

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Monday, . . . November 16, 1893.

AN ANSWER

TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE HISTORY AND DOCTRINE OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND THE SETTLEMENT AND PROGRESS OF UTAH TERRITORY.

(Continued.)

The battalion were discharged at Los Angeles, one year from the date of their enlistment without means to enable them to return to their families. At the request of the military commander in California, who feared a Spanish revolt, one company re-enlisted for six months, which service was performed in a highly satisfactory manner, both to the officers and the people of San Diego where they were stationed.

WINTER QUARTERS.
After the departure of the battalion from Council Bluffs, Pres. Young gathered up the scattered companies and established a town called Winter Quarters, where 700 log cabins and 150 dug-outs (cabins half underground) were built during the Fall and Winter, upon the site of what is now known as Florence, Nebraska. At this point the Saints suffered extremely from sickness, exposure and the want of the necessities of life. Several thousand wagons were also camped in various localities on the east side of the Missouri river, where the Saints began to build up a place, subsequently named Kanab, in honor of Thomas L. Kane of Philadelphia, whose kindness had endeared him to them.

EXPULSION FROM NAUVOO.
When it became known in Illinois that the flower of the camp had enlisted in the service of the United States, the mob assembled with redoubled fury, formed a military encampment, provided with artillery, in the neighborhood of Nauvoo, which now contained the poor, the helpless, the sick and infirm, as all who were able to leave, on any terms, had done so during the Spring and Summer.

The mob under command of Rev. Thomas S. Brockman increased their force to about 1800 men, made several unsuccessful attacks upon the city, (which could barely muster 123 men) killing several men and wounding a number of others and battering down many buildings. They finally succeeded, on the 17th day of September, after several days' siege, and three days' bombardment, in driving the people, helpless and destitute of everything that could make earth desirable, across the river into Iowa. Here many must have perished from starvation had not the kind Creator fed them by sending upon their camps flocks of quails so tame that the women caught them with their hands. In this place they lay exposed to the storms of autumn, right in view of a thousand empty houses belonging to themselves and friends, until teams were sent back from the camps to remove the survivors, many having died. To crown their victory the mob subsequently set fire to the Temple of Nauvoo, which was the most beautiful building in the Western States. It was the first specimen of a new order of architecture, introduced by President Joseph Smith, and had cost a million dollars. The light of its fire was visible thirty miles.

Very little real estate had been sold though the improvements, property and buildings of the Saints in Illinois were among the best in the Western States. Such a vast amount of property exposed for sale in Hancock and the adjoining counties, had a tendency to glut the market, which together with the hostile influence of our enemies, prevented sales even at low rates. Fortunately oxen were cheap, and companies continued leaving till late in the summer making the new route a grand encampment for 300 miles, as wagons were to be seen at every watering place.

PIONEERING JOURNEY.
In the spring of 1847, President B. Young, with 143 pioneers, started in search of a place of settlement. He was led by the inspiration of the Almighty, (for no one of the company knew anything of the country) directly to Great Salt Lake Valley, where he and company arrived on the 24th day of July, having sought out and made a new road 650 miles, and traveled a trappers trail nearly 400 miles. On the 29th of July the pioneers received additional strength by the arrival of Capt. James Brown and a detachment of the battalion, and a company of Saints from the Mississippi, who wintered with the detachment on the Arkansas river. Seven of the detachment died on the route.

SALT LAKE CITY.
The population, being now about four hundred, the building of Salt Lake City was commenced. The arrival of the Pioneers and this detachment of the Battalion, all armed and carrying the flag of the United States, the commencement to build a fort and the hoisting of the stars and stripes (although this country at the time belonged to Mexico,) had a tendency to impress the wild tribes of the mountains with respect, and made it comparatively easy to promote friendly relations with them.

The Twelve Apostles organized Salt Lake City into a Stake of Zion and appointed John Smith, President; Charles C. Rich and John Young his counselors; Tarleton Lewis, Bishop; and a High Council. This organization went into effect on the arrival of the immigrant companies in the Fall of 1847, when about 700 wagons laden with families arrived on the site of Salt Lake City.

The whole basin was so barren as to produce little besides a species of bunch grass, and the ground was covered with myriads of large black crickets, which were the food of the Indians. In this desert place the site of Salt Lake City was surveyed.

Not a single person in the whole company had a full supply of provisions, but all were on half rations. About one hundred, who had served in the "Mormon" Battalion, found their way here from California, in the Winter, without any provisions.

RETURN OF THE PIONEERS.
On the 25th of August, 1847, President Brigham Young and about seventy others started on their return to Winter Quarters. At the South Pass the Sioux Indians stole part of their animals, which compelled them to walk most of the way to the Missouri river, depending mostly upon such game as they could obtain by the way, and being without suitable horses for crossing the buffalo, the few obtained were generally old bulls, whose flesh was of very poor quality, and not sufficient in quantity to supply their wants.

(To be continued.)

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