

wagon, to pack their food and children upon the animals, and make for San Diego with all possible speed. He told them that by adopting this plan, and by making food of the poorest of their mules as they gave out on the way from time to time, they might get through; otherwise, they could not reasonably expect to do so.

This is but one of the many distressing scenes which were witnessed on the Gila Route. It is to be hoped that our Government will, at an early day, have explorations made of all routes that are practicable, to the Pacific, and will establish posts along such as are most travelled for the relief of those emigrants whom misfortunes may befall by the way.

[Mo. Com.]

From the Mo. Republican.  
DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE OF  
NAUVOO, ON THE 27TH OF MAY,  
1850, BY A STORM.

The Temple of Nauvoo, erected by the Mormons, finished in 1845, partially burnt in October, 1848, having but its four walls left—all its timber works having been consumed by the flames—was destroyed by a hurricane on the 27th ult.

On arriving at Nauvoo, in March, 1849, the Icarian Community bought this Temple with a view to refit it for schools, its studying and meeting halls, for a refectory capable of containing about one thousand persons, &c

Many preparations were already made.—An agent had been sent to the pine forests in the North to buy timbers of dimensions necessary for re-establishing the roof and floors. Some other pieces of wood were ready; a steam mill was purchased to fit up a saw-mill; the saw-mill was nearly finished; a vast shed was raising near the Temple, to shelter the carpenters; the masons were laying in the interior the bases of the pillars, when, on the 27th of May, a frightful hurricane, the most terrible experienced in the country in many years, burst suddenly on the hill of Nauvoo, where lightnings, thunder, wind, hail and rain, seemed united to assail the building.

The storm burst forth so quickly, and with such violence, that the masons, overtaken unawares in the Temple, had not time to flee before the northern wall, sixty feet high, bent down over their heads, threatening to crush them and bury them up.

"Friends," cried out the fireman, "we are

all lost!" and indeed their loss appeared to be certain, for the southern and eastern walls, which had always been looked upon as the weakest, now shaken by the fall of the former, seemed on the point of tumbling on them. But the flinching rubbish of the northern wall stopped at their feet. Now rushing out of the ruins, in the midst of a cloud of dust, hail and rain, wrapped up in lightnings, thunder, and a furious blast of wind, expecting every moment to hear the two walls give way upon them, they succeeded in getting out, astonished at seeing those walls still standing, and frightened at the danger from which they had just emerged.

The same blast that overthrew the wall of the Temple, and sensibly dislocated and inclined the two others; took up and carried off the roof of the old school, when the walls, falling on the floor beneath, broke down the beams, and threatened injury to six Icarian women who were working below.

The creek, on the bank of which the wash-house of the Community is situated, was so quickly transformed into an impetuous torrent, that the house was almost instantaneously filled with water, and fifteen Icarian women, then washing there, were compelled to get through the windows, in order to save themselves. They took refuge at the farm, whence they were soon after brought back in one of the wagons of the Community.

All the neighboring fields were ravaged, the fences overturned, and the windows broken. One of the members of the Gerency; got on horseback, and repaired to every place at which men were working out of doors, and soon brought back tidings that no personal accidents had happened.

The same evening the masons, reunited and consulted by the Gerency, acknowledged and declared that the southern and eastern walls would soon fall down, and that, to avoid any serious accident, it was better to destroy them.

The next morning the General Assembly, having been convoked by the Gerency, met on the Temple Square, and unanimously resolved: first, that the demolition was urgent, for the safety both of the members of the Colony themselves, and of the inhabitants and foreigners whom curiosity might bring to the spot. Second, that by unfixing the walls, stone by stone, they might preserve some good ones. But as this operation would take up much time, occasion much work, and expose them to many fatigues and dangers, and considering the lives of men as much more valuable than money, they decided to use some other means.

Those means having been discussed and agreed upon, they set at work immediately, and the walls were pulled down.

The destruction of the Temple is a misfortune and a great inconvenience to the Icarian Community, as they are thus obliged to modify their former projects and plans; but, persevering and courageous, strong in their union, and with the aid of their additional brethren, they will begin again, on the place of the Temple, provisional and urgent constructions, that will serve until they build another large and fine edifice.

Nauvoo, May 29, 1850.

P. DOURG,

Secretary of the Icarian Community.

*Increase of the Chinese Opium Trade.*—Rev. Mr. Williams, writing from Canton under date of Sept. 27, to the American Board, expresses apprehensions of the future repose of the country.

"The opium trade is thriving, and from fifteen to sixteen million dollars leave China annually for this drug alone—much of it in specie, and all of it for produce as good; leaving, instead, every thing evil and disastrous. The editor of the *Friend of India* says; if it was not for the importation of specie, and the revenue of two and a half millions sterling derived from the opium trade, he does not see how the government of India could be carried on, and the army there paid. That government is consequently taking measures to increase the supply, and there will probably be nearly sixty thousand chests brought to China in 1850, or nearly eight millions of pounds of opium. Still the Chinese government shows no signs of any disposition to legalize the trade, and with the exception of an occasional seizure; or a vaporing edict, by some patriotic officer on the coast, is doing nothing to hinder the entrance of the drug. The growth of the poppy in China is thought to be on the increase, but the inferior manufacture renders the native producer a competitor not at all to be feared. His commodity bears the same relation to the Indian, that the tea produced there does to the genuine Chinese leaf: what a difference between the nature of the two products. It is encouraging, amidst so much that is dis-