

himself and offered himself and soon we were fixed up and we had it our way. These Arabs are terrors to deal with. They have no scruples, no honor. Usually it is customary to make them give a sum of money as security but we did not take it, he plead honesty, besides being recommended, but we found we needed it right enough.

Our first day out we crossed the east end of the plain of Yezreel, near the city of Yezreel, where King Ahab lived. This place is now reduced to a poor village called Zerlin. The plain of Yezreel is a beautiful, rich valley, very fertile and a desirable place to look at, but at present it is not fit to build on as it is not healthy. The villagers live off in the highlands. It may, however, be fixed up later on with proper drainage and trees and be made as fine a place as one could wish for.

The second day took us out of the possessions of Issachar into the mountains where we crossed a narrow strip of land allotted to Manasseh, then into Ephraim's fertile mountains. At once two of our party who are real Egyptians felt themselves quite at home. And well they might, for turning whichever way you wished the hills from top to bottom were terraced off and showed that at one time they had been highly cultivated and sustained a large population. It was evident that much of the terrace work was very ancient, probably reaching back as far as the days of the house of Israel.

Often the prophets of God told the children of Israel that their land should be cursed and laid waste for their sake if they kept not His commandments. This was verily fulfilled, the sight was before our eyes. But we also remembered that God has said through His prophet, Hosea, who plainly foretold them their fall, that "I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his root as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: The scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I, I am like a green fir tree, from me is the fruit found." Jeremiah also speaks of the return of Ephraim to his possessions and how the land shall be blessed with wheat and with oil and with wine. We saw that if this land could be owned by an industrious and progressive people a generation would make a very great difference here. The work of generations is still in existence; all it needs is repair and to be planted with trees and cultivated properly. We saw before us a fruitful land, a blessed country. We saw a land that once the Saints of God would possess, when God in His wisdom would fulfill all His words. We saw that Ephraim's inheritance is not only in America but that he has a choice little country here. Our daily prayer is that God may open a way whereby His Israel may possess those promised land.

The hills are best on the north or shady side, the south side is also cultivated but more stony. The valleys are generally narrow and but little land for grain. But the hills are fine and even now a good many oil of olive trees are growing in places. Olive trees are very slow growing, twenty years are required before they do much to count on. But when once started they are very long lived.

But when we say fine hills they are after all out of the conception of most of Utah people not otherwise acquainted with this country. Many of the hills or mountains are great heaps of rocks and cliffs, among which a little earth may be found in which the husbandman plants his vines and trees, some of course more, some less.

Coming into the north of Samaria the country looks more forbidden. Nearer Jerusalem we come in upon Benjamin's Rocky mountains; they look much worse. Hundreds of acres of volcanic rock thrown up in great fields, with a little earth in between, more than half of the surface being covered by these cliffy boulders covering often both hill and bottom. O how uninviting this country did look. Yet, of course, even here something would grow in between the rocks when cultivated. The fellahs utilize every available piece of land no matter how hard or how unlikely it looked. Samaria is a heap of ruins. Nothing is left of her former glory. A few lone columns are standing in a (swale) on the north side of the hill where the city stood. Everything points to the fact that the city was once a beautiful place. The location is fine and imposing among the hills. Now the Arabs sow grain in its terraces and even among the few columns yet standing where halls and theaters and court buildings once stood, the Arabs have found it profitable to sow grain, so completely are the ruins crumbled and covered up.

At Nablous, the most uncivilized town of Palestine, we stayed with the Catholics who treated us very well for a handsome buckshish. The next morning we called at Jacob's well, where Jesus preached to the Samaritan woman. We drank of the well and found it good water. The Greeks have control here and these wise monks know just where Jesus sat and where the woman stood, they will probably soon know how old she was, how she was dressed and the size of her jug.

A great deal of humbug is told, and visitors are stuffed with all sorts of tales, but this much has caused us to rejoice. We are on the land God promised to the House of Israel. We are here where the Son of God and many Prophets and Prophetesses have lived and done great wonders. And when we contemplate that deliverance for the barren waste is at hand and that God is about to gather a second time His chosen people to this promised land, and that we have a mission looking toward the immediate fulfillment in the near future (i. e., in this generation) of these promises, when one of the Stakes of Zion will be planted here, our hearts have swelled with joy and thankfulness to God for His goodness.

F. F. HINTZE.

### MISTAKES OF AN ORCHARDIST.

Moab, Grand Co., June 1, 1898.

In looking over my orchard I was thinking of the mistakes I have made and if they were made public it would save others from repeating them. I am writing for places where trees grow thrifty as they do here in Moab. In the first place I set my tree too close together. They are 32 feet apart and should have been 40. Another mistake: I set the trees in line each way, but they should have been set the second row 20 feet from where the first row commenced so trees will not be opposite each other. The next mistake: I set out a lot of poplars. If I should go on another new place I would not set out a poplar tree. Set out walnuts or some durable tree. The next mistake: I set out a vineyard. All the grapes a person needs is what he needs for his family, and what he can market. Another mistake is having so much to do. I am not able to do work when it should be done. A great deal of labor can be saved by going through the orchard in time and pulling off the sprouts that have started where they are not needed. Another mistake: Al-

lowing trees to bear too much fruit at a time.

I find by close observation that it takes more to produce the seed of the fruit. I have taken off as much as two-thirds of the fruit and then would have nearly as much if not quite as much and a great deal nicer. Now if you let an apple tree overbear it will have off years, that is, there will be years when it will not bear any fruit; but if a tree is properly thinned, the tree will bear fruit every year if weather is favorable. If you will take a good glass and look at a fully developed apple you will see that there are globes with a thin skin around each particular one. There is the same number in a small undeveloped apple that there is in a large one, and the same amount of pulp in the small apple as in the large one. There is the same difference between the fruits as there is between poor meat and fat meat.

I will tell of another grand mistake: Going into debt. If I had the interest I have paid I would be so well off that I would not have to work any more. It is not the interest alone that does the mischief, a man who is in debt is not his own master; he is a slave for others. He is not free to go and come as he pleases.

Fruit crop here are as follows: Apples, 75 cents per cwt.; peaches, \$1; plums, 80 cents; small fruits, \$1; pears, \$1. As Grand Junction, Col., has lost its peach crop, we will be able to market ours this year. Last year our peach crop did not pay anything; some shipments did not bring enough to pay for the boxes. I shipped a car to Chicago. I got \$16.75 returns, not enough to pay for the hauling of of one wagon load to the railroad.

O. W. WARNER.

### SOUTH COLORADO CONFERENCE.

Pueblo, Colorado, May 12, 1898.

The Pueblo branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized Jan. 22, 1897, by Elder John W. Taylor, of the Council of the Twelve, with Brother John I. Hart as president, and an enrollment of twenty-five members.

Our branch has been organized something more than a year, and our statistics show an increase of thirty members.

The Saints at the organization of the branch had the law of tithing clearly laid before them, and since that time have observed very closely all instructions, paying each month a tenth part of their earnings.

We are being blessed abundantly of the Lord, and our branch is now in a prosperous and flourishing condition, with all members working diligently for the furtherance of the cause of Christ.

Last Tuesday morning, May 10, in company with many friends, we were escorted to a secluded spot on the banks of the Arkansas river, and here I was given the pleasure in the clear waters, of officiating in the sacred ordinance of baptism, making an addition of seven souls to our little branch.

I think we have a bright and encouraging future before us.

Respectfully,

LOCHLIN J. SMITH.

The Utah batteries at San Francisco are ready to move within an hour's notice, says Captain Young. It is likely they will sail in a few days. Battery A, it is believed, will go intact on one vessel, while battery B will undoubtedly be divided and sail on the Zealandia and China.