

February
1890

ation Stones of the Earth," by J. B. Keeler; First Chapter
"Pioneer Sketches;" and a valuable narrative by Samuel
in this number.

Keeler book

THE
 CONTRIBUTOR.
A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.



Vol. XI.

FEBRUARY, 1890.

No. 4.

PUBLISHED BY THE
CONTRIBUTOR CO.
SALT LAKE CITY UTAH.

THE CONTRIBUTOR.

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Sea Islanders, or cut off their heads and tanned their hides like the monsters of the French Revolution. When the microscopic search of scepticism, which had hunted the heavens and sounded the seas to disprove the existence of a Creator, has turned its attention to human society and has found a place on this planet ten miles square where a decent man can live in decency, comfort and security, supporting and educating his children unspoiled and unpolluted; a place where age is revered, infancy respected, manhood respected, womanhood honored, and human life held in due regard; when sceptics can find such a place ten miles square on this globe, where the gospel of Christ has not gone and cleared the way and laid the foundation and made decency and security pos-

sible, it will then be in order for the sceptical literate to move thither and there ventilate their views. But so long as these men are dependent upon the religion which they discard for every privilege they enjoy, they may, well hesitate a little before they seek to rob the Christian of his hope and humanity of its faith in that Savior who alone has given to man that hope of life eternal which makes life tolerable and society possible, and robs death of its terrors and the grave of its gloom.

No one loves to tell a tale of scandal but to him that loves to hear it. Learn, then, to rebuke and silence the detracting tongue by refusing to hear. Never make your ear the grave of another's good name.—*Sterne*.

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE.

EVENTS of more than ordinary interest are often connected with the experience of Elders in their ministerial labors, both at home and abroad, and are of historical value in the record of an age and dispensation that is to exceed all others in the development of God's dealings with the children of men. That ministry that is required to preach the gospel to all the world must necessarily meet with conditions and vicissitudes that no other ministry ever contemplated; and when with this requirement is connected the labor of gathering the Israel of God who have been scattered among all nations, as a part of the promised work that is to restore all things, temporal as well as spiritual powers are involved, and must become a part of the judgment record.

In view of any historical value that may attach, the following description of an interesting episode in my experience in the labors referred to is furnished:

On the 23rd of May, 1854, in a large and spacious committee room of the House of Commons of the British Parliament, in the City of London, could be seen tables arranged nearly in the form of a half circle with a committee consisting of

fifteen members of the Commons; seated on the outer side facing inward, with John O'Connell, Esq., a prominent Irish Catholic defender, in the centre, as chairman. In the innerside of this circle, with a government reporter by his side, sat the writer of this with all eyes fixed upon him. This moment appeared to me one of supreme interest. The fire of intelligence seemed to glow from every eye, and served to kindle a responsive light in one ready for the catechists.

This body of noble looking men, by whom I was confronted, were a committee of Her Majesty's Government on emigrant ships, and were present in their official capacity.

I was there, not by invitation to be merely an observer of what was to transpire, but by an order of a government officer, which had been delivered to me under the Queen's seal, at my office in Liverpool, some days previous—an order not to be disregarded with impunity. This order to appear and answer to such a tribunal created some little apprehension with some not aware of its nature and object, but none on my part, knowing that it involved only my acts as a licensed

emigration agent, in which business I had been successfully engaged, and carefully watched by government agents.

The object of this committee may be understood by the order of the Commons creating it :

“That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the recent cases of extensive loss of life aboard emigrant ships, whether by sickness, wreck, or other causes; and generally into the efficiency or otherwise of the existing regulations for the health and protection of emigrants from the United Kingdom.”

And further ordered, “That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, and to report minutes of evidence taken before them to the house.”

This action of the Commons was in accord with a like action of the U. S. Congress, at the same time, by mutual understanding, with a view to improve the then existing laws of both governments relating to emigrants and emigrant ships. The chairman's explanation of the object of the investigation, and a few introductory questions by him, set the ball in motion for a lively and interesting day, such as an Elder seldom gets with any audience. The usual preliminary questions as to name and age, residence and occupation being answered, I found the door open for an investigation of all my official duties, of which all parties seemed to take the advantage. When, in answer to the question what was my occupation? they were informed that I was President of the British mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and in that capacity I presided over some seventy thousand of Her Majesty's subjects, and had charge of an organization more complete than any other in the kingdom, I began to feel the spirit of my mission, and they the influence of my presence. They immediately discovered and felt there was something more than the matter of emigrants and emigrant ships before them, and questioning was by no means confined to the subject of their official duties.

Discovering an entire freedom and willingness on my part to answer all

reasonable questions that related to our faith, doctrines, and organization, as well as the subject of emigration, every one seemed anxious to have his own peculiar views satisfied by drawing out the desired information, and questions were plied with a zest and zeal that I had never before encountered in my experience, but all with an evident desire to become acquainted with facts. This questioning in which all had now become interested was not without due regard to both propriety and duty, and when any question was asked irrelevant to the legitimate subject under investigation, I was frankly reminded that I was under no obligation to answer, if not my pleasure to do so. In this respect the utmost courtesy prevailed, such as only gentlemen delight to indulge in, and such as I have seldom seen prevail in my own land. It was under these considerations that several hundred questions were asked and answered; many of the answers, purposely of considerable length, in view of a careful and satisfactory explanation.

The enquiring mind will be anxious to know the cause of this official enquiry into the interests of the emigration leaving the kingdom. This, as explained by the committee, arose from the fact that excessive mortality had prevailed among emigrants generally on ship-board, which the Mormon emigration had not experienced. The cause of their exemption was the object of the inquiry, as it had been reported that the Mormon emigration was conducted under a much better system than that which prevailed with shipping agents generally. The investigation was held with a view to improve the law regulating that business, to learn if any facts could be obtained of sufficient importance to justify the committee in recommending a revision of the law, with amendments for the better protection of emigrants, and they were anxious to have any suggestions I could make to that end. This request was timely to a full and complete explanation of the Church organization throughout the kingdom, which included England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, and other adjacent Islands.

Inquiry into the details of the manner in which the emigration business was conducted by me, and the means I had of informing the public of any opportunity to take passage, led to a lengthy explanation of the organization which extended over the entire realm; that every town, where there was a branch of the Church had a presiding Elder; that all of these branches, included within one, and in some instances within two or three shires, or counties, constituted a conference district, with a president over the whole that several of these conference districts were again associated and designated as pastorates, over which an Elder was placed to have the pastoral charge and the oversight of the conference included in his pastoral district; and the whole; body of the Church was under the direction of the president of the entire British mission, whose office, for the general convenience of shipping emigrants, was in Liverpool, where also a weekly periodical was published having a circulation of about twenty thousand copies, and in which any communication the president wished to make, upon the subject of emigration or other matters of general instruction, was made to the people. By this means the public were informed of the time a ship would be ready to sail and these presidents of branches and districts would forward the names of all parties who would be ready to sail at any given time. If for any unforeseen cause, a ship was to be delayed these parties, whose names and addresses had been received, were notified by letter of such detention before leaving their homes, so that on arriving in Liverpool they could be booked and go on ship-board on the day of their arrival or on the following day, if more desirable. This manner of conducting that business was found to be much more satisfactory than was the usual practice of agents throughout the kingdom, of advertizing a ship to sail for a certain port on a day named, and then, if the number of passengers desired were not on hand, delay the ship's departure, perhaps for weeks, and compel those who have arrived in port to find food and shelter as best they could in a strange place, ex-

posed to change of climate and perhaps diet, unprotected except with such protection as land sharks and vultures give to the innocent and unsuspecting in a seaport town, on the paltry sum of one shilling per day, because the law permits it to be done. Under the arrangements of my office in conducting business, the highest mortality that I reported to the committee of any one ship, during years of experience, was only two per cent. of the number on board; while other shipping agents were reporting numbers which were considered very excessive, really alarming.

This organized and systematic manner of shipping and forwarding emigrants was greatly admired by the committee who freely expressed their opinion that it was superior to anything that had ever been contemplated in law. "Indeed," said the chairman, "it is superior to anything we can enforce by law."

Further explanations of how a president was appointed by me to take charge of the company, on board the ship, to see that cleanliness and other essential habits necessary to a healthful voyage were carefully observed, as well as the religious services to which they had been accustomed, especially on the Sabbath, served to increase both their surprise and admiration, and I was asked at once if I was not assuming the authority which the law vested in the captain of the vessel. To this I replied that the captain of the vessel most cheerfully conceded that right to the president of my appointment, knowing that the observance of ship regulations, under his management, was as much superior to what the captain's would be, without his aid, as my system of operations on land was to that of other agents generally.

My nativity, the source and extent of my authority, which, at that time, was to all foreign missions in matters referred, including Australia, the Sandwich Islands, Malta, Gibraltar, France, Switzerland, the Cape of Good Hope and the East Indies—were all discussed as topics of interest, and absorbed the apparently deep interest of the committee, so much so that several of the members were ply-

ing questions at the same time in a manner indicating that I was expected to transfer a liberal share of my stock of information to their account. Utah was also inquired after. The form of government that prevailed, the number of its inhabitants, if there was any established religion, and if there had been any persecution suffered there, the cost of through passage, the distance from New Orleans, and manner of travel over the plains—all received attention. In addition to the minute details of the manner of shipping and class of emigrants shipped, the character and condition of the vessels provided, with arrangements on board for the comfort of passengers, inquiry was made after our system and plan of making converts from which our emigrants were principally supplied, and whether the work of proselytism was then proceeding satisfactorily in that country; the number of the community in the whole country, was our success greatest where education was the least, which of the sexes predominated, male or female, and was there any desire to have more females than males in the emigration; and from what churches in the country were recruits principally obtained, if from the church of England.

Some amendments, which I considered would be an improvement to the passenger act, were by me suggested by request of the committee, and the investigation closed.

The committee rose to their feet, and, standing, the chairman expressed, on behalf of the committee, the unusual interest and pleasure afforded them by the interview, and that I had the thanks of the members, to which they bowed assent. The chairman remained and entered into conversation with me upon matters of interest to himself; and, upon the appearance of the paying clerk, he was instructed to pay Mr. Richards double fees for the time he was absent from his office in consideration of a deputy being employed there. Upon taking leave he warmly insisted upon my meeting him the next morning in the lobby of the House to be introduced to some of his particular friends.

On meeting him the following morning as arranged, he assured me that had the House been aware of the interest attached to my examination they would have adjourned and been present to hear it. He had spoken of it to quite a number of the members, and each had expressed regrets at not being present. After being introduced to several of his colleagues, we visited the House of Lords, then in session, and I had designated to me the several prominent officials and members of that body. Upon taking leave, I was courteously invited to make my stay with him whenever I came to London. Greater courtesy could, under the circumstances, scarcely have been extended to the prince of a royal family.

That portion of the examination prepared to report to the House, was first forwarded to me for my personal revision and correction, if needed, so that nothing should go to that body, or the public, without my sanction and approval, which I recognized as a continuation of that courteous respect which was shown from the beginning.

Names of the Committee—John O'Connell, Chairman, Mr. Peel, Mr. Monkton Milnes, Mr. Chichester Fortesque, Mr. George A. Hamilton, Mr. Vernon Smith, Sir Thomas Herbert, Mr. Hankey, Mr. Fagan, Sir James Anderson, Mr. Davison, Mr. Meagher, Captain Scobell, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Higgins.

The following morning the city papers contained a careful and minute description of the witness, Richards, together with the leading facts elicited, and such remarks as reporters present furnished for dressing, to suit the taste of their respective readers. For instance, *The Morning Advertiser* said:—"The London correspondent of the *Cambridge Independent Press* says: I heard a rather remarkable examination before a committee of the House of Commons. The witness was no other than the supreme authority in England of the Mormonites, and the subject upon which he was giving information was the mode in which the emigration to Utah, Great Salt Lake, is conducted. This curious personage is named Richards; he is an American by birth; is

a dark, rather good-looking man; I should judge, of fair education, and certainly of more than average intelligence. He gave himself no airs, but was so respectful in his demeanor and ready in his answers, that, at the close of his examination, he received the thanks of the committee in rather a marked manner. According to his statements about twenty-six hundred Mormonite emigrants leave Liverpool during the first three months of every year, and are under the care of a president. On arriving at New Orleans they are received by another president, who returns to Mr. Richards an account of the state in which he found the ship, etc. Questions from Mr. F. Peel elicited many interesting facts relative to the sect; but I will only stop to notice generally, that, according to Mr. Richards, the great hope of the Mormons is to form a community by the Great Salt Lake. At any rate there is one thing which, in the opinion of the emigration committee of the House of Commons, they can do, viz., teach Christian ship-owners how to send poor people decently, cheaply, and healthfully across the Atlantic." *S. W. Richards.*

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

In an address delivered at Saltney, the Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone gave utterance to the following sentiments :

My last recommendation to the student is one I have been in the habit of making for the last fifty years, because I then adopted the sentiments upon which it is founded, and I now make it, therefore, with greater confidence after a lapse of fifty years. That recommendation is to those who are able to carry it out to study the history of the American revolution. That is an extraordinary history. It is highly honorable to those who brought that revolution about, but also honorable in no insignificant degree to this country, because it was by this country that love of freedom was sown in America. In this country we have happily had to a great extent—and I hope we shall have it still more—what is called local self-government, not merely one government at a central point, composed of parties

and exerting a vast power over their fellow citizens, but a system under which the duties of government are distributed according to the capacities of the different divisions of the country and the different classes of the people who perform them, in such a way that government should be practised not only in the metropolis, but in every country, in every borough, over every district, and in every parish, and that has tended to bring home to the mind of every father of a family a sense of the public duty which he is called upon to perform. That is the secret of the strength of America. The colonial system, in which America was reared, was, in the main, a free colonial system, and you had that in America. These two things are combined, the love of freedom and respect for law, and a desire for the maintenance of order, and where you find these two things combined—the love of freedom together with respect for law and the desire of order—you have the elements of personal excellence and national greatness. I believe it is not extravagant to say that although there were but two millions of people in the thirteen American colonies at the time of the American revolution, yet from among these two millions of people there proceeded at that epoch a group of statesmen that might defy the whole history of the world to compare with them in any one country or at any period of time. Such were the consequences of a well-regulated and muscular freedom.

MY SABBATH THOUGHT.

No lovelier spirit ever swept
The vast ethereal depths of space;
Or down on earth, more sweetly kept
Her place 'mid life's bewildering race!

Pure as the snowdrop's drooping cup,
Yet perfumed more than violets rare,
Her deep devotion swelling up,
As incense at the hour of prayer.

Modest, yet queenly as the rose,
A treasure in her quiet home;

*In sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. George A. Alder, on the death of their beloved daughter, Nettie Sarah Alder, who died in Salt Lake City, Jan. 10th, 1890, aged nineteen years, two months and twenty-six days.