

The Upward Look

Travel Thoughts—No. 8

Lessons Learned from the Mormons

ONE fact with which I was impressed while in Mormon land was the thoroughness of the people in whatever they attempted.

Their organ is one of the most famous on our continent. Parts of it were carried with them through mountains and across deserts. Nails were no expensive and too heavy to carry, so there are none in that great laboratory, all the fastenings being things of hide. The acoustic properties are so good that a whisper or the dropping of a pin may be heard from one end of the building to the other. The representation of the human voice was so realistic that it was difficult to believe there was really no choir there. Two hundred of their young people sang, to the accompaniment of the open-air organ, at the San Diego Exposition. The expression, time and tone made it a rare musical treat.

The beehive which is seen on many of their buildings, is their emblem, as they consider it represents industry.

While visiting in one of their homes, a photograph was shown me of a son-in-law of the house. He had left shortly before to go as a missionary to Paris. In that group were missionaries from practically the whole world. Every eligible man is expected to spend three years of his young manhood in the mission field. Such is their zeal for the spread of their belief.

With every church is a recreation hall, open all through the week, and used every night. Would not many of our young people be helped if there were a church-home, in which they would always be welcome?

"Our only one of the Mormon girls said they did not celebrate Fourth of July particularly, but mentioned another date. When asked why, she explained that just when their ranches were beginning to be productive, in spite of alkali and desert, a great plague of locusts came. In answer to prayer, God sent flocks of seagulls from Salt Lake, which devoured them all. Looking at the serious face and listening to the reverent voice, one could not but wonder how deep and sincere was her faith.

An afternoon was spent in the wonderful Ogden Canyon. At every possible opportunity the guide, who was a Mormon, tried to convert us to their viewpoint. In defence of his new, he showed such a knowledge of the Scriptures that again and again the thought came, how few of our people could do as well.

"Search the scriptures . . . for ye are they which testify of me." John 5:39. I. H. N.

The Wren

THE diminutive house wren frequents barns and gardens, and particularly old orchards in which the trees are partially decayed. It makes his nest in a hollow where a wood-pecker had a domicile a year before, but he is a pugnacious character, and if he happens to see one of the boxes put up for the birds, he does not hesitate to pull it. He is usually not slow to fill himself of boxes, gourds, tin cans, or empty jars placed for his accommodation.

His food habits the house wren is truly beneficial. He may be said to live upon animal food alone, for an examination of 88 stomachs showed

that 88 per cent. of the contents was made up of insects or their allies, and only two per cent. was vegetable food, including bits of grass and similar matter, evidently taken by accident with the insects. Half of this food consisted of grasshoppers and beetles; the remainder of caterpillars, bugs, and spiders. As the wren is a prolific breeder, frequently rearing in a season from 12 to 16 young, a family of these birds must cause considerable reduction in the number of insects in a garden. Wrens are industrious foragers, searching every tree, shrub, and vine for caterpillars, and examining every post and rail of the fence and every cranny in the wall for insects or spiders.



The house wren is only one of a numerous group of small birds of similar habits. There are within the limits of the United States 23 species and sub-species of wrens, occupying more or less completely the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With the exception of the marsh wren, they all appear to prefer some cozy nook for a nesting site, and, as it happens, the farm build-up afford just the place desired. This has led several of the wrens to seek out the habitation of man, and he is benefited by their destruction of noxious insects. No species of wren has been accused of harm, and their presence should be encouraged about every farm, ranch, village, or suburban residence.

An Important Question

"I HAD an adventure the other evening," said Miss Autumn to a neighbor on whom she was calling. "It was quite dark, and I saw a strange man just ahead of me, and I ran until I was nearly exhausted."

"And did the man get away from you?" asked Willie, who was listening.

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OUR HOME CLUB

In Reply to "Bachelor Dick"

IS it not possible that "Bachelor Dick," in judging all girls of his neighborhood by the one whose chance remark came to his ears, is judging some of them wrongly? Is it not possible, too, that had he not too much pride, he might find there were some girls to whom perfect happiness with "the right one" might mean the question of the greatest importance as regards the future happiness of married life—"A Quebec Girl."

"P.B.W." to "H.E.B."

IN the issue of 21st Oct. "H. E. B." asks if I think that the average working man under present conditions, has a big enough interest in Canada to lose, to warrant him being forced to risk his life to defend it. By saying "forced," he seems to imply I advocated conscription. I did not, though another correspondent, "Thistle," did so. In the opinion of many people, it is not in the best interests of Britain or the Empire to discuss the pros and cons of conscription at the present time. But in England and over here, we are so accustomed to the freedom of speech and of the press, and we have allowed such discussions to take place. They have shown, however, that if under the excuse of the exigencies of the war, some people have pressed for pet schemes of their own, other people have come forward to safeguard the liberties of the people. G. K. Chesterton has strongly denounced the person who says—"But if we don't get conscription now, we never shall."

As for those who are now risking their lives for the defence of Canada and the Empire, does "H. E. B." think they weighed out their "fourth" in Canada? before going? Rich and poor have both gone and are going, the man with thousands in the bank and owner of broad acres, together with the man who perhaps had only an insecure job in an office. To these men the British Empire stands for freedom and justice, in the general and usual sense in which they are used. With regard to South Africa, I believe Briton and Boer have the same rights, and are treated



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