

they were in the minority. After the death of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, by right and choice of the people, organized and led them into the wilds of America. And while Missouri was dividing the property of fourteen thousand inhabitants whom she had recently expelled, while Illinois was trying to cover up the blood of the murdered Prophets; while all the United States looked on with silent indifference, one of the most persecuted and down-trodden people that history records were marching westward beyond the pale of civilization.

And now comes an episode in the history of the Mormons which I should not dare to relate were it not part of the official records of the government. Otherwise it would be incredible. While in the wilderness on their westward march for the Rocky Mountains, war was declared between our government and Mexico. Strange as it may seem, the President sent a messenger to Brigham Young to ask for five hundred volunteers to enter the army and march against Mexico. Remember that two states of the nation had thrust this people from their borders, had permitted mobs to plunder them, rob them of their homes, murder their prophets, and drive them into exile. Remember that their appeals in their sore afflictions, though made to governors, judges, and to the President, were invariably ignored or denied. Remember finally that they were marching through a country unparalleled for dangers, that they were enduring hardships which, at times, threatened their very existence. Had they not sufficient cause for refusing to listen to the President's appeal? And yet it was their country calling—that country to which their pilgrim ancestors had fled; for which their patriot sires had fought and suffered; whose deeds of heroism were among their highest and noblest traditions. It was enough. Brigham Young said: "Colonel Allen, you shall have your men. If there are not enough young men, I will call upon the old men; and then, if not enough, I will call upon the women." When the call was made those sacrificing pilgrims forgot their wrongs, kissed the rod that smote them, and, with one accord, answered their country's call. Ransack the records of history, ancient and modern, and match if you can, this example of patriotism!

Heroine mothers, while their husbands and sons were at the front, defending the country that had driven them into exile, drove their own teams twelve hundred miles over those trackless plains. Hundreds of them had neither wagons nor teams. Handcarts were made, and in them they placed their scanty hoard. Men and women pulled those carts across the desert wastes of America. Could not this destitute and exiled people receive aid? They were offered peace if they would relinquish their religion and all allegiance to their faith. But to relinquish their religion for peace, to them, it was treason. Such an act would have made a mockery of their high profession, which had been written in blood and tears. During that dreary march, hunger, sickness and death followed in their wake. Many times death was a welcome visitor to those weary and foot-sore pilgrims. Many, lying down with their burdens for pillows, never awoke, and tonight rest in unmarked graves.

From the lips of aged veterans. I have been told that when they were exhausted and could go no farther, bare-headed, bare-footed and in their tattered clothing, they knelt upon those trackless plains and implored their Father, my God and your God, for strength. Upon arising their weariness was gone. You may not believe in miracles; but it is true that even, as with the ancient Israelites in the wilderness, the quails came by the thousands to feed those starving pilgrims. My own wife's widowed mother, peace be to her memory, walked and carried her babe from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains. Picture, if you can, that banished people on those plains almost destitute of food and clothing; mothers stripping off their scanty clothing to protect their little ones from the cold winds that swept across the bleak prairies. In their extreme hunger, they were obliged to eat roots and thistles; yea, more, they were forced to cook and eat old rawhides. The history of the sufferings of that people, though often attempted, is yet unwritten.

As the pioneers reached the heights of the Rockies, for the first time they saw their destined home. And as Moses stood on Pisgah's heights and viewed the promised land, so they, from those silent peaks, viewed their asylum of rest. Around them silence and desolation—a desolation of centuries. Rugged mountains with huge spurs decorated with towers and pinnacle, raising their towering summits into the domain of the clouds, rich with the aspiring forms of Gothic type. Far below they saw the blue waters of the Dead Sea of America, glittering in the summer sunlight like a silver shield; and as far as the eye could reach stretched the arid desert, miles on miles of sage-brush and snow-white alkali. Eternal desolation! yet, to them, it was home, and at the sight of it their hearts were glad. They descended into the valley to pitch their tents and rest in peace. There was now no fear of molestation from vandal hordes. How sweet must have been that sleep as upon the earth, parched and seared through untold centuries, they slumbered beneath the friendly skies amidst eternal solitude! Though that country to which they had gone was then under Mexican rule, they unfurled the stars and stripes on Ensign Peak. And, in solemn assembly, they voted to revere the Constitution and its principles as a divinely inspired document. They also decreed that this land should be a home for the oppressed; they forgave all men that had injured them, and lifted an ensign of peace to every nation under heaven.

My friends, I have couched in simple language the pathetic story of the exodus of this people. I have kept back striking events, pitiable sufferings, and terrible wrongs. The words that I should speak burn within me and tremble on my lips. But I shall not utter them. It is enough. I am willing to leave the judgment to future generations. When the clouds of hatred and mistrust which hang like a pall over the genius of that people are dispelled, the history of their living martyrdom will make the heart of the nation ache with pity and remorse.

Ventura, Cal., is considering the purchase of the electric light and waterworks of that city for \$130,000.

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

KEY WEST, Fla., April 3.—Private advices to a prominent Cuban, per steamer Olivette last night, state the Cuban insurgents numbering 1,200 under General Masso, on the 13th ult., met a Spanish convoy of mule teams with provisions and ammunition for the Spanish forces. After a short fight the escort numbering 500 soldiers, surrendered to General Masso. The fight took place at Holquin, near Santiago. The convoy consisted of sixty-nine teams, chiefly laden with provisions.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—There is reason to believe that the British government has given our ambassador, Mr. Bayard, to understand, in response to his representation in the Venezuelan boundary matter, on his suggestion that it be submitted to arbitration, that it must persist in regarding the subject as one in which only Great Britain and Venezuela are concerned.

Of course the idea was set out very diplomatically and courteously, so as to avoid giving offense as far as possible while still making it plain that the United States could not be regarded as having any proper interest in the matter. As it stands the British government still insists upon its absolute title and right to occupy all of the territory to the eastward of the Sobomberg line, while professing a willingness to submit to arbitration its claims to the lands lying west of that line. This was the offer made to Venezuela years ago, and it has not been modified in any respect since, notwithstanding Mr. Bayard's efforts.

The apparent effects of Mr. Bayard's efforts are being watched with intense interest by all the diplomatic interests of the South and Central American countries stationed in Washington. One of these representatives, in speaking on the subject, said a majority of the South American republics were staggering under foreign debts and were unable longer to meet their obligations. The question confronting these countries is whether the United States will stand by and allow the creditor nations to collect these debts by force. Meanwhile, to strengthen their claim for protection upon the United States, there is in progress among the smaller and weaker republics a movement to entangle their interests with our own, so as to make it a matter of deep concern to our people should any European power attack them.

KANSAS CITY, April 4.—A special to the Star from Hennessey, Okla., says a Rock Island train was robbed this morning at Dover.

CHICAGO, April 4.—At the headquarters of the Rock Island road it is said that at 11:50 last night twenty-five west of Dover, train No. 1 was held up by five mounted men who ordered the baggage man to open the door of the baggage car. He refused and the robbers fired twelve shots through the door, wounding the baggage man in the wrist. The robbers then broke open the door with a sledge, but did not get any plunder from the baggage car. They hurriedly proceeded through the smoker and one day coach securing about \$300 from the passengers, six revolvers and a number of watches and rings. A posse