

OUR EXAMPLE TO WESTERN
SETTLERS.

The Cheyenne *Argus*, in a late leading article advocating the cultivation of the soil, draws some comparisons between the work accomplished here with the difficulties which had to be encountered, and the facilities which offer in that region for success in agriculture. It says the only thing needed to make that place one of the richest agricultural districts of the entire inland plains is, a well conducted system of irrigation. The *Argus* says:

"About Salt Lake City the nature of the soil is for agricultural purposes far less favorable in appearance than that hereabouts, and the character of the natural productions of the soil is anything but prepossessing—consisting, in fact, of nothing but weeds and sage brush. Yet, in spite of the originally desert-like appearance of that country, the Mormons set to work with industry and perseverance, and by the judicious management of a stream no larger than Crow Creek, they have made their city one of the agricultural and horticultural wonders of the American Continent."

Cheyenne is called the "magic city." Its growth is perhaps unparalleled in the history of cities. And if such a policy as the *Argus* advocates is followed, its prosperity will be steady and continuous, and not of that fluctuating character which has marked many places of rapid growth on this continent. It has many great advantages. Its location at the foot of the Black Hills, where the rolling stock of the overland railroad will change; its central position with growing States and Territories around; and its proximity to extensive mining regions, place within its reach rare elements of sudden growth and prosperity.

But when the "Mormons" settled this region, they had no advantages of the kind. They could not hope to get rich by selling their surplus produce to miners in adjacent markets, as some silly scribblers have intimated, because there were no adjacent markets, nor any people to make them. There were no miners, for no mines had been "prospected" for or discovered, and no white men thought of inhabiting the present mining regions around what is now called Utah. There was no Pacific railroad talked of, much less in course of construction, for this western country was looked upon as, and named, the Great American Desert. Yet the "Mormons" came here, inexperienced in the soil, the water, the alkali and saleratus which abound here, and irrigation, by which alone crops could be raised. They rooted up the sage-brush, broke the soil, labored and persevered; and show a steadily growing prosperity, which no State or Territory in the nation that depends entirely on mining can show.

We have been prospered greatly; and, strange as it may seem to some, this unfavorable and unprepossessing soil of ours produces more wheat to the acre than the richest alluvial soils of the great grain-raising States east of the Missouri river. As a people we are grateful for our prosperity. We feel encouraged to persevere in industry and good works. And with the example which our career furnishes to the settlers of this entire western country, they need not hesitate as to the wisest policy for them to adopt, to secure great and permanent prosperity.

LINE DOWN.—The line is down east, and consequently there is no news from that source to-day. This morning it was found that there was an interruption between this city and Weber, but the line was put up and communication opened with Bridger. The line was then found down east of that place, and so remained up to our going to press.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

DESTRUCTIVE FLOOD IN SACRAMENTO
VALLEY!TERRIBLE STORM IN THE SIERRA
NEVADA!

Earthquake off Cape Horn!

Virginia City, Nev., 27.

A protracted and severe rain storm has been raging for two weeks over the Sierra Nevada mountains, rendering the roads almost impassable, and washing away a considerable portion of the telegraph lines. At Sacramento City, the river, it is said, is overflowing some twenty feet. The storm has abated at present and mails and telegraph lines are again running. A violent wind and rain storm prevails at San Francisco to-day.

Virginia City, Montana, 28.

Clear and pleasant. Thermometer 28.

Helena, 28.

Thermometer at one p.m. 20 above zero. The weather pleasant. Sleighing good.

Salt Lake City, 27.

Reports from Sacramento Valley indicate as destructive a flood as that of '61 and '62. The whole valley is submerged. Travel is suspended in every direction. Several railroad accidents have been caused by the washing away of the track, and have resulted in loss of life. The American River is higher than it was ever known before. The levees at Sacramento have withstood the flood, and no fears need be hereafter entertained for the safety of the city.

The levees at Marysville were broken away, and the greater part of the city overflowed.

The roads over the Sierra Nevada mountains are rendered impassable for animals. Mail and express matter from Virginia and other places in Nevada, were carried by men on foot. Such a disastrous storm was never heretofore known in the mountains.

The ships Derby and Calabar, which arrived yesterday at San Francisco, report severe shocks of an earthquake off Cape Horn, on Oct. 27th, which lasted 30 hours.

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which are the wards containing nearly all the merchandise in the city—Bishop Woolley and Bishop Hoagland are the stewards over them—I wish them not to pass by the merchant, but let him also bring in proportion to his family for the support of the poor, also the doctors and lawyers in your wards. If they refuse to assist in maintaining the poor, let them be cut off from the Church, and make very little ado about it. Other wards are not as wealthy as these two wards, yet it is also true that these latter have more poor to sustain. I merely wanted to put the brethren and sisters in mind of this to-day. As to how much people should administer on a fast day for the sustenance of the poor, I will say, if you feel pretty close, and as though you have not much to spare, reckon up how much you consume in your families of flour, meat, vegetables, groceries, etc., and carry two-thirds of that day's rations to the Bishop of your ward. If you feel as though you could give a little more, give all the three meals, if you are in the habit of eating three meals a day; if you are not in the habit of eating three times a day, it is no matter, two-thirds as much as you consume in the day devote to the poor, and carry to your Bishop. I would also urge upon the Elders of Israel the necessity of going to fast meeting regularly. If I am unable to attend fast meeting myself, I try to be attentive in giving my substance to feed the poor; and I wish to remind every Bishop, that it is expected of him not to let a single family escape the performance of this important duty, that the poor may be fed and properly cared for.

This people present to the world a most remarkable spectacle. They have been variously educated, and variously impressed, religiously, morally and nationally, gathered together from many nations, yet they have become of one heart and mind, in the great leading principles of morality and religion. I say this to their credit. The Latter-day Saints in their assembled capacity enjoy the liberty and freedom of the sons and daughters of the Almighty. They are left free to choose good or evil according to their pleasure, that the hearts of all may be made manifest, that we may see and understand each other. The Lord brings us into circumstances, in which the very inmost recesses of our hearts, with regard to our moral impressions and character, are exhibited. I expect the Lord looks upon this people with a

great deal of patience; for He is filled with compassion, and He desires very much to see the people sanctified. When the gospel of the Son of God is preached to the world in its purity and power, and men receive it, they are expected at once to cease from all evil, for it inculcates all the highest principles of morality, and strikes at sin in all its phases and degrees. Every son and daughter of Adam, who has received the gospel in honesty and truth, has received it in the Spirit of truth, whose office it is to teach and influence the possessor to love righteousness and hate iniquity. It teaches not to lie, not to take the name of God in vain, not to murder, not to covet that which is not your own, and to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of God blameless. In receiving the gospel in the latter times, through Joseph, the prophet, we have received the revelations contained in the Old and New Testaments, Book of Mormon, and especially to us given in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. In all of these books the observance of the Sabbath day is particularly urged. I know that it is regarded in the scriptures as a day of rest, and that the public services of our religion are considered by many anything but resting the body. As I have on former occasions remarked, if the Latter-day Saints will conclude to use the Jewish Sabbath as a day of rest, and the first day of the week, or the Christian Sabbath, to attend to our religious duties, we will do so. When the Saints assemble themselves together, it should be to purify themselves, and to sanctify the Lord God in their hearts, that they may be fully prepared to inherit His celestial kingdom. When a duty is required of this people by the legal authority of this Church, it is obligatory on them to obey; if they do not, the certain result will be a declension in their faith, and the light of the Spirit in them will, by degrees, become darkness. If we expect to enjoy the fullest and greatest blessings that can be bestowed upon the children of men, we must live for them. If we wish to know more perfectly the mind and will of God, we must live closer to Him, and be more and more faithful in the observance of every duty; not neglecting to meet often together, keeping our fasts before Him, bringing our offerings before the Lord, that the poor may be fed; remembering that, "He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor;" and "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor;" and, "He that giveth to the poor shall not lack; but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse." When the Lord gives a law to His Church or people in any age, He expects all to obey it, and those who live near to Him know that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Our enemies say that this people are oppressed; and it has been supposed that letters were not permitted to be sent out of the country to distant friends without their first being examined by the authorities of the Church. How singular it is that there should be people who believe this. There is no people on the face of this earth who enjoy the same amount of civil and religious liberty that this people enjoy as a civilized community—as a community that is governed by civil and ecclesiastical law. We gather thousands of people from many nations of the old world, and some of them come up here with their eyes full of iniquity; they are looking at everybody but at themselves, managing to see wrong in everybody but in themselves, and they very likely are guilty of ten wrongs where those whom they judge are guilty of one. They will lie a little, swear a little, and steal a little. While I can say before saint and sinner, without fear of contradiction, that this is the best people, as a community, upon the face of the earth, yet there are among them those who have joined the Church solely for the loaves and the fishes. They gather with the Saints for personal advantage; they received the truth because they knew it to be true; but they do not live it, supposing that "gain is godliness." They forget that, "those who will be rich fall into many temptations, and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." This is sure to be the case, unless with the attainment of honest gain, we also increase in the grace and knowledge of God, fighting the good fight of faith, and laying hold on eternal life. These are they who violate the Sabbath day; these are they who pilfer their neighbor's goods; these are they who are greedy for dishonest gain to consume it upon their lusts; these are

they who rob their employer of his substance or of his time, drawing wages which they have not honestly earned; these are they who pick up lost property, concealing and appropriating the same to their own use; these are they who appropriate money and means entrusted to their care, without legal process or contract; these are they who give their means and strength to build up and strengthen unrighteousness and unrighteous persons in preference to the truth and its upholders. Will one-half of this people come under this class? No, thank God, not one-third of them. I am happy in knowing that the great majority of this people have embraced the truth for the love of it; they have not forsaken the living God, but are serving Him with all their hearts; while there are those who stay away from meeting, refuse to give their substance to the poor, and shrink from the performance of every public duty, and I call upon the Bishops to deal with such persons, and ask from them no aid whatever, but leave them alone to get rich if they can.

Public officers among us appropriate public money out of its legitimate channel, without leave or license, under the plea that we are all brethren together—all one family, etc. Were this done in any other part of the world, the offender would be thrown into prison as a felon. Notwithstanding the evil and evil persons among us, the great majority of the Latter-day Saints will be accounted worthy to bear off the Kingdom of God to the nations, build up the Center Stake of Zion and sanctify themselves and be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. It is folly for any person who doeth evil to suppose that he will, by-and-by, be justified. Let not evil-doers thus flatter and deceive themselves, for by transgressing the law and counsel of God, men and women forfeit their rights to the tree of life, and to an inheritance in the Kingdom of God. No person need think that they will get the promised blessings, while they at the same time refuse to live in a way to be worthy of them. The gospel of the Son of God is given expressly, that by living according to its institutions we may obtain power over the evil that is in us, for by it we obtain grace and strength to resist the devil and overcome the sin that is in the world.

Let those who have an ungovernable appetite for spirituous liquor live their religion faithfully, and ask God continually in the name of Jesus for strength to overcome it, and it shall be given them, and the desire for it shall be taken away from them. We have acting bishops who think that they cannot quit using tobacco. Now, I do not particularly urge this upon old men who are approaching the grave, who have used it all their lives; but while they live, it is their duty to teach their children to abstain from the use of it, and to guard them against contracting any other pernicious habit. The gospel is introduced to destroy the power of sin, and to give us the victory over every inordinate appetite which has been created through transgression and given satan power over us; for he operates upon the evil propensities within us, which are contrary to the principles of life and to the principles of the holy gospel which have been introduced expressly to give man power over evil passion, taste and desire, crying to all let him that stole steal no more, etc.; and this gospel has been preached to the greater portion of the civilized world. If we are honest in our labor, we will be justified; if we are honest in our dealings, we will be justified; if we are truthful to each other, we will be justified; and if we are not, we will be condemned. This is for the Latter-day Saints.

Do evil-doers expect they are going to build up the centre Stake of Zion, and be prepared to receive the Son of Man when He comes to His temple? If they thus flatter themselves, they will be disappointed; they will not be numbered with the just. There is no excuse for any man to steal in this community, or to do any other evil. I have seen starving creatures in the old countries pass through the market places, hungry and penniless, but dare not help themselves to a pin's worth. There are no hungry paupers in this country; but the land is full of bread and meat. What would be the case here, if hunger oppressed the people? They would walk into the market and help themselves, and ask no odds of the owner, and go unpunished. Once in a while in this country justice is laid to the line and righteousness to the plummet, and the refuge of lies is swept away. If we wish to be Latter-day Saints, let us be honest, upright and truthful with all