

## THE WILL WILL AND THE WAY.

In a few days more and thenceforward for a period of several days the number of people requiring subsistence and shelter here will be considerably augmented, exactly how much cannot be told at present, but certainly 50 per cent with the chances in favor of a much greater increase than even that. Have the good people of Salt Lake stopped to think seriously ever what this means? If so, what proportion have taken the needed steps to provide for such a situation? It should be remembered that our hotel system, comprehensive and commodious as it is, is not large enough nor elastic enough to accommodate even a half of those who will be here, added to their present patronage, though the visitors should amount to no more than the minimum estimate, and the others must be taken care of. Let us give this matter some attention.

The announcement went forth from one of our general meetings some days ago that the people were, in effect, to "put their houses in order" and be not backward in receiving within their doors those who require accommodations. This is the proper thing to do, and would be even without such a call. The season past has been a hard one; it has been difficult at times for all the people to make ends meet and the strain is not yet over. But the additional trouble and expense of harboring and caring for one, two or half a dozen more, according to circumstances, for a few days should not make very much difference, and if some slight sacrifice has to be made to do as herein suggested, make the sacrifice and be blessed in doing it so long as the recipient of your hospitality is worthy.

We remember distinctly the occasion of the last Temple dedication, which took place at Manti. The people there seemed to be possessed of the proper spirit and determined in advance that those who came should be cared for. There were but little more than 2000 people in the place and the majority being in moderate circumstances had but few spare rooms or other accommodations; but the town absorbed the comparatively vast throng that assembled there—numbering fully as many as the resident population and we think even more—and did it grandly! If there was one instance of a person going without a needed meal or a night's lodging, it has not been reported. Think of that! The population all at once doubled or more than that, with no railroads nor so many accommodations as now, and so well cared for that neither the visitors nor the visited seemed to realize that there was any inconvenience worth speaking of! Every house, almost without exception, was thrown open, and guests to a certain number received and made welcome in so old-fashioned and unaffected a manner that the little crowding and mixing up for the time being was scarcely noticed at all. This is as it should be.

Now if Manti could take care of 2500 people or thereabout, Salt Lake, with a population twenty-five times as great and facilities in proportion, can take care of 50,000, and do it in a way that will leave no thought of hardship or loss. The hotels, lodging houses,

restaurants and private boarding houses can receive probably one-fourth of that number, and doubtless such proportion would prefer such accommodations. The others will have to be looked after by private families and let us see to it that they are looked after. They have come in response to an invitation and are therefore our guests. It must not be said that even a single individual who was worthy but poor and obscure had to go hungry or sleepy. The less the ability to pay, the more hearty should be the welcome; in fact the question of compensation should not figure in the account at all. If those who are able to pay prefer to do so, well and good, but let not that be a reflection upon the others, and we repeat, let not such a thing be thought of.

Those who are not prepared for the situation as it will be should commence at once; do the best you can and all will be well.

## THE STAR OF EMPIRE

Senator Dawes of Massachusetts, in a speech at Pittsfield in that state a few days ago, spoke pointedly with reference to what he was pleased to term the "marvelous growth" which the western section of the United States has achieved since his entrance on public life. "The country," he said, "has been widening and growing westward and westward to the Pacific coast, and then on beyond, until the latitude itself falls to chronicle our onward march, and westward falls into the eastward, so that the sun will not go down tonight upon our westward border until it shall have risen on the coast of Malue." Overlooking for the time the trifling inaccuracy involved in this really fine flight of rhetoric, and proceeding with the subject which the distinguished gentleman opens up, we find much that is instructive and thoughtful. Of course the steady western movement of our national population is to be credited with the condition spoken of. Mr. Dawes' public career began in 1848, and the census of two years later showed the center of our population to be located at a point some twenty-three miles southeast of Parkersburg, West Virginia, while the last census (1890) shows the center to be twenty miles east of Columbus, Indiana—a westward movement in forty years of 229 miles, the average rate per annum being 5.72 miles.

Going still further back and commencing with the first census, that of 1790, we are shown that there has been in the hundred years a movement westward of 505 miles, the center of population having passed from twenty-three miles east of Baltimore, Md., to the location in Indiana named above. The rate of progress for the whole period averages 5.05 miles a year, or seventy-three feet a day. That is, for a century the center has been moving westward at an average rate of a yard an hour, with one foot more in every twenty-four hours. The slowest progress was made in the second decade, from 1800 to 1810. In this period the population center achieved only thirty-six miles, or at the rate of a out two feet two inches per hour. The swiftest pro-

gress came in the seventh decade, from 1850 to 1860, when the center moved westward about eighty-one miles, or at the rate of about four feet ten inches per hour. If this rate had been maintained up to the present time, "where would we be at" now?

The decade immediately preceding this showed a falling off in the westward of business, the rate having dropped to forty-eight miles, a little below the average; this was about two feet eleven inches per hour. If we extend the period down to the present time, it is shown by careful computation and allowing for no greater progress than was made from 1880 to 1890 that the center of population has proceeded from the point last named in the direction of the setting sun to about half way between Columbus and Waverburg, both in Indiana, and is daily—hourly—coming along our way.

The Boston Herald notes it as a curious fact that, while the westward population has covered no less than 91.3 degrees of longitude (9 degrees 21 minutes 7 seconds), this movement has run almost on a straight line, the extreme northern and southern variation embracing less than one-third of a degree of latitude, eighteen minutes fifty-six seconds. To put the contrast more distinctly, we may say that, while the western movement for the century aggregates 505 miles, the extreme northern and southern variation is a little under twenty-two miles, and the finishing point of the line is only some six miles south of the starting point. The slightness of this variation may be taken as showing that, if you divide the United States by the 39th parallel of north latitude, the growth of the population in the two sections thus made has been very nearly equal during the 100 years covered by the eleven censuses. In view of the fact that the tide of immigration from foreign countries has set mainly into the northern section, such an equality in the growth of the population is a development that would hardly have been looked for.

It is already understood that geographically Utah is a long way east of the middle line between the eastern and western limits of Uncle Sam's possession; so is San Francisco. If the population shall extend to the western confines of our national territory—as it may in the distant future—there is no reason why the center of population should not be wrested from the regions east of the Missouri and Mississippi at a comparatively early date and caused to stride majestically onward toward the Pacific until it reaches Salt Lake City, which is a good enough place for it to stop at permanently.

## A BENEFICENT LAW.

One of the commendable things done by the late Congress was the passage of an act to promote the safety of employees and travelers on railroads. The means by which such desirable condition is to be reached are by "compelling common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to equip their cars with automatic couplers and continuous brakes and their locomotives with