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### KIRTLAND MORMONS.

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE ORDER SURPRISING.

How the People are Now Reviving the Faith of the Prophet Joe Smith-Some of His Wild-cat Ventures-His Peculiar Experiences in the Banking Line.

[Special Correspondence.]

KIRTLAND, O., April 18. Twenty-three miles east of the city of Cleveland and about seven miles south from the shore of Lake Erie was driven, in the year 1831, the first stake of Zion. Fifty-six years ago it was not so evident as it now is where the large cities and towns of the lake region would be. It then seemed an assured fact that Kirtland would be larger than either Cleveland or Buffalo.

In the latter part of the winter and early spring of 1831 there was the most wonderful ingathering of people on Kirtland Flats that had ever been seen in this part of the world. It was impossible to build houses fast enough to accommodate those who came. Rude shanties were extemporized. Many people continued to reside, like gypsies, in the Conestoga wagons and ox carts in which they came. The sound of the hammer was heard incessantly. Houses and shops grew as if by magic. It was a busy mart. To supply the wants of this multitude was no small task. There were men, women and children of many grades, but the rude, squalid and poor seemed to be the prevailing type. Hon. A. G. Riddle, of Washington, then a young man residing in the vicinity, who visited the Flats at this time, says that one could see in their faces evidences of the wild fanaticism that had brought this assemblage of odds and ends

This was a season of religious agitation in all portions of the country. Alexander Campbell and his father, Thomas Campbell, Scotch Presbyterians, had recently begun to preach some new doctrines in regard to the proper interpretation of the Scriptures. They had made a decided sensation in various quarters and had organized many churches. Those who accepted the preaching of the Campbells were called "Campbellites," and some people were disposed to persecute the new denomination. This only added strength and coherence to the new sect, and it grew rapidly. Among the ambitious preachers who had come from the Baptists and accepted the views of the Campbells was a fluent and somewhat brilliant young man named Sidney Rigdon. He often complained to his friends that the Campbells were obtaining more credit than they deserved. It was not long after that Rigdon and Joseph Smith, Jr., were preaching Mormonism. Rigdon was the principal orator of the new dispensation. But again he was disappointed, for Smith was the prophet and founder.

it would be convenient to have a bank. They had no capital to speak of, except faith, but the bank was organized. It was called "The Kirtland Saving society." Smith was made cashier, and Rigdon president, and the faithful were advised to deposit their funds with the concern. An unlimited amount of paper was issued, and for a time money was plenty in the community.

Under direction from the Lord, Smith set about the construction of a temple. It was in the roof, which utilized the garret as a third story. The walls were made of stone and covered on the outside with a cement that has stood the ravages of fifty-five years, and is still as perfect as the day it was put on. This cement was made by an Englishman (one of the faithful), who alone knew the secret of its composition. It has often been examined by expert builders, who would be willing to pay a large sum for the recipe from which it was made, but all in vain. Its ingredients and their proportions are as much a mystery as the manner in which the pyramids of Egypt were constructed. The ..... that the temple stood intact for more than: half a century is cited by believers as certain proof that the Lord was its architect.

Smith and Rigd sn added to their bank an temple a mill and a store. The prophet by this time also had a comfortable house of his own, well furnished considering the times. Things thus went on very well for a time, but finally the natural results of "wild cat" banking began to be felt. There was no redeeming basis for the bank circulation, and depositors who had put in "hard money" did not feel contented to take out irredeemable paper. One thing followed another, and the crash at length came all at once. Smith disposed of his earthly effects as hastily as possible, and, in company with Rigdon, fled in January, 1838, to Independence, Mo. They did not get away, however, until they had been arrested on charges of swindling. The suit was instituted by citizens who were incensed over the losses they had sustained. They were joined by disaffected and apostate Mormons. The prisoners escaped from the

Before leaving Kirtland the saints encountered many schisms and dissensions among themselves. These troublous elements were transplanted to Missouri and Illinois.

Only one family, that of Mr. and Mrs. Stratton, remained in Kirtland. They still believed in the prophet, but not to the extent of fleeing with him to Missouri. They held the key of the temple and claimed to have the title to it.

After the trouble at Nauvoo, Ills., and the death of the prophet, the leaders split up and separated. There was much dissatisfaction with the sudden prominence and leadership of Brigham Young. That worthy, however, took the larger part of the people with him and made the wonderful hegira to Salt Lake. For more than thirty years the world heard very little of any Mormons except those of Utah. Brigham Young had shown himself to be of great strength as a leader. He kept down schism by the force of his cast iron will. But the scattered leaders kept the fires of faith alive on their hearthstones. With the lapse of time the halo around the life and work of the prophet who had been murdered grew, and at length there was a gathering and an organization of the fragments into a body called the "Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints." This new body is aggressive, dogmatical, earnest. Its missionaries go forth into all regions and preach the gospel to the lowly. They returned four years ago and laid claim to the old deserted temple here. Mrs. Electa Stratton still held the key. A few dollars expended in renovating made the old building a presentable structure, as good or better than the ordinary country church. The "Reorganized" branch laid claim to the property and have obtained at length a clear title to it. Kirtland, which for fifty years has been stranded away from the beaten routes of travel, is again having a "boom." It is the Mecca of a church. It is the center of a conference, and here resides one of the

principal bishops. The conference which has just closed its scssions here is the largest ever held by the denomination. Its deliberations were participated in by all the prominent men of the church, and near its close Joseph Smith II, the son and heir of the prophet, on whom the prophetic mantle fell, delivered an important revelation from the spirit. These anti-polygamous Mormons are growing in the estimation of the public. Barring their alleged fanaticism and their faithful belief in Joseph Smith as a prophet, they do not differ ma-terially from other Christian sects. They very strenuously oppose the use of liquor or tobacco, and are particular about the observance ordinances of the New Testament as they understand them. They are certain to take no mean place, so far as membership goes, in the denominations of the world, GROBERTSON.

SPORTING TOPICS.

Winnings of Some Fast Horses-Story About John Morrissey. [Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, April 18, Everybody, of course, remembers what a wonderful racer Hindoo was only a few years ago and what slight odds the bookmakers were wont to lay against him when, indeed, they did not actually bet on him. I knew that as a sire he had also proven a great success, but I had no idea to what an extent this was the case. I therefore received a genuine surprise the other day when, upon looking over the winnings of the different horses during 1886, I found that The Widow, Catalpa, Hanover, Sunbeam, Hinda and Jim Gore, all of them the get of Hindoo, had won between them during last season the sum of \$34,000. Jim Gore, of course, headed the list, being credited with \$14,000, or more than half of the entire amount. Hindoo's progeny will probably make even a better showing for this year

The wonderful time, 18m. 40s., which McCormick made when he defeated Dowd, of Montreal, at St. John, N. B., in a five mile skating race recently, will hardly be allowed to go on record as the best time ever made, as the track was just fourteen laps to the mile, and a mistake of a few feet on each lap would make a very considerable difference in the entire distance. And besides, there were not the proper preparations and precautions taken for obtaining world's records. Then, too, I understand that the watches differed very materially. McCormick is without doubt a very fast skater, but the alleged record breaking should be taken with a copions allowance of salt.

A six days' go as you please race, under the management of the veteran Daniel O'Leary, will occur at Omaha, Neb., April 25 to 30, and if some man hitherto unknown to fame should succeed in getting to the front, he will be taken to England and matched against Littlewood. The division of the receipts will be 40 per cent, to the first, 25 to the second. 15 to the third, 12 to the fourth and 8 to the fifth. Nearly all of the best walkers and runners in the country have promised to enter, and as this is the first event of the kind ever brought off in Omaha, it ought to be a great success, especially with such a man as Dan O'Leary at the helm.

When I was a lad of about 15 I was at Sar-

atoga for the summer. I was the guest of my uncle, who was a physician and a warm personal friend of John Morrissey, who then owned the race course. Most of my time was spent at the lake lostering around the boat houses of the several college crews. As a natural, consequence, having been almost brought up in a boat, and understanding rowing thoroughly, I was enabled to form a very good general idea of the relative merits of the different crews. The university race that year was considered a certainty for either Yale or Harvard, although Columbia The prophet and Rigdon soon decided that also had many followers. Morrissey was backing Yale heavily to win, and had invested several thousand dollars. One day I met him in front of Moon's just as I had started to walk into town. "Well, my little man," said he, "do you eat, drink and sleep over here at the lake!" I assured him that it was not quite as bad as that, whereupon he added: "Anyway, you are over here enough to know what crew you think will win the university race." Flattered by this condescension on the part of the eld man, I replied proudly made two stories high, with dormer windows that I thought the men on Snake Hill (Cornell) would win. Morrissey seemed much impressed with the answer and acted upon it, for thereafter, instead of taking Yale against the field he would always include Cornell in his bets. As every one knows, Cornell won both the university and freshman races. The advice saved Morrissey

I notice that another Sullivan demolisher has come to the surface in Australia. The fellow's name is Francis P. Slavin, and for the past few months he has been entertaining the Antipodeans with exhibitions of the neatness and dispatch with which he can knock out the country yokels. Slavin is a young man of Herculean proportions, standing over six feet high; his weight, trained, does not fall far short of 200 pounds. He has written to a prominent sporting man of this city requesting him to arrange a match with Sullivan. This gentleman will probably send Slavin the money to come to America.

A strong effort, I see, is now being made to have the Hanlan-Gaudaur race occur at either Nantasket Beach or Point of Pincs. The place which offers the greater inducements to the oarsmen in the way of excursion money, etc., will get it. OCTY COHEN.

A New Prima Donna.

We present herewith a portrait of an American prima donna who has made a notable success in various roles in Paris, Moscow and St. Petersburg, and is now one of the leading ladies of Col. Mapleson's Royal Italian Opera company in London. Lilian Norton Gower is her baptismal name, but fol-

lowing the traditions of opera, after

of study at Milan, she Italianized it to Mme, Lilian Nordica. She is a native of Farmington, Mass., and her mother was a daughter of the noted revivalist "Camp Meeting John Allen." After studying at Boston she went to London with Patrick Gilmore's company

completing a course

LILIAN NORDICA. sang at the Crystal Palace ten years ago. She then took a thorough course of instruction under Signor Sangiovanni, of Milan, and made her debut in "La Traviata" at Brescia, Italy. She has since sung the leading roles is such operas as "Mefistofele," "La Gioconda" and "Hamlet," winning great applause. Mr. Mapleson engaged her in 1883 and she has been with him ever since. She has a true soprano voice of excellent quality.

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