

across the chasm of eighteen centuries makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy. He asks more than a father can demand of his child, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart. He will have it entirely to himself. He demands it unconditionally, and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man with all its powers and faculties becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. This phenomenon is unaccountable; It is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame. This is what strikes me most. This is what proves to me quite convincingly that Jesus Christ is God."

Christ was indeed the Son of God, and on the day observed as the anniversary of His birth, let every man seek to make his neighbor glad, and above all, let it not be a day of disappointment, but of gratified anticipation to the little prattlers who hang their stockings on the bedposts.

The News wishes one and all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE HYDRAULIC CANAL BUSINESS

THE spectacle presented in the Third District Court December 21, was a peculiar one. A large number of citizens whose characters are above reproach and whose reputations for honesty are second to those of no class of men in existence, were present to answer to indictments found against them by the late defunct political grand jury.

We do not believe for one moment that anybody in the court room, including his honor on the bench, who is naturally a keen-sighted man, had any idea that real criminality attached to the gentleman who were forced before him by what we believe to be one of the most unscrupulous and spiteful juries that ever had an existence.

With regard to the bunching of a large number of reputable citizens, on an indictment for conspiracy, in connection with the transaction, in which the Hydraulic Canal Company was a party, the public should, by this time, be well informed. One of the phases of the subject is now in the hands of the City Council. As a good many people may not however, have read a statement made to the city fathers and which was embodied in the published minutes of Tuesday, December 10th, embraces a presentation of facts absolutely correct in every detail, we introduce it here:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Salt Lake City:

"Gentlemen—Having been informed

that some members of your honorable body have expressed dissatisfaction with the transaction connected with obtaining by the city from Salt Lake County of a one-sixth interest in the Jordan dam and its storage capacity, we herewith make a statement and proposition;

"The undersigned are members of the Hydraulic Canal Company, which organization was a party to the said transaction.

"On or about the year 1879 Salt Lake County built a dam for the purpose of reserving the waters of the Jordan River that had previously run to waste. The interest in the dam and its storage capacity was divided into six parts. One of these parts was granted to each of the following canal companies, to wit: Draper, North Jordan, South Jordan, Utah and Salt Lake, and the Jordan and Salt Lake City. The remaining one-sixth was still in reserve.

A number of citizens, the undersigned among them, learning that this interest was still unappropriated and being aware that there were large tracts of lands which could be brought under cultivation if the water right could be obtained, steps were taken to secure it.

A petition to the county court for the said one-sixth interest in the dam and its storage capacity was favorably acted upon. The prayer being granted.

"On the basis of this grant of the County Court to the Hydraulic Canal Company, a canal was located and surveyed and some excavations were made on its line, lands were entered under the homestead and timber laws, and the usual amounts paid to the government.

"Estimates were made for a hydraulic plant, including machinery to pump the water from the river to an elevation of over one hundred feet. An expert was brought from California, who made plans and specifications, all of which involved a large outlay.

"While this enterprise was in progress the dry season of 1883 arrived, and Salt Lake City was distressed for water. Your honorable body became aware of the existence of the before mentioned one-sixth interest and the matter of securing it was discussed. This discussion resulted in the appointment of the following special committee, who were directed to investigate and report: Alderman James Sharp and Councilors Bolivar Roberts and John Clark.

"After investigation, which we presume was thorough, the committee, finding that the Hydraulic Canal Company had a claim upon the one-sixth interest in question, made an unsolicited proposition, dependent upon the consent of the council, to the said company. It was in substance as follows:

"That if the Hydraulic Canal Company would address the county court, surrendering all claim to the one-sixth interest in the dam and its storage capacity in favor of the city, the corporation would reimburse the said company for all expenditures made in pursuit of their enterprise, provided that the aggregate did not exceed \$10,000."

"This proposition was accepted, and the committee reported to the council as follows:

SALT LAKE CITY, U. T.

October 9th, 1889.

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Salt Lake City:

Gentlemen—Your special committee appointed for the purpose of negotiating for the one-sixth of the Jordan River (in addition to the one-sixth to which the city is entitled through the Jordan and Salt Lake Canal) respectfully report that we have performed the labors assigned to us, and

herewith submit the cost of purchase of said one-sixth interest in the Jordan dam and the water of said river, and ask speedy action thereon.

Very Respectfully,

JAMES SHARP,
JOHN CLARK,
BOLIVAR ROBERTS.

Special Committee.

"This report was adopted by the said council, as will appear on the record of their proceedings October 9 1888.

"The result was that the transaction was consummated. And a deed was made by the county court for the one-sixth interest to Salt Lake City.

"It is stated as introductory to the foregoing statement that we had been informed that dissatisfaction on this subject had been expressed by some members of your honorable body. In consequence, we make the following proposition, to wit: If the Council of Salt Lake City will authorize the Mayor to deed the one-sixth interest in the Jordan dam and its storage capacity to the Hydraulic Canal Company on the execution of said deed we will cheerfully refund the money received by us as members of said company.

"This proposition will be held open until and including January 1, 1890.

JESSE W. FOX, W. S. BURTON,
N. V. JONES, S. R. MARKS,
GEORGE ROMNEY, H. S. WELLS,
W. N. WILLIAMS, JOSHUA MIDGLEY,
JNO. R. WINDER, GEO. M. CANNON,
LOUIS HOOK, JESSE W. FOX, JR.,
JOHN NICHOLSON, O. F. WHITNEY,
B. Y. HAMPTON, A. H. CANNON,
W. J. LEWIS, And others."

This document was referred by the Council, to the same committee by whom the original proposition was made to the company—Alderman Sharp, and Councilors Roberts and Clark.

That committee made a report to a regular meeting of the council held on Dec. 15th, in which they said:

"We are convinced that the transaction was made in good faith by all concerned."

In the discussion that ensued, Alderman Sharp said:

"There was no member on the floor of the council who would pretend to claim that the transaction was not made in good faith by both sides at the time, and for one he thought at the time the city was making a good purchase."

Councilor Clark, of the original committee, on the same occasion said:

"We bought the grant that the County Court made to the Hydraulic Canal Company for one-sixth of the capacity of the Jordan dam. On the records of the County Court today it is recorded that when the company should incorporate they would receive a deed to the water right. When the proposition of the city to procure it was discussed, the question was considered as to whether it would be the better plan for the company to incorporate and the deed to be made to it, or whether it would be more advisable for the court to deed directly to the city. The latter plan being the more expeditious, it was agreed upon. As a result of this understanding the Hydraulic Canal Company petitioned the County Court to make the deed accordingly, and on that petition it was done."