

RESERVOIR AT GUNNISON.

THE people of the town of Gunnison in Sanpete County have lately completed the construction of a reservoir which is a very valuable improvement, and will prove to be a source of wealth to those sharing in its benefits. It is situated at or near the confluence of Six Mile Creek and Sanpete River, and about six miles south of Mantle. It is located in a broad hollow, through which the river flows, and the water is retained by means of a dam about 300 feet long, extending across the hollow, and about twenty feet high. The dam is about one hundred feet thick at the base and from fifteen to twenty feet thick at the top, and is faced with rock on both sides to prevent animals from burrowing through it. Extending through the dam, and about on a level with the bed of the river, is a two-foot steel pipe fitted with a cast iron head-gate, by means of which the water in the reservoir may be drawn off when necessary.

The body of water varies from one-fourth to one-half a mile in width, and from two and a half to three miles in length, and has an average depth of about eight feet, when brought to within four feet of the top of the dam, which may be done with safety. Between four and five hundred acres of land is covered by the water, all of which was purchased by the Gunnison Irrigation Company, which built and owns the reservoir. The cost of this important improvement was very small compared to its actual value. Only a few dollars per acre was paid for the land covered by it, while the cost of the dam was only about \$2500, as the dirt for it was very handily obtained. The reservoir is constantly fed, and, even if not replenished during the summer season, its contents would be sufficient to irrigate thousands of acres of land.

The people of Gunnison have set an example many other settlements might follow with great advantage. The farms below this reservoir have not been more than half irrigated for several years past, and with plenty of water their productiveness will probably be doubled. Hence a water supply that will admit of this will practically double the value of those farms. It is no far-fetched estimate to suppose that this reservoir has increased the value of the farms to be irrigated from it, to an amount ten times as great as its total cost. In other words the men who have

built it and who own it will derive a thousand dollars' worth of benefit from it for every hundred dollars they have expended upon it.

In the same manner many other settlements may utilize the natural sources of wealth within their reach. But in the construction of reservoirs one point should always be kept in view, that of security. Let the dam be made so thick and strong that the bursting of it will be placed beyond the range of possibility. The Gunnison people have evidently aimed to do this by making their dam 100 feet thick at the base and from fifteen to twenty feet thick at the top, with a total height of only twenty feet, and a depth of water behind it of only sixteen feet. These dimensions would seem to make the dam safe beyond the remotest possibility of a doubt.

A FOUL SLANDER REFUTED.

ON March 18th the chief anti-"Mormon" organ of this city published a communication furnished by its regular Provo correspondent, "Milo Zip," purporting to give the particulars of a case of bestial conduct upon the part of a prominent "Mormon" of Fillmore, known as Dr. North, who, however, is not, we understand, a physician. The writer represented that the county court had placed in charge of Dr. North a demented woman named Webb, that he had been in the habit of occupying her bed with the knowledge and approval of his wife, that she was about to become a mother by him, that she had been ill-fed, ill-clothed and badly cared for, that these facts had been disclosed by an official investigation on the part of the county court, and that the woman had been placed in other hands.

The statement of the foregoing particulars, as it appeared in the paper referred to, was sickening in its grossness and prurency, and it is noticed in our columns now only because truth and justice so demand. We have been furnished with a statement by George Crane, one of the selectmen of Millard County, to the effect that the article was as false as it was filthy. The facts as given by Mr. Crane are substantially as follows: For eight or nine years Mrs. Webb had lived and been cared for in the family of Dr. North, but for several months prior to March 1st he had been sick and unable to attend to his affairs. Some of Mrs. Webb's friends complained

to the probate judge that she was not being properly cared for, since he had been sick, and she was placed in charge of parties at Holden.

At the time this was done there was no rumor of any improper relation between her and Dr. North, but soon afterwards this rumor began to be whispered around. Two of the selectmen of the county, George Crane and D. R. Stevens, and the county clerk, T. C. Callister, made an investigation of the rumor and satisfied themselves that it was false. Next the matter was taken up by the ecclesiastical authorities the church of which Dr. North is a member, and thoroughly investigated by them. Any concealment or compromise of the offense, had it been proven before a Church tribunal, would have been impossible. The guilt of the accused would have been exposed and he would have been excommunicated from the Church, whose members would have felt this to be the only method of expiating the disgrace his conduct had brought upon it. No religious society in the world more intensely detest such offenses as that which was here charged, than do the Latter-day Saints, and excommunication is the result when such guilt on the part of a member becomes known. This is the utmost extent to which any church can go in this country in the punishment of any offense on the part of a member.

But the ecclesiastical investigation, according to the statement of George Crane, exonerated Dr. North so far as the charge of improper sexual relations with Mrs. Webb was concerned. Incidental to it was developed that she was not likely to become a mother, and a certificate to this effect from an experienced practitioner was forwarded to us with the statement from which these facts are gathered.

OUR "LIBERAL" CITY SOLONS.

WE are prepared to make allowance for the greenness of the present City Council, and the consequent lack, as a body, of the requisite information to properly and safely conduct the business of this municipality. It is time, however, they were brushing the cobwebs from their giant intellects and studying up the laws and ordinances by which they should be governed.

It would be well for them also not to exhibit in their public transactions, party bias of sufficient strength to nauseate all honest citizens.