

lightful in the Grand Valley, even though you can see the glimmering snowdrifts of the La Sal. But the proportion of insect life is small, the common house fly being the worst annoyance. In the swampy meadows near Moab mosquitoes abound, but it is said they never rise above ten feet from the ground. Ants are plenty, but our house is encircled with water, thus keeping them off. When pa first fenced the house lot he made a large circle, and then stuck in twigs of Lombardy poplar. That was two years ago, now it is an enclosure with green wall twelve or fifteen feet high, where there is always shade and coolness. Poplars cool and freshen the air wonderfully; in four years they tower up some forty feet high, delicious lines of balsam breathing verdure.

A mistake in my last should be corrected here. Instead of "Utah taxes are light," the letter read in print, "Utah taxes are not light," which is a matter of importance. On property, for example, which in Colorado would pay \$30 to \$35 taxes, we pay only \$2 or \$3, and last year they were unusually heavy, as a new schoolhouse had to be built.

The whole country has a strange, weird beauty—a ghostly charm under which another Haggard might dream of another "She"—so stay are the traces of the earth's former convulsions. Down that yawning gap to the east Pluto might have fled with his stolen bride; in that high fort, whose arched doorways catch the rising sun, might be another Sleeping Beauty, and who can tell us what people dug the salt wells that we see? Were they fugitives hiding here for a time, or in the days when the mesas were tree-covered did they have their colonies through all the southwest? Are they of the multitude who moulder in the tombs of the cliff-dwellers?—those laborious people whose houses are seen as high as four stories and number as many as 7000 rooms, in at least one instance.

The Mormons tell us the explanation is simple: they were Nephites, the primitive Mormons who are described in the Book of Mormon. It is a good thing to have some kind of tradition to fall back upon, for the mind wearies of speculation. Will ever living man solve the mystery of the lost people of the rocks, the dwellers in Aztec Canyon, Largo and the Mancos, whose northern limit seems to be here? It is the American Arabia Petra, whose records are written only in stone.

Mr. Matt Martin told me of a fine pitcher which he found grown around by the limbs of a cedar tree, so that it was impossible to remove it without breaking it; the cowboys can tell you of the remains of dwellings stumbled upon by them in the course of their riding, but more than this no man knows.

One thing is evident, the people were very numerous in their day, and I have a theory as to the cause of their disappearance. But the waterless deserts that surround so many ruins keep explorers at a safe distance. Only in the winter the wandering herdsmen draw near,

and the buildings are often wrecked to supply their immediate needs.

There are wild potatoes in the Montezuma valley; did they come from Aztec gardens? Wonder? Strange, strange are the stories of the Far West, but who shall tell them to the world? Some patient student of nature, doubtless, who, all careless of fame, is faithful to his inspiration, will follow it steadily as men followed duty in the wild carnival of license that once was the life of the border, at least in some places.

It is not the first settlers who fill a new land with violence, not the brave men who go ahead and look it up, and pronounce it good. It is the rabble, who, once the way is made easy, crowd upon their footsteps, hungering for that impossibility, a world wherein the worthless and depraved can escape the doom of labor and the restraint of righteousness.

CONSOLATION.

But good comes, at last, from the struggle between them. I trust before I die I shall see the settlement of that ever recurring Indian problem that overshadowed my childhood with memories of horrors. Senator Morgan, in an article on negro majorities in the *Forum*, uses a sentence which compresses in a nutshell our position upon the Indian subject. He says:

"Outside pressure from people who are in no immediate danger and have nothing at stake but their sentiments of justice or philanthropy cannot change the conduct or modify the opinions of those who have at risk and in charge, as a trust imposed upon them by the blood of kindred, all that is sacred in society and in family."

The great interest manifested in my hastily written letters by the public shows that now is a fitting time to turn light upon the dark ways of Indian diplomacy.

When Colorado first planned the removal of the Southern Utes, this part of Utah might have been given to them as it was considered worthless. Now the settlements claim a voice in the matter. The Bowen bill gave the Utes all they wanted. The present treaty leaves them in a position full of dangers for both races.—*M. M. R. in Denver News.*

SENATOR STEWART'S VICTORY.

On the 6th day of May last you kindly surrendered a large space in your valued journal to my letter calling the attention of the lead miners in Utah to the meeting which was held here on May 15 last. This meeting was called in consequence of a report submitted by your correspondent to the Hon. Senator Stewart, of Nevada, on March 19th last, and which was presented by the senator in person to the Secretary of the Treasury a few days later. This explanation, I believe, is necessary, for the Ore Producers' Association, through their secretary, claims in the brief submitted that the hearing given them was in consequence of a letter written by them to President Cleveland in May, 1888,

a year ago. That letter was submitted to Mr. Cleveland and no notice was taken of it for a year.

Senator Stewart, when in Salt Lake City in November last, after hearing the just complaints of the lead miners in Utah in consequence of the admission of lead ores from Mexico into the United States free of duty, being in fact smuggled under guise of silver ores, instructed your correspondent to proceed to Mexico and report to him the result of the investigation.

On my return I submitted my report charging the custom house authorities on the frontier with neglect of duty.

On page 2 of my report I state the case thus:

"I met with great difficulty in endeavoring to obtain any information in regard to the importation of these lead ores. I saw car-load after car-load cross the frontier. It was apparent that there was hardly any silver ores in the different lots. Yet the whole came into the United States free of duty. I went to the collectors of customs and asked them if any duty was paid on the lead ores. The reply was that the lead ores were admitted free of duty as silver ores."

In consequence of Senator Stewart's persistent efforts, having at least fifteen times called at the Treasury Department, urging an investigation into the statements made in my report, the department appointed the 15th day of May last to give a hearing to all parties. The Ore Producers' Association was represented by three attorneys. The president and secretary of the association made lengthy statements, but, strange to relate, most strenuously avoided to say one word as to the smuggling of lead ores under guise of silver ores.

Mr. James, the president, went so far as to emphasize most positively that he disclaimed any and all allusions of charging the smelters who import these ores with smuggling of the same.

Mr. Van Horne, the secretary, stated that no smuggling of the lead ores under guise of silver ores could be charged to the smelters and importers of these ores.

This all happened on the 15th of May, and your correspondent, who directly charged smuggling, insisted to be heard and allowed to testify the next day. I was told to call the next morning at the Arlington Hotel at a quarter to ten. I was punctual to a minute, and to my astonishment was asked if I would swear to a statement prepared by Mr. Van Horne, the secretary, and which will be found on page 110 of the brief submitted. I told Mr. Van Horne that the statement contained hardly one-fiftieth part of what my report to Senator Stewart contained, and I was then assured that I would be allowed to make a full statement to the Secretary of the Treasury that day.

Emboldened by the meekness of Mr. James and Mr. Van Horne, and the total disclaimer on their part of any intent of smuggling by the smelters and importers of these Mexican ores, Mr. McCammon of