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The Weekly Monitor

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H. S. PIPER,
Editor and Proprietor.

# Weekly Monitor.

SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX EST.

VOL. 11. BRIDGETOWN, N. S., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1884. NO. 50.

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## Weekly Monitor

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Will continue to fill all orders for MIXED FEED at short notice. Have purchased a SHINGLE MACHINE, and will be prepared to saw or furnish long or short tapered shingles. Are now negotiating for a
Rotary Saw and Stave Mill,
all to be in operation this spring.
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John A. Brown & Co.
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**LAWRENCETOWN,**
IS ONE OF THE BEST BUSINESS STANDS IN THE COUNTY.
For information, apply to,
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October 30, 29tf

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Margaretville, Feb. 12, '84. 44 3mpd

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## Poetry.

**Beyond these Chilling Winds.**

Beyond these chilling winds and gloomy skies,
Beyond death's solemn portal,
There is a land where beauty never dies
And love becomes immortal;

A land whose light is never dimmed by shade,
Whose fields are ever vernal,
Where nothing beautiful can ever fade,
But blooms are aye, eternal.

We may not know how sweet the balmy air,
How bright and fair its flowers;
We may not hear the songs that echo there,
Through those enchanted bowers.

That city's shining towers we may not see
With our dim earthly vision,
For death, the silent warden, keeps the key
That opens those gates elysian.

But sometimes, when adown the western sky
The fiery sunset lingers,
Its golden gates swing inward noiselessly,
Unlocked by silent fingers.

And while they stand a moment half ajar,
Gleams from the inner glory
Stream brightly through the azure vault afar,
And half reveal the story.

O land unknown! O land of love divine!
Father, all wise, eternal,
Guide, guide these wandering feet of mine
Into those pastures vernal!

—*New York Observer.*

**The Old Churchyard.**

Breathe soft and low, O whispering wind,
Above the tangled grasses deep,
Where those who loved me long ago
Forgot the world and fell asleep.
No towering shaft or sculptured urn,
Or mausoleum's empty pride,
Tells to the curious passer-by
Their virtues or the time they died.

I count the old familiar names,
O'ergrown with moss and lichens
Where tangled brier and creeping vine
Across the crumbling tablets stray.
The summer sky is softly blue;
The birds still sing the sweet old strain;
But something from the summer time
Is gone that will not come again.

So many voices have been hushed—
So many songs have ceased for aye—
So many hands I used to touch
Are folded over hearts of clay.
The mossy world recedes from me—
I cease to hear its praise or blame;
The mossy marbles echo back
No hollow sound of empty fame.

I only know that, calm and still,
They sleep beyond life's woe and wail,
Beyond the fleet of sailing clouds,
Beyond the shadow of the vale;
I only feel that, tired and worn,
I halt upon the highway bare,
And gaze with yearning eyes beyond
To fields that shine supremely fair.

## Select Literature.

*Printed in this paper by special arrangement with the author.*

### SEALED UNTO HIM.*

A Story of the Early Days of Mormonism.

By JOAQUIN MILLER,

AUTHOR OF "SONGS OF THE SIERRAS," "THE DANITES," "MEMORIE AND RIME," ETC.

CHAPTER II.

BY THE DEAD SEA.

It was called the dead sea in the old days by those who passed that way. The River Jordan still holds its biblical name, as do many of the passes, springs, valleys, and mountain-peaks surrounding Salt Lake.

My father was puzzled as to who this strange man might be, after taking his hand and bearing him talk in his quiet, unselfish, and learned fashion, than ever before. Was he indeed a Danite, or only some poor Mormon, a sort of insane man, doing penance as he professed?

It is a great mistake to say that only dishonest, ignorant, and impure men are fanatics in religion. I frequently recall, when thinking of these things, the gaunt, lean figure of the old learned Caliph who sat on his gates of Jerusalem, demanding the keys of the doomed city. I see him dine, as he sits there, on two dried figs and a drink of water from the leathern bottle at his belt. I see him die at last, after all the wealth of the East has passed untouched through his hands, with face lifted radiant in hope to the gates of heaven. That his followers were ignorant, bad at heart, is true. They could not even plead redeeming industry.

Pardon this digression. One is tempted into noting parallels of religious fanaticism, folly, and madness by the singular similarity of the physical characteristics of the two lands—Syria and this Mormon region now know as Utah.

It was a tired, dusty, disheartened little party that touched the salt-white shore of the dead sea in the heart of the great desert and wilderness of this continent more than thirty years ago.

The silent and melancholy man in the long black barrow was quite well enough, after the night's rest which followed my father's visit, to creep on after his coffin the next morning; and he kept up, hovering on our border, keeping only a little way in the rear, camping only a little way off, living his singular life all by himself, as before, till we reached the shores of the inland sea.

It is to be confessed that there was not one of our little train that did not hope, expect, almost pray, that here this man would leave us—this nightmare, shadow, and cloud; this bird of evil omen—rise at last and fly away. Not so.

The coffin took up position not five hundred yards away on the bank of the brawling little stream which swept into the great black lake, with its gleaming border of crystal-white salt. The grass was long and strong here. Some willows cast a cooling shade. Here the tall and hideous giant with the hollow eyes sat and read all day alone. But where was he at night? We children did not fish in that stream once during the whole week of rest here, while purchasing fresh supplies from Salt Lake City, only a few miles away to the South. We stepped high and hurried in the tall grass if by chance any of the cattle went too close to that monstrous shape, and we had to go there to drive them back and nearer camp.

My father had been very anxious all the journey to hear from the Lanes. He often asked men who had slow teams like our own if they had seen this party pass. They had been seen often. At the settlement of Salt Lake he asked for them in vain.

One day he ventured to approach the watchful and silent giant who rested by his coffin as he read in the shade of the willows, and asked if he had had any information about the Lanes.

The man only lifted the lids of his hollow eyes, looked a moment at my father, let them fall, and again went on reading. But seeing that my father stood respectfully by, and was disposed neither to ask again nor even to grow angry and pass on in silence, he again lifted his eyes for a second, and looking at my father, said, in a deep, solemn, and never-to-be-forgotten tone:

'Maybe they have been judged; and are not!'

And again he went on reading and said no word more, while my father, with pale lips, silently took my hand and returned to camp. He knew what that awful sentence meant very well.

But the beautiful, black-eyed girl, so full of youth, health, affection, devotion—what monstrous creature in all this world could be found miserable enough to murder her? Surely her purity, her sweetness, should be as ten thousand swords to defend her. Her beauty should have been as an army with banners.

One morning before sunrise, two long haired men on horseback, bearing long rifles before them, dashed up to the grim black shape, half-hidden in the rank rye grass there by the bank of the little trout stream, and the bony giant was seen to sit suddenly bolt upright in the coffin.

The conference did not last long. Only a few words passed—orders mainly—brief, short, sharp, and mostly made up of monosyllables and gestures; and then the long-haired men on horseback, with their long rifles before them, wheeled suddenly and disappeared in and behind a grove of the cool, leaning willows up the stream.

Then it was that the certain conviction settled down upon all as to who this monster was. Men and women too, in the many camps scattered here and there, up and down the willow-lined stream, began to question themselves with pale lips if they had aught to answer for, to these sudden, swift, and merciless 'judges' of the tribe of Dan.

The terror that now possessed us, and lay steadily and still over all, was painful, pitiful. No one dared to speak to his neighbor. No one knew who was his neighbor. There was some what of that awful stillness and sad pity over the face of nature which is to be observed when an earthquake is about to break the heart of our mother, earth.

On the next day four other men, similarly mounted, equally abrupt, sudden and swift, swept up the little stream from the shores of the white lined sea, and looked up and down and right and left, as if for some one who was lost or had escaped. They did not speak to any one, or even come near to the silent man up the stream, above our camp. But they beckoned him, and he answered back. Then they dashed up the mountain-side which sloped to the stream, and, climbing at a steady gallop to the high gray summit, sat there in a group a long time, looking to the east, to the west, everywhere, long and eagerly. Then they rode on down the grassy hill toward the head of the stream, and we saw them no more. But a darker shadow than ever was over us now; a shadow lay behind them like the shadow of death.

We could not endure the strain any longer. And then, in fact, we were almost ready to set out once more on the long, long journey still before us. Father made excuse that he wanted to catch the cool of the evening. And this gave him some pretence of reason to haste. And so he set out, as the sun went down, to move his little train on, on, on, onward over the great white border of the great sea of death—anywhere, indeed, to get rid of this nightmare that hovered over, suffocated us.

Some of our men had made a boat here out of an old wagon-bed. By the help of a friendly Indian they had rowed far out to a little island with three green trees on it. There was a rock just visible above the black, heavy waters here close to this island.

One of the men who went in bathing on the edge of the island swam toward this rock. The Indian was horrified, and with yells beckoned him back. But the man was already turning back through the black heavy water, and making for the island and the boat with all his might. He had seen a dead body there with log-chains about it—the work of the Danites. And yet no man dared say so, or even speak of it.

You must know that the water of Salt Lake are at least ten feet from their old white line of thirty years ago. And this island and rock in the heart of the great black sea of death are hidden entirely. The ploughed lands have been washed into the lake, and its pores and outlets have been choked up. Away to the south side of the lake last year I rowed my boat over miles and miles of fences that had been swallowed up by the rising waters. The Pacific Railroad Company attempted to build close to the border of this lake on the north side at first. The gradually rising water drove it to the hills.

As our little train began to stretch out and start with its creaking wagons on down and around the white rim of the great lake to the west, in the gorgeous moonlight, we felt sure that we should not be followed by that haunting and horrid spectre that had so long pushed its black shape silently after us. We drew out upon the broad, white salt border, and began to strike away toward the west. He was not with us, not following us, thank Heaven! Every one there took in a long breath, and felt better, freer than for weeks, months.

Other trains had not broken camp. And so it began to be hoped that we would not be missed by the sudden and swift horsemen who claimed jurisdiction here, and asserted and maintained the right of their elders to sit in judgment on the world. Word was passed up and down the line to hasten on as fast as possible, to put as much distance between them and us, between that hideous black box that had haunted us so long and persistently, as possible before dawn.

We had made two miles, perhaps, before taking breath. We had climbed a little hill. Here we paused; and looking back, there came creeping across the gleaming white road of salt, right on our track as before, that frightful leader of the Danites. He was pushing, with all his show of humility and penance as before, the long black coffin, across the broad white border of salt in the matchless moonlight.

*(To be Continued.)*

**Report of School District No. 4.**

L. S. MORSE A. M., INSPECTOR.

SIR,—In addition to Statistical Tables and Monthly Reports already forwarded to you, I beg leave to submit the following Report of the state of Common School Education in Inspectoral District No. 4 for the year ended October 31st 1883.

The number of sections in this inspectoral district has been augmented during the past year by the formation of a new section in the County of Annapolis. The total number of sections is now one hundred and seventy-nine.

The school accommodation in most sections is sufficient. The principal deficiency as before reported is in a few of the most populous sections in the district of Clare in which graded schools should take the place of the miscellaneous schools now maintained. The method of distributing the County fund now in vogue, is exerting a beneficial influence upon these and other populous sections. I anticipate a marked improvement in the sections referred to, when the law regulating the distribution of the County Fund is more generally understood by the rate-payers.

The supply of apparatus in many schools is not adiquate to the requirements of teachers and pupils. I see no satisfactory way of remedying the deficiency under existing circumstances, unless the superintendent of education, or the inspectors of schools, or both, are explicitly authorized to supply the apparatus considered to be essential and deduct the price of the same from the County Fund. I believe that the spirit of the law should sustain them at present in doing so.

The teachers as a body, considering the difference of class, and making reasonable allowance for the youthfulness and inexperience of some, have performed their work with intelligence and success. A good percentage of the whole number employed are evidently improving in efficiency, and by study and well directed efforts are adding to their stores of knowledge and to their ability to properly teach and govern the schools intrusted to their charge. The work required in the smallest and most backward school, if rightly and honestly performed, must prove of great benefit to teacher and pupils both intellectually and morally.

It is encouraging to find teachers cultivating their own powers while systematically and faithfully performing their legitimate work in the school and thus rendering themselves and the schools under their charge more efficient and more worthy of confidence and support. It affords me pleasure to say that there is a respectable number of teachers in this inspectoral district to be found thus discharging their duties, and whose services are sought after by the trustees of the most eligible sections. It is a matter of regret, however, that teachers are occasionally found who seem not to feel the great responsibilities of their profession, and who apparently do not devote much time to preparation for their daily duties, as is evidenced by their work in the school-room and by the condition of the schools under their charge. While all teachers now in the ranks of the profession are not endowed by nature with equal gifts for imparting instruction, and consequently are not alike successful, few comparatively can be found who do not aim to benefit their pupils by a conscientious discharge of duty. In some cases teachers are seriously impeded in the performance of their duty, and therefore fail to achieve the success to which their labors entitle them, in consequence of the limited supply of apparatus at their command.

While the schools in general have exhibited a fair amount of progress, a considerable number have done remarkably well. In the cases of these latter a combination of favorable circumstances was found to exist. The teachers in these cases were well fitted for their work both educationally and by natural endowments, the attendance was tolerably regular, the accommodation good, the apparatus suitable, and above all they had the co-operation of trustees, parents and pupils. Where these conditions, or the more important of them, existed, success more or less complete has been the necessary consequence; and where the more important of these conditions were wanting, partial failure to obtain satisfactory results has necessarily followed. It is plainly evident that failure in the school-room can invariably be traced to a neglect to secure the necessary conditions. A well-trained teacher fitted by nature for his work, is an essential requisite, without which a thoroughly good school is an impossibility. It is equally essential, however, that good apparatus and a regular attendance of pupils be secured, without which a good teacher cannot achieve success.

The benefits of a Normal School training are being more generally appreciated by parents and Trustees, and as a consequence teachers who have received such a training are becoming more popular. This fact is gradually being understood by those aspiring to the teaching profession. I regret to be obliged to report, however, that the comparatively small salaries paid in many sections, together with the too frequent change of teachers, prevent very many who obtain licenses from undergoing a thorough course of training and from adopting the profession as their life's work. These causes are inducing teachers to quit the profession, and are producing a scarcity of teachers at the present time.

The Acadian French of this inspectoral district deserve honorable mention for the efforts which they put forth to keep their schools in operation in most sections during the entire year. One serious difficulty in connection with their schools, is the scarcity of regularly licensed teachers. To meet the demand permissive licenses must be issued often to persons not very well qualified, but the best to be had. It is gratifying, however, to know that the supply of regularly licensed French teachers is increasing; and it is to be hoped that it will soon equal the demand. Under the existing mode of examination for licenses French candidates are placed at a disadvantage in being obliged to undergo an examination in a language to them foreign. I would suggest that Deputy Examiners hereafter be instructed to endorse the words 'French candidate' upon the envelope containing the written exercises of each French applicant for examination, and that the Provincial Examiners be directed to make a reasonable allowance in such cases for any defects and errors which may occur in the use of the English language. Such a course would seem to be reasonable and just, and to be necessary in order to secure for them an equal footing with English candidates.

The general progress of the Acadian French schools is of necessity not so rapid as that attained in the English schools. It is, however, under the circumstances fairly creditable. These schools labor under great disadvantages in that both languages are required to be taught, and the prescribed English text books are used in addition to French reading books. Inasmuch as a large proportion of the pupils attending these schools do not understand English, the teachers are obliged to do much extra work, translating from one language to the other in order to render problems and passages otherwise obscure, plain and intelligible to their pupils. It is impossible, also, for many of the pupils, owing to their limited knowledge of English, to make an intelligent preparation of lessons in advance of recitation.

The daily attendance of pupils at school was a little better than it was during the preceding year, but it is yet far short of what it should be. During the winter term one thousand six hundred and fifty-nine children between the ages of five and fifteen years are reported not at school in sections having schools. The percentage of enrolled pupils daily present for time in session during the same term was sixty. During the summer term one thousand three hundred and eighty-nine children between the ages mentioned are reported not at school in sections having schools, while the percentage of enrolled pupils daily present for time in session was fifty-nine. It is to hoped that the 'Act to secure better attendance at public schools,' already adopted by many sections, will cause marked improvement in the future.

The County academies at Annapolis and Digby have been under the charge of Mr. Alexander McRae and Mr. W. H. Magee, respectively. These gentlemen have discharged their duties creditably. A fair number of pupils have been in attendance, belonging however, with comparatively few exceptions to the sections in which these Academies are situated. I am forced to the conclusion that these institutions do not benefit the counties at large to the extent contemplated by the Legislature which enacted the law to which they owed their existence. The scheme suggested by yourself in your last annual report as a substitute for the present system of so-called Special and County Academies, seems to be equitable and just, and will I believe, prove satisfactory if adopted, and be productive of much more benefit to the Province.

The Teachers' Association for this Inspectoral District held its annual meetings in the town of Digby on the 26th and 27th days of April. The attendance of teachers was good, and the interest well sustained during all the sessions. In addition to the ordinary routine business, papers of a creditable character on the following subjects were presented to the Association, viz:—'The Necessity of having Trained Teachers in charge of our Primary Schools,' by Mr. Alex. McRae; 'Grammar and How it should be Taught,' by Mr. W. H. Magee; 'Teaching School versus Keeping School,' by Mr. Geo. E. McGill; 'The Teacher's Social Position,' by Mr. J. W. McGregor; 'Questioning,' by Mr. J. W. H. King; and 'Some of the Causes of Indolence in Pupils,' by Mr. A. J. McKenna. Profitable discussion follow-

*(Concluded on fourth page.)*

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