

Rebecca go to the well with water ewers poised upon their heads. In the adobe of the Mexican and Indian is again the mud-walled khan of Nazareth. Here, too, the husbandman "waters the ground with his foot," as he guides the trickling stream hither and yon through the little irrigation furrows which he traces, boot-wise, in his garden. The vulture, the eagle and the lark, the crane and pelican—all Bible birds—the bear, the fallow deer, the coyote, first conspire to the jackal; the coney and the fox are with us as in the country beyond the Jordan. We have our deserts, our oases and our dead seas; and the very seasons of the Holy Land, green in winter, when springs come out of rocks and brooks abound, and dry and brown in summer, when the rain ceases and the rivers sink into the sand.

Yet what is it that appeals to a Christian mind to make any other land on earth bear a becoming similarity to the Holy Land? Is it animals, fruits and grains; or trees, deserts, sea coasts, ancient dwellings and native customs? Or is it the dominating religious characteristic: the Temples to the Most High; the presence and ministry of divinely commissioned Apostles of the Lord, from whose lips flow words of inspiration given by direct revelation from the Almighty; the gifts and the miracles that mark the ministrations of those who officiate in the name of Jehovah; the voice of Prophets and the psalms of Saints in the midst of a people who know no jarring sects and creeds as part of the body religious, but who have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, as did ancient Israel in the days when they were acceptable to the Most High, and before there came upon them the spirit of division and apostasy which led to their rejection? If it be the products of the land, or its climate, or even its topography, then many other places can find some striking features of resemblance; if it be the birth and death and resurrection of the Lord, then none other than Palestine could claim it. But if it be the only available distinctive feature in addition to physical similarity, viz: a people to whom the voice of God comes by direct revelation, and who have the Priesthood and powers that made ancient Israel a peculiar people, then the place that has these may set up some title of likeness to the Holy Land. Otherwise the claim falls flat on the Christian mind because of the absence of the essential feature that gave to Palestine its notable designation.

IN UTAH FIFTY YEARS.

Half a century will have passed by the time the NEWS reaches its readers this evening since the vanguard of the Pioneers entered the present boundaries of the State of Utah. There was a peculiar situation at that time. The journey had been long and arduous, and yet each succeeding step of travel was becoming more difficult because of the natural obstacles which lay in the way; mountain fever, a sickness long and severe, had assailed the camp, which was poorly provided with conveniences for nursing the sick; the leader of the Pio-

neers, President Brigham Young, himself was stricken down, so that it was with difficulty he could give directions from the wagon where he lay; the land before, the vanguard of the modern Camp of Israel had been described to them as bleak and dreary in the extreme; altogether, from a natural point of view, the situation of the Pioneers, and of the Mormon people, at that time, was most discouraging. But there was with them that which bore them up, and led them to press forward with a determination which even death could not conquer: it was their unwavering, implicit, supreme faith in God. Through this, they looked for a triumphant outcome to their tribulations; they had confidence that God would bless even a forbidding and desolate land, as a Garden of Eden if need be, for their benefit. By this time they had a more definite idea of their destination than when they began the journey. Then they were headed for the Rocky Mountains, but at the later period for the Great Salt Lake Valley, their leader having indicated the choice, and the reasons therefor. Not even then was it finally determined where they would locate—that remained till the President should view the valley, as to whether it was the one shown to him in vision; but from the description received from the trappers he believed it was, and the Pioneers expected at least to make it their stopping place. Behind them were large companies of migrating Saints for whom a home must be provided. The outcome is known to the world—the detail of faith and labors by which it was wrought may never be.

PRES. WOODRUFF'S CONDITION.

The NEWS is gratified to announce that the information today respecting President Woodruff's condition of health is that it is materially improved. Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon he sat out on the porch of his residence for a time. He did not complain much of the heat, though it probably affected him somewhat, as he felt slightly depressed part of the day while the mercury was high. Today he is feeling better, and it is the expectation that he will take a carriage drive in the cooler part of the day. Altogether, his condition is quite encouraging.

THE SULTAN DEFIANT.

Dispatches relating to the east European situation indicate that the sultan of Turkey is still determined to insist upon the retention of Thessaly against the protests of the great powers. The outlook is therefore again regarded as rather grave, and there is much speculation as to what gives the Turkish ruler courage to defy the united powers. The sultan is known to give promises and to break them, and to resort to all manner of subterfuges to gain time, but open defiance has never before been his policy in dealing with the representatives of Christian Europe.

It now seems clear that neither Ger-

many nor Russia supports Turkey in her aspirations to acquire Greek territory. Both urge the Ottoman government to give up Thessaly. It is probable, therefore, that the sultan is governed only by the strong sentiment among his own people, which naturally is opposed to retreat from the conquered province. Some time ago Edhem Pasha threatened to resign his position if the proposed peace conditions were accepted, on the ground that it would be impossible for him to maintain the discipline among the troops. This undoubtedly expresses public opinion among the Turks, and it is but natural that to the sultan this should have as much weight as the notes of the European powers. The latter have often been evaded or rendered ineffective by diplomatic skill while opposition to popular sentiment, particularly as entertained in military circles, has cost sultans their lives.

DESPICABLE VANDALISM.

Even since the partial repairing of the Temple Block wall which is now going on, eastern visitors to this city have been engaged in tearing out pieces of the wall, probably to retain for relics of the visit here. But the bad manners exhibited in such vandalism merits a severe rebuke. Parties have been observed in the wanton detachment referred to, and in some instances when protested with have shown a tendency to decided impertinence. While desirous of extending every kindness to tourists, it is time for those of them who have such a deformed sense of the common amenities due the people here to learn that their impoliteness forfeits all claims to hospitality. Unless there is a modification in the practice complained of, the sterner measures of the law will have to be invoked to punish those who deace or destroy property. It is to be hoped, however, that the better judgment of tourists will prevail and render such proceedings unnecessary.

REDUCING THE ASSESSMENT.

It may be that the action of the county commissioners of Salt Lake county on Monday evening will not stand the test of law in its technical procedure, and therefore may be set aside. That question may be left to determination by the courts upon the motion of any one who seeks to impose upon the property owners the burden of which it is now sought to relieve them. But whichever way the matter is decided, the county commissioners have prepared the way for the burdened taxpayers to get relief in future. For years past it has been so difficult to get the assessment on property reduced, that very many people have suffered in comparative silence rather than be subject to the indignity which was conceived to attend a request for a reduction. Now, however, the county commissioners have shown a disposition to meet the people on this proposition.

Next year these same commissioners will be in office. Their present action, even if it should not