

DESERET NEWS.

Truth and Liberty.

NO. 42.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1858.

VOL. VIII.

[For the Deseret News.]

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A PRIEST AND AN INFIDEL REPUBLICAN.

P.—I fear that Utah at some future day
Will sway her dreadful sceptre o'er the world.
How dreadful is the thought, it galls my soul.
What, she the uncivilized, rule over us?
And is it possible? It may not be,
But still I fear: for see how well she thrives.
R.—And dost thou fear this Territory thus?
And does poor Utah rob thee of thy rest?
Say why this fear?
P.—And know'st thou not full oft we've sought to check
Her rapid growth and nip her in her bud?
Yet e'er she rose in territorial strength,
We sought to crush her, but 'twas all in vain,
She mocked the opposition we could give.
The more opposed the better she would thrive,
Lo! she is like the acorn shooting forth,
Which biddeth fair to be a loftier tree,
Than ever graced the shade of Bashan's groves.
Or like those little streams that rise
Amid the silent hills, then murmur on,
Through many a narrow rugged winding pass,
Gently rippling o'er each rock that checks them;
Descending from the surface of the earth,
And then uniting all in one great mass,
And thus they form a vast and boundless deep.
R.—Saidst thou that Utah is uncivilized?
If so, produce thy proof.
P.—And needst thou proof of this?
R.—I do.
P.—Then art thou too a friend to Utah's cause?
R.—A friend to all oppressed.
P.—And dost thou say the Mormons are oppress'd?
Who set blest Christianity at naught,
And all our customs which are most approv'd?
Who live as heathens, not enlightened men?
R.—Produce thy proof.
P.—Good Christians every where admit the fact.
I think that proof enough.
R.—And dost thou think my faith is pinn'd to those
Whom thou dost please to call good Christians?
Thou sayest we are more enlightened here,
Than Utah is. If so, I'm misinformed.
Now hear me out, and I will picture both;
The masses as they stand—thyselves then judge.
Sometime ago a band from us were sent,
To civilize those heathens of the west,
And introduce our polish'd customs there.
But mark! uncivilized as Utah was,
E'er those arrived who went to civilize her,
Peace, gentle peace was found in all her streets;
No cunning gamblers practiced trickery there,
Nor were there drunkards seen, nor grog shops known,
Nor thieves to watch their chances in the night,
Nor brothels there to lead her youths astray.
Such common public evils were not there.
And still thou sayest they're uncivilized.
Thy prejudice that makes thee judge them thus.
Thou hatest them—for what? Thou knowest not.
Perhaps because good Christians hate them too.
Now look at home—a single city scan;
See, all these public evils there exist—
A thousand prostitutes parade the streets—
Drunkards like pigs are wallowing in the mire,
Light fingered thieves the silent watches keep.
It seems the very nursery of sin.
Are these the polished customs Utah needs
To make her rank with nations most refined?
What's Utah done that she is so despised?
Say, what is the greatest crime she's guilty of?
P.—Why, all her men may have more wives than one,
Which is an heathen practice, is it not?
R.—Then must she be an object of revenge,
Because her men may have more—
Call them wives—than one, and publicly acknowledge
them—
Maintain and educate their children too?
In this thing, say, sin they not less than we?
See! there are representatives of States:
Each has one wife, and only one they own.
But, say, how many prostitutes have they,
Whom sin and shame forbid that they should own?
The Mormons act according to their faith,
And hence their conscience doth accuse them not.
But we do that our conscience doth forbid.
If they would only call one woman wife,
And keep the rest like we our prostitutes,
Then wretched Utah would be civilized.

W. W. BURTON.

SOUTH MILL CREEK, Oct. 2, '58.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

To the Legislative Assembly of the Territory
of Utah:

Dec. 13, 1858.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL

AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:—

It has become my duty to communicate to the Legislative Assembly, information on the condition of the Territory, and to recommend such measures as I judge to be necessary for its welfare.

To Almighty God we should return thanks for all the blessings he has bestowed upon this people; especially for averting from them the threatened horrors of civil war, and restoring

to them the comforts of home, with health, peace, and general prosperity.

The events which have transpired here within the last two years have excited great solicitude throughout the country, and attracted public attention to this Territory.

The President of the United States, in the exercise of his constitutional authority, determined, in the early part of last year, to re-organize this Territory by the appointment of new civil officers; and, at the same time, he ordered a detachment of the Army to this point, to perform the ordinary military duties, and to act as a military posse, upon the requisition of the proper civil officer. The General, in command of this detachment, received written orders, designating his duties, and forbidding him, his officers, or men "to attack any body of citizens whatsoever, except upon requisition, or in sheer self-defence."

The President was induced to pursue this course of action, in consequence of reiterated statements made by men, who had lived in your midst, and the seditious language used by some of your influential writers and public speakers.

In this connection, it is proper I should announce my opinion, that a large number of the inhabitants of Utah, participated, subsequently, in positive acts of rebellion against the Federal Government. Under these circumstances I entered Great Salt Lake City on the twelfth day of April, 1858, and availed myself of every suitable occasion to notify the inhabitants that I required unconditional submission to the laws; that I would sustain the civil officers in the proper performance of their duties and maintain the public peace.

After a residence of some weeks among you, I announced to the Government at Washington that the disaffected portion of the community had returned to their duty, and would receive and obey the newly appointed civil officers. Subsequently, the President's proclamation of the 6th April last was promulgated. It offered a full and free pardon to all, who would submit to the authority of the Federal Government.

By your acquiescence in the conditions of this pardon, all political difficulties between the Federal Government and the people of Utah are adjusted; and I trust that your future history will attest the sincerity of your professions of devotion to the Constitution and to the laws.

The Government of the territories has been characterized by certain individuals as a relic of barbarism and a system of oppression.—These cavillers should remember that the patriots and sages, whose memory they profess to revere, not only achieved our independence, and framed the Constitution, but inaugurated also the system of Territorial Government;—a government of constitutional laws. We must rely upon them for protection. All communities of freemen possess an inherent right of revolution and self-government;—but communities, like individuals, have their periods of infancy and tutelage, preceding those of matured strength and independent action. When abuses exist in the government of a Territory, the true remedy consists in an appeal to the parent government for redress.

You complain that civil officers are sometimes unmindful that their offices were created for the benefit of the whole community, and not exclusively for their own; but public opinion does not justify resistance to their authority on that account.

The maintenance of the army, and the incidental expenses attending its support, require very large disbursements in the Territory. These necessarily increase the price of labor and its products. Hence the length of time the army will remain here, becomes a question, in which your constituents are pecuniarily interested.

In considering this question it is necessary to refer you to the following clause contained in the Proclamation of the President—"The military force now in Utah, and hereafter to be sent there, will not be withdrawn until the inhabitants of that Territory shall manifest a proper sense of the duty which they owe to this Government." In view of this clause every honorable citizen of this Territory must feel the presence of the army as a reproach upon his patriotism. It therefore behooves you to avoid even the semblance of disloyalty, for in your present condition it is not sufficient that you manifest a proper sense of that duty which you owe to the government, but public opinion must be satisfied of your loyalty. It would be unreasonable, under existing circumstances, to expect that the transient population now here, will exercise any influence to hasten the removal of the army, a removal contrary to their pecuniary interests—nor can you expect that they will undertake the task of your vindication.

The public press and private correspondence will finally reveal the truth with regard to your community. This must be a work of time, and therefore, I believe, that the detachment of the army, now stationed here, will enjoy your fine mountain climate, and have ample

time to perfect that discipline, for which, as a corps, it is even now, greatly distinguished.

The Postmaster General has invited proposals for the transportation of your domestic mails, and I hope that the community will soon enjoy the benefits which will result therefrom.

Government has recently established overland mail routes upon a most liberal basis.—This arrangement will furnish greatly increased facilities for travel and correspondence between the Atlantic to the Pacific States. The successful operation of this great enterprise will produce an almost continuous line of settlements extending across the continent—and this, now isolated Territory will be brought into more familiar contact with other portions of the country.

To enable the people to be, to some extent, independent of importations, we should encourage domestic manufactures—but an entire independence in such matters, is neither practicable nor desirable. Social intercourse and commercial exchanges are indispensable to true progress. Neither communities nor individuals can secure permanent prosperity or happiness in a condition of complete isolation.

Soon after my arrival in this Territory I communicated to the Secretary of War my views in regard to the supposed practicability of navigating the waters of the Yellowstone, including its tributary, the Bighorn. By the adoption of this route, navigation might be established from the Missouri river, to a point not exceeding four hundred miles from Salt Lake City. I also requested him to order a detachment from Camp Scott with instructions to make a reconnaissance between Wind river and the confluence of the Yellowstone with the Missouri.

The acts of kindness extended by this people to the Indians, who inhabit these valleys, are creditable to their own generosity and forbearance; but they seem to have confirmed the Indians in slothful and vicious habits—and fostered a spirit of insubordination, which prompts them occasionally to commit acts of violence against their benefactors.

The government has established Indian farms in this country, which, if considered as a means of inducing Indians to labor, and produce the articles necessary for their subsistence, seem to have been unsuccessful in accomplishing those objects—and unless they can be conducted differently in future, it would be well for the Indian Department to purchase food for them, rather than endeavor to induce them to cultivate the soil. The Indians must be fed. The supply of game is already insufficient, and they cannot subsist much longer upon the precarious aid received from the hand of charity.

I will call your attention to certain recent occurrences. A brutal assault was committed by some Indians, in the vicinity of Spanish Fork, upon the persons of a woman and her child. To enable the agent to make the arrests of the offenders, it became necessary to resort to a military force—and an Indian, not one of those charged with the offence, was unfortunately killed. The culprits were arrested, and are now in confinement, awaiting trial before the Second United States District Court. The dead bodies of two respectable citizens of Millard county, were found recently near the road to Chicken creek, supposed to have been killed by Indians. Superintendent Forney is now in the neighborhood of Manti, to investigate the affair, and will endeavor to secure the persons of the murderers. The verdict of the coroner's jury in the case, is now in the hands of the United States District Attorney, who will prosecute the murderers when arrested.

I cannot too strongly urge upon you the necessity of extending the benefit of common schools to every child in the Territory—and would recommend the levying a general tax for the support of such schools. On the proper education of its youth, depends the prosperity and happiness of a community. The statistical reports of the prisons in this and other countries, show that the proportion of crime is in an inverse ratio to the amount of proper education received.

I would call your attention to providing means for enforcing the law relative to bridging the irrigating ditches, across public highways. Under present circumstances, they are causes of serious inconvenience to travelers.

I entertain the opinion that it has become indispensably necessary to provide for the building a secure and commodious jail at some point near the centre of population, for the confinement of persons charged with criminal offences, and recommend a tax for defraying the expense of its construction.

As errors in the forms of legislation are liable to occur in all new Territories, I would suggest the appointment of a committee to revise the acts and resolutions of the Legislative Assembly of this Territory; with instructions to report to your next annual meeting, or earlier if deemed expedient.

It is necessary that you take early action in filling offices, vacant in the Territory, in consequence of the parties elected having failed to

be qualified—and in other cases where the offices have not been filled.

There does not appear to have been any provisions made hitherto for defraying the expenses of the Courts, when sitting on Territorial business nor for the payment of charges for the maintenance and custody of prisoners. The importance of this subject will I hope secure for it your consideration.

I herewith transmit the report of the Auditor of Public Accounts and that of the Territorial Treasurer, which I submit for your action.

A. CUMMING.

Dead Sea.

Latin, Lacus Asphaltites. Arab, Bahr Lot. Ancient sea of Sodom, a lake of Palestine, the terminus of the river Jordan, about fifty-five miles long and fifteen wide, or according to Dr. Robinson, fifty miles by twelve—Lieutenant Lynch making it several miles less in each direction, the length varying a little at different seasons according to the rain. Bordered on the east and west by lofty, precipitous limestone hills, on the north it opens to the low plains of Jericho, and on the south the valley of El Ghor extends to the Gulf of Akabal, a region more elevated than "the Sea." Six other streams besides the Jordan empty into this seething caldron; and as none flow out, it must be the immense evaporation caused by subterranean heat which keeps the waters nearly at the same level, but changes so materially their mineral properties from fifteen parts of muriate of magnesia, seven of muriate of soda, and one of muriate of lime, in the hundred, to ten parts of magnesia, thirteen of soda, and one of lime.

Even Galen remarked that the sea was bitterer in summer, when the evaporation is greatest and the supply of fresh water less than in winter. The water is of greater specific gravity than any other, and more depressed in its bed than any known lake, but less saline than the lakes Bilton or Urusmia. From its bottom rises bits of asphaltum, or mineral pitch, melted by the heat and disengaged by earthquakes. Used for embalming, paving, caulking, sculpture, the coloring of wool, and medical purposes, this asphaltum has its importance as an article of commerce. Sulphur is found along its dreary shores; Robinson picked up a piece the size of a walnut. Near Usdum bits of niter, and sometimes pumice are found—clearly showing the volcanic nature of the region. The Arabs obtain their supply of salt for their cattle and families along the southern shore.

More absurd stories are circulated of this famous sheet of water than any other. No birds, it was said, could fly over the sea; its surface was never stirred, and a smoke perpetually rose from its sunken bowl. But though there is frequently a slight haze over the southern portion, sometimes a sulphury smell, and in winter a heat remarkable in contrast with chilliness at Jerusalem, yet the waters rolled enough to keep the metal boats of the American Expedition continually polished, and Robinson frequently saw birds fly over the sea, and one morning heard the carol of the lark, the whistle of the quail, the call of the partridge, and the scream of the bird of prey. No life exists within, none around this gloomy waste of waters. The intense heat, together with the marshy evaporation, creates intermittent fever; the inhabitants of Jericho are notoriously sickly; open wounds are found to fester, and the Arabs call any one insane who lingers in the neighborhood.

Fortunately, no more lives need be hazarded within this silent tomb of the guilty past.—Ever question of any interest has been settled by the American Expedition. The soundings of Lieutenant Lynch have proved, what was suspected before, that a portion of the bottom is thirteen hundred feet below the rest; and that the channel which the Jordan formerly made can be traced over this sunken part—a sufficient explanation of the disappearance of the guilty cities of the plain, which De Sauley imagined he had discovered at considerable distances from one another upon the shores of the sea. The prominent objection to this French savan's discovery is, that Sodom and Gomorrah, whose places he would determine at a great distance from each other by similarity of name and the existence of extensive ruins, must have been near neighbors, sharing a common character, and visited according to the Scripture narrative, by the same fate, visible at the same time. The pillar can be still seen upon Usdum hill, at the head of an abrupt ascent, which Josephus and Clement of Rome imagined to be Lot's wife; and the apples of Sodom, found nowhere else in Palestine, Dr. Robinson believes to be the Osher of the Arabs, the Asclepias Gigantea of botanists, a sort of milk-weed tree whose orange-like fruit (fair to the eye and soft to the touch) bursts upon a slight pressure, and leaves a small quantity of fine silk, which the Arabs twist up for their guns, and prefer to any other match.

The wonderful buoyancy of the water has not been exaggerated. It is very difficult to keep one's feet down in it, and quite impossible to sink. Horses exhibit great alarm at the