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WATER AND ITS USE.

When the national board of irrigation recently held its sessions in this city, the government gets down to work and to making reports thereof, there might to be a considerable elevation to the understanding and application of the science of irrigation in this country. For a science it is also claimed to be, being "by point of fact, the character of logical reflection, with its point of matter, the character of real truth," as Sir W. Hamilton declares such knowledge to be.

Wonderful progress has been made through the irrigation institute of the West, yet it is a fact that their misapplications in many instances have resulted in the loss of much of the benefit that otherwise might have crowned. In proof of this it is but necessary to recall that in the experience of irrigators in the Territory there has been much damage to crops and property by the use of the much water.

In respect to this irrigation, it is well known that there are many people who possess an idea that too much water cannot be given to garden and farm crops. There are in many localities, and perhaps in every district where any considerable number of people have congregated, some persons who would irrigate the same piece of land every day in the week if they had opportunity. If a record were made it would be found that such individuals are not the most successful gardeners or farmers; in fact, about the only thing that keeps them from being complete failures in this line is that they are prevented through their neighbors' needs and the lack of water from getting sufficient of the liquid to drown their crops altogether.

Yet it is not only these exceptional individuals who overdo irrigation. The evidence points to the fact that the fault is general among owners of the soil. We eager lies been the scramble for water when it was scarce, that when it is obtainable in abundance, the tendency of the over-thirsty has been made to permit—too much water is taken, and an unhealthy condition is the result. Note, for instance, the present and past condition of Utah potatoes. Upon their fame was that they were the best raised west of the Missouri river—that being the section of country to which they had access. This was in the days when there was much less water used in irrigation than now. That fame has passed away, and our most experienced and successful farmers say the quality of the Utah potato falls short of what it was for the sole reason that the fields where it is grown are over-irrigated. Then again, beets fields are ruined and destroyed from the same cause; shade and fruit trees fall for similar reasons, and in a hundred other ways the misapplication of irrigation has been an injury.

In the same line, it is not difficult to go into the earliest settled portions of this Territory to find the evidence of an extensive use of water in the improvement and over-moist soil. Up in Weber county water, it was stated recently by a high authority on such subjects, much land has been rendered partially useless by this means; from Utah county come similar reports; while in Salt Lake county instances of this kind are numerous, and many farms which were formerly productive now are falling because excessive irrigation, as then, or on the higher land contiguous is forcing the water and alkali to the surface of the lower fields. These are extreme cases, and do not represent the greater loss which comes to many section by crops being short because they have been too freely irrigated. Vegetables and fruit, like men, are capable of enjoying not only the right quantity of water as well as anything else, but it is for irrigationists the cultivators and irrigation experts to tell every farmer, gardener and horticulturist how much water the grain, the vegetable, and the fruit need to a given locality, and when it should be applied, that we have placed irrigation on a scientific basis, using the terms of precision. Where its application can be made the most beneficial of the arts.

ZION'S, NOT DAVID'S, CITY.

The attention of the News has been called in the last issue of the Herald to the fact that a certain person has been reporting the conversation of the Mormon elders of Lamoniah, Mexico, to the effect that Zion, in the revelation concerning which the latter claims to be the leader, the name of David H. Smith and Joseph W. Smith were given as its leaders, a somewhat misleading idea to the proceedings at that conference. A copy of the "revelation" referred to has now been received. It bears the date of April 11, 1895. The part bearing upon the vacancy in the first presidency reads:

"It is not yet expected to be that the position of the presidency, and the quorum of the twelve apostles shall be filled, for reasons which will be seen and known unto you in the time. My servant David H. Smith is yet in my hand and I will do my will in the time for its accomplishment."

The paragraph quoted is an editorial of the News on the proceedings of the conference and also is a correct reference made quickly published notes to Thomas G. Webb. The exact wording is:

"For the same reason is one that it is not expedient to fill the quorum of the first presidency and the twelve who are scattered and high priests, it is not expedient that a president for the church should be ordained and appointed. My servant Thomas G. Webb is in my hand, his mission is not to continued for a season, it is fully proper he with other work into the world. I take him to myself and of will to appointed in all that were they come to Zion."

The object in again quoted is to show definite because of a desire to present it with greater accuracy than it was possible to do from the necessarily brief account received last week. The fact remains, however, that the revelation of the Reorganized church, as far as can be judged by the proceedings of the conference as reported, are silent as to the question whether this purported revelation is authentic or not. That this is a sore disappointment to the Saints cannot be denied. We again express the hope that when the Divine Spirit ultimately speaks to Israel it will be heard in Israel. The "revelation" itself starts with reference to the long vacancy in the presidency thus: "Wait ye well for my will in the work." It would be well indeed if it should prove to be a message worthy many of those who take the Gospel and yet pass a course separate from that of the Church for which Joseph the Prophet left down his life, were led back into union with their brethren. In the end it will be apparent that what leads to division and discussion among the followers of the Divine Master is not from His and must result in error, weakness and defeat.

LAID OUT SAN BERNARDINO.

The San Francisco Chronicle, giving a descriptive and historical sketch of southern California counties and cities, in its reference to San Bernardino, the elder and oldest city of the county of that name, has the following, which may be a reminder to early Elders of the part they took in opening up California:

The occupants of the San Gabriel mission had to do early pastoral work and a part of support or cash of what is now known as Old San Bernardino, and other duty years ago. Archbishop Amat's mission at Agua Mansa, on the banks of the Santa Ana, ten miles from the present town of Colton. Early in the fifties a party of Mormons, under orders from Brigham Young, settled in this valley, and being impressed with its supposed fertility and general desirableness, purchased the San Bernardino ranch of the Indian owners and laid out the town of San Bernardino. With men brought by them was planned as to accommodate a large population, with wide streets and large blocks, and there being an abundance of water for irrigation the place soon became an attractive one. The valley behind about and which was under mission lands, and had been given to by the owner of a large and valuable tract. Under the direction of the Mormon Church settlers the place was the one place for miles along some distance in Southern California where a good living could be made, and for many years that fact was a source of great profit to the merchants and owners.

TO BE CONSISTENT.

The Christian Statesman, to whose remarks in the Mormon the News quoted and referred a short time since, has had another attack of the horrors on the subject, and in its issue of April 4 laments the prospect of Uncle Sam's admission by saying that "the consummation of Mormon aims a Territory with a population predominantly Mormon cannot prove anything else than a political disaster of the gravest kind." Then it declares that "the original Christian forces of our national life must be marshaled and promoted," and proceeds to enumerate the Mormon elements to be marshaled "side by side with the principles of a pure Christianity revealed in the Word of God."

For the enlightenment of our esteemed contemporary we will say that from a religious point of view the Mormons do not part a word with our Utah neighbors a mile or two. They know they are in harmony with the principles of pure Christianity, and that God will not take advantage of His work and will carry it to a successful issue. Since they are the instruments of God and are in harmony with Christian principles, they are the marshaled forces of a Christian commonwealth, and the marshaling of other elements of good, if necessary, will be left to the Lord of Hosts.

In the meantime the Christian Statesman is doing some good in making its readers, some of them, think on the subject, and in calling the attention of the Lord of Hosts to the fact that "the land is full of adulterers, for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right." Perhaps the Statesman will be marshaled with the other forces of the Lord of Hosts, and be used in the work of purifying the land of its sins, and in preparing the way for the coming of the Lord. Let the Statesman be consistent, and let it