

and officers I tender my cordial thanks for their hearty co-operation with me, and their unwearied labors to carry into effect the objects of the Society, and pray the God of our fathers to crown our future efforts with success.

EDW. HUNTER

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH & LIBERTY.

ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22.

Saints in Utah.

The readers of the 'News' will readily perceive, by the printed 'minutes' of the various conferences and quarterly meetings, that the work of reformation, as counseled by the First Presidency, is almost unanimously seconded and carried out by the people.

To the world it may seem strange that reformation is needed where there are none to molest us in our religion, in a country throughout whose broad borders there is not a single brothel, grogshop, or gambling hell; where murders, assassinations, highway robberies, arson, husband and wife killing and other high crimes are unknown to our court records; and where even one lawyer could not make a living, at fair rates, by attending to the whole of the small amount of litigation among this numerous people. And, perhaps, some saints have deemed reform uncalled for at present, not being sufficiently faithful to at all times see afar off.

But we are of like passions with other people, and when commodious buildings are multiplied, when numerous fields are enclosed and the comforts and luxuries of life accumulate around us, we are prone to slacken the faith and energy engaged in producing them, and to measurably forget our indebtedness for the peculiar privileges and blessings in our possession.

Prosperity and ease tempt to remissness in duty, to neglect of secret and family prayer, to unlawful indulgence of thought, word and act, to laying aside weapon after weapon and shield after shield of the gospel armor, until there is little or no defence against the assaults of the adversary. Hence the necessity for reformation, and we rejoice that the people are so zealous in a work of so much importance.

The devil cares but little how near a person walks to the line of ALL truth, provided he does not walk directly in or upon it, for from the day of his sermon to Eve in the garden of Eden he has indulged in mingling truth with error, sugaring o'er the evil to suit the morbid appetites of those to whom the whole truth is unpalatable. And this mingling system, working upon human weakness, has separated the human family from their God, filled the world with conflicting creeds and notions, and caused the devil to rejoice as he viewed the four quarters of the earth shrouded in the darkness of his teachings.

Religiously and politically, civilly and morally, the earth groans under the mad turmoil of the inhabitants thereof, inasmuch that there are hosts of professedly religious denominations without the authority, officers, gifts and Spirit of the gospel they feign to obey; and numerous man-made institutions of government parceling out this earth and excluding from their councils and laws the Almighty, unto whom the earth and its fullness belongs.

But since the revelation of the truths of 'Mormonism,' making known a theological system whose teachings alone will prepare mankind to inherit celestial glory, the man and devil organized institutions are waking from the sleep of ages and assaying to present new fronts to the strong attacks of truth. Episcopalianism is scouring at the rust of centuries and its drowsy votaries, both priests and laymen, are creeping back to their origin, Roman Catholicism.

Younger denominations are assailing the Bible and calling for revisions, which when made they disagree about. The whole foggy systems of the world's theology, from oldest to youngest, are becoming unsatisfactory to the wild progression of this fast age, and socialism, spiritualism and free-loveism are breaking loose from the moorings on the dead sea of routine and recklessly steering for any port that will foster excitement and gratify unhallowed desires.

The political world is in no better condition than the religious, for nations have studiously withstood the counsels of their God and would

have none of his reproof, until they are tottering upon the base of their folly. This religious and political tumult and strife would be a serious source of annoyance to the adversary of truth, were it not that all their struggles tend to self aggrandizement and gratification, in the furious race for wealth, power and place, with scarcely a thought to an hereafter.

Most wisely has it been said, 'ye cannot serve both God and Mammon,' and most heartily do we rejoice that wherever our Home Missionaries labor they report an alacrity on the part of the people to arouse from that spiritual lethargy too often induced by the cares of this world. We have come from distant and various climes on purpose to worship the Lord our God; we are blest with a locality where none hinder us from doing good, with Counselors holding the keys of eternal life and freely imparting the wisest of timely counsels; and through obedience can enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost, the assurance of a resurrection with the just and the blessing of eternal lives.

It is not, therefore, so much a matter of wonder that reformation should take a strong hold upon the people, but it will be strange, at first thought, should it stop short of making our mountain homes too strait for the few wicked and abominable now in our midst, or short of that point which will insure peace, truth and righteousness to fill our valleys like an overflowing stream. Some deem it hard to be a saint, but it is harder to be a sinner, even in this time, and in the next no human skill can portray the vast difference of the reward.

ADVICE TO NEW COMERS.—We are aware that persons just from the plains have keen appetites, and that fresh beef and vegetables are quite tempting to them, but a free indulgence in their use has generally proved very injurious, and several have already died from that cause.

Such being the case, wisdom dictates that new comers partake very sparingly of vegetables and fresh beef, and depart very gradually from the diet they have been accustomed to on their long journey, confining themselves mainly to bread and salted meat, and very sparingly adding boiled beef, potatoes and other vegetables.

They will be aided in this judicious course, if the Bishops and brethren will avoid furnishing such mountains of vegetables (especially squashes, beets and cabbages) as were supplied to those who have already arrived, for they could not well resist the inclination of their appetites.

RETURN.—On the morning of the 15th inst., and while encamped on East Canyon Creek, en route for Green river, Governor Young was suddenly seized with so severe an attack of illness that it was deemed unadvisable to prosecute the journey, and the party arrived in this city on the evening of the above date. Since then the Governor's health has improved rapidly, and is now in a good degree restored.

FAMILIES FOR BEAVER.—We are authorized, by Elder L. W. Babbitt, to state that a few families can find good locations in the new settlement on Beaver Creek, between Fillmore and Parowan. At Beaver they have a sawmill nearly finished, will have a gristmill completed in time for the next harvest, and there is a large amount of excellent land and plenty of water.

Snow.—fell on the mountains and light rain on the valley on the 19th; 20th, frost in the morning, and snow flakes flying nearly all day, but melting as they fell; 21st, thin ice on still water, and the mountains clothed with snow nearly to their base.

[From the New York Journal of Commerce.]

Laying of the Newfoundland Telegraph Cable.

We yesterday had the pleasure of an interview with Mr. James Eddy, of the American Telegraphic Company, who was present on board the English steamer Propontis, and was engaged in laying the telegraphic submarine cable across the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He has just returned. We are thus enabled to publish the particulars of this interesting performance, which hitherto has been chronicled to the public by a brief telegraphic dispatch.

On the 9th of July, after having landed, and secured the end of the cable to the telegraphic station at Cape Ray, the steamship Propontis weighed anchor about 2 o'clock, and steamed across the Gulf, passing over the cable at the rate of five or six miles per hour, reaching Aspy Bay, Cape North (the other terminus) soon after five o'clock the next morning, occupying 15 1-2 hours, without the slightest injury to the cable or kink or bend of any kind. The cable was coiled in the hold with the greatest care, in such manner that each successive layer was run out from the centre to the circumference. It was not necessary to stop the engine for a moment.

As the cable passed from the coil, it moved through a kind of inverted cast iron funnel, and over two cast iron drums, each about nine feet in

diameter, weighing a ton and a half each, and over a pulley at the stern of the ship.

A register attached to the drum showed the exact length of cable paid out, being regulated like a gas meter, one dial showing the fathoms, another the miles. Brakes were constantly brought to bear on the drums, so that the cable entered the water straight, and a sufficient strain was kept upon it to lay it smoothly on the bottom.

While it was being laid in the deepest portions of the Gulf, some 150 or 200 fathoms, the cable descended at an angle of about 25 degrees, showing that its great weight was more than sufficient to counterbalance the forward movement of the vessel.

Communication was kept up constantly between the ship and the shore, while the cable was being laid.

After arriving at Cape North, and while the cables were being secured on shore, a temporary telegraph station was fitted up under a tent, and electric communication fully established between the two shores of the Gulf—a distance of 85 miles. This gratifying result was announced by the firing of guns from the Propontis, and elicited the hearty cheers of all in attendance.

The electric fluid had found its way among mermaids of the deep, with the same facility as when passing between poles in the open atmosphere. The manufacturers of the wire were responsible for its safety until laid in its bed, and for ten days subsequent.

On the 16th of June, another cable was laid from the same ship, for the same company, across the Straits of Northumberland, from Cape Tormentine, N.B., to Cape Travers, Prince Edward's Island, a distance of 13 miles with the same success; and a communication is now complete between P. E. Island and the United States. This last cable is only a matter of local convenience; the former constitutes an important link in the great enterprise of connecting New York with London.

The company expect to have the whole line complete to St. Johns, N. F., in September next; all that is now wanting being the completion of a portion of the overland line in Cape Breton and Newfoundland.

In case of a steamer calling at St. Johns, the news would be received here two or three days sooner than by those that stop at Halifax.

The cable laid by the Propontis is of the same description with that previously laid, except that the portion designed for the deepest water was somewhat lighter, and had but one conductor, composed of seven copper wires, whereas the former had three insulated wires.

[From 'Western Africa: its history, condition, and prospects,' by J. L. Wilson.]

Curiosities of the Insect World.

A species of ant, commonly known as the 'driver,' are so denominated from the fact that they compel almost every other species of the animal creation to get out of their way, or submit to the alternative of being devoured.

They are a black or dark brown species, which, in size and general appearance, is not unlike the common ant of America. It has a sharp, flat head, terminating in a pair of horizontal nippers, with which it can give a very severe pinch; and if it gets hold of a soft part of the skin always draws blood, but leaves little or no irritation after it is removed.

The 'driver' is the enemy and assailant of not only every other insect, but of everything that comes in its way. They traverse the country by day and night, in trains of a quarter or half a mile long. They form a running stream, and persons about to step over the train, as it glides along under the grass, frequently start back, under the impression of its being a snake.

When moving about in these long files, they are either about to change their residence, or are in search of food. They are always preceded by a few straggling guards, who keep them informed of any dangers or difficulties that may lie in their way. It is astonishing with what rapidity a note of alarm can be transmitted from one end of the line to the other.

The soldiers, who always keep along the side of the regular column, the moment they receive a note of alarm set off with all dispatch for the point of danger, while the main body is either brought to a dead halt or turned backward; but as soon as the obstruction is removed, or is found not to be insuperable, the main army is in motion again.

They seem to have regular leaders, and there are runners passing backward and forward all the while, as if to keep up a constant communication between the front and the rear. When about to cross a well trodden path, where they are likely to be disturbed, the soldiers weave themselves into a complete arch, extending across the whole width of the path, under which the females and laborers bearing the larvæ, pass without the least exposure. The construction of the arch with their own bodies is one of the most singular and interesting things to be met with in the history of insects. One ant is raised entirely above the ground, by having one pair of its feet interlocked with the fore-feet of another standing upright, and the other pair with another in the same posture on the opposite side of the arch. Any number of these are formed, and they are bound together by other ants stretching themselves lengthwise with the arch, and serving as transverse beams to hold the different parts together. The arch, when formed, holds together with the greatest tenacity, and looks like a beautiful network of beads.

I have frequently put the end of my cane under the arch and raised it four or five feet from the ground, without letting a single ant fall. As soon as they are raised up, however, they begin to unravel themselves from either end of the wreath; but instead of dropping to the ground, they mount up the end of the cane, and make for the hand that assailed them.

When disturbed in this way, the whole body of soldiers spread themselves over a space of 20 or 30 feet in diameter, over which neither man nor beast can pass without getting some of them upon him, and receive a few sharp nips. A horse can scarcely be forced through them, and a dog never does, except with a bound or leap, and even then is sure to get one or more about his claws, which are very apt to get hold of his lip in his attempt to remove them from his toes.

If they come across a dead body of any kind they encircle it, and by the time the whole column comes up, it is completely covered. They will remain by it until every particle of flesh is consumed, even should it be the carcass of an elephant and require several days to complete their work.

They will attack living animals with equal vehemence, and there is nothing of the animal race that can effectually resist them. A horse or cow shut up in a confined place would be harassed to death in a few hours, and would be eaten up, except the hair and skeleton, in less than forty-eight hours.

They frequently visit dwelling-houses; and if at night, as is generally the case, it is always to the no little discomfort of the inmates. They enter by some hole; and from the point where they emerge, they spread themselves over the floor, along the walls and over the under surface of the roof, like a great scouring army. Every nook and corner and crevice in the house is explored, and no other insect, however small, can elude their search.

The human inhabitants are generally apprized of their approach by the fluttering of cockroaches, and the squeaking of mice which have fallen into their toils.

The mouse is usually seized in the first instances by a single ant but in his foolish attempt to get that one detached, instead of running off with it to a place of safety, he gets half a dozen more on him. In his distress and agony he falls down and cries out, and is soon overpowered by a multitude sufficient to destroy a much larger animal. In a very few minutes not a trace of the mouse is to be seen, except a little hair, and a few larger bones; and in the morning the floor may be seen strewn with the wings of the cockroaches that have been destroyed in the night.

It is necessary for the human inhabitants to abandon the house during their occupancy of it, which, however, is not more than a few hours; and they are more than repaid for this temporary inconvenience by having the house completely rid of all other insects, which is no small matter in a tropical country.

I have known persons to be entirely destroyed by them, who from sickness or lameness, could not get out of their way, and had no one to remove them.

It is said that criminals were once punished on this part of the coast by being laid across the tracks of these insects with fetters on. This would be a refinement of cruelty for which no parallel can be conceived. If this ever was the custom of the country, it has long since passed away.

These ants seldom retain possession of any one house more than a few hours; but sometimes it takes them several days to get through all the houses of the same village. There is scarcely any way by which their progress can be arrested; and as a general thing, it is thought to be the best policy to let them take their regular course. They perform an important service; and the inconvenience which they occasion is temporary, and might well be endured from the advantages which are derived from it.

But in nothing is the ingenuity of these little insects more remarkably displayed than the expedient to which they frequently resort to cross a little stream on the sand beach after a shower of rain. Sometimes their train is cut in two by one of these little streamlets. To plunge into it singly, they would soon be swept away by the rush of the current. They come to the edge of the water, raise their antennæ (horns or feelers) point them from one direction to another, as if they were taking a scientific view of all the dangers of crossing.

They wander up and down the stream with the greatest uneasiness, and finding no other way to cross, form themselves into a compact knot or raft of a dozen or more, and launch themselves upon the stream. They have, by previous observation, made sure that they would strike a projecting point or bluff on the opposite shore, and not be carried by the current into the main river.

The moment they touch the other side, they use their claws like anchors, and hold on till the whole company disengage themselves, and march off in single file in the track of those that have preceded them.

I have watched them for hours together, and have seen raft after raft of these little creatures go over in safety, when, if they had attempted to get across singly, they would all have been swept into the river.

A CHINESE STREET ARTIST.—A man seated on the pavement holds in his hand a white porcelain tile, about a foot square. This he overspreads with a deep blue color, from a sponge dipped in a thin paste of indigo, and asks us to name a flower. I suggest the lotus. He extends his forefinger—most remarkable forefinger, crooked, flexible as an elephant's trunk, and as if the end had been whittled off—gives three or four quick dashes across the tile, and in ten seconds or less, lo! there is the flower, exquisitely drawn and shaded, its snowy cup hanging in the midst of its long swaying leaves. Three more strokes and a white bird, with spread wings, hovers over it; two more and a dog stands beside it. The rapidity and precision of that forefinger are almost miraculous. He covers the tile with new layers of color, and flower after flower is dashed out of the blue ground.—Bayard Taylor's Visit to China.