

worse, the starved oblivion to which its foes would consign it. This is Utah's opportunity to resent the slanderous declaration that her people delight in ignorance; to show to all the world that she can and will place within the reach of her children all the knowledge at the command of man! The existing necessity is a glorious chance for self-vindication.

### THE LAST OF A GENERATION.

The *Saturday Evening Post*, of Burlington, Iowa, makes pleasant mention in its issue of March 10, of Catherine, the only surviving sister of the Prophet Joseph and Patriarch Hyrum Smith—the last, indeed, to remain in mortality of the ten children—seven sons and three daughters—of Joseph and Lucy Smith. The Latter-day Saints in Utah and elsewhere will be pleased to hear what the *Post* has to say of the martyrs' remaining sister:

Mrs. Catherine Salisbury and son Frederick, of Fountain Green, Ill., were in the city Saturday and Sunday in attendance at the district conference of the reorganized church of Latter-day Saints, they being while here the guest of Mr. and Mrs. George Essig, on Angular street. Mrs. Salisbury is now in her eighty-first year and is hale and hearty for one of her age. She is the only surviving sister of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, of Nauvoo, she now being the last member of her father's family, her brother William B. having died this winter at his home in Osterdick, Iowa. Mrs. Salisbury's memory is good and she is an interesting and willing conversationalist, especially on matters connected with her father's family and the Church and work that has made their name famous. Mrs. Salisbury has lived to see the rise and spread of the Church that her brother founded. She was a member of her father's family when Joseph Smith was translating the Book of Mormon. She speaks of him as being an intelligent, honest and upright man. She is now and always has been a firm believer in the mission of her brother, and because of this belief she and her family have suffered much from the hands of fanatic men. When the Church was driven from Hancock county, Illinois, Mrs. Salisbury with her family and a few others remained, and by a straightforward, upright life has made for herself and the Church many friends.

### ANOTHER POLAR EXPEDITION.

The present year will witness one of the most unique competitions ever held on earth—a veritable race for the north pole. Nansen, if still alive, must by this time have found his way far into the ice belt that separates the navigable water from the unknown regions beyond. Peary is somewhere on the west coast of Greenland, endeavoring to find a road to the pole, and now Mr. Walter Wellman is organizing an expedition for the purpose of exploring the Arctic regions and planting the Stars and Stripes where it has never waved before.

Mr. Wellman does not claim the distinction already earned by Nansen and Peary, but he is a typical American newspaper man, probably the first one to conceive the idea of interviewing the rough monarchs of the ice and surveying their dominions, and there

is no known reason why he should not in this undertaking achieve fame equal to that of Mr. Stanley in Africa. The word impossible is practically unknown to the right kind of an American newspaper man.

Mr. Wellman's plan is simple and therefore all the more feasible. He proposes to start from Tromsø in Norway next May, well equipped for a journey over the ice. Somewhere on Spitzbergen he will deposit a sufficient supply of food, fuel, etc., for possible emergencies. From this place his steamer will take him to the edge of the pack ice, where he with his party will "land" and continue the journey northward. He calculates that in three months he will be able to reach the pole and return, thus having the benefit of the perpetual light and heat of the sun nearly all the time, and by means of the steamer, which is to make regular trips to Tromsø, the public will be kept posted as to his whereabouts and doings in the polar regions.

It is not strange that there should be a general desire to unveil the secrets of those high latitudes. There are scientific problems that can be solved only by actual observations, besides the desirable addition to our geographical knowledge concerning a part of the earth almost as large as Europe and hitherto entirely unknown. And the desire is intensified by the dangers to be encountered no less than by the wonderful reports of previous explorers. It is almost certain that this unknown part of our globe is not entirely a wilderness of snow and ice. Parry found that the ice was broken up in floes at the highest point he reached and the fall of rain was an evidence of the mildness of the temperature at that point. And Kane in 1854 saw an open sea as far as the eye could reach while a gale from the northeast, blowing for several hours, failed to bring any drift of ice. Later reports on this subject are somewhat contradictory, showing probably that those high regions are subject to changes, some winters being longer and more severe than others, just as is the case in all parts of the earth.

Probably Mr. Wellman has counted all the difficulties connected with his proposed summer outing, including heavy gales, dense fogs and white bears, and certainly the good wishes of the public will follow him in his undertaking.

### A REMARKABLE PREDICTION.

In a letter to the *NEWS* a few days ago, reference was made to a verse in the 37th chapter of the prophetic writings of Ezekiel, a passage very familiar to the Saints, and the correspondent dwelt on the necessity of the additional testimony for Christ furnished by the Book of Mormon, "the stick of Joseph which is in the hands of Ephraim," in this time of general religious confusion and indifference.

To the Saints the prophecy of Ezekiel seems so clear that it is a matter of wonder that Bible readers in general fail to see its true meaning. The Prophet is commanded to take two books and inscribe upon one, "For Judah and for the children of Israel his companions;" and upon the other, "For Joseph, the stick of

Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions." These two books were to be joined together and become one.

This symbolical act is explained by the Lord to mean that He at some future time would take the records of Joseph as found in the possession of Ephraim and unite them with the records of Judah. This union of records was to precede, we are further told, the gathering of Israel "from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and," says the Lord, "I will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land." This conveys in the clearest terms the promise that two sets of sacred writings would at some time be given to the descendants of Israel, and that the union of the two in the hands of the Almighty would be followed by the gathering of the scattered people.

Commentators are inclined to the belief that this was partly accomplished at the time of the return of the Jews from Babylon. But they also admit that events in the last days must have been referred to, because there are predictions which were not fulfilled at that time. The gathering foretold is one, after which there will be no more transgression, and it will result in the foundation of a kingdom over which "David, my servant," shall rule, and they shall dwell in the country for ever, enjoying the presence of the Temple and tabernacle of God for evermore. These things have clearly not yet been accomplished. The return from Babylon, as all the world knows, did not result in the establishment of an everlasting kingdom under a representative of the house of David; nor were the people for evermore keeping the commandments of God and permitted to dwell in their land in peace with the Temple of God in their midst. Hence, clearly, the prophecy of Ezekiel must be concerning a gathering and union yet to come. All honest commentators agree on this.

But cannot the second volume of sacred writings refer to the books of the New Testament which were added to the more ancient collection? A few observations will answer that question. This book is the record of Joseph preserved by the tribe of Ephraim. It is referred to as extant already at the time of Ezekiel and yet separate from the records of Judah. It is plain enough that the writings of the New Testament are in no sense of the word the "stick of Joseph." They are not the records of Israel, nor are they, nor ever were they, in possession of Ephraim any more than of any other of the twelve tribes. They are the records of the early Church of Christ designated for the benefit of mankind and not for a particular people or part of a people. And their publication did not inaugurate the gathering of Israel from all parts of the world. On the contrary they were written, some before and some shortly after the scattering of the covenant people to the ends of the earth. For these reasons it is plain that the prediction of Ezekiel must be applied to some other sacred records other than the New Testament.

The Book of Mormon alone corresponds to the volume symbolized by the "stick of Joseph" in the hand of