

ground near their camps, and many flocks of sheep and goats feeding in the glens and upon the adjacent mountains. Tourists are not safe in traveling through their country unless accompanied by some of their own people.

We stopped to lunch in an olive orchard a short distance from Bethlehem, an enclosure called "The Shepherd's Field," where the shepherds watched their flocks by night, when the angels appeared to them announcing the grand and glorious event.

From here our route was over a rocky, tortuous path through the wilderness of Judea, scarcely a tree, shrub or bush to be seen in any direction. The whole country is barren and rocky, herbage here and there sufficient only for the sustenance of sheep and goats. The mountain scenery was beautiful and sublime; occasionally I stopped my horse upon a lofty summit to gaze upon the surrounding scenery, a vast wilderness of mountains in an endless variety of form and size. Towards evening we arrived at the convent of Mar Saba, about ten miles from Bethlehem. We descended a broad, paved staircase to a small platform in front of the massive walls, in which was a small iron door. We were closely watched by a singular looking friar, peeping through a loophole overhead. Presenting our letter of introduction from the Greek authorities at Jerusalem, which was scrupulously examined, we were admitted and conducted through the building, by the presiding friar, a tolerably good looking and intelligent gentleman.

This convent, in some respects, is the most singular and extraordinary building in Palestine. It is situated in the midst of the wilderness where John the Baptist commenced his ministry. It is built upon the side of a terrific ravine, and consists of irregular massive walls, towers, chambers and chapels, built upon narrow rock terraces and precipices; advantage being taken of natural caves and grottoes in the rocks and sides of the cliffs, inasmuch that we could scarcely tell, as we passed along the narrow galleries and flights of stairs, what was natural and what artificial. The ravine is several hundred feet deep, the side of it covered from top to bottom with these natural and artificial works, woven imperceptibly one into another, forming a fortress of immense strength. It is considered one of the richest convents in Palestine, and the strictest precaution and watching are observed to prevent the wild Bedouins, who are constantly hovering in the vicinity, from entering and carrying off its treasures. St. Saba, the founder of this convent, was born in the year 430. He was a man of remarkable sanctity, and held in such high veneration that he drew thousands of followers to this desolate region. He had around him, at one time, fourteen thousand people in this glen and its neighborhood. He died in this solitary retreat, at the age of ninety-four years. We were shown his tomb in a small, neat chapel, also an apartment containing a pile of skulls of monks who had been martyred by the Persians, and a grotto where St. Saba spent many years of his life, which, according to tradition, was originally a lion's den. We saw a palm tree still flourishing, said to have been planted nearly fourteen hundred years ago, by St. Saba.

This convent belongs to the Greek Church. The monks are required to observe the most rigid rules of abstinence and fasting; never allowed to eat flesh, and strictly enjoined to allow no woman to enter their presence or cross the threshold of their establishment. A small, peaceful tribe of Arabs, residing in adjacent glens, are employed by these friars to convey their food and clothing from Jerusalem.

In a small, open square, they spread out upon the pavement their little articles of traffic, consisting of beads, buttons, crosses, walking sticks, etc., inviting us to make investments. About seventy of these anchorites live together in this building, where everything around exhibits an aspect of gloom and misery, as might be expected where nature is interrupted by the exclusion of the cheering, enlivening and happy influence of woman.

From Mar Saba we proceeded to our encampment, half a mile distant, in a beautiful dell, encircled by stupendous mountains.

The following day, having nine hours' ride before us, we started before sunrise, our path extending over high, barren, rocky ridges, through a wild, desolate region, skirting fearful ravines, and passing along the brink of frightful chasms and precipices, occasionally catching a glimpse of the Dead Sea, through breaks in the distant cliffs; at length we beheld the sacred plains of Jordan, and there lies, in full view, the Dead Sea, with its waters sparkling beneath the bright and burning sun.

Having descended into the valley, while passing through a jungle of tall cane and thorns, those of our party in front suddenly encountered a band of armed Bedouins, whose fierce looks and threatening attitude prompted them to turn back very hurriedly. Antonio, our dragoman, immediately rushed up from the rear to ascertain the cause of interruption; on his approach, the Bedouins concealed themselves among the cane and bushes, except three, who stood their ground defiantly. Antonio, somewhat excited, hurried the company rapidly through the jungle, then galloped up to the three Bedouins, and, aided by his men, forced their arms from them, and took them as trophies of victory, to the Dead Sea. The Sheikh being in the rear, and not appearing till the affair was nearly over, some conjectured that he dictated the ruse; our subsequent acquaintance with him, however, convinced us that this supposition did him injustice.

The Dead Sea is the most remarkable body of water in the world. It is ten miles wide, forty in length—lying in a deep ravine, about thirteen hundred feet below the level of the Mediterranean, enclosed by lofty cliffs of bare, white and grey limestone. We stopped on the shore near where the Jordan empties. We noticed here quantities of drift wood which had been accumulating for ages; but little else appeared except sterility, dreariness and death-like solitude. We were informed that nothing was to be found upon any of its borders exhibiting life, except here and

there where a brackish fountain, or little streamlet from the mountain produces a small thicket of cane, willow and tamarisk. I think the water is more intensely salt than that of any other body of water except Salt Lake. It contains twenty-six per cent. of saline matter, which is sufficient to render it fatal to animal life. It is as transparent as the water of the Mediterranean. Its specific gravity is so great that the human body will not sink and eggs float when two-thirds immersed.

After spending some time in gratifying our curiosity and in experimenting on the bathing qualities of its waters, we left its dismal shores, steering across a flat, sterile plain, some three miles distant, and stopped under some willows on the banks of the sacred Jordan, near the place where it is supposed the Israelites crossed, and where our Saviour was baptized.

But I am reminded of the increasing length of my letter, and although we are now in Jerusalem, intending to start in the morning to visit northern Palestine and Syria, my correspondence must leave us for the present in this Scriptural locality, with its impressively solemn associations.

LORENZO SNOW.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
SALT LAKE CITY,
April 23rd, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Sir—On yesterday I was called upon for a legal opinion relating to quarantine regulations of the Territory, which led me to examine the statutes. I find an Act of the Governor and Legislative Assembly of this Territory, entitled, An Act in Relation to Quarantine, see Acts of the 6th annual session, p. 16, which reads as follows:

SEC. 1.—Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, that the County Courts of the several counties be and are hereby authorized to locate quarantine grounds, and to make such quarantine regulations as they may deem proper to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases and the spread of the same within their jurisdictions.

SEC. 2.—Any person refusing to comply with the requirements of the County Courts, or who shall wilfully or knowingly introduce any contagious disease into any settlement shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than fifty nor more than one thousand dollars, before any court having jurisdiction.

Approved January 14, 1857.

Before any prosecution can be maintained under this act the County Court must establish quarantine grounds and make regulations, which regulations must not conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States nor with the laws of the Territory, and must be reasonable. They must be confined in their operations to contagious diseases, and to the jurisdiction of the county court which makes the regulations.

The county courts cannot delegate the authority to make regulations, but they may call to their aid the wisdom of others, including physicians, to enable them to adopt such rules as will be likely to secure the desired result.

In case of litigation arising out of them the courts will so construe the regulations as to give them a fair and reasonable meaning, but if the question be one of power, the rule of construction is taken most strongly against the municipality.

Yours truly,
Z. SNOW.

P. S. Will the Herald, Tribune, Junction and Reporter please copy?
Z. S.

ST. GEORGE, Utah,
April 17th, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

The heavy frosts in the first week in April have played the "dickens" with much of our tender fruit. Peaches, apricots and almonds seem to be cut off in a great measure, although they look fine and large upon the trees to-day, but when they are picked and cut open, the pit or stone is found to be black. Apples, pears, plums and cherries seem to be generally uninjured, so far as I have learned here, but in some localities up the Virgin and at Bellevue report says the whole crop was frozen and killed. This will be a very serious drawback to our region, as much dependence is placed on our fruit crop. Grapes are, I think, but slightly injured, and not at all in some localities.

The fruits that are uninjured look most splendid, and still give promise of unusually large crops. The roses—O! the roses! beautiful and sweet, are in bloom, together with many other flowers that are garbed in all their springtime beauty, trees and plants in full leaf and shade, and to-day I picked a handful of ripe strawberries.

Ever since this month set in there has been almost daily more or less cold, heavy wind, which is poor medicine for epizoot, so few people "feel very well." Work on the Temple is now pushed with vigor, large corps of hands daily, masons are crowding the haulers of rock, and everybody is crowded and push-

ed, not a man to be found who is willing to be hired "for love or money." So I must hie to labor. In haste.
CACTI.

The Kiowas and Comanches Petition their Great Father.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1873.

The following despatch from Enoch D. Hoag, Superintendent of Indian Agencies, at Lawrence, Kas., was received by Commissioner Smith to-day:—

On the 2d instant I instructed Professor Norton, Cheyenne trader, to make a thorough investigation into the reported murder of surveyors by Indians. The evidence fixes the murders on the 19th ultimo, while a letter from John F. Williams, our special agent, whom we require to remain with said Indians at their camp, and whose statements are reliable, dated at the camp, March 22, says: "I returned from Cheyenne camp day before yesterday (20th). I met Medicine Arrow, Old Whirlwind, Big Jake, Gray Beard, Little Rock, Young Whirlwind, Heap of Birds, and other minor chiefs, in council on the 19th. George Bird did the interpreting."

Said letter informs of his presence at a council with all the chiefs except Bull Bear, who was on the Canadian River, on the 19th, and on the day previous (18th) they were on a large drunk. It appears, if said outrage was committed at all by Cheyennes, it was probably done by some of their young men in the absence of their chiefs, and while intoxicated. This news is strengthened by the bodies being buried in sand, which is unusual among Indians. They scalp and leave bodies exposed.

The investigation will be pursued, and especially with the Indians, on their arrival at the agency to which they are moving, and we expect no further trouble.

E. A. HOAG,
Superintendent.

A HUMBLE PETITION.

The following petition from Indians, asking for the release of Santanta and Big Tree, was received at the Interior Department:—

TO OUR GREAT FATHER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:—

We, the chiefs, braves, warriors, head men and young men of the Kiowa and Comanche tribes of Indians, hereby acknowledge that we have heretofore incurred thy displeasure by numerous depredations and plunder, by murdering innocent people and taking into captivity innocent women and children. This we have done, while thou hast been feeding and clothing us, and in spite of the entreaties and warnings of the messengers oftentimes sent among us. We have by these wanton acts of ours defied the people and government of the United States, until thou hast ceased thy long-continued forbearance and hast taken our chiefs, Santanta and Big Tree, prisoners, and carried into captivity more than a hundred of our women and children. We love our chiefs and women and children, and are brought into deep trouble and sorrow by our own disobedience, which has caused our Great Father to inflict this severe punishment upon us; and we beg of our Great Father to pass by our many transgressions and to forgive us, to begin life anew and return to us our loved chiefs and women and children. If our Great Father will do this we solemnly promise, in the presence of these witnesses, that with the assistance of the Great Spirit above, we will hereafter obey the wishes of our Great Father, as made known to us by his agents and messengers sent among us. We will go no more raiding into Texas, but will remain in our own lawful reservation. We will maintain a perpetual peace and friendship with the people and government of the United States, including the State of Texas. We will remain at peace with all the other Indian tribes and use our influence to induce them to maintain friendly relations among themselves and towards the government of the United States, and we will in all respects, to the best of our ability, obey the wishes of our agent. All this we solemnly promise relying upon the Great Spirit above, in whom we trust, to aid us in the faithful performance of our solemn pledges.

Made at the Kiowa and Coman-

che agency, Indian Territory, the 20th day of the third month, 1873.

The petition is signed by the chiefs and head men of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indians, after a full interpretation of the same and after a general council among themselves on the subject. The above formal appeal had been preceded by urgent requests for the release of the imprisoned Indians, and the Indians were told that if they returned all the captives and stolen property as well as give promises for future good conduct, the Great Father would intercede for them. Accordingly after they had fully complied with the demands of the government, Governor Davis was requested by the Secretary to release Santanta and Big Tree, and they are being held for the present only until provision can be made for their safe escort.—New York Herald.

Santanta and Big Tree are Kiowa chiefs, who were turned over to the Texan authorities by Gen. Sherman. They were convicted of murder and robbery and sentenced to imprisonment for life, which sentence they are now undergoing at Austin, Texas.

According to our dispatches to-day these chiefs are not likely to be released at present.

Important Decision of the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1873.

A very important case was decided in the Supreme Court to-day, and one which, on account of its long pendence, has got a national reputation. The Legislature of the State of Louisiana granted a charter to an association of butchers giving them the exclusive right to slaughter cattle and sell meat in the city of New Orleans for the next twenty-five years. Other butchers in that city contested the right of the State to enact such legislation and brought suit against this company, declaring their charter void under that clause of the first section of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution which declares that no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States. The decision of the Supreme Court to-day, delivered by Mr. Justice Miller, was that this constitutional provision was for the protection and benefit of the emancipated colored race, and was not intended to interfere with the State regulations. "If the plaintiffs have privileges they are such as depend on citizenship of the State and not on citizenship of the United States." This decision was concurred in by Justices Miller, Clifford, Davis, Strong and Hunt, while the Chief Justice and Justices Field, Swayne and Bradley dissented. This decision virtually disposes of the case of Mrs. Myra Bradwell, of Illinois, who claims the privilege of practicing law in that State under the same clause of the fourteenth amendment.—New York Herald.

Indianapolis fathers are to be commended. They hunt their big sons out of saloons with horsewhips.

The season is approaching when drinking men, as well as drowning men, will catch at straws.—Graphic.

An Iowa woman, who owns a coal mine, says she might have married two men a day for the last two years.

The Germans of Chicago, in mass meeting assembled, have agreed to neither sell nor give away lager on Sunday.

One young man at Scranton has four breach of promise suits on hand, besides being down with the measles.

Indiana tobaccoists are pinched to choose between shutting up shop on Sunday or paying \$20 fine for selling a cigar on that day.

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