

\$80,000. A lively trade is already being carried on by exploring caravans carrying to the interior Manchester goods, iron and copper wire, beads and articles of barter, and receiving therefor cloves, sesame seed, ivory, India rubber, gum, hides, etc.

The British possessions comprise nearly a million square miles and are bounded on the south by German, East Africa and the Congo Free State. Some jealousy between the neighbors has already been manifested and it is not improbable that the efforts of the various colonizing powers will necessitate some clever diplomacy to avoid actual conflicts.

### RECORDS OF SACRED WORK.

Some time since the News published a number of articles which treated upon the necessity and importance of the Latter-day Saints keeping private journals, giving details of every event of any moment with which they are associated. There is a class of facts the recording of which is of paramount interest to families—those which pertain to their connection with the Church. Every head of a family should carefully keep an account of all baptisms, confirmations, blessings, marriages, deaths, ordinations, missions and appointments that are associated with the members of his family circle, that the statement may be carried forward by his posterity after him. As these are matters which pertain to eternity as well as time, it is scarcely needful to dwell upon the reasons why such a record should be kept. Unfortunately in many of the wards and other divisions of the Church the maintenance of communal records, embodying the data referred to, has been neglected, rendering the duty in this respect of individuals and families all the more urgent.

There is no department of the work of God in which the keeping of private or family records is more positively required than that of the labor performed in the Temples by the living for the dead. The redemption of the spirits of those who have passed behind the veil will be a continuous work for more than a thousand years. The Gospel is being preached to them "in the spirit," by those who have gone from this sphere holding the keys and authority of the Holy Priesthood. Doubtless many of the dead have received the word of the Lord with gladness and are waiting for the performance by their living kindred, of the ordinances of the Gospel in their behalf. They are thus prepared for the resurrection, which will open in this dispensation simultaneously with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in His glory.

As this labor involves the redemption of the race, its magnificent proportions can readily be imagined, so far as the mind has capacity to grasp them. This grand work, which draws the hearts of the fathers and children together in the bonds of indissoluble union, must be carried forward through future generations, it needs no argument to convince those who have even but a glimmer of conception of its character, that the children and children's children of

those who now enter the holy temples to officiate in behalf of the dead should know in detail the extent of this labor that has been done by their fathers and mothers. If they shall be in ignorance on the subject, how shall they take up the labor at the point where it was left by their predecessors? And how can they gain the information except an accurate account has been kept by those who have accomplished the work already performed?

Some may, in this regard, rely upon the records which are kept in the Temples as a source from which future workers could obtain data in relation to labor already done for their kindred. Those who imagine that the duty of keeping individual or family records can be obviated on this basis have not thought of the rapidly with which the records in the Temples accumulate. As an illustration, it may be stated that since the opening of the Salt Lake Temple on the 23rd of May—comparatively but a few weeks ago—over ten thousand baptisms for the dead have been performed to date. This refers to but one among many departments or classes of the sacred work for the dead, but it is sufficient for a basis upon which to form an estimate of the entire aggregate. At the present rate of progress no very great time would elapse before the number would run up to hundreds of thousands. This statement alone ought to show that the furnishing of abstracts would be a task of very great proportions. And every difficulty in this regard can be avoided by each individual or family keeping a private record. Blank books, simple and suitable in form for the purpose, can be had at a comparatively small cost. On these an account of the labors in the Temples performed for the dead by the living ought to be written under appropriate headings at the time it is done.

Our advice to the Saints is that they keep an accurate account of all the sacred work performed by them. We go to the extent of saying that they ought to regard this subject in the light of an important duty.

### UTAH.

Forty-three years ago today Utah was granted a Territorial form of government and was constituted and accepted as a part of this great Republic, the United States and Territories. The anniversary is being appropriately celebrated as Utah Day at the World's Fair, the Governor and many of our most prominent citizens of both sexes being at the Territorial building in Jackson Park to lend grace and dignity to the occasion.

We need not devote any space to a comparison of the Utah of 1850 with the Utah of today. Only one feature need be mentioned, and that is suggested by the reminder that, of plans for the partition or sub-division of this devoted commonwealth, like some one says of the making of books, "there is no end." In those early days Utah was bounded on the south and east by New Mexico, Kansas and Nebraska, on the west by California, and on the north by Oregon. All these states have since undergone boundary changes, but

none has been so mercilessly hacked at as Utah. A slice here, a slice there has one after another been lopped off until we find ourselves, in this year of grace 1893, compact and contented, with Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and Nevada—none of them even heard of forty-three years ago—as next door neighbors.

But empire-makers and political state-builders are not yet satisfied. Our readers are familiar with the plan to add the western rib, Nevada, to the body-politic again, and whether favorable to it or not, they consider that such action would only be returning to us our own again after somebody else has taken it, tried it, well-nigh ruined it, and at last wants to discard it. A still later scheme is rather wholesale in its proposed dissection. It would make of Kansas two states and would admit New Mexico and—cutting us through the middle—North Utah, South Utah and Arizona would be doomed to the cold territorial condition a little longer—an injustice most rank, as everybody will admit. Nevada singularly escapes mention in this startling program, but the design doubtless would be to bisect it also and divide it between North and South Utah. We do not know whether this proposition has been put forth with any earnestness, but it seems to excite, so far as has been noticed, nothing but laughter. We conclude with a paragraph from the New York Sun commenting upon it:

By all means, let both Utahs join the sovereign sisterhood. One source of grief must even yet remain—namely, that Kansas will not suffice to slice up into four instead of only two. Could it be possible to have too much of so excellent a thing as Kansas? Of Kansas, the phlebotomized? Of Kansas, the home of the professional Veteran, the Evening Star of the Union? Quick, then, Democratic statesmen; down into yourselves and fetch up an omnibus bill, giving to the continental plateau the rightful weight of representation due to its combined heft of brain and induration of cheek. Symmetry demands a counterpoise to the Old Thirteen. North Utah shall be the new keystone state; its Mormon Temple, the hall that symbolizes a larger liberty.

### THE TESTIMONY OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

Those who deny the divine authority of the sacred Scriptures sometimes resort to archæology and try to prove that much of the early historical narrative is but reproduction of ancient heathen myths. Lately the Chaldean account of Genesis by George Smith has been quoted as showing that the biblical account of the flood, the tower of Babel and Nimrod's exploits were known by the inhabitants of the shores of Tigris and Euphrates thousands of years before the books ascribed to Moses were written, and the inference, curiously enough, is drawn that it is all myth and nothing more.

Mr. Smith's discoveries are among the most interesting made in later years. A whole library, books engraved on terra cotta tablets, was found in the mound of Kouyunjik in the ruins of what was once the royal palace of Assyrian kings. The tablets were all reduced to fragments, but by