

Luther because he denounced the sale of "indulgences." It was a blasphemous innovation upon the settled policy of the ecclesiastics. It might be immoral, but that was not to be considered as long as the sale brought money. The same conservatism condemned the early Christian astronomers and geologists because their opinions disturbed long settled theological dogmas as to the heavens and the earth. For the same reason Columbus was condemned and for 20 years, conscious of the truth of his claim, he begged for help to test it. Jefferson Davis, at the head of secession, satisfied that "state rights" was the best policy for the South, said all he wanted was to be let alone. There is not an office-holder in city, state or nation, from dog pelter to president, appointed or elected through party fraud against the welfare of the people, who does not decri any and every movement the object of which is to inaugurate better conditions. Therefore it becomes important to consider the function of agitation. As a marked illustration of the virtue of agitation I take the American colonies, with the story of their success and failure.

The American government was born of agitation. Religious persecution settled New England. New England made the United States possible. Religious refugees made the wilds of New England valuable commercially. Great Britain by long persistence in making her American colonies valuable, as contributors to her wealth, forced agitation into existence in the Massachusetts Bay colonies, and Sam. Adams carried it to complete fruition in American Independence.

But the peace of 1783 was conceded by Great Britain with an unbreathed reservation that she would regain, by cunning, what she had lost through physical inferiority. Then came the war of 1812, short, sharp, decisive, and Britain's first attempt had failed. Then came the slave question in the United States.

England bought cotton from the southern states that was the product of the tolls of slaves, men with black skins, men too insignificant to assert the claim that of "one blood" God had made all men. England made southern planters rich, and arrogant. For years and years they ruled the United States. In Congress, they made "northern doughfaces" grovel at their feet. They bought the great Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, with promises they never intended to fulfil. They made "scrubs" of the majority of northern "statesmen."

But God was not dead. Inspiration was coming, as of old. The Constitution of the United States was a compromise with crime. But the Lord raised up a man to denounce the unholy compact. Garrison began to be heard. The South frothed with rage and offered money for his head.

England saw her opportunity. Her cotton buyers urged the southern planters to opposition. Secession was begotten in England, in a hope that it would kill the American Republic. The Civil War came, and England failed again. But the Civil War made new financial necessities. The opening of the great rebellion found the nation with a bankrupt treasury and all its munitions of war stolen. To carry on the war, money had to be made of paper promises. England again saw her opportunity. She traded on the necessities of the nation she had drawn into civil war, and when the war closed she held vast sums of promises to pay, made by the United States.

Those promises were to pay in the "coin" of the nation issuing them. The coin of the United States was silver and gold. But Britain was on a gold basis. If she could kill silver as stand-

ard coin in the United States, she might secure payment of the promises she held, in gold, at greatly enhanced value, and throw the Republic into convulsions that might kill it. Thus, by cunning, she would retake the country she had lost and put its government, possibly, under her domination, as Canada is today.

The scheme was a great one. It was worthy of a Jew. The subject of the focused hatred of the world for thousands of years. The scheme was successful because the American people had become so dominated by selfishness in their rush for wealth that they had permitted their politics to pass into the hands of men who had, as a rule, no other object than to enrich themselves at the expense of the people. The Congress had become largely the rendezvous, the "robbers' roost," of thieves and traitors. British gold bought enough of them to secure the passage of the act of 1873, which demonetized silver and put the United States into the hands of the money power of Great Britain. The whispered reservation of 1783 had at last won, in a contest of ninety years, and the American people were once more practically chattels of the "mother country."

Can the Republic be redeemed and a government of the people by the people once more assured? In another letter I will consider that question.

CHARLES ELLIS.

EMERY STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Emery Stake conference, held at Orangeville on the 5th and 6th of February, though it was what we call "home made," was very interesting and instructive. It had been expected that some of the Apostles or leading brethren would be present; but failing in this, the time was occupied by the local Elders, who addressed the Saints upon their duties.

The report from the presidency showed the Stake to be in good condition. The Bishop's reports indicated an increase in attendance at meeting, and a renewal of diligence in the work in general.

The Sunday school, the Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A., the Seventies and High Priests' quorums were reported by the different officers as in a thriving condition. The statistical report showed an increase in membership, families, etc., also a population of 1,497 children under eight years; this in twelve wards with an average of 64 families is considered a fair number, to say nothing of the multitude over that age. The general and local authorities were approved by unanimous vote of the conference. The health of the people throughout the Stake is good.

D. C. WOODWARD, Stake Clerk.

FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

San Bernardino, Feb. 7.—Having heard numerous reports of the extreme cold weather which has visited all parts of Utah during the month just passed, I have thought that your readers might be interested in hearing something of how "king winter" has been serving us in this so-called "land of sunshine."

The prolonged and extreme cold in the north and east, is a condition not known in years, and the old residents of southern California say the same thing of the weather during the past month. They say they have known of two or three very cold days at a time, but never of such a long spell of cold weather, so I suppose we have received the tip end of "Jack Frost's" work in the east. On several nights the thermometer fell as low as 22 above zero, and then it was time for the orange growers to become anxious regarding the fate of the immense orange crop raised in this section of coun-

try. There are several methods of warming the atmosphere in the orange groves when the thermometer falls so low, but I think the one most used is the burning of bales of hay among the trees. During one night, last month, one man is said to have burned ten tons of hay. Hay is worth \$10 per ton, but he saved \$2,000 worth of oranges by sacrificing that much hay, hence it was a paying investment.

Some of the oranges were frosted, but the loss will not be so heavy as was at first supposed. This heavy frost was followed by the other extreme, and in less than three days, the thermometer rose to 87 in the shade, in fact, it was almost too warm for comfort. Above the city of San Bernardino, on a slightly elevated plateau, called "Highlands," many eastern people have built beautiful homes, and have planted around them extensive orchards of the orange, the lemon and the olive, and in driving along their beautiful drives, bordered on either side with palm trees and roses and many other kinds of ornamental trees and shrubs, and, between these, catching glimpse of rows of trees bending beneath a load of golden fruit and stretching far away into the distance, one can scarcely realize that it is mid-winter, and 20 degrees below zero. Just on the other side of the Sierra Nevada mountains the farmers have had grave apprehension for their crops on account of having so little rain, but we are having a rain now, and enough may yet come to save them. This is a beautiful country, and it has many advantages, still my sentiments are and will be, for fair Utah, my home, and praying ever for the welfare and happiness of her people.

CLARA CLYDE.

IN THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.

Saginaw, Michigan, Jan. 12, 1898.

Silence has remained unbroken in our conference to the present. It has been due to the unsettled condition of our conference, which has caused obstacles of an unpleasant nature to arise within our folds; but we are pleased to state that the clouds of darkness which have been hovering around us in the past are being dispelled and the prospects of a brighter day are beaming before us.

The Michigan conference is but a babe in comparison with many of the Northern states, it having been less than a year since the first Elders were sent here to do a systematic work; and we find that the unbroken ground is now in a condition for working and we are hoping that our present force of ten may soon be enlarged to double or triple the number.

Our fall work was spent in the country where good opportunities were presented for holding meetings; but when the bitter pangs of a Michigan winter began to dawn upon us, we commenced drawing our forces towards the large cities until at present all but one pair of Elders are located at Bay City and Saginaw.

If any, who may read this article, have friends or relatives in this state they would like visited, we would be pleased to receive their addresses so that in due time we can have Elders call on them.

Following are the addresses of the Elders: W. G. Miller, Manon A. Cox, J. R. Stewart and E. A. Neeley, Box 153 E. Saginaw, Mich.

Elias Nielsen, Rufus Rhees, J. P. Sorensen and Robt. Davidson Jr., 1010 16th St., Bay City, Mich.
Alvin Allen and Albert Goodrich, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella Co., Mich.

W. G. MILLER,
President Michigan Conference.

Baron Ludwig von Edlinger, head of the Erlanger bank, is dead at Frankfurt, Germany.