fourteen or fifteen days, until the stem will break and readily separate from the fibre, it is lifted and spread out to dry in the sun. When thoroughly dried it is taken to the crusher, and spread in a circle, where the ponderous roller passes over and over it, until it is sufficiently bruised for hatcheling. This latter is usually done in Ireland by females, who will work steadily, day after day, preparing the flax for the homespinner or the market. If spun and woven at home, then the members of the family wear at least their underclothing of their own manufacture, while their household linen is also so produced, and much cloth is sold to heavy buyers, bleached in the large bleach greens, and carried over much of the civilized world, commanding high prices everywhere it is sold.

The foregoing proves very conclusively that, situated as many of our people are, they are well able to cultivate flax,

take it through its various processes without imported machinery, and weave their own linen, and that too, when properly done, at a less cost than they can buy imported linen.

## GOVERNMENT TO BUY TELEGRAPH LINES.

By yesterday's dispatches we learn that it was stated on Monday in the British House of Commons that it was the intention of the British government to purchase the telegraph lines of Great Britain, and that a plan, effecting that change, would be submitted to the House within a week.

From our eastern exchanges we learn that parties were in Washington two weeks ago endeavoring to induce our government to purchase the telegraph lines of the Western Union Telegraph Company. The object in offering to sell to the government is to give the nation the control of telegraphic lines in the same manner that it has now the monopoly of the postal business. We understand the proposition for the Government to have such control is received with favor, and will, it is said, at some future day be adopted. The price at which the Western Union Company is reported to have offered to sell out—sixty millions of dollars—is looked upon as exorbitant, as the amount of nominal stock barely reaches forty millions, while its actual value is said to be much less even than the last-named amount.

The action of the English government may influence our government to take steps in relation to this matter. Complaints are made of the present high rates of telegraphing, and the construction of new lines by opposition companies is chronicled with apparent pleasure by the eastern press, who feel that there has been too much monopoly in the business of telegraphing. Whether the purchase by the English government of the lines in Great Britain is likely to be attended by any reduction in the cost of telegraphing, or whether it is hoped that any such result will follow the purchase of the lines in the United States by our government, is not stated. But judging by the tone in which it is treated we conclude that such a result is anticipated.

**A GOOD STORY SPOILED.**—For some weeks past a story has been going the rounds of the papers, headed, "Thrilling incident—Romance in real life" copied from the Cleveland (Ohio)

*Plaindealer*, about the capture of a boy by the name of John Pringle by the Indians some years ago, while himself and parents and friends were en route for this city, and his recognition by his brother, William Pringle, "one of the pillars of the Mormon Church," when he was passing through Cleveland on his way to England as a missionary. The story as told is quite sensational. But it is lacking in one essential particular, and we almost regret it, for we dislike to see a good story spoiled—it is not true. In the Boston *Statesman* and *Weekly Post* we find the following humorous summary of the story:

A "long-lost brother" romance has just occurred in Cleveland. The chap with the strawberry mark on his left arm was stolen from a Mormon emigrant party, more than twenty years ago, by the Indians. He escaped a few years ago, served in the Confederate army, and at last turned up at Cleveland, O. His brother, who had meantime grown up into a Mormon elder and was on East in search of converts, met him in a drinking saloon, and immediately recognizing him by his nice taste for whiskey, fell into his arms, embraced him and straightway carried him off to Utah.

**A QUESTION.**—Editor of the *Evening News*:—To leave off drinking tea and coffee, in order to keep the Word of Wisdom, and then to pour down hot cocoa by the quart, is it not whipping the devil around the stump?

If we have a correct understanding of what is meant by "whipping the devil around the stump," we should answer our correspondent's question in the affirmative. "Hot drinks," we are told, "are not for the belly." Hot cocoa, hot soups, and other hot fluids are all certainly included in what are termed "hot drinks." But tea and coffee are substances expressly referred to in the Word of Wisdom, being in and of themselves injurious to the body, though we have understood that a number of persons have found that they had strong symptoms of canker since they heard an eminent authority state that it is a good medicine for that disease.

**SALT LAKE AS VIEWED FROM AFRICA.**—A correspondent from Provo, Bro. A. H. Noon, forwards us a clipping from a South African paper which states that the latest advices from here "show that the Mormons are undoubtedly demoralized." "The community has split on the heresy of anti-polygamy." To show how completely Brigham Young has lost his authority, the editor relates an incident of a young man rising up "in the body of the crowded temple," and pronouncing his statements false, and that, thereupon, President Young ordered the young man's house to be torn down, "which was not done!" "This and other incidents have so affected the President that he is thinking of moving to the newly-discovered mines of New Mexico!"

Our correspondent says the clipping is interesting as it shows "how quick lying and garbled statements of any small matter transpiring here are carried to the uttermost ends of the earth." It also shows how interested many people, even in the most remote parts of the earth, are in everything which affects what they call "Mormonism." The old proverb is a very true one—at least we, as a people, have found it so—that "a lie will travel a league while truth is putting on its boots."

**PLAGIARISM.**—We have not the slightest objection to having our articles appear in other papers—in fact, we are rather pleased to see them, than otherwise; but we do think that we are, at least, entitled to the credit of them. Newspaper courtesy would certainly accord us that much. Sometimes a credit may be withheld from a paper through inadvertence; but when articles are copied from the *News* and our paper is systematically ignored, with all our charity we can not attribute such actions entirely to inadvertence. We have seen a number of instances of this kind, and thought we should allude to the subject at some time; but this morning we picked up an exchange, and in examining the editorials we saw an article, the language of which seemed familiar to us. Upon looking at it more closely we found that it had been clipped from one of our leaders, and put in without the least alteration. The part that would have betrayed its paternity, on account of it containing some views peculiar to the people of Utah, had been carefully omitted. The article was full leaved, and appeared in every respect as the other editorials of the paper, and in contradistinction to the selected matter.

## EVILS OF CHRISTENDOM—THEIR CORRECTION.

Since the late war there has been a great increase of crime in every part of the Union. We scarcely take up a paper that does not contain some horrible account of crime that has been perpetrated in the neighborhood from whence it hails. Many editors cannot close their eyes to the recklessness which is becoming more and more manifest, and they comment freely upon the decline in public morals which is so apparent. For ourself we turn away sickened and disgusted from the perusal of the horrid details of crime of one kind and another which abound in the papers. We have thought that we could comment upon some of these cases; but when we have attempted to do so we have recoiled from the task, many of them being too revolting.

There is nothing pleasant to contemplate in society as at present organized in Christendom. The history of so-called christian civilization is one of misrule and oppression, of usurpation and crime. Virtue is derided and assailed, while vice is fostered and honored. The bold, the insolent and the reckless elbow their meeker and more modest and humble fellows out of the path; they take the upper seats, and their brazen effrontery appears to answer the purposes of life better than the qualities the cultivation of which the great Founder of the christian religion enjoined upon his followers. He said: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." The meek must look forward to the realization of this promise with faith; for in christendom, at present, the meek are pushed to the wall, and the proud, the litigious, the braggarts inherit the earth, and try to monopolize its good things. Meekness, as society is now organized in the world, does not pay. In fact, the whole of the

christian virtues, which were so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Redeemer, are at a discount; they receive no encouragement. Viewed from a worldly standpoint they are an injury to their possessor, so they are generally discarded.

A man who can stand sufficiently aloof to exercise an unbiased judgment, can see more to admire in all the creations of God which he sees around him than in man. Possessed of godlike attributes, and placed at the head of creation, man has abused his power, degraded himself and brought innumerable evils upon himself and all his surroundings. Yet though the earth itself and the animal and vegetable kingdoms feel the effects of man's mismanagement and transgressions, they can all be viewed with more pleasure and satisfaction than man. He has sunk lower than they all; his condition is a more pitiable one than theirs.

There is a crying necessity for a change. The increase of crime must be checked. The evils which so plentifully abound must be eradicated. But how? By what means? Pseudo-Christianity has proved itself a grand failure. Failure is written upon every one of its features. It neither moulds men nor shapes society; but is itself fashioned and changed to suit the popular whim. Its ministers are not the mentors of the age; they are not in the vanguard. They pliantly follow in the rear, content to have their voices slavishly echo the dicta which society pronounces. It is time that another system should be introduced. It has been. We have already experienced many of the results which have attended its introduction. What we witness in this Territory is but the beginning of the great revolution which will continue to progress until a thorough and radical change is effected. Already we see the good fruits which have been produced. The virtues which Jesus inculcated are honored, not so much as they will be; but still they are more respected than they were by our people while connected with their former systems. Even now the practice of those virtues does not interfere with a man's advancement, nor act as a check upon his prosperity. Crime and its kindred vices are comparatively unknown, and the description of the old poet most felicitously describes society as it exists here.

"Where spades grow bright, and idle words grow dull;  
Where jails are empty, and where barns are full;  
Where church paths are with frequent feet out-worn;  
Law court-yards weedy, silent and forlorn;  
Where doctors foot it, and where farmers ride;  
Where age abounds and youth is multiplied;  
Where these signs are, they clearly indicate  
A happy people and well governed state."

**PERSONAL SKETCHES.**—The graphic and facetious sketches of the Members of the Territorial House of Representatives, which appear in another column of to-day's paper, will, doubtless, afford amusement to all our readers, and to none more than the honorable Members themselves. They are from the pen of a well-known correspondent, whose humorous style the most of our subscribers will readily recognize.

**REPUTATION GIVEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.**—The Cleveland *Herald* says, "if you want to blacken a man's reputation, nominate him for the Presidency." This is called forth from the editor by the charges which are being made respecting Gen. Grant, that he is a drunkard and a liar. The editor winds up his article with the remark, that "if the Angel Gabriel were to appear on earth and be mentioned in connection with the Presidency, he would be accused of stealing his trumpet."

## IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

By reference to our telegraphic dispatches, which appear in another column, our readers will find some very interesting Washington news. Unless the wires are more than usually unreliable, the times are very exciting in Washington. The excitement "is greater there than since the assassination of Lincoln." If what is said can be relied upon, unless the President or Mr. Stanton retracts there will be serious trouble. General Thomas seems resolved to take upon himself the duties of Secretary of War, in accordance with the President's wish, and Mr. Stanton seems to be equally determined not to yield up the position. There seems to be no possible way of solving the difficulty, unless the decision of the Supreme Court should be