

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

TO THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE
TERRITORY OF UTAH:

Delivered in Great Salt Lake City, December 15, A. D. 1857.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL

AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

The people, for the promotion of whose advancement in correct government you are now assembled in a legislative capacity, are so remote from the high wrought excitement and consequent entangling questions common to the populous marts of national and international commerce, are so little prone to deem mere property, rank, titles and office the highest prizes for human effort, and through enlightened choice are so invariably peaceful and law-abiding, that your duties partake but in a small degree of that varied, perplexing and intricate description so characteristic of the legislation of most if not all other communities. But however orderly and upright are a people, the changes and experience incident to transpiring circumstances and consequent new views and events, afford ample scope for the exercise of that candid deliberation and prudent forethought without which legislation is liable to be far more detrimental than beneficial.

Those unparalleled habits of industry, sobriety, order, and respect to the just rights of all, which so pre-eminently distinguish the occupants of a region uninviting to dwellers in more favored climes, have continued in a rapidly increasing ratio to advance Utah to a position in social and political progress worthy the highest commendation. During the past year, for reasons well understood, our progression has not been so particularly marked by improvements under appropriations from the Territorial treasury as it has by unostentatious, persevering and skillful individual efforts most successfully applied to extending the area of our tillable land, to the gradual introduction of a more economical, systematic and judicious cultivation of the various products adapted to our soil and climate, to the requisite care and improvement of stock, to the erection of more commodious private dwellings, and to a large and highly encouraging increase in domestic manufactures. These pursuits and their results, in the comparatively humble, limited and tardy mode as yet compelled by the time, thought and means that can be devoted to their conduct and attainment, are tame and uninteresting to those who dwell amid the whirl of mental and physical energies constantly taxed to their utmost tension in the selfish, unsatisfying and frenzied quest of wordly emolument, fame, power, and maddening draughts from the syren cup of pleasure, but they are laying for us and our children a foundation broad, deep, strong and durable, upon which, through the blessings of our God, to rear a superstructure for the temporal well being of ourselves and the thousands upon thousands who will seek unto us for sustenance and the enjoyment of the inalienable rights of civil and religious liberty.

Whether our agricultural interests, though so broadly underlying and essentially upholding all other avocations, require at present the further aid of special legislation may well be questioned, since private enterprise has accumulated individual means until our agriculturists and

graziers are abundantly able, either singly or by the combination of a few of the more energetic, to procure those approved labor saving machines and import those kinds and numbers of domestic animals that their ripening experience may dictate. And aside from that constantly increasing experience and ability, and a higher tone of energy in their application, the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society have, through the appointment, from time to time, of lectures upon these and other practicable branches of industrial pursuits, and the annual distribution of prizes for the best specimens of home products, diffused a laudable emulation for attaining superior excellence in every department pertaining to our temporal advancement, insomuch that with the facilities as yet at our command it would appear advisable to still leave those and kindred interests to the able management and fostering care of that Society. True, their recurring annual Fair, held in this city in October last, owing to circumstances beyond their control, was by no means so fully attended nor the articles in exhibition so numerous and varied as would otherwise have been the case, still the most casual observer could but note and be gratified with the abundant evidence of the industrial prosperity of our Territory.

The mechanical skill of our artisans, so far as material would permit, has also been assiduously applied to the home supply of those necessities and comforts so essential to well ordered civilized society, thus freeing us in a goodly degree from the heavy tax of imported goods; yet there is an ample and ever increasing demand for the products of their labor at very liberal rates of compensation, which will doubtless afford all necessary inducement for home manufacture to the full extent of the raw materials in our possession, except, perhaps, in the article of iron. They also, in common with all other classes of our producers, share proportionally in the benefits arising from the annual exhibition of their handiwork in our Fairs.

In some instances, especially so in relation to the sugar cane, cotton, wool and dye stuffs, the want of the raw materials has been a serious drawback, it therefore affords me the greater gratification to be able to inform you that there is a fair prospect, at an early date, that our wants in those particulars will be amply supplied, independent of the burdens of importation. The Sorghum or Chinese sugar cane has been generally and successfully cultivated in small patches in a great variety of soil throughout many of our settlements, and has been proved to be well adapted to a wide latitude of our climate. This plant is an almost invaluable acquisition, being singularly prolific in seed as well as in a large amount of most excellent forage, and affording a remarkably large proportion of juice, highly charged with saccharine matter, which can easily be manufactured into a syrup almost if not quite equal to the far famed golden syrup of the sugar refineries, thereby relieving us from the necessity of submitting to a burdensome drain of our circulating medium or the deprivation of a healthful article of diet. A small crop of a very good sample of cotton was successfully cultivated in our southern settlements during the past season, also a few stalks of indigo, and preparations are being made in that region for the production of

cotton and indigo to supply our demands, as speedily as indigo seed can be procured in sufficient quantity. Madder can be raised in all our settlements, and it is a matter of astonishment that no seed of so useful and easily cultivated a plant has ever been brought into this Territory, so far as I am informed, and it is to be hoped that our friends abroad will take the earliest steps to supply this want. Our quantity of wool is still far short of an adequate supply, chiefly caused by a measurably culpable inattention to the care of so valuable a class of stock as are our sheep, and to depending too much upon foreign supplies which are at any time liable to be beyond our reach. Your influence, counsels and example can do much towards encouraging the production of wool and flax, that our spinning wheels and looms be not compelled to stand idle, and the people caused to suffer through their own improvidence in affairs within their reach and comprehension.

The manufacture of iron has not been prosecuted with that success so fondly anticipated and so much desired, but an engine having been furnished to the Company it is expected that all compatible attention will be given to supplying an article which enters so largely into our various daily operations. In fine, there is no known limit to the resources kindly provided in the elements surrounding us, no trammel upon the skill and energies of the people, to hinder any from putting forth their talents to the fullest stretch for enriching, beautifying and making heavenly the mountain and desert regions in which our lot is cast.

Our schools, to those unacquainted with the facts and circumstances connected therewith, may seem not to have received that attention which their importance demands, at the same time each Ward throughout the Territory has provided one or more comfortable school-houses commensurate with the number of pupils to be accommodated; and proportionably more has been done in Utah for the true enlightenment of the rising generation, than has ever been accomplished under like conditions in any other portion of the Union. And aside from the stated hours and exercises of schools, education is constantly attainable from books, from conversation, from reflection, at home, abroad, in highways and byways, and as its developments implant the desire for still higher attainments, academies, colleges and universities will arise at the summoning wand of increasing wealth and leisure for learned acquirements until, ere long, we shall as far outstrip the world in every branch of true science as we now do in that knowledge which savoreth of eternal lives. In this great cause, also, your influence and example can be made productive of much good, even though your judgment should lead you, during your present session, to waive direct legislation upon this subject.

Reports from the Auditor and Treasurer, which I have the honor to herewith transmit, will furnish you the requisite information touching the condition of the financial affairs of the Territory.

The Parent Government exercises a general supervision over the Aborigines within its borders, yet a brief allusion to the red men within and around Utah may not here be inappropriate, the more especially since the expense of their care and support has, from the beginning,

fallen almost exclusively upon us, and from present appearances bids fair to do so altogether; and still, after we have invariably fed and clothed them and treated them with the utmost forbearance, in proper consideration for their degraded condition, if we do not turn out and safely and without charge escort to their destination those passers-through who have cheated, and then poisoned and wantonly slain untutored savages, lying and corrupt presses throughout the Union will send forth against us a united and prolonged howl of base slander and false accusations, charging upon us all the murders and massacres occurring between the Missouri river and the Sierra Nevada mountains, with the sole intent to excite to frenzy a spirit for our extermination. However much we may be disposed to deplore that savage usage which wreaks indiscriminate vengeance, we still more deeply deprecate that double-dyed villainy of fiendish editors and their lie-loving readers, who willfully suppress and falsely color facts and subvert truths for the sole purpose of raising an unhallowed hue and cry against an innocent people, for those editors and readers have been better taught; and suggest that if all such characters would organize themselves into patrolling Vigilance Committees for the purpose of restraining the cruel and outrageous conduct of a portion of the annual passing emigration, they would soon learn that the Indians are far oftener, if not always, when difference of education and habits is included, 'more sinned against than sinning,' that the most forbearing will not forever patiently endure a continued tirade of unjust threats, abuse and vituperation, that kindness is much more winning than severity, and that the inhabitants of Utah, as ever, are at home noiselessly pursuing their peaceful avocations and struggling to mete out even-handed justice to all, irrespective of creed or party. But however Government may neglect and however enemies may rage and falsely accuse, the experience derived from a long observation of the yearly improvement in some of the most degraded Indian tribes upon the Continent, strongly prompts me to again recommend the continuance of that humane policy so uniformly pursued by Utah towards her wild denizens, gradually leading them like children in the rudiments of civilization, which has so often resulted and will ever result in saving lives that would otherwise have been and otherwise will be destroyed, and which my judgment dictates to be the wisest, most humane and even cheapest policy that can as yet be adopted.

You are already aware that upon examining the bids for carrying the mail on the route between this City and Independence, Mo., in the fall of 1856, the contract for that route was awarded to Mr. Hiram Kimball, a citizen of this Territory, in compliance with a rule requiring the acceptance of the lowest responsible bid. You are also aware that the requisite service began to be put upon that route so early as February last, upon the first unofficial intimation of the acceptance of the bid, and several weeks before the arrival of official notification, the letter containing that notification having wintered at the Devil's Gate in care of a mail conductor in the employ of the former contractor. So soon as that notification came to hand, arrangements were entered into for the services of the requisite number of trusty