

bushes, when along came seven horse-men on their way to the fire, which had by this time been discerned twenty miles around. After they had passed I again tried to mount my horse, but found it impossible and found that my leg had swollen so that I could not walk. I was in a fix, sure enough; what to do I did not know, but I had to do something, so I got down on my hands and knees and crawled on toward a cluster of trees, leading my horse. When I arrived at the timber I fortunately found a large tree which had been cut down, leaving a high stump; crawling upon this stump I managed to get on the back of my horse, and went back jumping my horse over the fence back into the road. I was suffering so terribly that I could but just cling to my saddle. I turned my horse in the direction of Squire McCauley's cabin, where I arrived just before daybreak, and found that the squire had got home nearly two hours before. He was surprised to be called out by me, but after giving him to understand my condition, he cried like a child, he took me in and hid me away for a week, where he and his wife cared for me, as they would for one of their own, until I was able to go about without suspicion. The judge got home the night following the night the temple was burned, having to ride in the woods on Rock creek all day, which was in the south side of Rock Creek township."

So after nearly fifty years the true history of the burning of the great Mormon Temple is made known. The narrator of this story, as told by Mr. Agnew, was a small boy at the time of the burning of the Temple, living with his mother just west of Ft. Madison, Iowa, and he recollects seeing the light from the burning building on that memorable night. Over twenty years after the destruction of the Temple I became intimately acquainted with all the parties connected with this narrative.

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UTAH AND THE MORMONS.

The following is reproduced from the People's Journal, Aberdeen, Scotland: Mr. John Murray M'Gillvray, who has sent us the subjoined notes, is a native of Aberdeen, but was "raised" in New Pittsboro. He is now "clerking in a store" in the territory of Arizona, his exact address being Holbrook, Navajo county, Arizona, U. S. A. When Mr. M'Gillvray left home three years ago he promised to write to his friends, and he assures us that he can best reach them through the columns of the People's Journal. As his letter is of general interest we accord it space, all the more readily because having paid a visit to Salt Lake City in the course of a rapid run through America in 1893—we know it can fairly be described as accurate. Mr. M'Gillvray says: The State of Utah was settled by the Mormon people in 1847. The site of Salt Lake City was selected by Brigham Young and others who emigrated to the Far West to find a new settlement where they would be free from molestation. They were followed by the Mormon population, who had been driven from their homes in Missouri and Illinois. In Utah valley they made new homes. The land was a desert; nothing but sand and sagebrush could be seen for miles. Through the exertions of the Mormon people in cultivating and irrigating the sandy soil, wheat and potatoes and other crops were raised, and from the year 1847 up to the present day they have made the land very productive, and Utah can now produce almost everything, and is one of the richest states in the Union. The climate of Utah is very mild, and the whole ter-

ritory is one of the healthiest in America. It is not quite so cold here during the winter season as it is in Scotland. The high mountains by which Utah is girded protect it from severe storms, while the cool breezes from these mountains make it very pleasant in the summer months. The chief industry is farming, but the state is rich in silver, copper, iron, lead and coal; rearing of stock is largely engaged in. Cattle and sheep are driven upon the mountain sides during the summer and pastured in the valleys during the winter. The Utah and Cache valleys are the finest cattle districts. Utah has a very large sugar factory, and manufacturing of different kinds is carried on in the cities and large towns. Salt Lake Valley is very beautiful; it is like a well-kept garden. Farm joins farm, crystal streams water them, and scattered about in rich profusion are long lines of fruit trees, amid which are neat white houses. In fact it has an Arcadian beauty, which resembles that of some of the richest vales of Scotland.

Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah, is one of the prettiest cities I have ever seen. It has a lovely situation, has fine gardens, grand public buildings, and elegant private residences, while its magnificent natural surroundings give it a distinctive character; altogether it is a favorite destination for a transient stay or a lengthened visit. The streets of the city are wide, and are washed on either side by living streams fed from the copious water supply that flows from the mountains. The houses of its residents are substantially built, and embowered in shade trees. In the city is the great Mormon Temple, which was forty years in building, and cost over three and a half million dollars. It is of light granite, similar to that of Aberdeen, and is a marvellous structure. There is also a Tabernacle, with its immense auditorium and grand organ, around which during the services there is a choir of 500 voices. Another attraction is the warm sulphur baths and swimming pond, the water being brought through wooden pipes—hollowed trees for the most part—from springs in the hills several miles distant. These baths are very efficacious in cases of rheumatism and other disorders, and they are greatly frequented by invalids, and also by those who are not sufferers, but who can enjoy the warm bathing. Then one of the greatest sports during the summer months is bathing in the Great Salt Lake, a briny inland sea, to which trains run many times a day. Twenty-two per cent of the water is salt. The lake is 110 miles long, and varies in width from 20 to 40 miles. Its intensely saline waters are beautifully transparent. In the Lake are numerous rocky islands, the largest of which extends about 15 miles. Visitors go to the Lake from all parts of America—not to say the world—and hundreds are to be seen daily bathing in the water. There is no fear of drowning; the water is so salt that it keeps the body floating as if it were a piece of cork. Salt Lake City has a population of over 60,000 inhabitants—about half of them Mormons, and the other half Gentiles, or people of all faiths. The business of the city is principally carried on by the Mormons, and the majority of them own their own homes. The Gentiles and Mormons are very united in their business matters and in their political affairs. The young people have every opportunity for obtaining a good education, as there is a large University and several colleges, and in all the large cities academies and high schools. The area of Utah measures 82,190 square miles, and has nearly 2,000 miles of railroad. The Mormons

as a people are the best and happiest I have ever lived with. A great many of them are Scotchmen. I have found the Mormons industrious and virtuous in every respect, and desirous to do good to all men. As to their faith, they stick fast to it, with a firm belief that their doctrine in its nature and principles will exalt in the kingdom of God. They have over fifteen hundred missionaries out in all the nations of the world. They are called from their different occupations of life to go wherever they may be appointed for two or three years, and as the disciples of old did they go without purse or scrip, and receive no salaries. Many of my friends in Scotland have the idea that the Mormons in Utah practise polygamy. That idea is erroneous. The laws of the United States prohibited the practice, and the Mormons are a law-abiding people. I have seen more single people in Utah than ever I saw in Scotland. I am one of these. No Mormon in any part of Utah is the owner of a drinking or gambling saloon. The Church strictly forbids any of its members to be engaged in such a business. Certainly much credit is due to the Mormons for making the sandy desert of Utah to become one of the most productive states in the Union—in fact, to blossom as the rose.

WEST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE.

Having been appointed to labor in Franklin and Cumberland counties at our conference held in Emporium, Cameron county, Pa., last October, we immediately set out for our field of labor on November 14, 1897. On arriving we found all the Saints in the counties feeling well.

We have Saints at three different villages in these counties, but only one organized branch, located at Tomstown, Pa., a name familiar, no doubt, to a great many of our elder brethren, they having traveled through this village many times in by-gone days themselves.

We also have a nice Sabbath school here, which is attended fairly well. It is hoped the school may continue to increase, as this is a very good way to instill into the minds of the young the principles of the Gospel.

We had the privilege of leading another soul into the waters of baptism Jan. 28th. He is a young man from Huntington county, who came here to Roeburg, Pa., to visit his cousin who is a member of the Church. Last October was the first time this young man had ever seen or heard tell of a Mormon. He was seeking after the truth, and the Lord led His servants to him, and we had the use of the Baptist church for a number of nights. Since then the church has been closed, and the Elders have been given a white cap notice to leave the place within twenty-four hours. The notice was unheeded and the white caps fled instead of the Elders.

The work here is still increasing as well as the laborers, as last year we had but ten Elders and this year we have sixteen. All are well and enjoying their labors. The churches here are worrying about us. We wish them success in their labors, but we expect Mormonism to win the day.

In Cumberland county, Pa., some time ago two Mormon Elders were heard preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ at a small village, Capriol by name, not being able to obtain a house to speak in, they took up quarters upon the street. There were a great many out listening to their strange characters from a far off country, and the strange doctrine they were advocating. Among the number was a woman who had been studying the Bible, and on hearing Mormonism recognized it.