

probably an attendant furnished by each state to give the information of changes so fast as they occur.

He added:

I would hope, if such a map were established, that there might be some margin left to the north and to the south where extensions of the map might occur. I would hope that the patriotic scientists of this commission, if they finally decide to recommend to Congress, and if the idea should be carried out under their direction, would leave a little space off to the far southeast corner, from which might rise some time in the dear sisterhood of republics, if not in that dearer sisterhood of states, crucified Cuba. When the wound in her side shall be healed, perhaps some time her sacrificial ruby flow will mingle with the sacred scarlet of our own flag.

Concerning the origin of the idea Senator Cannon gave the following information to a reporter of the Evening Star:

I came to Washington seven years ago filled with the idea, bringing plans and statistics, and had the honor of presenting the subject to that great American, James G. Blaine, and to other prominent men in public life. Without exception they approved the project. At that time I had hope that the Potomac flats might be selected as being most favorable for the purpose. This tract is contiguous to the heart of Washington. It is a part of the most splendid capital reservation in the world. Its historic surroundings would add to attractiveness. But the hour was not opportune for a presentation of the matter before Congress. Besides, the Potomac flats were already appropriated, in anticipation, for the world's exposition of the three Americas. Later, in 1890, I was induced by leading friends in both houses to lay the subject before prominent men in Chicago, after that city had been selected as the site for the great fair. Such gentlemen as William Penn Nixon, Lyman J. Gage, Ferd W. Peck and Carter Harrison gave the most cordial recognition to the project. The Inter-Ocean published a full description, and remarked editorially that the carrying out of such a stupendous plan at Chicago, as an adjunct to the World's Fair, would furnish a distinct attraction, unique, patriotic and many times more valuable than the Biffel tower. Through the unfortunate delays which occurred before final selection of the ground upon which to locate the fair, so much time was consumed that the proposition for our country in miniature could not be executed properly. It lapsed at Chicago, not entirely to my regret, as this matter belongs properly to the government. After waiting some years, I presented the subject to Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard, president of the National Geographic society. He gave to it generous and approving consideration, and when the opportunity came for a presentation of the subject to Congress, I asked for the appointment of a commission to weigh the questions involved.

The areas of the various states and territories are calculated as follows:

Alabama, 5; Arizona, 11; Arkansas, 5; California, 16; Colorado, 10; Connecticut, 0.5; Delaware, 0.2; Florida, 6; Georgia, 6; Idaho, 8; Illinois, 6; Indiana, 4; Indian Territory, 3; Kansas, 8; Louisiana, 5; Maine, 3; Maryland, 1; Massachusetts, 1; Michigan, 6; Minnesota, 8; Mississippi, 5; Missouri, 7; Montana, 15; Nebraska, 8; Nevada, 11; New Hampshire, 1; New Jersey, 1; New Mexico, 12; New York, 5; North Carolina, 5; North Dakota, 7; Ohio, 4; Oklahoma, 4; Oregon, 10; Pennsylvania, 5; Rhode Island, 0.1; South

Carolina, 3; South Dakota, 8; Tennessee, 4; Texas, 27; Utah, 8; Vermont, 1; Virginia, 4; Washington, 7; West Virginia, 2; Wisconsin, 6; Wyoming, 10.

This gives the United States 300; Mexico, 75; Central America, 17; Gulf of Mexico, 60; Great Lakes, 9; Cuba, 4; a total of 465.

The project contemplates a drive-way around the boundary of the United States, Mexico, and Central America, with footpaths for the state boundary lines.

If the map should be so constructed that the vertical scale corresponds with the horizontal scale, the highest elevations on the map, such as Pike's Peak, would be about six feet above the sea level. But it is said to be customary to make the elevations higher, in which case a mountain of the height of that mentioned would be made perhaps eighteen feet.

The matter now being brought before Congress and the public in general, it is to be presumed that it will be carried through. The location suggested on the Potomac is said to be remarkably well suited for the purpose. Such a map would be one of the great attractions of the national capital, and all who have closely studied the matter seem to be in favor of a speedy realization of the project.

SIDNEY RIGDON.

SPRINGVILLE, Utah Co.,
May 24, 1896.

To the Editor:

Will you please answer through the News if Sidney Rigdon was ever rebaptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? It has been so stated. If so, I would like to know it. I have not seen anything of it in Church history, and have read most of the early history of the Church.

B. T. BLANCHARD.

We have no knowledge that he ever rejoined the Church. Those who state that he did must have confused him with some one of the early leading men of the Church who fell away and later returned, which Mr. Rigdon did not do.

CHURCH AND POLITICIANS.

There are some people who yet display a choleric condition over the recent address issued by the Church authorities to the Latter-day Saints. As we have recognized all along, this is not because of any real reason for finding fault with the document or the ideas contained therein, but has its inception in an overweening desire to say things derogatory to the Church and its leading men, with a view to retarding or injuring the work in which they are engaged. The Latter-day Saints readily recognize the source of inspiration of these assaults upon them—the antagonism has been going on all the time since the Lord restored His Gospel to the earth, the only change being in the form of attack, never in the motive thereof.

Sometimes the night of excitement caused by extreme and sensational utterances makes it advisable to defer for a time the consideration of certain items, so that the calmer judgment of the people can be applied thereto; and

in the case of the address named, Church members who may have been somewhat affected by the intemperate expressions of those who pretended friendship but who actually entertained another sentiment toward the Church, now have had time to deliberate over events and estimate them at their proper weight. Hence it is that the temporary excitement caused in certain quarters has given way to an entirely different feeling. Of course the great bulk of Church members were calm and confident throughout, those chiefly affected being the comparative few who for some reason were not so closely in touch with the genius of the work as thinking, earnest, working members usually are. Even non-members who took a logical view of the situation recognized that there was no occasion for the disturbance sought to be raised by a small but noisy contingent of politicians, for ulterior purposes.

That the incentive for the bitterly adverse criticism and misrepresentation of the address referred to was to injure the Church, there is no doubt among those who have watched carefully the whole business. It is in line with all the efforts of that nature that had taken place theretofore. That it has failed like its predecessors is also true; and that those who were inadvertently caught in the trap feel that the lesson will make them wiser in the future can be testified to by a large proportion of those who got into the unfortunate position. Perhaps next time there is an attempt made to condemn the Church when it is attending to its own affairs the last named class will be on the safer side.

There is absolutely nothing in the address that affected anything but Church business or that concerned anybody but a member of the Church. It is true that all of its members were concerned, for what affects directly a part of those members reaches to all in a greater or less degree; and if any member felt aggrieved by the Church's action and chose to separate himself from the organization, the door to pass out is wide open—nobody compels him to remain inside. But the Church does insist upon its rights with its members individually and collectively, and will continue to do so. If any of those members, either in business, politics, or society interfere with the Church, the latter is in duty bound to maintain its rights to the extent of dealing with the official position or the fellowship of any member, and it is not the business of others to interfere—none but members will do so.

In the events of recent date here, there is no question but that certain classes of politicians have sought to run the affairs of the Church. It makes no difference whether they were members or not; their effort was not on the lines of Church membership, but as politicians, to gain their own ends. They demanded that the Church do this, that and the other thing as a Church—which no politician has a right to do, since freedom of action in religious matters is guaranteed the Church; they berated leading Church officials for exercising purely ecclesiastical functions, and because those Church officials did not accede to the wrongful