



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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DREDGING THE MOUTH OF THE JORDAN.

THE overflowing of our lands in the vicinity of the Jordan is an evil of growing magnitude. For the past two or three years the water has been steadily rising, increasing the area of the submerged lands. Various plans to remedy this evil have been suggested, and some efforts have been made by constructing canals and building levees to drain the land, and to keep the water to its legitimate channel; but how sanguine soever the projectors of these schemes have been in relation to them, this fact is patent to the public, the land still lies under water, and all that has yet been expended has failed in accomplishing the desired object. Probably the fault has not been so much in the plans which have been proposed and undertaken as in the want of means to carry them out. It is an exceedingly difficult thing, however, if not impossible, to carry out any system of drainage by ditches or canals that will not meet with opposition from landholders whose fields will be interfered with, and every scheme of this kind has a local opposition to contend with.

But there is one plan, which has not yet been tried, which, we think, is the best and only correct plan by which the evil can be remedied; that is, the employment of a dredge boat. The opening of the mouth of the Jordan and the deepening of the channel by the use of such a boat would have the effect, in our opinion, to drain all the lands that are now submerged by the overflowing of the water, and make the river perfectly safe against floods. It might be more expensive at first than some other ways which have been proposed; but while they would only afford partial relief, its use would correct the evil entirely; and, therefore, in the end, it would be much the cheapest remedy that could be employed. The lands contiguous to Jordan would be so enhanced in value by the use of such a boat that their owners could afford to pay for it themselves.

An engineer has written to the *Alta California*, San Francisco, upon the subject of deepening the water and raising the banks of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers of California. He quotes his experience as an engineer in clearing out the channel of the River Severn, Bristol, England. That river, years ago, became shoal from the immense deposits of mud carried into it daily by the tides from the British Channel. The water overflowed the land on each side to a great distance and vessels drawing four feet of water, would ground unless it was high Spring tide. Messrs. Grissel & Peto, of London, contracted to make the river navigable at all stages of the tide. They were allowed three years to do this; but they employed three dredge boats, and, in less than one year and a half, the work was completed. Each boat lifted sixty-nine tons of mud per hour, with which levees were formed on both sides of the river; these levees were afterwards used as towing-paths.

Of course, for the river Jordan a boat of such a capacity would probably not be needed. A smaller boat, and of less power, would doubtless answer every purpose. But the principle upon which they operated is the one that should be put into application here. If Salt Lake were as low as it was in former years, then the dredging of the mouth of the Jordan would remedy the difficulty which now exists, even if the lowness of the waters of the Lake itself did not drain the water out of Jordan fast enough. But, as the Lake is at present, probably, the farther from the river to it is not sufficient were the mouth ever so well dredged, to drain it properly. By thoroughly opening the channel however, and lifting the mud from the bottom of the river, and forming good, substantial levees on each side with it, the river could be kept within its banks,

even with the present high stage of water in the Lake.

As this is a subject of general interest it is worthy of consideration. By ventilating it the minds of the people can be familiarized with the various plans suggested, and the one best suited to the end to be gained be adopted. It is very clear that, should the present causes continue to operate, some steps will have to be taken ere long to control these waters and keep them within bounds.

NEW YORK "SUN" AND CAPTAIN GIBSON.

CAPTAIN Walter M. Gibson, who, our readers will remember, figured here during the winter of 1859-60 as a lecturer, and afterwards joined the church and went to the Sandwich Islands, has recently arrived in New York from those Islands. It will be remembered that he went to the Islands, and by means of the grossest misrepresentations and falsehoods succeeded in imposing upon the natives who belonged to the church, there to such an extent that he obtained control of their property, ordained some of them apostles, and carried on matters with a high hand generally, so much so that Elders Ezra T. Benson, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, Wm W. Cluff and Alma L. Smith were sent there to investigate matters. They found it necessary to cut him off from the church, for his abominable conduct. But he retained possession of the place on the Island of Lanai, which he had succeeded in obtaining through his assumed position in the Church. After that action was taken, his influence there declined, and but little has been heard about him since then. Occasionally we have heard that he was desirous of selling out.

The New York *Sun*, from which we learn of his arrival in New York, has an article of a column and a quarter's length about him, under the head of "The Romantic career of an adventurous American." In the article he is credited with having proposed the plan to President Young of settling all our troubles by transporting us to the Island of Papua or New Guinea, and also that it was eagerly adopted here, and he sent to Washington to negotiate with the Government for the sale of our improvements in Utah at the price of five millions of dollars, and for our transfer to our new home in the Pacific, all of which will be news to the good people of this Territory. No doubt Gibson would have been pleased to have had a scheme of this kind adopted; but that the proposition to sell out here and go elsewhere, especially to leave the continent was ever for a moment entertained, is simply untrue.

It seems from the *Sun* that Gibson passed through Salt Lake City the other day, but did not deem it prudent to make himself known to any of his old acquaintances. The excuse which the *Sun* makes for his not doing so is a wretchedly lame one. It says:

"We believe that the Mormon leaders unanimously attribute to him the fact that their people no longer have a foothold in the dominions of King Kamehameha, or indeed, we believe, anywhere in the whole Pacific. On this account they have naturally become somewhat hostile to Captain Gibson."

We have reasons to know that it is an exceedingly difficult thing for Gibson to tell the truth. This being the case, we are not surprised at seeing such a falsehood published as a reason for his passing through here without stopping. He is not altogether dead to shame, it seems yet.

He has told the writer of the article in the *Sun* that he visits this country as an agent of the Sandwich Islands, to endeavor to procure the ratification of the reciprocity treaty which Mr. Seward submitted to the Senate at its last session, and when the duty is discharged, he proposes to sail for Singapore, with a view of there engaging laborers to emigrate to the Sandwich Islands at the Government expense.

Probably he may succeed in making somebody believe that he has been thus sent; but it would take something more than his word to convince us of it.

MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK—REMARKABLE DECISION.

IT is a current opinion in New York, to which a decision of one of the higher courts there is said to have given countenance, that no ceremony whatever is required to constitute a valid marriage. The mere fact of living together as if married, it is held, constitutes a legal matrimonial relation, which the courts will fully recognize. We see it stated

by the Cincinnati *Commercial* that it knows of one instance in which a claim on the Government, under the pension laws, from that State, was sustained by this plea, in spite of the conceded fact that there was no marriage as the term was ordinarily understood in olden times. But the local law, as expounded by a New York court, was insisted on, and though the claim was rejected by the Department, it believes it was subsequently allowed by a special act of Congress.

Within a few days a case has been tried at White Plains, New York, and a verdict has been rendered by a jury empanelled on the occasion, in favor of such matrimonial relation as above described being binding. One William Taylor, of Westchester county, New York, died recently, leaving property to the amount of half a million dollars. His lawful wife—according to the old ideas of marriage—died two years ago, leaving one son and three daughters, among whom it would have been supposed, that this property—as he made no will—would be divided. But there was a woman who had been employed in his family for several years, and whose three children she alleges to be his, who set up a claim for herself as his widow, and for her children, as his legitimate offspring, to a proportionate share of his property. The jury decided in favor of this claim.

This jury certainly deserves the thanks of the community for the moral courage and good sense it has displayed in giving this decision, provided, of course, that the claimant's statement, that the deceased was the father of her children, is true. It is the most sensible decision we have heard for some time. If Mr. Taylor was the father of the three children borne by the woman employed in his family, why should they not have a claim upon his property? We do not believe in men and women living together as man and wife without a marriage ceremony. If such a practice were to prevail, the sacredness and binding force of the association would be broken down and destroyed; but if a case should occur, like this of the said William Taylor, the living together as if married should constitute a legal matrimonial relation, not only in New York, but in every State in the Union. The enforcing of this rule throughout the entire community would be a step in the right direction, and would do more to check the dreadful evils which prevail, and which are growing, and to redress the wrongs of women, than all the Social Science Congresses and Woman's Rights' conventions in the world. Men would not be so reckless as they are at present about forming, or inveigling women into, illegitimate associations, all the consequences of which, according to the too prevalent present custom, the female has to bear. Here is a subject that is worthy of the attention of those ladies who are filled with a burning anxiety to redress the wrongs of their sex.

EMIGRATION INDEBTEDNESS.

THE present is an appropriate time to call the attention of the people to the subject of emigration. Last year at this time everybody interested in helping the poor from Europe was making strenuous exertions to raise means to send for them. The season was, in one respect, an unfavorable one, times were very stringent throughout the Territory and money was scarce. Yet, with proper exertion, considerable means was raised, and substantial help was extended to a great many. At the present time money is much easier; it circulates freely, and many who, last year, had to take trade as pay, now receive money as wages for their work. If the people are so disposed, there is nothing to prevent the raising of considerable money this season, for the assistance of the poor.

There are thousands of persons throughout the Territory who are indebted to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund for the cost of their passages from Europe to this city. Much of this indebtedness has been due for years. Various reasons have been assigned by one and another for its non-payment, which they who made them may have thought were sufficient, but which, in the case of any other creditor but the P. E. F. Co., would have been declared trifling and insufficient. Why people should feel themselves under no special obligation to settle with the company for their passages, after they have been brought here by it, is a mystery. While in the old country, panting for deliverance from Babylon, they would have made any pledges to have obtained help to come to Zion. If they had been told

that they would not, after reaching Zion, promptly and gladly pay it back again, they could not have believed that they would be so ungrateful and careless.

Debtors to that Fund should try to recall the feelings which they had when they left their homes—how thankful they were to have the privilege of coming, how full of good resolutions they were never to forget the kindness which had been extended to them—and then try to carry them out now. It is scarcely honest for a man to buy property, to possess teams and wagons and furnish his family with every comfort before he thinks of refunding the money which was spent upon him to bring him here. There are others waiting to come from abroad who are as anxious as he was when there, and who are praying and hoping for that deliverance which he, by his lack of punctuality, helps to keep from them.

But the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company is frequently not the only creditor in such cases. People are also helped by their neighbors and friends who are left behind, with the positive promise that if they will let them have the money, they will refund it out of the first means they earn after they reach this country. Years sometimes pass away without the creditors hearing from the emigrants. Now, how any person who believes in the justice and providence of God can be so untrue to their solemn promises and engagements, is another mystery. It might be thought that a man who had any faith in God would be afraid to do any such thing. He could not act in this manner, and expect to be prospered.

There are many people in Great Britain who are now, we hear, anxiously waiting to get the money back from their friends which they loaned them to assist to come here with. The emigration of many persons depends on this, and those who have had assistance from them should exert themselves to refund them their money to them. The present is as favorable a time to pay up indebtedness to the P. E. Fund and to return borrowed means to friends as there has been for years, and years may again elapse before a more favorable time shall arrive.

We trust that these suggestions may be acted upon by those for whom they are intended. If an exertion be made, there is scarcely a person in the Territory, but what can do something. Creditors in Europe would be relieved, the hands of the P. E. Fund Company would be untied, and thousands of anxious hearts would beat with joy at the prospect of speedy deliverance.

HOME ITEMS

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY.

LOOK OUT FOR THEM.—At about 8 o'clock on Saturday evening last, some of the railroad hands, who had been at work in Weber Canyon, were returning to their homes in Kayville and Farmington. When they reached Park's Hollow, a little south of the mouth of the canyon, their attention was arrested by a rustling noise in the bush and a stentorian voice shouting "stand and deliver" "your money or your life." One of the "boys" answered, "you don't know who you're talking to, do you?" and "let's go for them, boys." After that there was a rustling, crackling noise in the bush, as if those in ambuscade were making off, up the side of the mountain, with all possible speed. The person from whom we obtained the above particulars, and who was one of the party, thinks that the would-be robbers, owing to the darkness of the night were deceived as to the number of their intended victims, and, finding they had "got the wrong cow by the horns," they speedily made tracks. If they had not done so the probability is that some of them would have waked up suddenly and found themselves in the "Other World."

DUGAN'S EXECUTION DENOUNCED.—The Omaha *Herald*, of the 5th inst., arraigns and denounces the late hanging of Dugan, (of which an account appeared in the *News* a few days ago) by a band of Vigilantes at Denver as a brutal crime against humanity. It does not discuss, it says, the violation of the laws in that disgraceful tragedy; but the one feature which stamps it with ineffaceable and infernal brutality—the refusal of those who hung the unhappy wretch to grant him the poor benefit of the clergy. He wanted them to send for a Catholic minister before they hung him; but the *Herald* says this poor boon was denied to Dugan, and it was the absence of it, as much as any thing else, that inspired him with that terror which is said to have "completely unmanned" him. Mobocratic organizations may be dignified by the name of Vigilante Committees; but every right-feeling man must recoil with horror at the thought of there being a necessity for such self-constituted and irresponsible tribunals taking power into their own hands, and proceeding to execute the death-penalty. Arguments may be advanced in favor of such proceed-