

which makes his reward sure, he has gone to rejoin his brethren—the mighty Brigham, the gentle Joseph, and the others whose names and deeds still live in the hearts of the Saints.

A great family were these Youngs. They came upon the world's stage of action when such men were needed; and in fulfilling the high part allotted to them, they have made a glowing mark upon the page of history which time or traducement will not efface. They have left, moreover, an honored name and have built up in Zion a numerous posterity whose proudest endeavor should be to deserve the place and standing among the Saints won and bequeathed by the loved ones gone before. Peace be to Uncle Loretzo's dust; after life's fitful fever, may his rest be sweet!

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

The death last week of Rev. Samuel F. Smith of Boston, revives a controversy which periodically rages with more or less violence as to the hymn which the deceased preacher wrote and the foreign music to which the words are sung. The poem itself—which is known both by the title of "America" and by that of its first line, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"—can hardly be deemed classic in its obedience to the rules of prosody, but its sentiments are nevertheless noble and exalting; and what it lacks in finish, it makes up in vigor and manliness. It was a happy stroke and made a distinct hit when first sung in Boston on the 4th of July, sixty-three years ago, since which time its simple words and noble thoughts have ever more strongly entrenched it in the hearts of Americans, so that no patriotic gathering is now deemed complete until the "national anthem" has been played to or sung by the assembly.

As stated, the words are the production of Dr. S. F. Smith, a native American, but the music is an adaptation. Critics have deemed it a pity that the national air of this country should also be that of Great Britain, and that the tune which we call "America," our trans-Atlantic cousins call "God Save the Queen." It is true that at the time Dr. Smith's anthem was first sung in Massachusetts, England was singing the same tune to the words "God Save the King,"—Queen Victoria being then only a maiden—though in popularity the tune was at that early time limited in the mother country because it was not widely known. It is probable that the first Americans to sing the anthem did not know that England had adopted it. In any event, however, the fact is that whether or not an English poet got it first, both England and America adopted the music near the same time from the same source—Germany. Many years before, it was known and sung in Prussia and the northern provinces of the present German empire, and it was in the endeavor to translate into our language and revive in our land some of the more popular and fitting of the German folksongs that Dr. Smith became attracted by and attached to the air for which, on the spur of the moment, he wrote his immortal verses.

Historically, therefore, Jonathan is in no sense a plagiarist of John Bull in the matter of his national anthem. If the former did not get his tune quite as early as the latter did, he at least came by it just as honorably, and obtained it from the original possessor, without its passing through English hands. And as to the critics who contend that a thing not strictly original is undeserving of the praise and esteem bestowed upon this beloved composition, they may as well understand that until they shall produce something equally good or better, "America" will be played and sung long after their present tribe and many successors of that ilk will have passed into forgetfulness.

ARE WE OF ISRAEL?

The second edition of this valuable pamphlet by Elder George Reynolds has just been published by Geo. Q. Cannon & Sons company. The admirable treatise on this interesting subject is already well known by the Saints, but the present edition has been carefully revised and augmented with additional information on the subject. It will be read with interest, therefore, even by those who have read the previous edition.

The author states his intention to be to prove that the Latter-day Saints have good reasons, drawn from history and analogy, for believing the words of their Patriarchs who, in blessing them, pronounce them of the house of Abraham and of the promised seed of Jacob, and after having weighed the arguments presented, the impartial reader cannot fail to be impressed with the force of the logic employed in the process of reasoning on the subject. He proves that Israel was from ancient times a maritime people, and accounts for their diffusion among the nations of Europe. He traces the ten tribes to Media and dwells at length upon their present existence in "The land of the north." Then the origin of the Anglo-Saxons is considered and the characteristics of the ancient Scandinavian mythology, literature and people.

From this cursory glance at the pages of Elder Reynolds' pamphlet, *Are we of Israel?* it is evident that he treats of the subject exhaustively and, we may add, in a manner that makes the perusal of it exceedingly profitable as well as a pleasure.

IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE

The NEWS offers two reasons for the publication today of a somewhat rambling communication from Prof. A. A. Mills of Logan as to the State Irrigation Association of Utah, which he antagonizes, and as to the State Agricultural Society, which he champions as its president. One of these reasons is that we have no other feeling than one of sincere friendship for the agricultural society and are ever ready to extend aid to it in the work of benefiting the farmers of our agricultural country. The other is that the wider the circulation of such criticisms as he offers concerning the alleged aims and menaces of the Irrigation association,

the more quickly will the latter be cleared of any suspicion he may create; for it occurs to us that it will take a great deal more than the diatribes or the fears of Prof. Mills to convince this community that robbery and extortion and self-aggrandizement form a part of the program of the men at the head of the irrigation association. Many of them have lived in this Territory almost as long as, and perhaps even longer than, Prof. Mills has lived upon the earth. They have no other interests than are to be found right here, and they have a life record of public spirit and of service to and identity with the best interests of the people that their critics ought not hastily to overlook.

We cannot permit Prof. Mills's aspersions, therefore, to go unchallenged, and yet we are quite willing to help him have his say, since by such advertising the public is more quickly brought to a true understanding of the controversy. Apart from the foregoing considerations, however, we find ourselves forced to differ from Prof. Mills on the general question of his method of operations. We contend that agriculture is more dependent upon irrigation than vice versa; and that agriculturists therefore are or ought to be primarily irrigators or identified with the irrigation association. If they are and shall be, the very fears which Prof. Mills expresses as to corporations acquiring all the water rights, will be dispelled. Yet he appears to us to be determined to place the cart before the horse, and to insist that the tail shall wag the dog.

ONE CAUSE OF MISERY.

After a long experience in the management of institutions for inebriate and insane persons, Dr. Cothers has come to the conclusion that inebriety is the active cause of from 15 to 50 per cent of all cases of insanity; from 30 to 80 per cent of all idiosyncrasy; from 60 to 90 per cent of the pauperism, and from 50 to 85 per cent of all crime. He therefore asks the question, "Who can estimate the relief of the taxpayers by the removal of the perils to both property and life from drunkenness?"

Another medical authority asserts after close observation of numerous cases brought to his notice, that on the individual the effect of vicious alcoholic indulgence is disease of the body. "Sooner or later it must succumb. Disease of the mind is not far off. It may be delirium or insanity."

Autopsies performed by Dr. Forman on bodies in the dead house of the Philadelphia hospital disclosed the fact that in 250 chronic alcoholists nearly 90 per cent had fatty degeneration of the liver, 60 per cent had congestion or a dropical state of the brain; the same number an inflamed or degenerated stomach, while not quite one per cent had normal kidneys.

Facts of this nature ought to be powerful in the cause of temperance, and would undoubtedly be so, if human beings had power enough over their own will to avoid that which is injurious and to select only that which is conducive to health and happiness. But a great many seem to be in bondage under their uncontrollable appe-