

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence

REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

Volume V.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1852.

Number 18.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

"WHAT SHALL I RENDER UNTO THE LORD?"

Late in life's day I tuned my lyre,
When age had damp'd the muse's fire,
And slacken'd every chord;
The few remaining notes I raise
Shall be employed in Jesus' praise—
My ever gracious Lord.

I'll sing his victories over hell,
And all his saving wonders tell—
The wonders of his death;
How all my sins were drown'd in blood,
Forever sunk beneath that flood,
When He resign'd his breath.

But when the appointed morning rose,
How vain the efforts of his foes,
My conquering God to hold.
He rose—he rose—the crucified—
And that His saints were justified
The joyful tidings told.

How nonpluss'd then Satanic power!
How disappointed in that hour
Were all Immanuel's foes!
In plenitude of power Divine—
All human weakness left behind
The Almighty Conqueror rose.

Now on a throne divinely bright,
Begirt with uncreated light,
My glorious God I see;
Showing the value of his blood;
Jehovah owns the purchase good,
And sets the sinner free.

O then if all the moral worth
By man possessed since nature's birth
Concentr'd all in me,
I'd count it but as dung and dross,
And glory only in the cross,
And to my Saviour flee.

Then stoop not, O my Muse to sing—
However great, an earthly thing,
But let me guard my strain,
Since every note my harp shall sound
Shall in eternity rebound,
And meet me there again.

D. PALMER.

PROGRESS OF MORMONISM.

The last number of the National Intelligencer contains advices from Salt Lake City to February 21st, which represent the condition of the Territory as quite prosperous and encouraging. Gov. Young, in his message to the Legislature, which assembled on the first of January, thus speaks of the progress of the settlements:

"During the past year the settlements have continued to extend, until we now have a line extending from near Bear River on the North, unto within about twenty-five miles of the Southern Rim of the Great Basin, a distance of about three hundred and fifty miles; and a company is now forming who design making a settlement near Santa Clara, far beyond that point; also, east and west a few settlements are forming, although not so extensive in those directions."

He represents the Indians as generally friendly towards the Mormons, which he attributes to "the humane and consistent treatment which has always been exercised towards them by the inhabitants of the Territory," and the exclusion of spiritous liquor from among them. The taxable property of the Territory for the year is put down at \$1,160,883. The revenue for the year amounts to \$26,676.58; and for bridges and roads, a woollen factory, and the university, there has been paid on appropriations \$4,725.87.

The seat of Government is now located at Fillmore City, Pauvan Valley, where a State House is in progress, one wing of which it is expected will be in readiness for the next Legislature.

The rapid progress of Mormonism is one of the mysteries of the age. It has gained adherents in Europe as well as the United States. The St. Louis Republican publishes a statement drawn up by John Taylor, an Elder in the Mormon church, recently returned from Paris, of the progress of the delusion in Europe. From this it appears, that Elder Taylor, accompanied by some half a dozen Elders and chief men, left this country for Europe early in 1850. Elder Lorenzo Snow went to Italy and Switzerland, Elder Erastus Snow to Denmark, Elder Franklin D. Richards and others to England, and Elder John Taylor to France. And in each of these fields of labor considerable success has followed their efforts. In France, converts have been made and churches erected in Paris, Havre, Calais, and other important places; the Book of Mormons has been translated into French and stereotyped, and a monthly periodical established. The Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, have received the new doctrine, and some 400 converts are reckoned there; a company of whom has already started for the Salt Lake Valley; others are going from Paris. Elder Taylor visited Germany, and commenced the translation and stereotyping the Book of Mormon there; and also commenced in the city of Hamburg, a monthly periodical devoted to Mormonism. In Denmark a church was organized by Elder Erastus Snow and co-laborers, and some 300 converts made. The Book of Mormon had been published in Danish, and a company of "Saints" had started for the Valley of Promise. Some progress had been made in Sweden.

Mr. Lorenzo Snow visited Italy and Switzerland, and in both countries established churches. He had published the Book of Mormons in the Italian language. He is now on his way to Bombay and Calcutta, accompanied by some English Elders. In England, the work is said to be increasing with astonishing rapidity. The Saints, throughout the country, number some, 40,000. The "Millennial Star," a semi-monthly periodical, has a circulation of over 30,000. It is computed that within the present year, 1500 will emigrate thence to this country.

While the Elders have been diligent in proselyting, they have not been unmindful of the temporal interests of the "Saints;" and, according to their own showing, have made ample arrangements to introduce a variety of woollen, worsted, and other manufactures, into the valley, also improved machinery for manufacturing beet sugar, oil, &c. &c., and are taking out to Mormon Land of Promise men skilled in all the various manufactures of Europe.

UTAH.

The whole character of the territory of Utah is singular. Its situation is unlike that of any other section of North America. Its origin and the manner of its settlement are no less strange. The name Utah is now given to a large extent of territory bounded by California, Oregon, New Mexico, and what was formerly termed the great Western Territory. It is of sufficient dimensions to be separated into several States, provided in future ages its population shall warrant it. But many parts of it so partake of a peculiar construction as to render it, for the present at least, uninhabitable. Passes, through precipitous mountains, whose tops are covered with snow, and whose sides are but rocks, exist it is true, but they are mostly narrow valleys of the most

arid and sterile kind, their surfaces covered with incrustations of bitter salt, and their whole vegetation a giant species of sage, of no earthly use but to be consumed as fuel. In the midst of these icy mountains, through which there is no access but by these passes, arid in summer and choked with snow for five months in the year, lies a track of land, elevated some four or five thousand feet above the level of the sea, called the GREAT BASIN, which furnishes the habitable part of the territory. In different parts of this Basin, the Mormons have established their home, probably, at first, with the idea that they would be cut off from the rest of the world, by the natural difficulties of the contiguous territory, and the peculiarity of their situation. Here they expected to form in secrecy and silence, the germs of a great, peculiar, religious Empire; but the stream of California emigration discovered their trail and inundated their principality, and they are now the open, exposed, "Half Way House" to the Pacific.

This basin is some 560 miles in diameter, has its own system of lakes and rivers, and has no known communication whatever with the sea, unless the existence of the whirlpools in the Salt Lake, which are reported to be lately discovered, should prove an internal communication with the Pacific, or with some spring or lake in the lower country. In the northern part of this basin, lies the GREAT SALT LAKE. The waters of this sheet are shallow, so far as explored; though probably its central parts will be found very deep. Its waters are intensely salt, more so than the ocean—three gallons making one gallon of the purest, whitest and finest salt. Southeast of this Lake, shut in by the mountains, lies the Mormon Valley that contains their capital city, by some called the Great Salt Lake City; by others, Mormon City. This valley is thirty miles by twenty-two, connected to another valley which is about fifty miles by eight. These two valleys contain the principal body of the settlers, to the number of twenty thousand. Explorers think that they are capable of supporting a population of a million.

Fifty miles south of the city, is the Utah Lake and Valley. Here lies the city Provo, on the Provo River. The lake is pure water, eight miles by four, and abounds in fish.—There is still another valley one hundred miles farther south, called San Pete, where there is another settlement; and here we find the hieroglyphic ruins, the remains of glazed pottery, &c., that indicate the former existence of the outlying cities of the Aztec Empire.

The soil of all these valleys is astonishingly productive, though requiring, constantly, artificial irrigation from the mountain streams. The climate is one of the healthiest and the air the purest on the Continent. The neighboring mountains rise to the height of a mile and a half above the valley and are covered with perpetual snow.

The city is laid out in blocks of ten acres each; eight lots to the block; an acre and a quarter to the lot; the streets eight rods wide; each ten acre block to be surrounded by a stream brought down from the mountains.—No two houses front each other, so that, standing in his own door, every man looks into his neighbor's garden. In the city, are four public squares, to be surrounded with shade trees, and supplied with fountains.

Such is the delightful place chosen by one of the most peculiar religious sects that Christendom contains. Remote from the world, from the exercise of external tyranny, and yet connected to our great empire, its peculiar locality will prove of immense service as a stopping place for rest, refreshment, and provisions for the army of emigrants that will, year

after year, seek California, or Oregon; by the Southern Pass; and when the railway is established it will prove of incalculable benefit as a great Station House on the route.—Hartford Courant.

Religious Toleration in Persia.

We are, indeed, fallen upon strange times. In Europe, which boasts of its high civilization, which looks down with a feeling of compassion upon the rest of the world, the wheels are reversed. The privilege of unshackled thought, the rights of conscience, are set back on the dial-plate of human history some three or four hundred years. But, under the Crescent, where the followers of Mohammed bear sway, it is just the other way. There a man has a right to think and to believe, and to act in accordance with the promptings of his spiritual nature.

Our readers are familiar with the history of the question of religious freedom in Turkey. Thanks to the persevering efforts of England, through her honoured representative at the Sublime Porte, toleration in matters of faith has become the law of the Empire; and men may do there in the shadow of mosques and minarets, what they cannot do in enlightened France or the land of Luther. But, we confess that we are taken a little by surprise in hearing the announcement that a similar victory has been achieved in Persia.

Have we not read, within a few days, how men were persecuted and imprisoned in Protestant Germany, simply because they preached the gospel? Have we not received tidings from France, "the great nation," which are fearfully ominous? Verily, we thought so.—But now we are told that the King of Persia has made an edict, abolishing all penalties for proselytism, and allowing "conversion" from one sect to another! Can these things be?

The Shah of Persia proclaims freedom of thought in matters of faith! How has this come to pass? Mainly through the "intervention" of England. The English Ambassador, a Roman Catholic, urged thereto by the English Consul at Tabreez, a true friend of religious liberty, has secured this boon. It may be true, and doubtless is true, that Col. Shiel has an eye to the mission of the Lazarists, and would gladly give them freer scope among the Nestorians. But others have a broader purpose; and a victory has been gained of immense value. For a time, indeed, our missionaries may be annoyed by the emissaries of Rome; but they have an open field and a fair start, and they ask for nothing more.

We confess our admiration of our good old fatherland; what a spectacle does she present, as compared with the great powers of Europe! Breaking the shackles of thought, while they are making their bars and bolts stronger than ever; proclaiming liberty of conscience, while they are destroying the very life of human souls. And it is not this or that ministry, this or that party, which alone merits the glory of these bloodless triumphs. Lord Palmerston has done nobly; and we are sorry to miss him from a post which he has filled with so much credit. But it should not be forgotten that the Earl of Aberdeen began the battle for religious freedom, in the East. It was he that sent a despatch to Constantinople, some eight years ago, that will be had in long remembrance; for it was the first sturdy blow for liberty in matters of religion. And back of the Earl of Aberdeen lay the resolute will of the British nation. The Foreign Secretary is but the exponent of British feelings and British sympathies. He speaks for the people, and must speak truly. All honour to England, we say. *Esto perpetua.*—Boston Traveller.