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HOME.

A little room with scanty grace
Of drapery or ordered ease;
White dimity and well-scrubbed boards—
But there's a hum of laden bees
And sunshine in the quiet place,
And scent that honeysuckle hoards.

Outside, the little garden glows
With sun-warmed leaves and blossoms bright;
Beyond the pasture, elm, and wood
Where trail the briony and wild rose.
Where grow the blossoms of delight
In an inviolate solitude.

Through that green land there blows an air
That cools my forehead even here
In this sad city's riotous roar;
And from that little room I hear
The echo of a life-long prayer,
And the world's voice is heard no more.

Leisure Hour.

THE BANNOCK STAKE OF ZION.

BY ANDREW JENSON.

Stake Presidency—Thomas E. Ricks, President; William F. Rigby, 1st Counselor; James E. Steele, 2nd Counselor.

High Councilors—Austin G. Green, of Menan; David Robison, Lyman; Alexander N. Stephens, Menan; James H. Mason, Parker; Brigham Ricks, Rexburg; Heber Ricks, Rexburg; Phineas Tempest, Rexburg; William Troop, Rexburg; James H. Pincock, Wilford; George D. Black, Wilford; James E. Fogg, Rexburg; Frank S. Bramwell, Rexburg.

Alternate High Councilors—Andrew A. Anderson, of Rexburg; William J. Young, Lyman; Charles Keppner, Rexburg; Edmund Paul, Rexburg.

Patriarchs—Thomas S. Smith, of Wilford; Arza E. Hinckley, Rexburg.

The Bannock Stake embraces the greater half or northern portion of Bingham County, Idaho, extending south to the forty-third parallel of northern latitude, or as far as Ross' Fork, which stream has been agreed upon as the dividing line between the Bannock and Onelda Stakes. West and north it extends as far through Idaho as Latter-day Saints can be found, and east into Wyoming Territory. But the great bulk of the Saints constituting the Stake reside in a string of settlements situated in the Upper Snake River Valley, commencing with Basalt Ward in the southwest, and ending with Wilford Ward on the northeast,

a distance of about seventy-five miles. (See map.) Quite a number of Saints are now also settling in a distant valley known as the Teton Basin, the centre of which is about forty miles east of Rexburg. The Stake consists of twenty organized wards, in most of which there are, besides the respective Bishoprics and their helps in the Priesthood, complete organizations of Sunday Schools, Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A., Primary Associations, choirs, etc. (See Statistical report.) A large proportion of the Saints are young married people who mostly have come from the older and more thickly populated districts of Utah to seek homes in the northern country.

The Great Snake (or Shoshone) River Valley, at the points where the settlements of the Saints are situated, has an average width of about forty miles. The west or northwest side of the valley contains a portion of the Great Snake River Lava Fields, while on the opposite side of the valley the soil is generally level, and also very rich and productive. In some places it is covered with a thrifty growth of sagebrush and at other points with luxuriant grasses. By a careful system of cultivation and irrigation it will produce all kinds of small grain, potatoes, garden vegetables and small fruits.

It is also a very good stockraising country. Clover, timothy, blue grass, lucern and the natural grass, or blue stem grass, are all successfully raised in the valley. The lucern will yield three crops in one season, if properly cared for, and yields from two to four tons per acre each cutting.

The altitude of the Snake River Valley proper between Blackfoot and Rexburg ranges from 4,500 to 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. The climate is healthy, the nights are always cool and pleasant and the winter not so severe, ordinarily, but what stock can winter out. The country being open for hundreds of miles westward, heavy winds, which no doubt originate on the Pacific coast, frequently sweep through the country from west to east in the summer season.

The main branch of Snake River rises in the Teton range of mountains in western Wyoming, and after making a great bend to the south enters Snake River Valley at a point about twenty-five miles northeast of Eagle Rock. About fifteen miles below the mouth of the lower canyon it takes up Henry's Fork from the north, the

latter stream having above that point received the Teton, Fall River and other smaller streams as tributaries. Henry's Fork is named after one of the partners of the Missouri Fur Company who, in 1809, built a fort on this stream about twenty-five miles from its mouth.* After receiving Henry's Fork, Snake River, which now becomes a very large stream, soon changes its course from a north-westerly to a southerly direction toward Eagle Rock, from whence its course is southwesterly, westerly and northwesterly until it unites with the Columbia River, through which it finally discharges its waters into the Pacific Ocean.

The main branch of Snake River divides the settlements of the Saints in the Bannock Stake into what might be termed a north and south group. Of the twenty wards of which the Stake consists, ten (Rexburg, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Ward, Lyman, Burton, Brighton, Parker, Woodruff, Teton and Salem) are on the north side, nine (Menan, Labelle, Louisville, Rigby, Willow Creek, Iona, Eagle Rock, Taylor and Basalt) on the south side, and one, (Aline) in the Teton Basin. In times of high water communication or travel between the settlements on opposite sides of the rivers is extremely difficult and often very dangerous.

There is no bridge across the main branch of the river above Eagle Rock; hence that stream must always be crossed by means of ferries, as it is very seldom low enough to be forded. Even ferrying has to be abandoned when the river is very high. Until 1888 the north or Henry's Fork was also crossed by ferry, but in 1888 a bridge was built at a place now known as St. Anthony, fourteen miles northeast of Rexburg, or three miles above Parker, and in the spring of 1890 a bridge on the more direct road of travel between the settlements in the forks of Snake River and Market Lake was built six miles west of Rexburg, at a cost of \$5,000.

BANNOCK WARD.

Trappers are known to have visited the upper Snake River Valley as early as 1809. In that year Alexander Henry, a member of the Missouri Fur Company, having been dislodged by the Blackfoot Indians from his establishment at the forks of the Missouri, passed over the great divide and built a house on the north or Henry's

* Bancroft's History of Idaho.