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ART. I.—*Œuvres de Bossuet*, 4 vol. gros, 8vo., Paris, Firmin Didot, 1843.

Œuvres de Bourdaloue, 3 vol. gr., 8vo., Paris, 1837.

Œuvres de Massillon, 2 vol. gr., 8vo., Paris, 1844.

THE age of Louis XIV. has ever been considered the most brilliant era for France. Under the conduct of the most renowned generals, it attained the highest pitch of military glory; under the encouragement given to philosophy, the most valuable discoveries were made in science; under the liberal patronage bestowed upon the fine arts, taste and genius achieved the most splendid triumphs. It was an age of truly great men—of warriors, politicians, philosophers, poets, historians—of such men as Condé and Turenne, Corneille and Racine, Descartes and Fontenelle, Montesquieu and Malebranche, Rochefoucauld and Pascal, Boileau and Rollin, and hundreds of others whose works still yield improvement and delight. It was a period too when eloquence of the highest kind lived and flourished. Not the eloquence of the bar; for its celebrated pleaders, in judicial contests, and the application of the law, seldom went beyond the strain of dry and logical reasoning. Not the eloquence of popular assemblies, for there were no such assem-

such rejoicing is evil," and we trust that many such may be incited by the firm but liberal, intelligent but zealous, faith of these two noble brothers, to "GO AND DO LIKEWISE."

Wm. S. Alexander

ART. VI.—*Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah: Including a Reconnoissance of a New Route through the Rocky Mountains.* By Howard Stansbury, Captain Corps Topographical Engineers, U. S. Army. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1852. 8vo pp. 487.

THE author of this volume, an accomplished engineer officer, having been ordered by Government to make an exploration and survey of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, proceeded in the spring of 1849 to Fort Leavenworth, from whence, on the 1st of June, with eighteen men, five wagons, and forty-six horses and mules, he set forth on his hazardous and adventurous expedition.

The circumstances in which he commenced his journey were by no means cheering. The only officer attached to his command was in consequence of illness unable to perform any duty, or even to sit his horse, and being unable to travel in any other manner, was carried on his bed in a spring wagon, which had been procured for the transportation of the instruments. In addition to this, the cholera was raging on the Missouri, and fearful rumours of its prevalence and fatality among the emigrants on the route, daily reached them from the plains; and on the day that the march was commenced, one of the little party was carried to the hospital, where he died in twenty-four hours.

Captain Stansbury followed the "emigration road," which he represents to be as broad and well beaten as any turnpike in the country. On the 9th of June he crossed the "Big Vermilion," and found the trees and stumps on its banks carved all over with the names of hundreds of emigrants who had preceded him, the dates of their passing, the state of their health and spirits, together with an occasional message to their friends

who were expected to follow. "Such a record," says Captain Stansbury, "in the midst of a wild solitude like this, could not but make a strong and cheering impression on every new-comer, who thus suddenly found himself as it were, in the midst of a great company of friends and fellow travellers. On the left bank was the freshly made grave of a French trader, whose name was known to most of our *voyageurs*. It was heaped up with earth, and covered longitudinally with heavy split logs, placed there to prevent the depredation of the wolves; the whole being surmounted by a wooden cross, with the name of the deceased, and the usual significant abbreviation I. H. S. carved rudely upon it. We had passed six graves already during the day. Melancholy accompaniments they are of a road, silent and solitary at best, and ill calculated to cheer the weary, drooping wayfarers. Our encampment was pleasantly situated under the spreading branches of some large oaks, with a spring of pure, cold water near at hand—the latter an item which we soon afterwards learned to value beyond all price. Just above us was a wagon with a small party of emigrants. They had lost most of their cattle on the journey; and the father of three of them having died on the road, they, in conformity with his dying wishes, were now on their return to the settlements. A short distance beyond these, we found another small company, who had been encamped here for twelve days, on account of the illness of one of their comrades. They also were on their return. Had we been going out on a private enterprise, discouragements were not wanting, as well from the dead as the living."

Companies of emigrants were frequently overtaken by our party. On one occasion they passed a company from Boston, consisting of seventy persons, one hundred and forty mules, a number of riding horses, and a drove of cattle for beef. They also passed an old Dutchman, with an immense wagon, drawn by six yoke of cattle, and loaded with household furniture. Behind followed a covered cart, containing a host of babies, which the wife drove herself; the cart having attached to it a large coop full of fowls. Two mileh cows followed; and next came a little bare-footed girl, not more than seven years old, mounted on an old mare, while a sucking colt brought up the

rear. They were bound to the land of promise, of the distance of which they had not the most remote idea. This party was frequently encountered on the route, and when last seen, the old man was engaged in sawing his wagon into two parts, and in disposing of every thing he could sell or give away, to lighten his load. As the party advanced, they daily found evidence of the difficulties encountered by the bands of emigrants who had preceded them on the route. In the vicinity of "Fort Laramie" they passed in one morning, the nearly consumed fragments of a dozen wagons, that had been broken up and burned by their owners, and near them was piled up in one heap from six to eight hundred weight of bacon, thrown away for want of means to transport it farther. Boxes, bonnets, trunks, wagon wheels and bodies, cooking utensils, and almost every article of household furniture, were found from place to place along the prairie. And one week later the author states that on that day the road was literally strewed with articles that had been thrown away. Bar iron and steel, blacksmiths' large anvils and bellows, crow-bars, drills, augers, gold-washers, chisels, axes, lead, trunks, spades, ploughs, large grindstones, baking ovens, cooking stoves without number, kegs, barrels, harness, clothing, bacon and beans were found along the road. Captain Stansbury here recognized the trunks of some of the passengers who had accompanied him from St. Louis to Kansas, on the Missouri, and who had thrown away every thing that could not be packed on mules. In the course of this one day the relics of seventeen wagons, and the carcasses of twenty-seven oxen were passed.

The progress of this little party was attended by many trying circumstances. They suffered from sickness, exposure to the weather, scarcity of water and provision, and the molestation of Indians, but they pursued their course amid all their trials, difficulties and privations, with undaunted spirits and without complaint. It should here be mentioned to the honour of this gallant little band, that it was determined among them, at the commencement of the expedition, that no travel should be pursued upon the Sabbath, but that that day should be devoted to its legitimate purpose as an interval of rest for man and beast; and Captain Stansbury bears the following most emphatic testimony to the wisdom of this determination. "I here beg to

record, as the result of my experience, derived not only from the present journey, but from the observation of many years spent in the performance of similar duties, that as a mere matter of pecuniary consideration, apart from all higher obligations, it is wise to keep the Sabbath. More work can be obtained from both men and animals by its observance, than where the whole seven days are uninterruptedly devoted to labour."

On the 11th of August the expedition reached Fort Bridger, an Indian trading post, having accomplished a distance of more than a thousand miles since leaving "Fort Leavenworth." From this point there are two routes to the Salt Lake, one having been laid out by the Mormon community in 1847. Captain Stansbury was desirous of ascertaining whether a shorter route than either of these could not be obtained, which would save the emigration to either Oregon or California, the great detour that has to be made by either of the present routes, and which would have a direct bearing upon the selection of a site for the military post contemplated for this region.

He determined, therefore, to make the examination himself, accompanied by Major Bridger, who had been engaged in the Indian trade, at the heads of the Missouri and Columbia, for thirty years; and to send on the train under the command of Lieutenant Gunnison, whose health had become so far established as to enable him to resume his seat in the saddle. The train accordingly left on the 16th of August, and on the 20th Captain Stansbury and Major Bridger, with two men, as many pack mules, a little flour and bacon, with some ground coffee and a blanket apiece, commenced their expedition. Having made a reconnoissance of the country, and satisfied himself that a good road can be obtained from Fort Bridger to the head of the Salt Lake, shortening the distance to emigrants, and passing through a country, abounding in wood, water, and fish, and affording the finest range imaginable for cattle, Captain Stansbury directed his course to the "City of the Great Salt Lake," which he reached on the 28th of August. The train under the command of Lieut. Gunnison, had arrived on the 23d, and was encamped at the Warm Springs, on the outskirts of the city, awaiting the arrival of Captain Stansbury.

Immediately on his arrival, Captain Stansbury waited upon

Brigham Young, the president of the Mormon Church and the governor of the commonwealth, and announced the object of his visit to that distant region. The president laid the matter before a council called for the purpose, and soon informed Captain Stansbury that the authorities were much pleased that the exploration was to be made; and that any assistance they could render to facilitate operations would be most cheerfully furnished to the extent of their ability. This pledge thus heartily given was as faithfully redeemed; and the warmest interest was manifested, and the most efficient aid rendered, by the president and the leading men of the community, both in the personal welfare of the party and in the successful prosecution of the work.

In this community Captain Stansbury resided for a year, the most intimate relations existing between himself and the Mormons, both rulers and people. For an account of the reconnaissance made of the country, we must refer our readers to the volume under notice, which being in the form of a report to the Department of War contains a minute description of that distant and comparatively unknown region.

That in the space of three years, so large and so flourishing a community, should be founded, in a spot so remote from the abodes of man, so completely shut out by natural barriers from the rest of the world, so entirely unconnected by water-courses with either of the oceans that wash the shores of this continent, may well fill us with surprise. From the States of Missouri and Illinois, where they had successively established themselves, these singular people were driven out by a strong hand, their leaders slaughtered in cold blood, while prisoners in a jail, their property laid waste and destroyed, and the accumulation of years of thrift and labour in a moment scattered to the wind. Thus driven forth, men and women without means to minister to the necessities of the sick, without bread to satisfy the craving hunger of their children, mother, babe, and grandsire, destitute of even the raiment necessary to protect them from the cold of mid-winter, what could be expected but that they should all miserably perish? They went forth carrying their sick, halt and blind, over roads which seemed one vast bog, over swollen water courses which to others would have

appeared impassable, children born upon the march were borne forward with the sad procession; those who perished by the way were hastily buried, and their "graves mark all the line of the first years of Mormon travel—dispiriting milestones to failing stragglers in the rear." Still they journeyed on, strengthening as they went, sowing fields on the march, the harvest to be gathered by their associates who were to follow, and while midway on their journey furnishing, on the demand of the government, a battalion of five hundred and twenty able-bodied men to join the army engaged in the Mexican war. Reaching their destination—a country which offered no advantages for navigation or commerce, but "isolated by vast uninhabitable deserts," and inaccessible but by long, painful, and perilous journeys, they have since the first winter, known no want, and in three years from the time of their arrival, have been admitted as a Territory of the American Union. "In this young and progressive country of ours, where cities grow up in a day, and states spring into existence in a year, the successful planting of a colony, where the natural advantages have been such as to hold out the promise of adequate reward to the projectors, would have excited no surprise; but the success of an enterprise under circumstances so at variance with all our preconceived ideas of its probability, may well be considered as one of the most remarkable incidents of the present age."

Captain Stansbury represents the situation of Great Salt Lake City as exceedingly beautiful, and the scale on which it is laid out as magnificent. It is four miles in length and three in breadth, the streets at right angles with each other, one hundred and thirty-two feet wide, with side walks of twenty feet: each house is required to be placed twenty feet from the street, the intervening space being filled with trees and shrubbery. The city "lies at the western base of the Wahsatch mountains, in a curve formed by the projections westward from the main range, of a lofty spur which forms its southern boundary. On the west it is washed by the waters of the Jordan, while to the southward for twenty-five miles, extends a broad level plain, watered by several little streams, which, flowing down from the eastern hills, form the great element of fertility and wealth to the community. Through the city itself flows an

unfailing stream of pure, sweet water, which by an ingenious mode of irrigation is made to traverse each side of every street, whence it is led into every garden spot, spreading life, verdure, and beauty, over what was once a barren waste. On the east and north the mountain descends to the plain by steps, which form broad and elevated terraces, commanding an extended view of the whole valley of the Jordan, which is bounded on the west by a range of rugged mountains, stretching far to the southward, and enclosing within their embrace the lovely little lake of Utah.

Our author's residence among the Mormons, led to the conviction that they were fair and just in all their dealings, and that "justice was equitably administered alike to 'saint' and 'gentile,' as they term all who are not of their persuasion." Their Courts were constantly appealed to by companies of passing emigrants, who having fallen out by the way, could not agree upon the division of their property; and the decisions, which were always fair and impartial, were, if resisted, sternly enforced by the whole power of the community. Appeals for protection from oppression by travellers were never disregarded, and one instance is mentioned in which the plunderers of a party of emigrants were pursued nearly two hundred miles into the western desert, brought back to the city, and the stolen property restored to the owners.

The president of the commonwealth is looked up to, not only as its spiritual head, but as the inspired source of law in temporal matters, and the establishment of a civil government was merely a precautionary measure, intended for such "*gentiles*" as might settle among them, the power and authority of the church over its members being amply sufficient where they alone were concerned. This led to an insensible blending of the two authorities, the principal officers of one holding the same relative position under the other; and thus the bishop would interpose his spiritual authority between two members of the church, while in differences between those out of the society, he would exert the authority of a magistrate, conferred upon him by the constitution and civil laws of the community. Every person on joining the society pays into its treasury one-tenth of all that he possesses; and afterwards a

tenth of the yearly increase of his goods, and a tenth of his time devoted to labour on the public works. None but members of the church are liable to this exaction, and the proceeds belong exclusively to the church. All property, whether belonging to "saint" or "gentile," is subject to a tax, and this constitutes the revenue of the civil government. All goods brought into the city are subject to a duty of one per cent., except ardent spirits, which pay a duty of one-half the price at which they are sold, and this heavy duty is imposed for the purpose of discouraging the introduction of that species of poison into the community. The circulating medium is gold of their own coinage, and they have in operation a mint, from which gold coins of the federal denomination are issued, stamped, without assay, from the dust brought from California. To this circulation is added from time to time, such foreign gold as is brought in by converts from Europe.

In any other community, duties and taxes so onerous would be loudly complained of, and considered as a burden upon industry and enterprise quite insupportable; but our author declares that nothing can exceed the appearance of prosperity, peaceful harmony, and cheerful contentment that pervades the whole community. All the necessities and comforts of life are most abundant, and when the erection of a poor-house was at one time projected, it was ascertained, upon strict inquiry, that the whole population contained but two persons who could be considered as objects of public charity.

As the public curiosity has of late been much excited on the subject of the Mormons and their noted leader, Brigham Young, it may not be amiss to state here, the impressions received by the author of this volume, from a year's residence in the community, and an intimate acquaintance with the president. He "appeared to be a man of clear, sound sense, fully alive to the responsibilities of the station he occupies, sincerely devoted to the good name and interests of the people over which he presides, sensitively jealous of the least attempt to undervalue or misrepresent them, and indefatigable in devising ways and means for their moral, mental, and physical elevation. He appeared to possess the unlimited personal and official confidence of his people; while both he and his two counsellors,

forming the presidency of the church, seemed to have but one object in view, the prosperity and peace of the society over which they presided."

The author does not go into much detail on the subject of the religious tenets held by the Mormons, inasmuch as his associate, Lieutenant Gunnison, who has paid especial attention to this matter, is about publishing a treatise on the subject.

On the subject of the private and domestic relations of this strange people, the volume before us contains much information: And we must be permitted to observe, that his natural kindness of disposition, and a grateful sense of the many kindnesses and courtesies bestowed upon him by this people, when called by duty to a point so remote from the comforts and enjoyments of his own fireside, have doubtless induced Captain Stansbury to view with more toleration their wide departure from the habits and practice of all civilized and Christian people, than in other circumstances he would have permitted himself to do. We do not desire our readers to suppose that the author has, in any way, attempted to justify or defend the "spiritual wife" system which prevails among the Mormons, and for the practice of which they have once and again been thrust forth from the abodes of civilized man, by indignant communities whose moral sense had been outraged by the enormities perpetrated in their midst. But we deny that the circumstances stated afford any extenuation for their conduct; and we are unable to perceive the broad distinction which the author conceives to exist between gross licentiousness and the polygamy tolerated in Utah. It matters not that "peace, harmony, cheerfulness," "confidence and sisterly affection seem pre-eminently conspicuous" among "the different members of the family." It matters not that the tie that binds a Mormon to his second, third, or fourth wife, is just as strong, sacred, and indissoluble as that which unites him to his first. The system is repugnant to every principle of religion and sound morals, and justly commends itself to the unmingled abhorrence of the civilized world.

Captain Stansbury strongly approves of the appointment by the President of the United States of Brigham Young as the territorial governor of Utah, and declares it to be a measure dictated by sound policy and justice. Resolute in danger,

firm and sagacious in council, prompt and energetic in emergency, possessing the entire confidence of the people, he conceives that the appointment will be recognized as an assurance that they will hereafter receive at the hands of the general Government that respect and protection which they so much desire.

Having completed his exploration, Captain Stansbury, on the 28th of August, 1850, left the Great Salt Lake and took up his march for home, and after exploring a new pass through the Rocky Mountains, on the 6th of November arrived at Fort Leavenworth.

The incidents attending Captain Stansbury's journey, both going and returning, are exceedingly interesting, but we have no space even to allude to them in passing. The work abounds in beautiful illustrations, and the appendix, in addition to other valuable matter, contains tables of measured distances, from the Missouri River at Fort Leavenworth to Great Salt Lake city, and of the distances between the same points on the return route; table of geographical positions; description of mammals, birds, reptiles and insects, by Professors Baird, Girard, and Haldeman, with plates; catalogue with plates of the plants collected by the expedition, arranged by Dr. John Torrey; observations on the geology and palæontology of the country traversed by the expedition, by Professor Hall; a chemical analysis of the waters of the Great Salt Lake, and other mineral waters and saline substances, by Dr. Gale; and the meteorological observations made on the route.

That Captain Stansbury discharged the responsible and arduous duty imposed upon him to the satisfaction of the Government, is evident from the fact that this work has been published by order of the Senate as an official document; and we can assure all who will take the trouble to peruse the book, that they will derive from it rich stores both of entertainment and instruction.