



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,.....Oct. 21, 1868.

#### OUR PLACES OF SETTLEMENT— THEIR PAST AND PRESENT.

It has been the fortune of the Latter-day Saints, in the course of their wanderings, to settle at points which, until they took up their abode there, were looked upon as very unsuitable locations for thrifty settlements. Kirtland, previous to its settlement by them, was an insignificant village in Ohio. But after they moved there it became important, and if they had been permitted to remain there, it would, without doubt, have become one of the most thrifty and flourishing places in the State. It is, however, to-day a very obscure and inconsiderable place. The only interest felt in it is in the fact that the temple which the Latter-day Saints built still stands there as a monument of their industry and perseverance.

Jackson County, Missouri, is a section of country which for natural advantages is probably not excelled by any other portion of the United States. Our people were not suffered to remain there sufficiently long to make it specially famous; but its local importance was greatly enhanced by even their brief residence. They established a printing office there—the first in Western Missouri—opened a large mercantile establishment, and made other substantial improvements, which excited the jealousy of the other settlers, who banded themselves together, and succeeded, under circumstances of great cruelty, in expelling them from their homes. But what has Jackson County been since? A blight is upon the land, a curse upon its cowardly mobocratic inhabitants. With all its natural advantages it is so contemptibly obscure that it is only known, outside of a very narrow circle, by those who read our history. So with Clay, Caldwell, Ray, Davis, and other counties in which our people settled in Missouri. Far West, Caldwell county was a flourishing town when we were expelled from the State of Missouri. But when the Latter-day Saints settled in that county, there were only some half-dozen bee-hunters in it, and it was looked upon as possessing fewer facilities for a settlement than any other portion of the State. Since our expulsion it has maintained its old reputation. Our improvements have fallen into decay, and the country that, under our persevering industry, coupled with the blessing of God upon our labors, had such an inviting and prosperous appearance, is sparsely settled and presents a most wretched aspect.

Commerce, Illinois, where we next settled, was one of the most sickly places in the then western country. Yet in the midst of deep poverty, deadly sickness and the most disheartening obstacles, a city—Nauvoo—was built. The place became noted. It was the most populous and flourishing city in the State, and every visitor lauded the beauty of its situation and the well-directed and successful energy of its inhabitants. The beautiful temple, which we reared there at a vast expense, was made familiar to the public in the United States and in Europe by correspondents of papers who visited there. But we were compelled to leave Nauvoo. It was too good a place for Latter-day Saints to possess. Others wanted our houses, orchards, farms and pleasant places, and as the rule with them was that "might made right," they took them, and we took our journey beyond the confines of civilization. But how has it been with Nauvoo? We saw it last in 1860, and shall not soon forget the impression made upon us in walking through its lonely and deserted streets, and contrasting its condition with what it had been when its builders lived there. The curse of desolation seemed to rest upon it and of inaction upon its inhabitants.

Some idea can be formed of what these various places would have been now, had we continued to reside in any or all of them, by looking at what we have ac-

complished in this Territory. Many superficial thinkers have attributed the success that we have had to the fact that we have been persecuted. The blood of the martyrs, is said to have been the seed of the church. But while it is undoubtedly true that God has overruled these persecutions for the good of His people and the accomplishment of His purposes, it is also true that if we had been permitted to proceed quietly and uninterruptedly with our labors, we would by this time have made such progress as would have produced the most astonishing results. It has often been said respecting us, and truly, too, that "if we were let alone we would convert the world; but if we were not, we would do it anyhow."

Expelled from Illinois we sought a home in the midst of the "great American Desert." To men familiar with the Mississippi Valley, no spot could be more uninviting. It possessed one great advantage, which in our minds compensated for all its disadvantages—it was remote from our enemies, and consequently, we could have peace. Here, again, we have shown to the world what union, perseverance and industry can accomplish in the face of the most tremendous obstacles. Out of a sterile, inhospitable wilderness we have created an attractive, prosperous and wealthy State. Our country is universally acknowledged to be valuable. Utah is desirable. Everybody who comes here can perceive its many beauties, and now admire the wisdom manifested in its selection as a place of residence. But how many are there who recognize the means used to make it what it is? Kirtland, Ohio, Jackson and Caldwell and the other counties of Missouri where we lived, and Nauvoo, were all lovely, attractive and desirable places of residence when we had them in possession; but how long after our expulsion from them did they remain so? It was the indefatigable exertions of the Latter-day Saints properly directed—their union, heroic perseverance and unceasing toil—that made those spots so valuable, and when these were withdrawn they relapsed into a worse than primitive condition. So would it be in these mountain valleys. Withdraw this people from them, whose industry and skill have, under the blessing of the Lord, made them what they are, and they would be attractive and desirable no longer. The advantages which every visitor now thinks he sees would suddenly disappear, and the country would be abandoned and shunned as only fit for Indians and wild beasts, and its original barbarism would soon reign through its vast solitudes.

Utah is an excellent place of residence for Latter-day Saints. We admire and praise the goodness of God in leading us here. There is no country, within the range of our knowledge, better adapted for the growth of a free, hardy, enterprising people. No child born here, under such auspices as now prevail, breathing this pure air, and surrounded by these grand, old mountains can grow to manhood and not love liberty. We needed the seclusion which these valleys have afforded to enable us to grow, and to develop our strength, and if we, as a people, are true to our God and faithful in keeping His commandments, our habitations will never be removed by violence from these mountain fastnesses, and the bitter scenes of the past will never be re-enacted.

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

THE Presidential Campaign is being prosecuted with a vigor and earnestness on each side, that grows more vigorous and earnest as it draws towards a close. Both parties have declared themselves certain of success, as is always the case in such contests; and both sides have put forth their powers to insure success. The recent elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and New Jersey, have given increased confidence to the Republican party, who assure themselves of success in the national contest. On the other hand, as will be seen by today's dispatches, some prominent members of the Democratic party see in them an indication of failure on the 3d proximo; and the talk of a change in the ticket, at this late day, indicates a fear that the one which was the choice of the Convention will not be successful.

The bitterness of aspersion and the personalities which have entered so largely into the campaign are features which, to a greater or less degree, mark all such contests. But memories are now revived by them, and old wounds are torn open to bleed afresh, which had no existence at any previous time

in the history of our country. The bitterness of the days when the North and South threw their serried masses against each other, and mourning was carried to thousands of firesides by the deadly blast of war, is again called into existence, by allusions to times and scenes which were better buried in oblivion, if peace was sought and union desired. Party feeling runs so high as to talk of "bullets instead of ballots," and the appeal to the last resort of arbitration—deadly war—is spoken of as glibly as if the subject were a trivial one.

What the Democracy may do within the next few days we will have to wait for to learn. Messrs. Belmont and Schell, leading New York Democrats, deny the possibility or practicability of changing their front at this late hour; and it is more than likely that party will fight it out at the ballot-box, for the candidates who have been selected—Seymour and Blair. Whichever way it may go, there is little doubt but the contest will be waged with keenness and determination to the end. The Republicans may become so elated with the recent successes, as to relax in their vigilance, and the leaders of the opposite party may increase their diligence and thus effect a change at the Presidential election as startling as it would be unexpected. Such might be the case, but it is not likely; and the chances seem now to be strongly in favor of the Republican candidates.

Whatever the result of the election may be, the bitterness and vindictive feelings that now exist and are being still further aroused, will not fall back into a condition of quiescence as easily and rapidly as under other and ordinary circumstances. Many thousands throughout the nation have become accustomed to the sight of blood during a bloody and desperate war. Habit has made them reckless of life, and they have accustomed themselves to place a light value upon it. This is one of the curses, which war inflicts upon any nation that engages in it. The coming election is viewed as having so many interests at stake, that it is not torturing prospects to suppose scenes of blood will be witnessed in various parts of the country, directly traceable to the element which we have just spoken of. But others more peacefully inclined will become involved in them, either personally, or in their feelings as partisans. Thus the angry feelings and animosity which now exist, instead of being allayed immediately after the contest is closed, may increase in virulence and intensity, and discord and disunion reign for a much longer period than is desired by lovers of peace no matter which party's candidates are the choice of the electoral college.

#### HOME ITEMS

##### FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY.

**POLICE.**—On Monday Thos. E. Taylor was arrested for profanity and being abusive, and fined \$10 and costs.

This morning Alderman Clinton held a levee, when John Wilson was introduced to him, and having been drunk and "kicking up things generally," was invited to enrich the city by \$15.

John Galgur was brought up charged with stealing an overcoat from J. F. Yager, on Bear river east, and was fined \$40 and costs.

**"DIXIE" ITEMS.**—We take the following from the *Rio Virgin Times* of the 30th ult.: Many have gone to Conference and most of the remaining are at work at the sugar cane.

Wine making will commence next week. Many grapes are now being cured for Raisins.

There are many apple trees in these settlements white with bloom, which may safely be chargeable to the grasshoppers.

It is still smoky and hazy, and much like the result of burning prairies. We expect to hear of extensive fires in the mountains soon.

Peach drying is suspended for want of peaches to cut.

Our corn crops planted after wheat harvest, are generally looking splendid, and likely to mature fully. In many cases two crops of corn have been grown this year on the same ground.

Sister Keate showed us several fine specimens of "Home made raisins."

Our fig trees have grown splendidly this year, and for age and size have fruited wonderfully, the white fig giving the most pleasing results—Bro. Crawford of Washington has one, the finest tree we have seen in Utah.

There is a species of brownish-yellow birds, resembling the canary, that make their homes, nests, and songs in this region, and sing very sweetly too. Who will catch us a pair?

Don't be in a hurry to gather your grapes for wine; wait till they begin fairly to shrivel, and then you may expect your wine to keep and improve by age.

No rain for the last three weeks. Mercury ranging from 60 degrees at night to 95 degrees at mid-day.

**ROCKVILLE.**—Our correspondent "S," from Rockville, Kane Co., writes:

"We have had fine weather up to date. We have had no frost. Peach drying is over; the grapes are all ripe and sold; the apple crop is good; the grain crop is good;

cotton is below an average; and cane is light. The health of the county is generally good. We are prospering in spiritual and temporal matters."

**DIED.**—We have to record the demise of Professor Alexander Ott, who died this morning at his residence in the 14th Ward. Bro. Ott has been afflicted with sickness for a length of time, but he was able to be around until quite recently. He was, we believe a native of Hamburg. His literary labors in connection with the *Mormon* and the *DESERET NEWS*, have made his name familiar to thousands of the Saints. He has labored quietly, unostentatiously and diligently to accomplish good; and his efforts have been most appreciated by those who were best acquainted with him. As a citizen and a Saint he made and retained many warm friends; whose sympathies will now be extended to the bereaved family.

**LIFE AND TIMES ON THE WEBER.**—Besides the digging and delving at the railroad work, there is no small degree of cabin building, especially in the region of the tunnels on Messrs. Sharp & Young's contract. The weather thus far in those narrow mountain gorges has been but slightly tinged with the Icelandic, otherwise ice-in-tin-cups, pails, tubs, etc. The maxim, however, is, "every tub must stand upon its own bottom," so, every pair or two of humans called into requisition on those stupendous works have taken to walling themselves with boards against the chilling blasts of the mountain night air. Burrowing into a side hill for shelter has also become a popular method of tabernacled in that vicinity. This latter is considerably less expensive, as the earth bank forms pretty good walls, and the river bottoms abound with small cottonwoods for rafters and roofing, with suitable proportions of sod and clay to fill up the interstices. Thus the men now generally have comfortable lodgings and quiet resting places, where their evenings and between hours may be spent somewhat sociably and profitably, taking away much that is so unlike "home, sweet home," in a grading camp. A goodly number of the "dear creatures" so essential to the home outfit also adorn with their sweetness the humble cots of the workmen. Altogether, the busy scene now observable any day at the upper tunnel is one that presents many attractions. Among others recently drawn thither by these attractions may be named Division Engineer Bates, who has become so enamored of the sequestered nature of the camp, and the quality of the society and surroundings in general, that he has removed his headquarters to that point.

#### FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY

**SPRINGVILLE.**—Bro. Charles D. Evans, writing from Springville, on the 14th, says:

"Although quite a large number of the men, who form the bone and sinew of Springville, are absent casting up the great national highway, the few who remain are actively engaged in building up Zion at home. A few weeks ago the Bishop called on each person possessing a team to haul a load of timber from the canon to be used in putting a fence around the Tabernacle and Public Square; the latter being surrounded with mulberry trees which were planted last Spring for the two-fold purpose of being useful and ornamental. This call is being cheerfully responded to. The hard finish is completed on the front and north side of the Tabernacle, and the remainder of the outside work is being prosecuted with the utmost vigor; at the same time Bro. Chase is taking care to have the inside labor, which is limited to the seats only, keep pace with the stucco. The whole building, it is expected, will be completed early next month. As an embellishment to the Tabernacle, a donation is in progress to purchase chandeliers and an organ. Our chorister, Bro. F. Weight, has sent east, through Bro. Calder, for one, which will be here by the 8th of next month.

The labors of the Female Relief Society are invaluable in searching out and relieving the wants of the distressed. Sister Cynthia Clyde, the Presidentess, is highly esteemed by all its members. The Society has recently made an appropriation in favor of procuring glass for the Tabernacle.

On last Sabbath Bro's Elmer Taylor, Lyman S. Wood and Richard Thorn, missionaries to "our Dixie," made very appropriate little speeches at our meeting. The Bishop followed in a short address, after which a vote was taken to sustain the authorities of the Church, and to deal with those only who are the friends of God.

**CO-OPERATION.**—The shareholders in the contemplated Co-operative Store met in the City Hall this morning and effected the following organization by unanimous vote: President B. Young, President; Hon. W. H. Hooper, vice-President; also a Board of Directors consisting of the following named gentlemen: President Young, Hons. W. H. Hooper, & Geo. A. Smith, Geo. Q. Cannon, H. S. Eldredge, H. W. Lawrence, and W. Jennings, Esqs., W. Clayton, Esq. was elected Secretary, and David O. Calder, Esq., Treasurer.

F. D. Richards, A. Miner, H. W. Naisbett, and Joseph Woodmansee, Esqs., were appointed to draft a Constitution and bye-laws for the association.

Bro. W. Clayton will receive the names and subscriptions of any and all persons who have not yet joined the association and who may wish to become shareholders, under the regulations prescribed for the organization of the company. All lists of the members given in at the various Ward meetings, should also be handed in to him at the earliest possible date. His office is in Eldredge and Clawson's Store, East Temple Street.

It is desirable that subscriptions of members be paid in by the first of November, but at the latest by the first of January, 1869.