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## THE COMET.

BY W. G. MILLS.

Tell me, ye deeply learned sages  
Who've studied nature's mystic pages,  
Like students pore o'er books at college;  
And from her illustrated leaves  
Have gathered truth, like stores of sheaves  
From the exhaustless fields of knowledge:

What is yon lucid stream in space,  
That seems to have no resting place  
Like other lights on high suspended;  
Which fills with rapture those who scan it,  
That dwell on this opacous planet;  
Admired, and yet uncomprehended?

We call it Comet! say what is it  
That pays such unexpected visit,  
Like some transmundane fairy vision?  
What are the laws that make it glow?  
Why does it wander to and fro,  
A grand Incognito on mission?

Is it a sun, that filled his course  
His planets no more own his force  
Have fled from his worn out embraces;  
So spreading out his lustrous train,  
He flies through Nature's vast domain  
To woo them to their wonted places?

Is it a nucleus wand'ring round,  
To seek within the solar bound  
An orbit safely to revolve in;  
And gathering in its gorgeous train  
Will strive an honest 'crust' to gain,  
No more in vacuum to dissolve in?

Is it a world where beings dwell,  
Who hopes, and joys, and fears have felt  
In mortal and in brief probation;  
Its latent heat to fire ignited,  
It now appears in splendor lighted,  
To purify for exaltation?

Is it a locomotive car  
That travels to yon worlds afar  
With spirits saved for realms of glory?  
Or news from various orbs conveys,  
That gains from nobler beings praise,  
Or censure as they hear the story?

Or, is it an electric spark  
That lightens the ethereal dark,  
On telegraphic cable carried;  
To bring the news from sphere to sphere,  
It celebrates the cable here;  
And that the New and Old world's married?

Has it a Franklin, or a Morse,  
To make it in its wand'ring course  
Its principles to science yield?  
Or, has it at its destination,  
To extend it farther through creation,  
An indefatigable Field?

Is it a scavenger in space  
That gathers up from place to place  
The particles of light astraying?  
Or, does it cleanse the solar way  
To pour on us a purer ray  
Where sunbeams 'kick a dust' in playing?

But, oh, Lord save us! can ye tell,  
Is it a place the priests call hell—  
A lake of fire for ever burning?  
Where unrepentant sinners go  
To gnash their teeth in endless woe,  
From whence they say there's no returning!

Time was—but thanks to noble science,  
We bid such foolish dread defiance—  
It seemed an omen fraught with fear;—  
A king felt death by it was nigh;  
But what was he poor butterfly,  
To claim such glorious messenger?

A poor man's death should rather gain  
A kindly warning; grief and pain  
And poverty to him were given;  
His dear ones feel the pang more great  
Than those who mourn their monarch's fate;  
And 'tis as precious, too, to Heaven!

Strange that the human mind should feel  
Evil forebodings o'er it steal  
When new phenomena are viewed!  
Why not believe, He who controls  
The whole creation as it rolls,  
Has made them harbingers of good?

'Tis science mute! she who can gaze  
Throughout illimitable space,  
'And nature's mystic laws unravel?  
She'll triumph yet! E'en now can prove  
Size, distance, orbits where they move,  
And the velocity they travel.

Illustrations! Thou art like a God  
Who visits His vast realms afar,  
Whose chariot is a world of light;  
Thy train is more magnificent,  
Firing the studded firmament,  
Than e'er shone on our mortal sight!

I hail the halo of thy beams,  
That like a heavenly vision seems,  
With all a mortal's welcoming!

A visitant of secret worth,  
That makes a creature of the earth  
Feel but a peevish, darkened thing.

O glorious Comet, world, or star,  
Whate'er thy state and mission are,  
Thou fill'st the soul with joy serene;  
I own thy purpose is divine,  
And praise the Hand that makes thee shine,  
Whose goodness through His works is seen!  
G. S. L. CITY, Oct. 1858.

## THIRD ANNUAL ADDRESS

Of the President of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—

I feel much honored to address you on this occasion, being the Third Annual Territorial Fair. I can with propriety say that we have progressed beyond my expectation in agricultural, manufacturing and stock raising, although laboring under many disadvantages that other Territories do not, in consequence of our isolated situation, and specially those of this year.

The nature of our soils is singular and interesting. They are supported by salt and saleratus, and have produced good crops every year from 7 to 10 years, without any manure, and the last year's is equal to, or better than the first. Our saleratus swamps when we first located this place were counted useless, but by cultivation, draining, plowing and exposing to frosts and rains, the salt has been washed away, or evaporated, and they have become the most productive, raising from 60 to 80 bushels per acre. In 1847 this country appeared to be a barren, parched waste, unoccupied, nor even thought worth cultivating, and now supports fifty or sixty thousands. Our lands can be occupied to the best advantage in raising wheat, barley, oats and roots. The root culture is particularly recommended for the use of cattle, sheep and milch cows. This season, President Young's land has produced largely, with but little labor. When Flax and Hemp were first raised in this place, the lint was so poor we were almost discouraged, but I am happy to state that the quality this year cannot be excelled in any place, and the crop is larger than all our produce collectively before. Cotton has been produced in the southern part of this Territory, and will we hope, when acclimated, and the ground thoroughly prepared, produce abundantly. Our efforts in raising sugar cane have been successful, and I feel confident that we will soon be able to supply ourselves plentifully with sugar and molasses.

Our specimens of native and other dyestuffs grown here are good, and with proper attention will be invaluable, to which I hope the notice of farmers and others will be turned. Our country is well supplied with minerals for dyeing and bleaching, viz:—alum, copperas and sulphur.

Tobacco has been cultivated successfully on a smaller scale, showing qualities of the best growth. Attention should be paid to the growth of this plant, to prevent an outlay, in the best pay, of some of some \$75,000 a year.

I was interested to perceive the Tea plant produced in this place, and no doubt, we may yet produce a fine article to supply a portion of the large demand for that useful beverage.

Our show of stock was excellent, and together with cattle could not be surpassed in the Union. Much pains and expense have been bestowed to select and import the finest quality of Devonshire and Durham cattle, and those exhibited were of prime breed and order. The Horses were especially fine; and I perceive that much improvement has been made by mixing the breeds. The health and durability of horses in this place are most remarkable; they will perform more service and endure more hardship than any I have seen or read of, which I attribute to the climate, and fine mountain grass which is much used here; and to the care in selecting good breeds within the last three years. Our sheep, though not numerous at the Fair, were excellent: the Saxony, Southdown and Cheviot were in good condition and of good size, and I am happy to state from good information, that they have been raised in double the number this year, which augurs well for our prosperity. Our country is well adapted for wool growing.

Great improvement of late has been attained in hogs, as was seen by the numbers brought in. From my experience, I can add, that we can reap great advantages by crossing the breed of stock; they will require no more feed; the weight of cattle, sheep and hogs will be increased; and recommending this to be carefully attended to, I know the raisers will be much stimulated, and well paid for their trouble.

The show of vegetables was highly creditable, notwithstanding proper attention could not be given to their culture, in consequence of our recent movements. I was much pleased to see the fine samples. I may say for information and encouragement that several kinds of vegetables and roots were purchased by stranger visitors, who do so to take them to their friends in the States.

Great encouragement is given to us by the U. S. Pomological Society, as I perceive by a letter which I have received from from Marshal P. Wilder, Esqr., President of the U. S. Agricultural and Pomological Society. We had visitors from every State in the Union, who examined and tasted our varieties of fruit, and pronounced them equal to anything they ever saw.

Home manufactures were generally good, and displayed talent of high order. We would recommend in the strongest terms the encouragement of our artists as a great medium to accomplish the results for which our society is laboring. The expense of transportation will ever be a protecting tariff to the manufacturer, which will enable him, if encouraged, to compete with importations. Cloths were unexceptionable; the texture and coloring fine and attractive. Many pieces were highly suitable for this Territory. I would like to have this article entered into largely by men of capital, and I think that the increase of sheep will soon enable this branch of business to occupy the time and talents of enterprising manufacturers. The articles of cutlery were choice and numerous, and show what, with a little enterprise, can be accomplished. Finely cut and wrought nails of various kinds were in abundance. Guns, revolvers and other fine pieces of mechanism attracted the attention of all interested, and showed that mechanics and machinery here will yet accomplish wonders.

The show of Leather was not so large as hitherto, but was of excellent quality, and bears a competition with imported material and price. We say the tanners have done well, and hope they will accomplish more in that useful branch.

The ladies' work apartment appeared choice and tasteful, and showed that they love industrious habits, and produce articles both useful and ornamental. Some of the shawls, cloaks, quilts, needlework, &c., &c., could not be surpassed, and reflect credit on their perseverance amid the many domestic duties which are their lots to perform.

Throughout the whole, I am pleased with the productions and the spirited manner in which the things were competed. I could not have expected that under our peculiar circumstances it would have been so good, and look forward with pleasure to our next for a hearty response to our efforts.

To the Awarding Committees who have acted in the spirit of their appointments in behalf of the Board of Directors, I tender my acknowledgements.

Our especial thanks are due to President Young for the accommodation bestowed us in giving us the grounds, yards and buildings, and the readiness with which he assisted for our arrangements.

I give my warmest thanks to my colleagues, the Board of Directors, and officers, for their hearty co-operation in furthering the interests of the Institution, and agitating the subject so zealously throughout the Territory, and I pray that the Creator of all things, and Dispenser of all good, whose power we feel, and hand we acknowledge over us may bless our efforts; and enable us to see every power of man developed, every gift in nature used, every blessing realized which are calculated to make us happy, virtuous, and comfortable.

EDWARD HUNTER.

[From the Weekly Day Book, Oct. 2.]

**LOSS OF THE STEAMER AUSTRIA,**  
Burned at Sea, September 13th, in lat. 45° 01', long. 41° 30'. Only 68 persons saved out of nearly 600.

Immediately on the arrival of the Lotus at Halifax, the agent of the Associated Press boarded her and obtained the following particulars of the disaster to the Austria:—

MR. CHARLES BREWS' NARRATIVE.

I took passage at Southampton on the 4th inst. in the steamship Austria, Capt. Heydtmann, which left Hamburg on the 2d. We sailed at five p.m., the evening being a little misty; we in consequence anchored between the Isle of Wight and the main land; sailed again at four o'clock on the following morning. In weighing anchor an unfortunate accident occurred, by which one of the crew lost his life. Owing to some mismanagement the anchor ran out, whirling the capstan round with terrific force and hurling the men in all directions. Two were severely injured, and one thrown overboard; he is supposed to have been instantly killed, as he never rose to the surface.

From the time the ship was laid on her course we experienced strong westerly winds. On the 12th the weather was more favorable, and on the 13th a speed of eleven knots had been attained, and all were in high hopes of reaching New York by the 18th. At a little after 2 o'clock p.m. I was on the quarter-deck. I saw a dense volume of smoke burst from the after entrance of the steerage. Some women ran aft, exclaiming, "The ship is on fire! what will become of us?" The ship was instantly

put at half speed, at which she continued until the magazine exploded, from which I infer the engineers were instantly suffocated. I only walked from where I was on the quarter-deck to the waist of the ship, when I saw the flames breaking through the lights amidships. As the ship was head to the wind, the fire travelled with fearful rapidity.

I then went to the man at the wheel, and told him to put the vessel with her side to the wind. He hesitated—probably did not understand me, as he was a native of Hamburg. I then got a German gentleman to speak to him. At this time I saw some persons letting down the boat on the port side of the quarter deck. What became of the boat I don't know, but think she was crushed under the screw. I then went to let a boat over from the starboard side of the quarter deck, but the moment we laid our hands on the ropes, there were so many people who crowded into it that we could not lift it off the blocks. We therefore left it for a few minutes until the people got out, when we returned and launched it over the side of the ship, when, the people all rushing into it again, it descended with great violence into the water and was instantly swamped, all the people being washed out excepting three, who held on to the sides. We then let down a rope and pulled up one person, who proved to be the steward. Another, in the act of being hauled up, was strangled by the rope.

The fire now came on too fiercely to attempt to get up any more from the swamped boat. All the first cabin passengers were on the poop, with the exception of a few gentlemen, who must have been smothered in the smoking room. Many of the second cabin passengers were also on the poop, but a number of them got shut into their cabin by the fire. Some of them were pulled up through the ventilator, but the greater number could not be extricated. The last woman who was drawn up said there were six already suffocated. We now perceived that the ship had got her head to the wind again, so that the flames came over the quarter deck.

In consequence of the crowd, I could not get to the wheel house to ascertain the reason, but I was informed that the helmsman had deserted his post, and that the vessel, being left to herself, headed to the wind of her own accord. At this time the scene on the quarter deck was indescribable and truly heart-rending. Passengers were rushing frantically to and fro—husbands seeking their wives, wives in search of their husbands, relatives looking after relatives, mothers lamenting the loss of their children, some wholly paralyzed by fear, others madly crying to be saved; but a few perfectly calm and collected. The flames pressed so closely upon them that many jumped into the sea; relatives, clasped in each other's arms, leaped over and met a watery grave; two girls, supposed to be sisters, jumped over and sank kissing each other. A missionary and wife leaped into the sea together, and the stewardess and assistant steward, arm in arm, followed. One Hungarian gentleman, with seven fine children, four of them girls, made his wife jump in, then blessed his six eldest children, made them jump in one after the other, and followed them with an infant in his own arms.

I, about this time, was standing outside the bulwarks, holding on by the davits, leaning out to avoid the flames, which were leaping towards me. I saw a swamped boat under me, spinning by a rope still attached to the ship; as the oars were tied in her, I thought if I could get to her I would be enabled to save myself and others. I let myself down by a rope, passing over a man who was clinging to it, but who refused to come with me. I took out a penknife to cut the tackle; the large blade broke, and I then severed it with the small blade. The ship passed ahead. As the screw approached I found the boat drawn towards it. I tried to keep the boat off, but the screw caught and capsized her over me. I dived away from the ship and came to the surface near a boat which was keel upward; I got on her, and by pressing on one side, with the assistance of a wave she righted, but was still swamped. The oars had been knocked out by the screw; the only thing I could find in her to paddle with was some laths nailed together as a sheathing for the sides.

When I looked around, the ship was a quarter of a mile away from me. I could see the ladies and gentlemen jumping off the poop into the water in twos and threes, some of the ladies in flames. Several hesitated to leap from the burning ship until the last moment, as the height was twenty-two feet, and were only at length compelled to throw themselves off to avoid a more painful death. In half an hour not a soul was to be seen on the poop. I pulled after the ship and picked up a German who was swimming strongly; I got him beside me on the boat, and we paddled after the ship with the lath. I now saw a vessel under sail approaching; she reached the steamer about 5 p.m.; we continued pulling towards them, and about half-past seven o'clock, after being five hours in the water, got within hail of the sailing vessel, which put off a boat and took us on board. She proved to be the French bark