

control has been extravagant, dishonest in many ways and disastrous. In five years there was public work done, that shows well, but which ought to have been 25 years in the doing! Many of the men who did this had nothing to lose and were simply drawing on the substance of those who had to pay and be still. In seeking to get a controlling hand upon the government of this city, Mormons and non-Mormons, the best and wisest of both, have done the right thing—have done their duty.

As to general morals, I cannot see that the Mormons are not in every way the equals of those who denounce them. They are, or they are not, the people into whose hands the higher powers have given the work of restoring the Christianity of the ancient type. If, in doing what they understand to be their duty in the premises, they hold their own people to a high morality and make them industrious and prosperous, where is the harm in that? Even their most stubborn opponents, those who declare their system a fraud and their founder an impostor, must give the system credit for the actual good it has accomplished. To do any less, would be to throw off the cloak of professed Christianity, and exhibit a state of feeling quite unchristian, and wholly unworthy of people who claim to be followers of the meek and lowly Nazarene.

For my part, I believe it to be the duty of the Mormon people to work determinedly to get the whole government of the State and its cities, the management of the public schools, all interests of the people, into the control of the wisest and best people of the State. I do not believe that the Mormons are so narrow-minded, so short-sighted or so bigoted as to resolve—That there are no good people but the Latter-day Saints. I do not believe the better class of non-Mormons in Utah have any fear that they are to be deprived of voice in the management of the public schools, in the government of the cities or of the State of Utah. The law courts of the State are almost wholly in the hands of non-Mormons now, and are likely to remain so for many years. As to the schools, when a member of the board of education could declare, in session, that "No damned Mormon should be on the board if he could prevent it!" it is high time that such a disposition should be trodden under foot. As to the city government, when a conspiracy can be made to work so far as to keep the old officials weeks and weeks in office, crowding down and out the appointees of Mayor Clark, it is time public opinion should stand up, if the figure may pass, and declare that the Augean stables of partisan rule in the city should be cleaned out, even if the Mayor should be compelled to turn on the hose, as the matrons of the Denver school for incorrigible girls recently did upon four or five—same number here—of their wards.

If I hated the Mormons as much as the late Marcus E. Jones seems to have done, as much as Miss Webster of Provo, seems to do, as much as sundry letter writers of Utah seem to do, I wouldn't stay among them! I would not force myself to chaw—make it (a)—the rag of acerbity. I would not permit myself to grow as wrinkled with dissatisfaction as are the interior favors of a well built cabbage! I would get cut! I would go East and present proofs of the badness of the Mormons and start a school for scandal.

I know the Mormons just as well as Marcus did. They have a powerful organization, and they are going to keep on pushing it outward. Whether it is right or wrong, it has at its head a man in whose hands I would trust myself as soon as I would with any man I know today. If he is deceived,

he is as grandly upright and honorable in his deception as any man on earth—and so long as his work returns benefits for those who can accept his faith, I see no reason to growl against him. But the late Marcus was different.

CHARLES ELLIS.

THE CLIFF-DWELLER COUNTRY.

Bluff, San Juan County, Utah,

January 17, 1898.

We are having a very fine winter, so far, down here, in the sunny south. This is a nice climate for invalids and old people; the winters are mild and the summers not so very hot; even in July and August, our hottest months, so soon as the sun is down the change is apparent, and by bed time one can retire to sleep comfortably. I have seen the cows in mid winter seek the shade of the big cottonwood trees on the river bottom. The thermometer scarcely ever drops below the freezing point. When it does it never remains more than two or three days. Our winters are noted for their clear, calm, bright sunny days, more so than in any climate I have ever lived in except the Sandwich Islands, the paradise of the Pacific Islands; the country over which just now, there is a great deal of agitation going on. I have spent some ten years of my life on those islands and may say I have never lived among a people where I was better treated, where life and property were more safe. They are a law-abiding people and I fully believe, if left to themselves, they have the qualities of both body and mind to become a great, good and powerful nation. Why not leave them alone and let them work out their history in their own way. In their island home where God has placed them?

We have had the most prosperous season, so far as our cattle and sheep interests are concerned, that we have experienced since I came into this country. Prices have ruled better than for years, and the sheep and cattle men are correspondingly happy. The past season has been exceptionally good also to our agricultural pursuits; crops have been good throughout this part of the State, some damage, however, was sustained through the long and almost incessant rains that came on just before and all during the period of harvesting. Oats and wheat sprouted and grew in the shock while in the field and also, in some instances, after it was stacked. This caused the grain to deteriorate, for after it had been so long subjected to wet, or even great dampness, when it dries out the substance of the grain is very much decreased—it makes less flour to the bushel and that of a poor quality, not unlike frost-bitten wheat, hence the millers do not like it.

The mining interest is not booming very loud in our section, San Juan county, at the present time; a little placer mining is being done down the river from Bluff. A few men who spend the summer in the high mountains mining, and are driven out when the snows of winter come on, are wont to drift down here and put in the winter in a mild climate, and are quite happy if they can make wages sufficient to keep them during the winter. As to the lead mines on the Blue mountains, I don't know if there are any mines being worked this winter. If it is so, it is to quite a limited amount.

Our snow fall so far has been rather light, too much so to warrant good irrigating prospects for the coming season. We hope, however, that we may yet be favored with some heavy falls of snow ere the winter passes.

Bluff is improving in the matter of building. Some good buildings were put up the past season; Bishop Nielson built quite a commodious rock

house, making himself and family very comfortable in his old age. Quite a few other brethren are talking of building the coming season. The people are feeling more satisfied and contented since the late visit of three of the Apostles, Elders Brigham Young, George Teasdale and Anthon H. Lund, who were sent down to visit us and give us such counsel as our circumstances seemed to require and the Spirit of the Lord should dictate. So we were counseled to remain and build up this town, Bluff, and hold on to it as one of the strongholds of the Lord, and it should not be abandoned. Since then the people are feeling very much better and more settled in their feelings, having confidence in the counsels of the servants of God.

There is a movement on foot to form a settlement on what we call the "White Mesa," a very beautiful site for a city, and in the midst of one of the finest tracts of arable land that I have ever seen anywhere in this State. I think the climate for fruit quite as good as here at Bluff, on the river, and as for cereals and vegetables I consider it far superior. The Lyman brothers are leading out in this enterprise, and I do hope they may be able to make a grand success of it, for we certainly need something to aid us in holding on to this country, and our county organization, for our revenue has steadily run down till now we have barely enough to pay the county officers their salaries. When our facilities for dairying and great prospects for dry-farming are better known, I believe immigration will begin to set this way.

We had a full week of glorious fun and frolic during Christmas week—parties and parties, dancing and dancing. They were designated as the weigh party, the basket party, the hard times party, etc., etc. A very nice school entertainment was gotten up in the interest of the day school and Primary association. Our school teachers, Miss W. Isa Wright and Miss Lettie Stephens, worked together with Sister Josephine Wood, president of the Primary association and her counselors. They succeeded in bringing forth one of the best entertainments ever had in Bluff. Great credit is due to the sisters in getting it up. We also had a grand musical concert given by the San Juan orchestra, conducted by Prof. Chas. Lang. Nearly every young lady and gentleman of the place are members of this orchestra.

A good work is being done by our young missionaries, called to labor in the interest of the Mutual Improvement associations throughout the Stake. Their names are H. J. Nelson, president of the Young Men's associations in the Stake; Hanson Bayles, George A. Adams, Chas. S. Brown and Wm. Evans. They are faithfully laboring in this wide and most interesting field of labor, where so many of our young men and boys are seemingly starving to death for spiritual food, dying of thirst while surrounded with streams of living water. I believe this movement will culminate in more good to our young men than any movement of the kind ever set on foot throughout Zion, and it is going to stir up the parents as well, to greater diligence in the training up of our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, as He has commanded us.

Our district school is a success, being ably and efficiently taught by the Misses W. Isa Wright and Lettie Stephens. Miss Wright teaches the upper grades and Miss Stephens the primary. Miss Wright is a highly accomplished teacher and a very bright and gifted young lady, and by her sweet manners and loving kindness, has won the hearts of parents as well as children. We hope some one of our young men will succeed in winning her love and