

JOHN BAGLEY.

When nature has a work of unusual magnitude or importance to perform she provides the means for its accomplishment. If a crisis in human history presents itself which requires a master hand to deal with it, when the hour is right, the man is ready. Where there exist conditions which will not yield to individual effort, but require the united force of a race of men especially prepared for the work, she brings forth the necessary brood and places it in the environment which will give it the proper preparation for what it has to do. When the great Rocky Mountain section of America was to be reduced to peaceful submission to the will of man, she called forth from every section, and from every land, the race of hardy pioneers who patiently endured the inevitable hardships and privations, and have worked out the desired result. Among the number thus brought into successful activity was John Bagley, who is now passing the evening of a very eventful and conspicuous life of stirring events at his home in the environs of the progressive little city of Montpelier, Bear Lake county, Idaho.

Mr. Bagley was born on April 30, 1836, at South Hampton, New Brunswick, a son of Edward and Julia (Grant) Bagley, the mother being a near kinswoman of General and President U. S. Grant, the father having his birth in the state of New York, while the mother was a native of North Hampton, N. B. In 1855, impelled by strong religious zeal, all of the family, except one son, who remained with his grandparents, and John, who preceded

them to Utah by one year, made the long and wearisome journey across the continent that they might obtain in the "promised land" of Utah full rest, contentment and happiness. — through an unrestricted enjoyment of their religious faith, the surviving members of the family reaching their destination in 1855. The mother and two of the children, worn out by the hazardous journey across the plains, died on the way and were buried by the side of the emigrants' trail. The father thereafter made his home at Payson, Utah, until his death in 1865, at the age of sixty-five years.

The subject of this review was the third in the family of twelve children, and, in the primitive section of the lumber woods of New Brunswick where his early life was passed, he received the very limited educational advantages of two short school terms of sixty days each, while, from his eighteenth year, his principal tutors have been observation and experience, which, however, have well done their work, as Mr. Bagley is in possession of a practical knowledge of far greater worth in the rough regions of the West than all of the culture of the schools. Leaving New Brunswick on May 10, 1854, he arrived at Salt Lake City on October 4th following, and at once engaged in lumbering in the Big Cottonwood Canyon, at which he was consecutively employed for a period of seven years in the production of building timber, serving also as a special policeman of Salt Lake City in the winter of 1858-9. One of the earliest pioneers of Bear Lake county, Idaho, he made his home therein in 1865, locating at Paris, which consisted then of a little collection of eight or ten log cabins, and here he engaged in agricultural operations for about seven years, being one of the leading factors in the building up of that enterprising town, thereafter, in 1872, removing to Montpelier, where he now maintains his home.

Mr. Bagley has taken an active part in

many matters of vital importance to the welfare of the community, having assisted in connecting the East and the West by railroad and by telegraph, and he was also active and influential in getting the daily mail route established from the Atlantic to the Pacific, while, in the development of the industries that produce so much of the wealth of this section of the state, farming and stockraising, he has been an unceasing and productive factor. He has been intimately connected with public affairs, doing yeoman service in support of the principles, first of the Democratic and later of the Republican political party, with which latter organization he is now in full accord, serving also as a peace officer and a deputy sheriff for the long term of fourteen years, his guiding hand being also seen in the conducting of all important matters that tend to build up the prosperity of the community. On August 3, 1857, he was one of the number called to arms to contest against the invasion of Utah by the army of General Johnston, and, during the thirty-two weeks of his service as a soldier, he experienced many hardships, even standing on guard during the winter with uncovered head and hands, with only socks as a covering for his feet during the greatest severity of that extremely cold season.

On March 27, 1861, at Draper City, Utah, John Bagley and Miss Margaret M. J. Allen were legally pronounced man and wife. Mrs. Bagley was a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Andrew J. and Delilah (Andrus) Allen, both of the parents descending from the best families of the South, the father being born in Kentucky and the mother in France; both emigrating to Utah as first pioneers of its settlement, coming with the first Mormon company in the first year of the Mormon hegira. The family here became connected with agricultural and stockraising operations, the father also taking prominent part in the building of

the state and being one of the founders of the "educational trusts" of Utah.

The Allen family, to which Mrs. Bagley is allied, was originally a prominent English one, that early became domiciled on American soil, Samuel Allen being the London merchant who purchased the Mason grant of what later became the state of New Hampshire. The New England branch was in Revolutionary days in part represented by those historic men, Ira and Ethan Allen, of Vermont and Ticonderoga, who were kinsmen of their North Carolina contemporary, Samuel Allen, a native and a typical planter of that province, whose life was passed in his native commonwealth. He had sons, John, Frank, Rial, David and Samuel, all born between 1782 and 1799. Rial, born in 1791, went to Kentucky as a member of one of the pioneer bands of settlers, brought from his native state by Boone and Calloway. Marrying Margaret Evans, of Tennessee, he made the family home in Somerset, Pulaski county, Ky. Here, on September 5, 1818, was born their son, Andrew J. Allen, who received the name of a friend of the family, the famous Andrew Jackson.

Andrew J. Allen married a Miss Delilah Andrus, of Illinois, on April 29, 1841, and settled at Wadesboro, where their three children, Purney, William and Mary M. J., now Mrs. John Bagley, were born. Mr. Allen removed with his family in 1846 to Nauvoo, Ill., thence going in the Mormon exodus to Winter Quarters, where, in 1847, he joined Captain Smoot's company of one hundred, soon thereafter being enrolled in Capt. George B. Wallis's company of fifty, who became the pioneers in the great movement to Salt Lake, where they arrived in September, 1847. In 1848 Mr. Allen made his family home at Mill Creek, Utah, in a little log cabin he there erected, later becoming one of the earliest pioneers of Draper, Utah. Thereafter he was called to strengthen a settle-

ment in Arizona, then returned to Draper, where, on July 16, 1884, he was gored to death by a vicious bull. He was the head school trustee of Draper for over thirty years, and the first tree planted on the Draper schoolgrounds was set out in his honor.

On the long and dangerous journey across the plains, Mrs. Allen was in charge of an ox team which she drove the entire journey, and her daughter remembers many thrilling incidents of Indian attacks upon the early Mormon settlements near Salt Lake, which have stored her mind with valuable reminiscences. She was one of a family of eleven children, seven of whom attained maturity and five of whom are now living. Ensign Pearson, who was with Admiral Dewey on his flagship Olympia at the battle of Manila, is a nephew of Mrs. Bagley. Mrs. Bagley has been a constant and a very active member of the Relief Society of the Bear Lake stake since 1863, and she has done much more than an ordinary share of the benevolent work of the organization, devoting all of the ardor of her strong nature year after year to the relief of the poor and the destitute.

The children of these honored and venerated pioneers are thirteen in number, of whom we particularly note Hon. John A., attorney general of Idaho (see individual review elsewhere in this volume); Martha A. died at the age of four years at Paris, Idaho; Cyrenus J., a prominent stockman of Star Valley, Wyo.; Edward A. died at Montpelier at the age of twenty-two years; William H. died in Montpelier at the age of twenty years; Parley died at Montpelier at the age of eighteen years; David, now a leading merchant of Granger, Wyo.; Percy M.; Mary D., now the wife of Orrin Quayle, of Dingle, Idaho; Charles, a civil engineer residing in Montpelier; George Hugh; Thomas C.; L. Arley U.

In their hospitable home in the mouth of the canyon at Montpelier the lives of this

worthy couple are passing quietly and uneventfully, they being surrounded by all the care which filial reverence can give, and standing high in the esteem of the entire community, who honor them for their deep religious principles and their sterling worth. In conclusion we will state an experience in the farming operations of Mr. Bagley in his early life in Montpelier, which strikingly illustrates the religious fortitude, patience and endurance of the early Mormon pioneers. For fourteen consecutive seasons he planted a field of potatoes only to have the growth killed by the frost year after year; not until the fifteenth year of planting did the elements vouchsafe him a crop.