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# THE NEW CANAL—PROVISION FOR NAVIGATION AND INCREASED IRRIGATION.

It used to be customary in some parts of the world, to which we have paid casual visits at one time, and most probably is the custom still, when any work of public importance was undertaken, to inaugurate it with a dinner on an extensive scale, at which an extraordinary amount of rather flatulent eloquence was expended, amid the popping of champagne corks and the applause of the sage body assembled to worship at the shrine of culinary skill. From the laying of the foundation stone of a new school-house to the breaking ground for a railroad the custom was observed with religious fervency, till the two became inseparably united.

We do things a little differently in our mountain home. Within the last few days the practical initiatory steps have been taken in a work of vast importance to the inhabitants of this valley in particular and the whole Territory generally, a work, too, of great magnitude, considering our resources and population, and—everybody took their dinner, as usual, on the occasion.

Over seventeen years of experience has taught us that, though the soil we live on is ungenial and forbidding-looking, in many places, yet it will reward the industry and toil of the cultivator with an abundance of the products of the earth. But considerable tracts of land lie unbroken, the cultivation of which has been impracticable up to the present, from lack of water with which to irrigate. Streams sufficiently large to supply much of the want flow through various parts of the Territory, and canals have been cut contiguous to several of the settlements to carry their waters unto land otherwise comparatively destitute of moisture. These canals have been thus far measurably small, proportionate to the abilities of the settlements and their immediate requirements.

In this county, the necessity for an increased water-supply has been so apparent, for some time, that the only question involved was, from what source could it be most effectively and surely obtained. Various plans were proposed and discussed, resulting in the commencement of a canal on the west side of Jordan, to take out a portion of the waters of that river with which to irrigate a large tract of land on the western side of this valley, and the sinking of an artesian well on the northeast side of the city, as an experiment, to see if water could be obtained by that means. Shares in both projects have been taken up freely, and the labor on them is progressing.

The canal on the west side of the Jordan is expected to be ready for carrying its water unto the land it is designed to irrigate, by April next, which will not only secure sufficient water for land which has been under cultivation, but will supply a large tract as yet uncultivated. The directors of the artesian well company have prosecuted their work with assiduity. A shaft, 165 feet deep, has been dug, in a thick stratum of layers of sand and gravel. This shaft is securely cased, the boring apparatus has been called into requisition, and the sinking has

been proceeded with by that means. Still, thus far, that is only an experiment, though a most important one; for if water can be thus obtained at anything like a moderate cost, we may have, ere many years, an abundance of such wells throughout the Territory, sending forth their streams to fertilize the soil.

In view of the fact, that still further measures of this nature, would have to be adopted to meet our rapidly increasing wants, a mass meeting was held a few weeks ago in the Tabernacle in this city, minutes of which were published in our columns at the time, and resolutions were passed to cut another canal, of a magnitude far exceeding anything of the kind ever undertaken in the Territory before, for the two-fold purpose of irrigation and navigation.

Its importance for this latter purpose is much greater than would be imagined at a casual glance. Very comprehensive and elaborate statistics, carefully prepared by Hon. Joseph A. Young, and published in tabular form in the minutes of the mass meeting, convey much information on this and kindred subjects connected with the proposed canal; and the Trustee-in-Trust, in view of its utility for navigation purposes alone, offered fifty thousand dollars towards its construction for the privilege of carrying granite on it to be used in building the Temple. The benefits that will accrue to irrigators on the east side of the valley and in the city, from the water thus brought to them, it would be exceedingly difficult to estimate, but the surplus proceeds realized from increased crops through a plentiful supply of water, will in a very short time cover the entire outlay in its construction, large though that amount will necessarily be.

Starting near the boundaries of Utah and Salt Lake counties, not far from the old "fish-trap," it will wind its way along the eastern side of the valley, watering the land on its course, including a very considerable tract yet unbroken, and reaching a terminus in the city, a short distance south and west of where the artesian well is being sunk; its entire length being over thirty-two miles. From the point where it is taken out of the bed of Jordan to the Sugar House Ward, there will be a fall of twenty inches to the mile; from thence to its terminus in the city it will be on a level. The descent, for the first named distance will necessitate the construction of some six locks, two of which will be constructed near Mr. Wm. Caspar's place, south of Mill Creek. With about four feet of water in the canal, there will be sufficient fall for irrigation purposes, in the most level part, by tapping it at the bottom.

The holding of water in reserve for times of drouth and consequent scarcity, is a most important item in every place that is compelled to resort to irrigation, so that the surplus waters of one season may be preserved for another. In Egypt, so entirely dependant on the annual inundation of the Nile for water to fertilize and moisten the soil, several large reservoirs have been dug to thus hold a portion of the water in reserve, the most prominent of which is the Mahmoodeeyah canal, which connects Alexandria with the Rosetta branch of the Nile, a reservoir nearly fifty miles long and a hundred feet wide. This canal is on the site of an ancient artificial lake, called Lake Moeris, constructed by one of the old Pharaohs for the same purpose.

We are not compelled to resort to any such expensive and laborious undertaking to obtain this desideratum, for we have an immense natural reservoir, in Utah Lake, fed by several streams, the principal of which is the Provo, and with only one outlet, the Jordan, which is thus the channel by which

the canal will be fed; provision being made, by dredging, to prevent the waters of the lake rising so as to injure the land on its borders.

The fact of the waters of Utah lake having risen seven feet, during the floods of 1862, and, with all the drain through the bed of the Jordan since, having only fallen about three feet and a half, gives a certainty of a continual and plentiful supply of water, when added to the fact of its ordinary volume being kept up by the streams running into it. Again, the water of the lake, leave a heavy alluvial sediment on the soil it passes over, consequently, it will be more than usually fertilizing to the land irrigated with it. This sediment is deposited in sufficient quantities to render the bed of the canal in a short time impervious to percolation, and thus removes every fear of a continual waste of water, in consequence of the porous character of some of the soil through which it will pass.

This work, then, which may be truly called a great one, is now going on, about four miles having been already let out, and the digging commenced. The spirit manifested by the citizens at the mass meeting, and the energy displayed by Bishops Sharp, Sheets, Gardener and Brinton, and J. W. Fox, Esq., to whom the letting out to contractors has been entrusted, raise very sanguine expectations that it will not be long before the residue of the Jordan will be carried out of its former bed, bear on its bosom northward some of the cereal and mineral wealth of more southern parts of the Territory, and pour its richness in gentle streams on the thirsty soil lying beneath it in its course. Legislative sanction is sought for the enterprise, and in a work of such moment cannot surely be withheld. It will carry wealth to the people, spreading it over every lot and farm that receives its waters.

Works of this character are indicative of true progress, and manifest a laudable desire on the part of the citizens to bring within their reach every available accessory to wealth, importance and power. We would rather hear of, and see, one canal being dug, to irrigate our lands, and be available for transportation purposes, than know of ten gold mines being discovered or ten thousand new stores opened. The former bless the entire community, the latter only enrich the owners.

The assessment of a hundred dollars to each lot, for making the canal, is nothing compared with the benefits flowing from it; as sufficient water for one season, would, on the larger portion of the lots, bring double and in some instances more than treble that amount over the amount realized in ordinary seasons.

To the enterprise we wish all success, and bid it God-speed.

## HOME ITEMS.

**SABBATH MEETINGS.**—At the meeting in the Tabernacle on Sunday forenoon, Elder Loranzo Snow preached on humility and obedience, illustrating his discourse by a review of the preaching of John to the people of Nineveh.

After the administering of the sacrament in the afternoon, Elder George Q. Cannon and Bishop Woolley addressed the congregation, each expressing the necessity for gratitude on the part of the Saints, for the continuous outpouring of the blessings of the Almighty.

In the evening several of the Wards in the city, as well as a number of country branches, were visited and preached to by the Quorum of the Twelve.

A special general council of the Presidents of the Seventies was also held in the evening, at the Seventies' Council Hall, for the transaction of business pertaining to the Quorums, at which President Brigham Young was present, and delivered a seasonable and instructive discourse on the duties of the various organizations of the priesthood.

**PROFESSOR C. J. THOMAS' Band** serenaded the First Presidency, and other prominent citizens on Monday. We noticed a marked improvement in the performances of this Band, which we accounted for on the ground that the whole of the members of these excellent performers were out.

**THE HOLIDAYS** in this city were characterized by general and unalloyed enjoyment—dances, theatres, social parties, music, rest, recreation, gifts and kindly greetings and appropriate wishes—without a jar to disturb the happiness so prevalent and so quiet. The News congratulates all upon the commendable manner in which the festive occasion was observed, and cordially wishes all lovers of "Truth and Liberty" as many like enjoyments of "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" as Supreme Wisdom may vouchsafe to their faith and good works.

**BOURNE & NEEDHAM** inform the public they are ready to receive orders for purchasing in Eastern markets, and will also attend to freightage. See their advertisement on last page.

**PROBATE COURT.**—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were almost entirely occupied by the Court hearing the confessions and somewhat remarkable disclosures of Heath, Danzanser and Rhodes. It will doubtless be remembered that Heath pleaded "innocent" of all the allegations brought against him on the preliminary examination, but he has since changed his "tactics" and divulged strange things about his supposed friends, but of course they need confirmation.

Saturday afternoon, the Court passed sentence upon Griffin, who had previously pleaded guilty, with the exception of certain explanations to the technical expressions used in the two indictments found against him. On the first indictment he was fined \$300 and costs of prosecution, and on the second was sentenced to three years at hard labor in the penitentiary.

A venire was ordered to issue for eighteen lawful men to act as traverse jurors, in the case of the people vs. Butcher, whose trials, on two more indictments, were set for Tuesday and Thursday.

The acting Prosecuting Attorney applied for a venire for a special Grand Jury, which the Court decided to hold under advisement.

**THEATRICAL.**—"Belphegor" dragged considerably in some scenes on Wednesday night, and an opinion was entertained, by some who had never seen the play, that it did not "fill the bill;" but every such expression was voted a mistake on Saturday night. The whole piece on that evening went swimmingly, and was a decided success. Mr. Pauncefort's Belphegor is a fine and artistic piece of acting. As the joyous, light-hearted and jubilant Mountebank he was particularly happy; while the outraged husband and father excited sympathetic feelings in the audience, and elicited much well deserved applause. Mr. McKenzie played with his usual care and effect, making the most of a character that has but little in it. Mr. Margetts was at home, as Ajax, and looked the Merry-Andrew to the life. St. Cyr was well rendered by Mr. Simmons; so was Montrouade by Mr. Bowring. Mr. Lindsay is always reliable; he looked the proud old Duke, and played with force. Messrs. Dunbar and Maiben created considerable fun, and gave point and character to their parts. The Ladies earned approbation. Mrs. Gibson's Madeleine was good, especially in the last scenes; she is most impressive in the pathetic. Miss Alexander played with dash and spirit; Mrs. A. Clawson's Henri was an artless and happy effort; Mrs. Bowring played with care, and gave effect to a meagre character. The appointments, costumes, and *mise en scene* were excellent and effective, and the Orchestra won golden opinions.

Saturday night's performance was unquestionably a triumph.

The admirers of Shakspeare and lovers of good music will have a treat in Macbeth, produced for the first time here, to night, with Locke's original music and choruses. The play is generally esteemed Shakspeare's master-piece, as it was also, about the last of his productions.

**LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.**—The Assembly met at 1 p.m. on yesterday, and commenced business in real good earnest. The respective committees seemed fully prepared to report back the great bulk of the business committed to their charge before the adjournment for the holidays, and the feeling now seems to be to take hold and do whatever may come legitimately before them with dispatch.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

Yesterday morning Muller was hung in front of Newgate. He died before such a concourse as we hope may never be again assembled either for the spectacle which they had in view or for the gratification of such lawless ruffianism as yesterday found its scope around the gallows. While he stood firm on the scaffold as the hangman turned the last bolts beneath his feet, Muller with his last words owned his guilt.—[London Times, Nov. 15.]

**A WALKING RACE**, distance four miles, between James Miles, of Liverpool, and Henry Barnard, of London, came off on the Brompton grounds, Oct. 31. Miles walked the four miles, "fair heel and toe," in 29 minutes and one second, and was only a few paces ahead of Barnard. This is claimed to be the fastest walking on record.