

Eleven years ago the fearful explosion occurred which precipitated the Czar into eternity. Near the scene of the deed was written the word "Nihilism." It was then that this word was accepted by the American people as one synonymous with outrage and murder. The acceptance was erroneous. The Nihilists did kill one Czar, it is true, and are trying to kill another, but they are justified. The lecturer then narrated several instances of wilful and cruel murder on the part of the Czar and his minions. He also dwelt on the numerous and causeless transportations to Siberia.

Ivan Turgeneff, in his book "Fathers and Sons" first used the word "Nihilist" to designate a class of socialists which he portrayed. Through a misconception of the meaning and history the word, the Nihilists of Russia are regarded by many as a lot of anarchists bent on destroying property, religion, order and government. But the fact is, they are, said Mr. Armstrong, enlightened, patriotic reformers, whose whole aim is liberty of thought and action.

The first dawning of political freedom in Russia occurred about 1816. The soldiers who had confronted Napoleon returned to Russia with new ideas about political liberty. The Constitution of the United States was taken as a model, and a movement was inaugurated to establish a new republic. In 1825 the revolution was attempted, but promptly suppressed. Nicholas carpeted the plaza of his Winter Palace with the corpses of the insurgents. It was thus that every vestige of liberty was trampled out in Russia.

The lecturer gave a vivid description of the police regulations, and of the press laws of Russia. He read translations of both from the Russian text. Even the hotel keepers and lodging house owners must act as secret police. The Czar can suppress any newspaper in the land, and also prevent its owner from starting another. The works of Huxley, Spencer, John Stuart Mill and several others are not permitted to be read in Russia. Even history, geography and modern literature are not taught in the schools.

Mr. Armstrong read the platform of the Nihilists. They were contending for the same thing which the fathers of this republic fought for. They were not Atheists, Anarchists, nor Communists, but simply political reformers, seeking universal suffrage, constitutional freedom and representative government.

The lecturer spoke about two hours, and gave such a realistic account of the social and political condition of Russia as will not be soon forgotten by those who had the pleasure of hearing his discourse.

There is trouble brewing for the Farmer's Alliance. At Fort Worth, Texas, recently a meeting of farmers was held, and the subtreasury scheme and third party movement denounced. Now the Missouri alliance in conjunction with members of the Texas alliance have issued a call for a convention to be held in St. Louis, Sept. 15, 1892. The purpose of this convention is to protest against making the Farmer's Alliance a political body.

## SALT RIVER VALLEY, ARIZONA.

I confess to have been somewhat prejudiced against Salt River valley in Southern Arizona by the reports I had heard concerning its climate before I visited it. I had been given to understand that, owing to the extreme heat which there prevailed, I would jeopardize my health if not actually endanger my life by visiting it—that I would be overpowered by the heat within a few hours after my arrival and that my whole cuticle from the effect of prickly heat, would present the same florid hue as a whisky guzzler's nose, while the intense itching to which I would be subjected could only be alleviated by submerging my body in water, a somewhat difficult thing to do as all the water in the country was used for irrigating the land except what was kept in "ollas" for drinking purposes, none of which were large enough to take a bath in.

One of my friends who claimed to be familiar with the climate, on learning of how gradually I had been getting used to heat by visiting in the order named portions of Colorado, New Mexico, Northern Arizona, Old Mexico and the Gila Valley before attempting to go to Salt River, ventured the opinion that my experience in rising temperatures might enable me to stand that of Salt River Valley, but if so I would be able to slide from there right into Hades without noticing any change in temperature. I told him my transportation did not provide for my visiting the last mentioned place without that was another name for San Francisco, and courageously decided then and there to go to Salt River at all hazards, and if the prickly heat was unendurable to take a bath if necessary in the same manner in which my old friend W. C. Staines once constructed a dam which he defied his neighbor Johnson with the acidulous lacteal cognomen to touch—by sitting down in an irrigating ditch. Well, I went.

I was fortunate in meeting on the cars, while on his way home from Deming, Brother Jas. F. Johnson, of Mesa City, who became my entertainer and guide while in the valley and made my visit an exceedingly pleasant one. On reaching Tempe, the nearest railroad station to the settlement of the Saints, he secured a team to convey us to Mesa City, a distance of seven miles, and then commenced feasting me on the most tempting watermelons, grapes, plums, figs, etc., which continued during that and two succeeding days, my indulgence being limited only by the capacity of my stomach, which is not so small as it might be.

I found the warmest things about the country to be the hearts of the inhabitants, many of whom were old acquaintances in Utah before they went to Arizona, and who have lost none of their old-time cordiality by their change of residence. I was most agreeably surprised by what I saw and learned of the country. I consider it one of the best and most desirable I have ever seen—a region that has not been fully appreciated by the Saints generally or so few would not be residing there now, and with such a small proportion of the valley in their

possession, almost the entire valley having been open for settlement when the Saints first went there. Indeed, I hardly think the present inhabitants realize to the full extent the advantages they would have over those residing elsewhere if they were but to develop the natural resources of the country. As it is, they could not easily be induced to leave the country; for, with the exception of during about three months in the year, when it is rather too warm to be pleasant, the climate is most delightful, and, owing to the productiveness of the soil, less labor is required to make a living than in most other places. While most of the Saints in that locality cultivate the soil for a subsistence and the majority of them have good fields and gardens and have done much to demonstrate the capabilities of the country, their efforts in that line have generally been of a desultory character. They have raised a little of everything almost rather than made a specialty of those particular products for which the country is best adapted. Nor would I question the wisdom of this course in the past, for the people who settled there were not wealthy, and a subsistence was the first consideration with them; besides, it was measurably uncertain in the past as to what would be the most profitable crop. No doubt should longer exist, however, that the country is much better adapted for the production of fruit than cereals, or that the former is much more profitable to raise than lucern, which is cultivated so extensively. The truth is, that Salt River valley is one of the choicest places on this continent for raising semi-tropical fruit. Fig trees can be raised there as easily as poplars can in the most favored parts of Utah, and bear heavily. Pomegranate trees grow so thriftily that they make the best kind of a hedge and are cultivated for that purpose. Grapes could not do better anywhere, and are more extensively cultivated than any other kind of fruit. Peaches, almonds, plums and apricots thrive excellently and there is little doubt but oranges will do quite as well here as in any part of California. The average annual temperature is seven degrees higher and the average winter temperature nearly four and a half degrees higher than at Riverside, the most famous orange growing district of California. Besides, the season here is from five to six weeks earlier than in any part of California, which would prove an immense advantage in the matter of obtaining a market, the chances for which would also be enhanced by the fact the Salt River is located so much nearer eastern markets than California is.

I traveled from Tempe to San Bernardino with a couple of wealthy and experienced California orange growers who had been spending some time in Salt River valley. Investigating the soil, water supply, etc., in various localities, with a view to purchasing and entering extensively into orange growing there, and discovered that they were greatly elated over the prospect before them. One of them admitted to me confidentially that he was confident that the valley would surpass any part of California as an orange-producing district. He also informed me