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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

VOL. V.

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to renew their subscriptions prior to that time
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**THE RECLAMATION OF SALINE AND
ALKALINE SOILS.**

It will be remembered by our readers
that, some months since, there was
printed in the News, a 'requis', made
by the British government through its
minister at Washington, for information
as to the method adopted in this
Territory for the reclamation of saline
and alkaline lands, and rendering them
valuable for agricultural and other pur-
poses, the object being to test, under
the auspices of the British government,
the methods adopted by the farmers of
Utah, in the reclamation of lands of a
similar character in British India.

The request was forwarded through
Hon. W. H. Hooper, to Hon. Wilford
Woodruff, of this city, President of the
Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing
Society. The Society appointed a
committee to attend to the matter, and
through them the following information
has been collected and forwarded to
the British Minister at Washington:

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 20, 1872.

To the President and Directors of the D.
A. and M. Society:

Gentlemen:—We, the committee ap-
pointed by your honorable board to ex-
amine and revise the correspondence
concerning the reclamation and reclaim-
ation of salt and alkaline lands in Utah,
designated for the benefit of His Majesty's
Government in India, take pleasure
in submitting the following interest-
ing letters upon the subject:

That they be published in this Ter-
ritory at some suitable time, for the
benefit of our farmers in general.

We have the honor to be,
Young men, respectfully,
R. L. ROCKWELL,
A. L. CAMPBELL,
F. A. MITCHELL.

SAINT GEORGE, Washington, C.
Utah, Dec. 11th, 1871.

Hon. Wilford Woodruff, President of the
Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing
Society.

Sir:—In answer to your letter con-
cerning the reclamation of saline and
alkaline lands, I will say that after
nearly twenty years' experience in this
Territory, I find no better way to
make them productive than to teach
them, and to do this most effectively,
the water will be used in the most
economical manner. This can be
cheaply done by ploughing,
rowing the furrows continually down
hill, forming terraces.

I find that when the surface
cannot be sufficiently and perma-
nently leached without deep drainage,
as in some parts of St. George City, the
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thoroughly reclaimed the land. Then
apply manure.

Respectfully,
WILLIAM FAWCETT.

UTAH COUNTY, Dec. 7th, 1871.

Hon. W. Woodruff, Pres. Deseret Ag-
ricultural and Manufacturing So-
ciety:

Dear Sir:—The best practical method
of reclaiming mineral land with which
I am acquainted is to plough the land
the way the water runs in the best.
Make the main ditches not more than
ten rods apart for land that is of a sand-
y loam; for clayey soils farther apart.
After the ground is harrowed and level-
ed, throw up back furrows about two
rods apart, to keep the water from
spreading; then turn on a large stream
from the main ditch, if the land is
level, a smaller stream if the land is
not level. This process will dissolve
and wash off the mineral.

Full ploughing is a disadvantage to
land; but it is better to plough just be-
fore sowing on mineral lands, as the
mineral rises to the surface, and
ploughing turns it under, and gives
the grain or vegetable a chance to
grow some size before the mineral
forms a crust. By irrigating, when
you discover the mineral so formerly
cultivated, the ground appears moist,
it will save your crop.

I prefer sowing in drills, as it gives
the ground the ground appears moist,
and keeping down the mineral.

The best way for the British govern-
ment to make irrigation and the re-
clamation of lands in India a success,
engage some skillful labor from
Utah.

Respectfully,
BENJ. F. STEWART.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 1872.

Hon. Wilford Woodruff, Pres. D. A.
and M. Society.

Dear Sir:—My theory for reclaiming
saline and alkaline lands, the result of
24 years' experience, is as follows:
The first thing to do is to get rid of
the very best fertilizer of the earth,
and the question is, Can these lands be
weakened or reduced in strength so
far as to be brought under successful
cultivation? Take for example ten
acres of land that is so strong with
salt that nothing can grow. Ditch around
it, say three feet deep, and ditch
through it, then out a ditch leading off
from the ditches that surround it; plow
the land and flood it, and when the
water has stood upon it long enough to
melt the particles of salt, run it off
and so continue for time to time, and
the land will become sufficiently fresh
to vegetate seed and produce crops.

Sufficient water to wet the ground,
without running off, will never
claim it. If there is not water suffi-
cient to flood it, plow often, leaving it
rough, and plow in such a way, that
when it rains the water may run off
into the ditches.

By frequent plowing the soil comes
in contact with the gases of the atmo-
sphere, and thereby undergoes a change,
it is reduced in strength, and will
after a time become productive, as I
have proved by actual experiment.

Fresh fine sand is excellent to spread
on, and will reduce the strength of
land, and weaken the saline lands. Bar-
yard manure has much salt in it, there-
fore it is not good for strong salt lands.

Fruit trees can be raised upon these
lands by applying the following rules:
When your trees are planted, bring
sweet fresh soil and put around the
base of the tree, and water it, espe-
cially around the stock where it
comes out of the ground, for if the tree
is injured in any way by the salt, it
will be the bark at the surface of the
ground.

Pear trees will stand almost any
amount of salt and grow well. When
fruit trees get on foot in salt land,
they become healthy, and bear a great
deal of fruit. There are many grades
of saline lands, but the same rule will
apply to all.

Respectfully, G. B. WALLACE.

FARMINGTON, Davis Co.
January 11th, 1872.

Hon. Wilford Woodruff, Pres. D. A.
and M. Society.

Dear Sir:—I have the honor to
acknowledge the receipt of your letter
requesting information concerning the
reclaiming of salt lands, and in reply
have to state that the efforts of many
farmers who are located both north
and south of the Great Salt Lake, have
been very successful in almost every
instance by flooding with fresh water
during the spring and winter months,
thereby washing the land, and
leaving a deposit of sand and mud,
washed down from the land through
the main passes.

Some of the farmers are now cutting
from two to three tons of fine hay per
acre, and from 50 to 75 bushels of small
grain are raised per acre, on land re-
claimed by this treatment.

Some of our farmers have been suc-
cessful by hauling sand and mixing
with the soil. These are the only
modes of treatment of which I have
heard in this country that have proved
successful.

Respectfully,
ARTHUR STAYNER.

Secretary of the D. A. Co. Branch of
the D. A. and M. Society.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
January 2nd, 1872.

Hon. Wilford Woodruff, Pres. D. A.
and M. Society.

Dear Sir:—I have experimented on
and brought into successful cultivation,
in the following manner, some land
so strongly impregnated with mineral
that nothing grew upon it, and so sit-
uated that water could not be advan-
tageously applied to wash the mineral
off.

Put on a good coat of warm manure,
and plow very deep in the fall of the
year; and in the spring, before sowing,
plough again, but not quite so deep as
in the fall. With seed should be sown
immediately after ploughing.

For all kinds of roots, furrow out
with a small plough or cultivator, leav-
ing an open room between the furrows
to plough and cultivate the soil. Sow
the seed in the drills; haul on and cover
with fine sandy loam. Do not irrigate
all the plants are a good size, and the
weather hot.

In this way I have raised beets
weighing from 10 to 18 pounds each, on
land where nothing grew before.

A few inches of sand, a coating of
chaff, or fine manure over the whole
surface, after planting, prevents crust-
ing, becomes mixed with and improves
the soil, and keeps the plants from
drying.

The following kinds of fruit can be
successfully raised on such land, viz.:
apples, pears, plums, currants and
gooseberries.

Plough the ground deep, and for all
kinds of trees dig the holes two and a
half feet square by two feet deep, put
in the bottom of the hole six inches of
good manure, then six inches of mixed
sand and gravel. Set the roots of the
tree in good loam not too far below the
surface. A tree thus planted will grow
thriftily.

I have an orchard planted as above,
bearing good fruit four years after
planting. The mineral does not appear

to injure the tree after it gets well
started. And as its shade and in-
crease, so the soil surrounding it im-
proves.

A good coating of rough manure,
chaff or partially rotted straw, over the
whole surface the first year will keep
the ground moist and prevent crust-
ing.

Where water is plentiful and the
land so situated that it can be applied,
the saline substance can easily be
washed off by having the necessary
drainage, and the land be made pro-
ductive either for grass, roots or grain.

Respectfully, JOHN R. WINDER.

SPANISH FORK CITY, Utah,
Jan. 8th, 1872.

Hon. Wilford Woodruff.

Dear Sir:—Permit me to communicate
a few items of information concerning
saline lands in this section of country.
In 1852, a tract of land in this neigh-
borhood was enclosed and used for
farming purposes, which, after a trial
of two years, proved a failure, and the
land was abandoned and turned to com-
mon. The same land
has since been enclosed as a pasture,
and is at this time of great value either
for pasturage or for agriculture. Its
reclamation from alkali is mostly due
to the increased rain of late years, and
about is thought to have occurred. The
land is now being thereby decom-
posed.

Respectfully,
A. K. THURBER.

SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS,
By Telegraph.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

EUROPEAN.

BRUSSELS.—The Nord newspaper,
published in the interest of the Russian
government, denies the report that the
Czar will demand the abrogation of the
Treaty of Paris.

LONDON.—A dispatch says Edmond
About, the well known political writer,
has been arrested near Strasbourg,
France, by the German authorities.

About is thought to have offended Ger-
many by some of his late writings, not
yet published.

Count-Sclopola, Jacob Stempel and
Charles Frank, the three arbitrators
arbitrators who voted to allow damages
in the case of the *Shenandoah*.

Cookburn and Everts left Geneva on
Saturday.

Sir Randall Palmer is looking great-
ly fatigued.

Charles Sumner arrived at Liverpool
on Saturday. On visiting the Ameri-
can club he received the first informa-
tion of his nomination by the Demo-
cratic and Liberal Republicans of Mas-
sachusetts, for governor. Sumner
announces that he will positively de-
cline.

The London journals rejoice over the
conclusion of the *Alabama* claims com-
trover, and express hopes that the
foundation is laid for a permanent
good understanding between the two
nations. The *Standard*, however,
thinks the Tribunal should have award-
ed damages only with regard to the
destructions at the *Alabama*.

It is asserted that the Czar of Russia
will demand the abrogation of the treaty
of Paris, for the purpose of co-operating
with Austria and Prussia.

GENEVA.—The opinion of Sir Alex-
ander Cockburn, the British arbitrator,
declaring that the *Alabama* was not
another member in the *Alabama* claims
arbitration Tribunal, is published.

A Constantinople dispatch says, it is
understood that some trouble has arisen
regarding the tribute of \$500,000 an-
nually paid the Sultan by the govern-
ment of Montenegro, and that war
may follow.

MADRID.—Amadeus, in his speech
at the opening of the Cortes, declared
that the government was determined
to subdue the rebellion in Cuba, and
would send there all the additional
troops necessary to suppress it.

The senators and deputies forming
the ministerial majority in the Cortes,
on joint caucus yesterday, resolved to
support Rivers for president of the
Cortes, and Ziguera for president of
the Senate. Sorolla was present and
made a long and patriotic speech, in
which he assured his friends that the
government would be administered
not for party but for the whole country.
As for the King, he would stand
by him to the last, and die on the steps
of the palace if necessary for the de-
fense of his dynasty.

GENEVA, 16.—Count Sclopola left
this morning for Italy. Chief Jus-
tice Cockburn, Sir Robert Phillimore
and Professor Montague Bernard, with
their families, took the afternoon train
for Paris.

LONDON, 16.—As Prince Arthur is
soon to visit Birmingham, the authori-
ties have made an unusual appropriation
for the expenses of his reception.
The republican club of that city, at a
recent meeting, protested against the
increase of local rates for such a pur-
pose, declaring that illuminations and
banquets at public expense on these oc-
casions was no longer in accordance
with the spirit of the age.

PARIS, 16.—Thiers, when visiting the
Shenandoah, complimented Comman-
der Wells on the excellent condition of
his ship and the discipline of his crew,
and expressed the hope that friendly
relations would always endure between
France and the United States. Wells
replied, cordially reciprocating the good
wishes of the President, and thanking
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PARIS, 16.—Thiers, when visiting the
Shenandoah, complimented Comman-
der Wells on the excellent condition of
his ship and the discipline of his crew,
and expressed the hope that friendly
relations would always endure between
France and the United States. Wells
replied, cordially reciprocating the good
wishes of the President, and thanking
him for the honor conferred upon the
American navy by the visit of the chief
of the French Republic.