

mind and body. Will the boys and young men of this community choose to walk in the darkening road? Rather let us say they will set their faces toward the sunny land, and by their courage, intelligence, and honorableness present that bright example by which their light shall so shine before men that these, seeing their good deeds, shall emulate them for the joys they bring, and glorify our Father in heaven. Thus may they walk in that way which, adding good to good, light to light, honor to honor, glory to glory, leads them to be worthy of their heritage as sons of the great God and Father of all.

### LAND FOR THE LANDLESS.

The disposition to acquire a piece of land has its root in human nature. It is as if an universal instinct impressed men to reverence this as their mother, the source of all their life, and their resting place when dead. It has often been noted how men would work in business for half a century, and then, retiring, get "a little place in the country," and potter over it with an enthusiasm and love for it that they never exhibited in the business which gave them competence. It was this hunger for land which was at the foundation of the allotment system of sections of England, where the mechanic or mill hand could till his patch, and gain new life from contact with nature after the monotony of machinery or the heat of the furnace or forge. This was the realization of a dream which in that limited island but few can realize or enjoy, for large sections are tied up by the law of entail, and where agricultural lands are reconvertible, these are far from cities and centers of population, and those who make this their livelihood are subject to the fierce competition of free trade which seems inseparable from the subsistence of these teeming millions, who are engaged in supplying the markets of the world with manufactured goods.

We were once struck with a circumstance which exhibited the almost idolatry of land and its rare and precious value. We happened (when on a mission) into the town of Sheffield, and it proved to be a day of general holiday and rejoicing; the shops were all closed and business suspended; the people were in holiday attire and the streets crowded with children; the local officials, in their robes of office, preceded and followed by bands of music, lodges and orders in full regalia, with a general turnout of the population—the day being set apart for the reception of *ten acres* of land, donated by the Baroness Burdett Coutts as a public park for the people of that burg. Many sections of land in America could hardly have provoked more enthusiasm than this gracious and splendid gift, yet but the size of one of our city blocks.

Probably this country is phenomenal in its resources as to land, and this accounts in part for that rucure of emigration which for forty years at least has helped to deplete the congested centers of Europe of so wonderful a proportion of their redundant population. Most of these, or many at least, found themselves (and probably without means) in the large cities, and by

virtue of "magnificent distances" far from this coveted land. Full employment for a time satisfied every ambition; wages were good, food cheap, homes of modern character in the favored places, and for the moment the original stimulus for emigration was lost sight of in the rush of prosperity and continuous prospect. But the last two or three years has worked a good deal of a change. The element of uncertainty has become more marked and general, and the taste already enjoyed of good conditions eagerly looks into the future for some way of making this continuous; so that unwonted attention has been directed towards the sea; irregular work and wage reduction have made it impossible to provide against a rainy day in the old employment; so mechanics of all grades are buying small farms, as an auxiliary to family subsistence and something to fall back on in these or any future times of depression.

The frantic rush which has been made to the lately opened reservations owes something to this interest in land, although partly speculative, for every one can see that the westerly drift is partly with and partly without reason, for it is on record that even in New York state and several others government land is yet reachable, and cultivated lands in all the old states now half or wholly abandoned can be had almost for a song, and these are at least near to a market for all produce, and without the necessity for breaking and irrigation which belongs to the more distant West.

This is not the only time in which men have hunted a distant Eldorado when a veritable gold mine was beneath their feet, nor is this the only problem waiting solution by the student of hapless human nature; even when that is presumed to be controlled by loftier principles than the average, there is restlessness, inconsistency and an overlooking of blessings which are at the very door. And where gathering is fundamental for "offense or defense" the spirit of rambling and scattering for the securing of land is more general than counsel or circumstance seem to justify today.

It is well known that many eyes are now turned toward Utah. It is looked upon as a choice land. Colony after colony is looking for location or taking up land in these valleys. Reservoir sites are being determined, water appropriated, and farms will be made; yet from these very locations, numbers whose fathers have dwelt for years are going off to Idaho, Arizona or other distant places to the neglect of proximate land which their eyes have seen ever since they had a being. Verily "distance lends enchantment to the view," and "what we have we prize not," are proverbs founded on a study of what is seen around us.

The question has been asked, "What shall we do with our boys?" It is now asked, "What shall we do with our girls?" These unappropriated, untitled or undivided lands are one reply to this question, and if unity in colonization could go a little further than a simple water ditch, Utah could be almost one continuing town from southern Idaho to St. George. Strength is frittered away in division, and uncontrolled colonization carries

with it a trail of evils which are as "the axe laid at the root of the tree" planted by our fathers and the prophets.

An observant gentleman who visited lately a much praised locality, said the resources of the country were magnificent; fairness was in the virgin soil, and dripped from the living waters, but that mental, social and religious life were at a low ebb, for lack of opportunity and cultivation. Everyone had their quarter section; bread and potatoes were in lavish abundance; but social houses were widely separated, meeting houses were rare, and if a man was orderly, thrifty and given to improvement, his example was washed out by fresh air. Townsites were not laid out; it was a long way to meeting, so the Sabbath, if not discovered, was partly in abeyance and the best elements of progressive life were dormant from the wasting spirit of isolation.

Men easily fall into a rut. Habit becomes second nature. Resolve needs the stimulus and friction of society and responsibility. Organization and supervision are necessary for ordinary humanity; and to be a hermit in this living, crowding age, and to pull apart in all educational matters, secular or sacred, is to revert to semi-barbarism and ignore the genius of the great latter day work which peopled these valleys and made every man the possessor of a piece of land.

It is a pleasant thing to see "the people of our choice," progressive, thrifty and orderly. It is good to see the rising generation accepting that independence which belongs to the tillers of the soil. It is good to know that the lesson of hard times is to be found in an awakened desire for land; to realize that in this city, in Ogden and elsewhere, dependence for a livelihood upon trade is found to be precarious; that renting a home is a condition of bondage; that paying heavy taxes gives no commensurate advantages over country life; and that raising a family with city ideas and city extravagances is not an unmixed blessing. For these and other reasons movement toward the land from these centers is just as healthy a sign here as in Pennsylvania or other places, and that in this move there is wisdom, health, peace, happiness, plenty and the enjoyment of life.

It was resolved many years ago, first, that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof;" second, that "He will give it to His Saints." We plead guilty to acquiescence in these resolves, and will take our portion out "in land!"

### FOURTH AT FARMINGTON.

FARMINGTON, Davis County,  
Utah, July 5, 1895.

This is a gala day at this place—a grand display of loyalty to the ever-remembered Fourth of 1776, when liberty, so dearly purchased, brought joy to every soul.

At 9:30 a. m. the procession formed at the court house led by the Farmington brass band. Next came Utah militia, David Sanuers, captain, followed by representatives on horseback of every President of the United States with names on sashes. Just in front of the horsemen was young George Washington, and the cherry