THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

A TALE OF THE OLD WEST

By HARRY LEON WILSON, Author of THE SPENDERS

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CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

The other who had not laughed was Brigham himself. For to this great man had been given the gift to look upon men and to know in one slow sweep of his wonderful eyes all their strength and all their weakness. He had listened with close attention to the remarkable plan suggested by this fiery young zealot, and he studied him now with a gaze that was kind. A noticeable result of this attitude of Brigham's was that those who had laughed became more or less awkward ly silent, while the Entablature of Truth, in the midst of his pantomime, froze into amazement.

"W'd better consider that a little," said Brigham, finally. "You can talk it over with me to-night. But first you go get your stuff unloaded and get kind of settled. There's a cabin just beyond my two up the street here that you can move into. He put his large hand kindly on the other's shoulder. "Now run and get fixed and come to my house for supper along about dark."

Somewhat cooled by the laughter of the others, but flattered by this consideration from the Prophet, the young man had gone thoughtfully out to his wagons and driven on to the cabin indicated.

Brigham talked to him late that night, advancing many cogent reasons why it should be unwise to make war at once upon the nation of Gentiles to the east. Of these reasons the one that had greatest weight with his listener was the assurance that such a course would not at present be pleasing in the sight of God. To others touching upon the matter of superior forces they might have to contend with, he was loftily inattentive.

From matters of civil government the talk ranged to affairs domestic.

"Tell me," said the young man, "the truth of this new order of celestial marriage." And Brigham had become animated at once.

"Yes," he said, "when the family organization was revealed from Heaven, and Joseph began on the right and the left to add to his family, oh, dear, what a quaking there was in Israel! But there it was, plain enough. When you have received your endowments, keys, blessings, all the tokens, signs, and every preparatory ordinance that can be given to a man for his entrance through the celestial gate, then you can see it."

He gazed a moment into the fire of hickory logs before which they sat, and then went on, more confidentially:

"Now you take that promise to Abraham—'Life up your eyes and behold the stars. So shall thy seed be as numberless as the stars. Go to the seashore and look at the sand, and behold the smallness of the particles thereof—I am giving you the gist of the Lord's words, you understand—'and then realize that your seed shall be as numberless as those sands.' Now think for a minute how many particles there are, sly in a cubit foot of sand—about one thousand million particles. Think of that! In eight thousand years, if the inhabitants of earth increased one trillion a century, three cubic yards of sand would still contain more particles than there would be people on the whole globe. Yet there you got the promise of the Lord in black and white. Now how was Abraham to manage to get a foundation laid for this mighty kingdom? Was he to get it through one wife? Don't you see how ridiculous that is? Sarah saw it, and Sarah knew that unless seed was raised to Abraham he would come short of his glory. So what did Sarah do? She gave Abraham a certain woman whose name was Hagar, and by her a seed was to be raised up unto him. And was that all? No. We read of his wife Keturah, and also of a plurality of wives which he had in the sight and favor of God, and from whom he raised up many sons. There, then, was a foundation laid for the fulfillment of that grand promise concerning his seed."

He peered again into the fire, and added, by way of clenching his argument: "I guess it would have been rather slow-going if the Lord had confined Abraham to one wife, like some of these narrow, contracted nations of modern Christianity. You see, they don't know that a man's posterity in this world is to constitute his glory and kingdom and dominion in the world to come, and they don't know, either, that there are thousands of choice spirits in the spirit world waiting to tabernacle in the flesh. Of course, there are lots of these things that you ain't ready to hear yet, but now you know that polygamy is necessary for our exaltation to the fullness of the Lord's glory in the eternal world, and after you study it you'll like the doctrine. I do; I can swallow it without greasing my mouth!"

He prayed that night to be made "holy as Thy servant Brigham is holy; to hear Thy voice as he hears it; to be made as wise as he, as true as he, even as another Lion of the Lord, so that I may be a rod and staff and comforter to these buffeted children of Thine."

His prayer also touched on one of the matters of their talk. "But, O Lord, teach me to be content without thrones and dominion in Thy Kingdom if to gain these I must have many wives. Teach me to abase myself, to be a servant, a lowly sweeper in the temple of the Most High, for, I would rather be lowly with her I love than exalted to any place whatsoever with many. Keep in my sinful heart the face of her who has left me to dwell among the Gentiles, whose hair is melted gold, whose eyes are azure deep as the sky, and whose arms once opened warm for me. Guard her especially, O Lord, while she must company with Gentiles, for she is not wonted to their wiles; and in Thine own good time bring her head un harmed to its home on Thy servant's breast."

"You have built me up," he confided to Brigham, one day. "I feel to rejoice in my strength." And Brigham was highly pleased.

"That's good, Brother Joel. The host of Israel will soon be on the move, and I shouldn't wonder if the Lord had a great work for you. I can see places where you'll be just the tool he needs. I mistrust we shan't have everything peaceful even now. The priest in the pulpit is thorning the politician against us, gossing him from underneath—he'd never dare do it openly, for our Elders could crimson his face with shame—and the minions of the mob may be after us again. If a tower of strength in your own way."

"It's all of my life, Brother Brigham."

"I believe it. I guess the time has come to make you an Elder."

And so on a late winter afternoon in the quiet of the Council-House, Joel Rae was ordained an Elder after the order of Melchisedek; with power to preach and administer in all the ordinances of the church, to lay on hands, to confirm all baptized persons, to

"Keep in My Sinful Heart the Face of Her Who Has Left to Dwell Among the Gentiles."

anoint the afflicted with oil, and to seal upon them the blessings of health.

In his hard, narrow bed that night, where the cold came through the unchinked logs and the wind brought him the wailing of the wolves, he prayed that he might not be too much elated by this extraordinary distinction.

CHAPTER VIII.

A Revelation from the Lord.

From his little one-roomed cabin, dark, smoky, littered with hay, old blankets, and skins, he heard excited voices outside, one early morning in January. He opened the door and found a group of men discussing a miracle that had been wrought overnight. The Lord had spoken to Brigham and word had come to Zion to move toward the west.

He hurried over to Brigham's house and by that good man was shown the word of the Lord as it had been written down from his lips. With emotions of reverential awe he read the inspired document.

"The Word and Will of the Lord Concerning the Camp of Israel in Its Journeyings to the West." Such was its title.

"Let all the people," it began, "of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, be organized into companies with a covenant and a promise to keep all the statutes of the Lord our God.

"Let the companies be organized with captains of hundreds and captains of fifties and captains of tens, with a President and Counsellor at their head under the direction of the Twelve Apostles.

"Let each company provide itself with all the teams, wagons, provisions, and all other necessaries for the journey.

"Let every man use all his influence and property to remove this people to the place where the Lord shall locate a stake of Zion, and let them share equally in taking the poor, the widows, and the fatherless, so that their cries come not up into the ears of the Lord against His people.

"And if ye do this with a pure heart, with all faithfulness, ye shall be blessed in your flocks and in your herds and in your fields and in your families. For I am the Lord your God, even the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Jacob; I am He who led the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, and my arm is stretched out in these last days to save my people of Israel.

"Fear not thine enemies, for they are in my hands, and I will do my pleasure with them.

"My people must be tried in all things, that they may be worthy to receive the glory that I have in store for them, even the glory of Zion; and he that will not receive chastisement is not worthy of my Kingdom. So no more at present. Amen and Amen!"

This was what he had longed for each winter night when he had seen the sun go down,—the word of the Lord to follow that sun on over the rim into the pathless wilderness, infested by savage tribes and ravenous beasts, abounding in terrors unknown.

Early in April the life began to stir more briskly in the great camp that sprawled along either side of the swollen, muddy river. From dawn to dark each day the hills echoed with the noise of many works, the streets were alive with men and women going and coming on endless errands, and with excited children playing at games inspired by the occasion. Wagons were mended and loaded with provisions and tools, oxen shod, ox bows renewed, guns put in order, bullets moulded, and the thousand details perfected of a migration so hazardous. They were busy, noisy, excited, happy days.

At last, in the middle of April, the signs were seen to be right. Grass grew and water ran, and their part, allotted by the Lord, was to brave the dangers of that forbidding land

that lay under the western sun. Then came a day of farewells and merry making. In the afternoon, the day being mild and sunny, there was a dance in the bowery,—a great arbor made of poles and brush and wattling. Here, where the ground had been trodden firm, the age and maternity as well as the youth and beauty of Israel gathered in such poor festal array as they had been able to save from their ravaged stores.

The Twelve Apostles led off in a double cotillion, to the moving strains of a violin and horn, the lively jingle of a string of sleigh-bells, and the genial snoring of a tambourine. Then camp dextrous displays in the dances of our forbears, who followed the fiddle to the Fox-chase Inn or Garden of Gray's Ferry. There were French Fours, Copenhagen Jigs, Virginia reels, —spirited figures blithely stepped. And the grave-faced, square-jawed Elders seemed as eager as the unthinking youths and maidens to throw off for the moment the burden of their cares.

From midday until the April sun dipped below the sharp skyline of the Omaha hills, the modest revel endured.

CHAPTER IX.

Into the Wilderness.

On to the West at last to build the house of God in the mountains. On to what Daniel Webster had lately styled "A region of savages and wild beasts, of deserts, of shifting sands and whirlwinds of dust, of cactus and prairie dogs."

The little band of pioneers chosen to break a way for the main body of the Saints consisted of 143 men, three women, and two children. They were to travel in 73 wagons, drawn by horses and oxen. They knew not where they were to stop, but they were men of eager initiative, fearless and determined; and their consolation was that, while their exodus into the desert meant hardship and grievous suffering, it also promised them freedom from Gentile interference. It was not a land into which they were venturing; but at least it was a land without a past, lying clean as it came from the hand of its maker, where they could be free to worship God without fearing the narrow judgment of the frivolous. Instructed in the sacred mysteries revealed to Joseph Smith through the magic light of the Urim and Thummim, and sustained by the divine message engraved on the golden plates he had dug up from the hill of Cumorah, they were now ready to feel their way across the continent and blaze a trail to the new Jerusalem.

They went in military style with due precautions against surprise by the Lamanites—the wretched red remnant of Abraham's seed—that swarmed on the plains.

Brigham Young was lieutenant general; Stephen Markham was colonel; the redoubtable John Pack was first major, and Shadrach Roundy, second. There were two captains of hundreds and fourteen captains of tens. The orders of the lieutenant general required each man to walk constantly beside his wagon, leaving it only by his officer's commands. To make the force compact, the wagons were to move two abreast where they could. Every man was to keep his weapons loaded. If the gun was a caplock, the cap was to be taken off and a piece of leather put on to exclude moisture and dirt; if a flintlock, the filling was to be taken out and the pan filled with tow or cotton.

Their march was not only cautious but orderly. At five a. m. the bugle sounded for rising, two hours being allowed for prayers and breakfast. At night each man had to retire to his wagon for prayer at eight-thirty, and to rest at nine. If they camped by a river they drew the wagons into a semicircle with the river at its base. Other times the wagons made a circle, a fore-wheel of one touching a rear wheel of the next, thus providing a corral for the stock. In such manner was the wisdom of the Lord concerning this hegira supplemented in detail by the worldly forethought of his servant Brigham.

They started along the north bank of the Platte river under the auspicious shine of an April sun. A better route was along the south bank where grass was more plentiful and the Indians less troublesome. But along the south bank parties of migrating Gentiles might also be met, and these sons of perdition were to be avoided at any cost—"at least for the present," said Brigham, in tones of sage significance.

And so for 200 miles they broke a new way over the plains, to be known years after as "the old Mormon trail," to be broadened later by the gold-seekers of forty-nine, and still later to be shod with steel, when the miracle of a railway was worked in the desert.

Joel Rae, walking beside his wagon, meditated chiefly upon the manner in which his Witness would first manifest itself. The wonder came, in a way, while he thus meditated. Late one afternoon the scouts thrown in advance came hurrying back to report a large band of Indians strung out in battle array a few miles ahead. The wagons were at once formed five abreast, their one cannon was wheeled to the front, and the company advanced in close formation. Perceiving these aggressive maneuvers, the Indians seemed to change their plan and, instead of coming on to attack, were seen to be setting fire to the prairie.

The result might well have been disastrous, as the wind was blowing toward the train. Joel Rae saw it; saw that the time had come for a miracle if the little company of Saints was to be saved a serious rebuff. He quickly entered his wagon and began to pray. Presently the Lord knew he might avert this calamity and permit the handful of faithful ones to proceed in peace to fashion His temple on earth.

When he began to pray there had been outside a woeful confusion of oaths, shouts, and plunging horses, bellowing oxen, excited men shouting to the stock and to one another, the barking of dogs and the rattling of the wagons. Through this din he prayed, scarcely hearing his own voice, yet filling with himself the faith that he knew must prevail. And then as he prayed he became conscious that these noises had subsided to a wonderful silence. A moment this lasted, and then he heard it broken by a mighty shout of gladness, followed by excited calls from one man to another.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Letter Was From His Sister

Husband's Wife Did Not Know This and Jealousy Cost Life.

Charles Hepburn, of Newcastle-on-Tyne hadn't the slightest reason for thinking his wife was jealous of him. Therefore when he received a letter from another woman asking him to meet her at a certain hour he carried the letter home in his pocket instead of destroying it. In going through his pockets at night the wife found the letter. She made no remarks, except to herself, but started to be at the place appointed and face the guilty pair.

Everything was all right up to this point, but in walking to the corner mentioned in the letter the wife was run down and killed by an omnibus and the husband came along just in time to identify the body. She had the letter on her person and the husband speedily proved that it was his own sister he was going to meet.

It is useless to point out the moral in this. Wives have been going through their husbands' pockets ever since pockets were a feature, and they have also been finding letters from other women, and this sad tragedy will have no general effect. There is always hope in the womanly breast of catching the husband dead to rights, and if she keeps on long enough she will probably accomplish her fell deed.

MONKS FIRST PLAYED DOMINOES

Origin of Game That Is Popular the World Over.

With regard to the game of dominoes there is a very interesting story connected with its origin. It runs thus: There were two monks who had been committed to the penalty of a long seclusion and were condemned to keep absolute silence. To relieve the monotony they played a game by showing each other small flat stones marked with black dots. By just understood arrangement the monk whose hand was used at first informed the other player by repeating in an undertone the first line of the vesper hymn, "Cantate Domino" (Sing unto the Lord). In time the monks completed the list of stones and formulated the rules of the game, so that by the time they were free to come out from their punishment they had found the game so interesting that on teaching it to the other members of the monastery it became a favorite and lawful pastime. It soon became popular all through Italy and from there extended to the whole world. The first line of the vesper hymn which the monks had used as a signal was reduced to the word domino, and the name has stuck to the game ever since.

ELEVEN YEARS OF ECZEMA.

Hands Cracked and Bleeding—Nail Came Off of Finger—Cuticura Remedies Brought Prompt Relief.

"I had eczema on my hands for about eleven years. The hands cracked open in many places and bled. One of my fingers was so bad that the nail came off. I had often heard of the cures by the Cuticura Remedies, but had no confidence in them as I had tried so many remedies, and they all had failed to cure me. I had seen three doctors, but got no relief. Finally my husband said that we would try the Cuticura Remedies, so we got a cake of Cuticura Soap, a box of Cuticura Ointment, and two bottles of Cuticura Resolvent Pills. Of course I keep Cuticura Soap all the time for my hands, but the one cake of Soap and half a box of Cuticura Ointment cured them. It is surely a blessing for me to have my hands well, and I am very proud of having tried Cuticura Remedies, and recommend them to all suffering with eczema. Mrs. Eliza A. Wiley, R. F. D. No. 2, Liscomb, Iowa, Oct. 18, 1906."

Prominent on Lecture Platform.

Senator Tillman probably earns more money every year on the lecture platform than any other American who talks to the public for pay. From an authoritative source the statement comes that the South Carolinian's net proceeds thus far this year from his lecture tour are $25,000. Senator Tillman is paid from $250 to $500 a lecture and he is constantly in demand. His action is not confined to the summery Chautauqua course and he fills nearly as many dates in the winter as at any other time of the year. In the last four years it is said that he has laid aside over $60,000 from his lecture receipts. Henry Watterson perhaps comes next in the matter of earnings on the platform. Champ Clark, of Missouri, ranks high as a popular favorite and makes about twice as much as a lecturer as his congressional salary.

No Advance In Wisdom.

Mark Twain tells how four years ago he was invited by the University of Missouri to go out there and receive the degree of LL. D. At the same time he visited Hannibal, his boyhood home. Just as he was about to leave, being accompanied to the station by a crowd of citizens, Tom Nash, a schoolfellow, came up—white headed, but still a boy. He shook hands with his friend of many a year and nodding toward the crowd said: "People of this town are the same blamed fools they always were, ain't they, Sam?"

Water on a Battleship.

As many as 8,000 gallons of fresh water are used in a large battleship daily. About two-thirds of this is taken up by the boilers, and the remainder is used for drinking, washing, cooking, etc. When the ship is which she has taken out with her from port has been used up, a vessel has to depend upon receipts for further supplies. Every modern warship is fitted with evaporating machinery to distil the salt sea-water.

The Language of Commerce.

Great Britain and her colonies and the United States represent together the fabulous total of 111,000,0000 English-speaking persons, figures which leave all competitors hopelessly in the rear. Germany and Russia occupy second place with 75,0,00,000 apiece, and France, Spain, Italy and Portugal follow, with 51,000,000, 43,000,000, 23,000,000 and 13,000,000 respectively, according to The Atlas of the World's Commerce.

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Dec. 12, 1906.

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THE PROGRESS OF THE CANADIAN WEST.

Nearly 200,000 of an Increase in Canada's Immigration in 1906.

The progress of a new country cannot be better ascertained than by noting the increase of railroad mileage in its transportation system, and, judged by this standard, the Canadian West leads all the countries in the world during the current year. Thirty years ago there was not one hundred miles of railroad west of the Great Lakes, and very little prospect of a transcontinental route for many years to come, but by the end of 1885 the Canadian Pacific Railway was within measurable distance of completion, and last year—twenty years later—over 6,000 miles of railroad traversed the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In the past year the work of railroad construction has been vigorously prosecuted, and by the end of 1906, some 5,000 miles of completed railroad has been added, making a total of fully 11,000 miles in the three great grain producing provinces of Canada. Such an increase in the transportation facilities of the country is bound to make good times not only in the districts where the railroads are being built, but throughout the entire west. Allowing $20,000 a mile for construction, the sum of $100,000,000 will be put in circulation, and this in itself should cause good times to prevail in a land where work is plentiful, wages are high, and the cost of living is moderate.

But the building of new railroads through Western Canada means a greater benefit to the country than merely the money put in circulation by the cost of construction. Additional railway building means the opening of new agricultural districts and an additional area under crops; a largely increased output of grain to foreign markets with consequent financial returns; the erection of elevators and the growth of villages, towns and cities; and everything else that makes for the progress of national life, and the opening up of additional thousands of free homesteads, so extensively advertised by the Canadian government agent, whose address appears elsewhere.

It was stated on the floor of the Canadian Parliament recently by a prominent representative that ten years from now would see the bulk of the population of Canada residing west of the Great Lakes, and if the work of railway building during the present year is any criterion, the prophecy made by the Canadian statesman may be easily fulfilled inside of the time stated. During the present year no less than 189,064 persons have found homes in the Canadian west, of whom 57,796 were Americans who have seen the great possibilities of this new West, and have decided to cast in their lot with it. Certainly, our neighbor north of the 49th parallel is making a great record, and deserves the success that appears to be coming its way.

Chinese Superior to Japs.

Discussing the little rumpus with Japan, Senator William A. Clark expresses the opinion the Chinese in this country are superior to the Japanese. "I have loaned thousands of dollars to Chinamen," said the senator, "and never have I known one to fail to meet his obligations." He emphasized his opinion as to the superiority of the Chinamen by calling attention to the fact that the Japanese in their banking institutions employ Chinamen in positions of trust in preference to their own countrymen.

Strangely Mounted.

The strangest military body in the world is a band of cavalry at Saint de Moorvay, a province on the east coast of Africa, which is under the rule of the French governor general at Madagascar. These soldiers go about their military operations on oxen. The animals are lean creatures, and it is said they move with surprising rapidity.

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$100 Reward, $100.
The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.
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Insist on Insularity.
The people of Cornwall's coast object to the Great Western Railway company applying foreign names to their climate and scenery. One advertisement called a certain locality the "English Riviera," and a Cornishman at a meeting of protest the other night said Cornwall had "nothing to gain by being called after something in the south of France or a dirty little Italian town."

Peru Claims Kurokl.
Gen. Kuroki, the famous Japanese soldier, has been variously described as of Polish, Russian and German extraction. Another interesting character has been added to this genealogical symposium by an official publication in the Official Gazette, of Lima, Peru, which makes the claim, and submits a plausible statement of facts to prove it, that Kuroki's father was a Peruvian patriot whose name was Tranjito Charrequi. It is also declared that the general's father was a descendant of the Incas, who themselves are believed to have been descendants of an Asiatic race, so Kuroki is an afavism and has come into his own in the land of his fathers.

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First class boys desiring to enlist as recruits, upon discharge travel allowance 4 cents per mile in place of all other allowances. Bonus for re-enlistment for one month of honest service.