

transplanted entire populations. At the present time the valleys of the southern Alps are becoming more and more deserted, and the time may yet come when the departments of the Upper and Lower Alps will no longer have any homeborn inhabitants.

During the three centuries that have elapsed between 1471 and 1776 the vigneries of these mountain regions have lost a third, a half, or even as much as three-quarters of their cultivated ground, and the men have disappeared from the impoverished soil in the same proportion. From 1836 to 1866 the Upper and Lower Alps have lost 25,000 inhabitants, or nearly one-tenth of their population. At the present time in an area of 3,860 square miles, embraced between Mont Thabor and the Alps of Nice, there is not a single group of inhabitants which exceeds the number of 2,000 individuals. Barcelonnette, the largest place, has more than once been in danger of being carried away by a flood.

It is the mountaineers themselves who have made and are seeking to extend this desert which separates the tributary valleys of the Rhone from the populous plains of Piedmont. If some modern Attila, traversing the Alps, made it his business to desolate those valleys for ever, the first thing he would do would be to deoress their slopes. Shall we, in our blindness, do the same thing in Utah, or shall we at once call a halt and begin earnestly to undo the mistakes of the past?

None too soon can we organize forestry associations and begin to collect information relating to trees and their relation to the various industries of Utah. By careful study we may save ourselves from some very serious mistakes, and by reforesting our mountain slopes we may make land productive which, in some cases, is now worse than useless.

C. A. WHITING,
University of Utah.

OUR VIEWS TOO.

SYRACUSE, Davis County, Utah,
January 30, 1894.

In the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS of Jan. 30 I see a statement that the closing of artesian wells in the fall has not injured them in Davis county. This may be the case in some parts of the county, but it is not the result in this place. We have tried it and our wells have caved in and stopped, and on being re-opened have been in some cases useless on account of constantly stopping off and at other times throwing clay. We do not find that our wells have any effect on the wells on the bench in drawing off their waters. I am informed that West Bountiful can obtain water at less than fifty feet, while in this locality the wells are from 140 to 300 feet. During the winter we have to depend entirely upon our wells for water for house and farm purposes, as the water in dug wells is too full of salt to drink. While in some cases the shutting off of the wells might prove a benefit, in others it would prove an injury. Yours truly,
J. H. COLES.

An exchange states that a resident of Sheridan, Or., has made an umbrella with a window in the top.

OBITUARY NOTES.

MRS. VIOLA E. STEWART.

Mrs. Viola E. Stewart, wife of W. W. Stewart, died at the family residence, No. 439 west Sixth South street yesterday (Monday) afternoon at 2:35 o'clock. The deceased was afflicted with a tumor of extraordinary size and was a sufferer for years. She recently underwent an operation at the hands of skilled surgeons with a view to getting permanent relief, but all the indications pointed to the near approach of death. The deceased was 48 years of age and leaves a husband and one son to mourn her demise. She has relatives living in Chicago and was married there many years ago.

JANE MITTON-RYDALCH.

Jane Mitton Rydalch, wife of Hon. William Rydalch, of Grantsville, Tooele county, died at her home at that place yesterday afternoon, in the 75th year of her age. The deceased was an estimable woman and was well and widely known. She was born in Lingill, near Fotel, Horton Park, Yorkshire, England, November 23, 1819, and came to Utah with her husband and three children in 1853. The family immediately located in Grantsville and has lived there ever since. The lady's demise was caused by heart failure superinduced by exhaustion and bronchitis. She was the mother of eight children, had fifteen grand children and one great grand child.

DAVID D. REESE.

ADAMSVILLE, Beaver county, Utah, January 25, 1894.—Permit me to inform your many readers of the death of Brother David A. Reese of this place. He died on the 19th inst., after an illness of over two months, during which time he suffered very much. He at times threw up great quantities of blood, until poor nature could no longer endure.

He was born at Bradley, Carmarthen shire, Wales, October 19, 1828, which made him 65 years and 3 months old. He embraced the Gospel at Blaia, Monmouthshire, being baptized in 1861; he emigrated to Utah in 1862 with his family and settled in Greenville, Beaver county, where he buried his wife Catharine in 1867. In 1868 he was called upon to go across the Plains to help the emigration companies, and in 1869 he moved to Adamsville and married Elizabeth Grimshaw. Here he was ordained a High Priest under the hands of Daniel Tyler. In 1886 he was chosen as first counselor to Bishop Gunn, of this place, which position he held until his death. He was also first assistant superintendent of the Sunday school of this ward, a position he filled with great zeal, always being at his post on time.

He leaves a wife, six children and ten grandchildren and many friends and relatives to mourn his loss.

The funeral services took place at the Adamsville meetinghouse on Sunday, the 21st, and consoling remarks were made by Elders M. L. Shepherd, D. Grimshaw, J. J. Griffiths, W. Reese, B. Griffiths and F. T. Gunn. The body was taken to the Beaver cemetery for burial; a large cortege, consisting of 26 vehicles, followed the remains to their final resting place.

J. J. GRIFFITHS.

LEVI ROBERTS.

At Kayaville, on the 22nd day of January, there passed from this sphere of action, at the ripe age of 79, Levi Roberts, whose name has gone into history as one of that noble band of heroes—the Mormon Battalion.

He was born in Apperly, Gloucestershire, England, Feb. 26, 1815, where he was brought up in the trade of basket making. He was one of those to whom President Woodruff carried the Gospel, and in 1840 he yielded obedience and was baptized. In 1841 he with his family

emigrated to America, being one of the second company that gathered to Zion. In his trade he had accumulated some means which he freely spent in assisting poorer families to come out, and when he reached Nauvoo he found himself but poorly provided to meet the great change in his life and circumstances. Not having been accustomed to rough manual labor, the hardships incidental to frontier life told heavily upon him, but he persevered with an energy and faith that won for him the confidence and respect of those who knew him. He worked much of the time while in Nauvoo for the Prophet Joseph and was entrusted with the responsibility of being one of his body guard during the troublous times immediately preceding his death. With his family he shared in the sufferings and sorrows of that memorable exodus, and finally reached Mount Pisgah, where he commenced clearing land for the purpose of farming. It was here, while working for the necessities of life for his little ones and invalid wife, that the call came for volunteers for the Mexican war. He was a loving husband and deeply devoted to his family, and the riches of the world would not have tempted him to leave them in distress, but with his characteristic faith and willingness, he entrusted them to the hands of God and gave his services to his country.

The history of the Battalion is now his history, as he marched, suffered, struggled and endured with its bravest and best until the final discharge in July, 1847.

His service in the Battalion had been brightened by no tidings from his family during his long absence and in mingled fear and hope he pushed back to Winter Quarters where he was reunited with his loved ones, his wife having been miraculously restored to health. He remained there until 1850, when he came through and settled in Kayaville where he has since resided.

He has been a great sufferer for a number of years and his going was a happy release. His life has been an exemplification of faith, humility and energy in the cause of God. Honor to his name!

W.

THE DEAD.

Peaceful be their Rest.

REESE.—In this city, Jan. 30, of convulsions, Carl E., infant son of John H. and Nora Reese.

ORSTAD.—At Union, Utah, January 30, 1894, at 7 p.m., at the residence of his son-in-law, Wm. A. Boggess, of paralysis, Ole Engelsen Orstad, aged 73 years. Deceased was born September 2, 1820, in Opdal, Norway; arrived in Salt Lake in 1863. He was for twenty years postmaster of Union.

SANDERS.—On Sunday, Feb. 4, 1894, of old age at the residence of her daughter, sister W. D. Owen, 130 I street, Twenty-first ward, Francis Sanders, aged 84 years, 11 months and 10 days. She was baptized in Bishop Storford, England, in 1850; emigrated to Utah in 1864. She died as she lived, a true and faithful Latter-day Saint, with the hope of a glorious resurrection.

CORNELL.—At Salt Lake City, at 1:40 p.m., February 2, 1894, of pneumonia, Thomas Cornell, born at London, England, December 23, 1834. He joined the Church in 1849, and died as he had lived, a faithful Latter-day Saint. Brother Cornell was president of the North London Branch for eight years. He emigrated to Utah in 1867.

Millennial Star, please copy.

ATKIN.—At St. George, Utah, January 27th, 1894, John Peter, son of Wm. and Rachel Thompson Atkins. Deceased was born March 13th, 1877, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and leaves a wife and two children, as well as father, mother, brothers and sisters and a large circle of friends to mourn his departure. But all are consoled by knowing he died firm in the faith of the Gospel.