

the disturbance in Utah, after he had sent an army to quell it, and it had been found there was none except what had been made by themselves—"let bygones be bygones;" and come back to Utah, to the place "sought out," "a city not forsaken." To those who feign to think that we have been planted, fed, or nourished either by the bounty of the Government or otherwise, this people can say, in the language of the celebrated Colonel Barre, "they fled from your persecution, and they grew by your neglect." These pioneers, some of whom are here to-day, while others are scattered through the different settlements, still represent the people called Latter-day Saints, who, whatever may take place in the near or extended future, be it distinctly understood, have been, and still are, the people of Utah Territory.

Salt Lake City is not the only city and settlement which has been built; that is not the only settlement which has been formed; here is Ogden, and over yonder, is Willard and Brigham, and then the great settlements of Cache and Bear Lake; and, extending south, hundreds of miles away, are St. George and Kanab, and all the intermediate towns, cities, and settlements, numbering a hundred and more, organized and built up by these people called "Mormons;" and in all these places they have law, government, good order, sobriety, schools for the education of their children; for be it known that this people have children, hosts of them, and they try to take care of and educate them; and in all of this labor, in extending these settlements in these distant vales, which until so penetrated by these people were marked on all the maps and school geographies as "unexplored regions," up to the present time not one acre of land has been made available or one dollar been given for school purposes. No; robbed, plundered, and driven into a barren, remote region, where no one had ever raised an ear of corn, a potatoe, or peck of grain, or believed that it could be done, we have had to struggle, unaided by all but our Creator, for an existence, until we have reclaimed the desert, made it as fruitful as a garden, built dwellings, laid out cities which are the admiration of every visitor, and peopled the wilderness and made it glad with the presence of civilized man; the labor we have performed is before the world and cannot be gainsayed. In settling this Territory and organizing society here, we have realized the poet's ideal of a great and prosperous community:

"Where spades grow bright and idle words grow dull;  
Where jails are empty, and where barns are full;  
Where church paths are with frequent feet outworn;  
Law court-yards weedy, silent and forlorn;  
Where doctors foot it, and where farmers ride;  
Where age abounds and youth is multiplied;  
Where these signs are they clearly indicate  
A happy people and a well-governed State."

In other localities, far more favored by natural facilities for settlement than this, there used to be given a per centage on sales of public lands for a school fund. Other Territories, with less than half the population of this, have been admitted into the Union as States with subsidies of land, and money appropriations, in addition to the school sections which could not be made available until so admitted. In Oregon, a country far superior in many respects to this, having an abundance of timber, seasonable rains and splendid water communication and other advantages, settlers were granted 640 acres of land as an inducement to go there and settle; but no such favor can be extended to Utah, not a voice sufficiently potent can be raised to loosen the unconstitutional and unmanly exercise of authority by those who at present hold the grip of power. Yet we can say to them, "We do not ask your bounty, nor yet your sympathy." When the bounty might have been an assistance and the sympathy grateful and cheering to us, we received neither; but though these have been withheld, there are rights which we desire and claim. We live in a government which guarantees unto all its citizens the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and the rights of conscience, the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. These rights we claim, and, have no fears of any ring, party, or power, being able long to withhold them from us, neither of much longer being able to withhold from us the privilege of State Government, the right to choose our own rulers, Governors, Judges, Secretaries, Marshals, Sheriffs, Coroners, Justices of the Peace, Constables. We claim these as rights which underlie the very base of republican institutions, under which officers hold their office and govern by the consent of the governed, and where power emanates from the people.

"What constitutes a State?"

—Men, high-minded men,  
With powers as far above dull brutes endued  
In forest, brake, or den,  
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude:  
Men, who their duties know,  
But know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain,  
Prevent the long-aim'd blow,  
And crush the tyrant, while they rend the chain:  
These constitute a State."

We say further to them: We are not your voluntary hewers of wood and drawers of water; we did not bring with us your

earrings and ornaments of gold and of silver; we left our property in the hands of our enemies, and do not propose to bow down to any golden calf that you may bring forth, nor make obeisance to any Gesler's cap that you may see fit to hang on a pole. But brought with us our holy religion, our liberty, the glorious constitution of our country, our intelligence embodying a superior civilization, and we propose to keep them.

Nestling in the bosom of the Wasatch range is a high peak, nearly over the summit of which the Pioneers' trail passed. A few steps to the right of the road brings the traveler to the top of the mountain, where, by looking in a southwesterly direction, down through a canyon or gorge in the mountains, can be seen a portion of the Valley of Salt Lake at a point about six miles south of the city, extending nearly across the valley and taking in a view of the Oquirre Mountains on the opposite side in the neighborhood of Bingham Canyon. I well remember being invited to take a glimpse of the valley by President Brigham Young, in whose organized company, in the year 1848, I first travelled to this country. I shall not undertake to depict the many emotions which pervaded the full heart while thus viewing the near termination of the long and wearisome journey, the anticipated joys of meeting with long-separated friends, the hopes, peradventure the fears, of the future which involuntarily arose and agitated the human breast. In after years many a weary pilgrim halted there a brief moment to rest his tired limbs after walking up the steep ascent; for in those days we all walked up and down the steep declivities, through the canyons and over the rough places and deep sandy roads, in order to lighten the burden of our still more weary teams. You can better imagine than I can describe, how the first gleam of that long-looked-for, promised rest would stir the inmost soul, awaken rapid thought, and evoke overflowing sensations and feelings.

Pardon the digression I must no longer linger here. The traveler does not pass this way now; lower passes and easier grades have been found, labor long, patient and enduring labor, that talisman which works such mighty wonders, has wrought its changes here, and roads have been constructed over those easier grades and down those rugged canyons which at first were deemed wholly impracticable. We propose to still travel these roads which we have made over those lower passes and down those easier grades; and they are for all to travel thereon who choose to do so, upon the same and equal terms; but no one must be allowed to break up the bridges or jostle us off over the banks. As with the roads, so with the laws, organizations and regulations of our Territory; if they need changing to suit greater developments, or different circumstances or issues, or a better way be found, there is a legitimate way of establishing it through the channel of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory, which will meet at the appointed time, and patiently hear and act upon all the grievances that may be presented before it. Let us not be too hasty to condemn the bridge that has carried us safely over the roaring stream. Would it not be better, wiser, and far more proper not to set aside the laws or break up the organizations and regulations of the Territory, until others are legitimately adopted to take their places? Let not the executive adjudicate, nor the judiciary legislate; it is not their proper function, and is subversive of the fundamental principles upon which our government is based. Say not to the land pirates, locate your pre-emption rights, homesteads, and Chippeway scrip, on the public grounds of our town-sites and cities, nor within our enclosed pastures and meadows, or upon lands made valuable by our labor; nor defend them therein. Extend not your unwarrantable protection over law-defying whisky sellers, neither traduce or vilify the people over whom you have been appointed to preside. Do not instigate vexatious law suits, make no arrests for "buncombe," neither illegally imprison loyal citizens in military prisons, require excessive bail, deny the writ of *habeas corpus*, nor expect men, maliciously charged with crime, to run into your legal clutches, eager to be tried by your packed juries; and do not endeavor to stir up strife, by malignant and false representations, between the people of this Territory and the General Government.

The science of law is vauntingly claimed to have attained to the height of "human perfection." Excuse us, gentlemen, if we do not run shouting through the streets, swinging our hats in a wild delirium of joy, and do not bow down and worship at the shrine of such "human perfection" as this.

It is a fact, which I do not wish to ignore, that not a single man who professes to be a Latter-day Saint holds an office of profit and trust, which is in the gift of the Federal government in this Territory; not even postmasters, Land office and revenue clerks, for as soon as a post office becomes remunerative, the postmaster if he be a "Mormon" is removed. What a volume there is in this brief statement! The people who have made the Territory all that it is, whose presence makes the offices that are to be filled necessary, are not one of them selected to fill the least position to which profit is attached! And, not satisfied with this, there are greedy comorants who are clamorous to fill every office

within the gift of the people as well. These are those who arrogate to themselves all the intelligence, loyalty, liberty and political power in the Territory, who keep a debased and unscrupulous organ for lying, who prate about morality, a holier-than-thou sort of people, and drink a great share of the whisky, endeavor to give tone to public sentiment abroad and information to visitors at home. One of those legal luminaries who has so astonished our benighted land by his stupid rulings, who has never contributed by thought, word or deed, or the expenditure of money or labor, a single iota to the building up or the benefit of the country, had the impudence, in my presence, to ask a company of gentlemen strangers, "how do you like our city? Our city, indeed! It reminded me of a report made by some Judges, who went back from Utah to Washington some twenty years ago, and announced to the Government that "upon their arrival in Utah they found that the people there were mostly Mormons." The country undoubtedly felt under infinite obligations to them for the information; but as ludicrous and correct as was that statement, there are those here now who do not appear to have learned it; they do not know, or if they do, they choose to ignore the fact, that the toiling masses of the people and real citizens who have labored and are still laboring, exploring, improving and building up the Territory are mostly Mormons, and we take the privilege of telling them of it again.

Wise politicians, ambitious to "serve their country" should, by a fair, impartial, honorable and just administration of public affairs, seek to win the votes of the people instead of trying to disfranchise them. Men of large expectations, who accept Utah appointments as stepping stones to something higher, who have visions of Senatorial honors and perhaps Presidential aspirations floating through their brains, should seek to gain the confidence of the people of the communities in which they live and prove to them that they are their friends and not their enemies.

The Pioneers, the old citizens of this Territory, though "mostly Mormons," are, notwithstanding, loyal citizens of the United States, and claim the right to live beneath the broad folds of its Constitution upon an equality with its other citizens. We ask no more—whatever we may think and say of the consideration to which we are and should be entitled in consequence of our enterprise, energy, perseverance and untiring industry in reclaiming this desert land—we ask no more than the common rights, rightfully belonging to the common people of our common country, and these we expect to get and to forever hold and enjoy.

After music and singing, Col. David McKenzie read the following address, prepared for the occasion, by Miss Eliza R. Snow:

LATTER-DAY SAINT LADIES OF UTAH:

The day we celebrate is a very important one. Important not only to the Latter-day Saints, as a people, but also highly important to all the nations of the earth.

The arrival of the Pioneers in these valleys, is an event which history will repeat with emphasis to all succeeding generations. It formed the starting point—the commencement of a delightful oasis in the desert wilds of North America—of establishing a midway settlement between Eastern and Western civilization, a connecting overland link, between the rich agricultural products of the Atlantic and the undeveloped mineral treasures of the Pacific. Above all and of consequence of far greater magnitude, it was securing a foothold for the establishment of the Kingdom of God—a government of peace—a home for the exiled Saints, and for the oppressed of all nations—a reservoir of freedom and religious toleration, where the glorious flag of liberty now waves triumphantly; and where the sacred Constitution which our noble forefathers were instrumental in forming under the inspiration of the Almighty, shall be cleansed from every stain cast upon it by degenerate Executives, and be preserved inviolate. This in fulfillment of a prediction by the prophet Joseph Smith. Long before political faction had reared its hydra-head in the midst of our Republican Government—long before the intrigues of selfish, disloyal, unscrupulous, speculating, peace-destroying, office-seeking demagogues had attained to their present hideous proportions, I heard the prophet say, "The time will come when the Government of these United States will be so nearly overthrown through its own corruption, that the Constitution will hang, as it were, by a single hair, and the Latter-day Saints—the Elders of Israel—will step forward to its rescue and save it."

Ladies, please allow me to address you by the more endearing appellation of sisters. We have the privilege of uniting with our brethren in twining a garland with which to decorate the stately brow of this auspicious day. Why should we not? What interests have we that are not in common with theirs, and what have they that are disconnected with ours? We know of none, and we feel assured that they have no more interests involved in the settlement of these valleys than ourselves. Who is better qualified to appreciate the blessings of peace than woman? And where on

earth is woman so highly privileged as associated with the Saints in Utah, and where else, on earth, is female virtue held so sacred, and where so bravely defended? Facts answer, NOWHERE!

It is to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are indebted for the blessings we enjoy; and how lamentable it is to see women of the world, who, ostensibly aiming to improve society, ignore its divinity and trifle with its sacred truths! Reforms established on such a basis, would, if successful, dissolve every tie and obliterate all that is dear to the heart of a virtuous, high-aiming woman.

The Gospel in its mutilated forms, as now held by the religious sects of the day, has done much towards the elevation of woman; and what will it not do, when fully illustrated in its purity and power, as it was introduced by its great Founder, and as it has been again restored in our day? We should bear in mind that, as yet, its practice is but imperfectly developed. Although perfect principles may be readily enunciated, it is a slow process, and one that requires time, for a people with minds filled with all the false traditions of the age, and with habits commingling the most extreme opposites, to attain to perfection in practice. But this is an event which, although it may be far in the distance, is surely before us, for we know we have the true starting point.

With hearts overflowing with gratitude to God for the blessings of this day, and for the bright prospect of the future before us, let us take a retrospective view, and inquire if we were not in concert with our brethren, and with them instrumental in the hand of God in bringing about the interesting event we are now celebrating. Who can calculate the worth of the cheerful submission to privation—the patient endurance of hardships—the heroic fortitude in surmounting difficulties which our sisters manifested, and how much weight they had in encouraging our brethren when under trying circumstances? Who can tell how much influence the unyielding faith and fervent prayers of the mothers, wives and sisters had with Him "who hears the young ravens when they cry," in strengthening the brave hearts and hands of the noble Pioneers who opened up a path in the trackless desert?

Let us take a glance of reminiscence at the time when, after our expulsion from Nauvoo, and while wending our weary way as outcasts, the United States Government made the most unreasonable and unprecedented requisition known in the annals of history, on our traveling camps, by demanding 500 of our most efficient men—ordering them to march immediately to Mexico, of which this Territory was then the north-eastern part, to assist in the acquisition of territory, and to establish there that dishonored flag, from under the protection of which, we had recently been forced to fly. Some of those noble women yet live, while others have gone to reap the reward of their labors, who, while their husbands, sons and brothers were performing military service and exposing their lives in Mexico, forced by cruel necessity, took the position of teamsters and drove to the mountains. With many similar matter of fact proofs which might be enumerated, who can doubt that "Mormon women" are equal to any and all emergencies? The great questions relative to woman's sphere, etc., which are making some stir in the world abroad, have no influence with us. While we realize that we are called to be co-workers with our brethren in the great work of the last days, we realize that we have no occasion to clamor about equality, or to battle for supremacy. We understand our true position—God has defined the sphere of woman wherever His Priesthood is acknowledged; and although we are not at present living up to all our privileges, and fulfilling all the duties that belong to our sex, the field is open before us, and we are urged to move forward as fast as we can develop and apply our own capabilities. But we never shall be called to officiate in unwomanly positions. Although invested with the right of suffrage, we shall never have occasion to vote for lady legislators or for lady congressmen, from the fact that the kingdom of God, of which we are citizens, will never be deficient in a supply of good and wise men to fill governmental positions, and of brave men for warriors.

How very different our position from that of our sisters in the world at large, and how widely different our feelings and prospects from that class known as "strong-minded," who are strenuously and unflinchingly advocating "woman's rights," and some of them at least, claiming "woman's sovereignty" and vainly flattering themselves with the idea that with ingress to the ballot box and access to financial offices, they shall accomplish the elevation of woman-kind. They seem utterly blind and oblivious to an element incorporated with their platform, which, in its nature, is calculated to sap the foundation of all on earth that can impart happiness and stability to the domestic and social circles.

We are well aware that society needs purifying but for them to think of bettering its condition by the course and measures they are applying is like the blind leading the blind.