

on the sea coast, as the Arabs do but little for their own benefit. Oranges are the winter fruit of the country.

The climate in the summer is hot and dry. After the later rains in March no rain is expected until about October, when the early rains begin to fall. The atmospheric changes are much like our own here in Utah, windy, wet in winter and dry and hot in summer. On the River Jordan, which is several hundred feet below the level of the sea, the weather is extremely warm in the summer, but as the valley is well watered by the Jordan, the oppressive heat is considerably tempered. The river Jordan has a fall of about six hundred feet from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, a distance of about sixty-four miles, and if settled by a people who properly understood irrigation it could be made one of the most delightful spots on earth. The country is full of fevers in the summer time, that is, the low lands, and particularly the swamps, but on the hills it is, as a rule, healthy; hence the people usually seek the high lands as a place of residence during the summer months. The summer fruits consist principally of figs, grapes, bananas, olives and locusts, and sometimes St. John's bread. Some say that this is what John ate with his honey while in the wilderness. Small grain also grows well, such as wheat, oats, barley and corn; potatoes do not do so well, except when the seed is brought from foreign countries.

Along the eastern part of Mount Carmel the country is lovely. When we passed through it it had just been raining, and the fields being covered with a promising yield of grain, left a striking impression on our minds of the richness of the land, and the blessing of heaven upon it. Besides the green and well-laden fields, the hills were spangled with low oaks and olives, and (if I remember rightly) with wild apple trees. This is the country where King David sought refuge from Saul's revengeful pursuits; here he lived in exile and herded the sheep and cattle of the rich Nabal. Here also the Prophets Elijah and Elisha performed many of their mighty works and often lived in exile and hiding from the wicked kings of Israel.

Round about Samaria the country is hilly. In the days of prosperity this country was noted for its plenty of wine and oil. The Prophet Jeremiah says: "Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the hills of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things. For watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry: Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord, our God." (Jer. 31: 5, 6.) Around Samaria one can still see marks of a once high state of cultivation as the country is still much terraced off.

The country of Jerusalem does not look so inviting. The hills are more rugged and barren, though there are spots where grapes and olives do well. The country west of the Holy City, that is toward the Mediterranean, is better than that which is found toward the east, and

in the direction of the Dead Sea and Jericho the country appears forsaken. It is very much broken, cut up with deep ravines, like the Castle Valley country in Utah, and is the very ideal for a home of the thieves and robbers who infest the land.

I do not know that there is a very marked change in the fruitfulness of the Holy Land, but some efforts have been made to better cultivate the country by Europeans, and as they become more familiar with our modern ways of tilling the soil, they realize better returns. When the fruitfulness of Palestine returns, it will be something astonishing, and of a magnitude which will not be mistaken. Let us remember the report of the twelve spies sent out by Moses to find the wealth and strength of the land of Canaan. They returned with a most glowing account of its fertility, and in proof brought a bunch of grapes which was carried on a pole "between two." This fruitfulness will, perhaps, not return at once, but when God's Saints shall receive their long-looked-for inheritance in that land, the Lord will bless it as promised through His servants.

F. F. HINTZE.

SALT LAKE CITY, May 12th, 1890.

IN ARIZONA.

Graham, though the youngest county in Arizona, is not the least enterprising or productive. It is situated in the southeastern part of the Territory, embraces one million six hundred thousand acres, and contains over ten thousand inhabitants. There are sixteen school districts in the county, with over twelve hundred pupils enrolled. Two government posts are located in the county, namely Fort Grant and Fort Thomas, on the Gila River. Graham County is well watered by the Gila River (which crosses from east to west) and its tributaries, the San Francisco, Eagle, Blue and Black River. On the summit of Mount Graham, five thousand feet above the Gila Valley, are ponds filled with dace. Indian troubles and other adverse circumstances have been a great drawback in the past, but the people are encouraged by present prosperity and future prospects, and invite others to come and enjoy with them the fruits of their courage, faith and persistence. In the valley of the Gila, where ninety percent of the farming of the county is done, there are over fifty thousand acres of land under cultivation. All kinds of grain can be raised here, and Irish potatoes yield well. Alfalfa flourishes, yielding five crops a year.

Solomonville is the county seat, but is not the most desirable location, and it is rumored that a change will be made in the near future. Quite a number of the residents are Mexicans, and their low, flat-roofed houses, together with the irregular streets, render the town quite unattractive. The most conspicuous buildings are the court house and Catholic church, the latter being an adobe structure in need of re-

pair. While conversing on the facilities and prospects of Solomonville, a gentleman remarked that "it required Mormons to build up and beautify a town which depended on agriculture for its growth and stability." This statement was verified when the settlements of the Latter-day Saints were visited.

Layton and Safford are adjoining settlements, about five miles west of Solomonville. A grist mill is located at Layton, and quite a number of mercantile establishments are flourishing in Safford. A new meeting-house is in course of erection. Extensive orchards have been set out, and all kinds of small fruits are being cultivated. Strawberries are now in season, and of excellent flavor and quality. Graham is a small but thriving settlement on the north side of the river, where many good farms are located.

Thatcher is a flourishing town about five miles west of Safford, and is building up fast, and the many brick residences and other structures in course of erection indicate the progressive character and good judgment of the citizens.

Central, about three miles from Thatcher, another "Mormon" town, has the only liberty pole erected in the county. The residents of Central have finished a good brick meeting house, and are evidently in a prosperous condition. Smithville, or Pima, as it is now called, is situated a few miles west, and was one of the first settlements in the valley. The town is well located and laid off and has some of the finest residences in the county.

On leaving the "Mormon" settlements we visited the town of Thomas, near the fort of the same name. The contrast is noticeable at once. Instead of orchards, gardens and good dwellings, we see the low adobe buildings again, crowded together in true Mexican style. Saloons and gambling houses, filled with colored soldiers, drunken men and women, tend to make night hideous. Women are to be seen at the billards, bugatelle and gambling tables vying with the men in their gambling pursuits, and their degrading conversation and loud profanity can be heard in the streets.

During the winter months three schools are conducted and are well attended.

The small towns of Matthews and Curtis, a few miles down the river, are steadily growing and both have excellent schools. We visited the Hot Springs, about three miles from Curtis, which are noted for their medicinal properties and curative virtues. At two feet below the surface the water has a temperature of 200 degrees Fahr., being only 12 degrees below boiling point.

In such towns the question of disfranchising the Mormons is earnestly discussed. What a mockery! Disfranchise the most sober, industrious and law-abiding citizens because of their unpopularity and their political views, but leave the gambler, the drunkard and the profligate free to cast their votes and enjoy all the rights and privileges of American citizens!

PHOENIX.