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## THE MEXICAN COLONIES.

COLONIA JUAREZ, Mexico, June 23, 1893.—For a long time past no correspondence has appeared in your columns from this part of the Lord's vineyard. We are living in a country where strife and contention are frequent. Though of a small nature it at times creates a little excitement. A short time ago news was received here through our president that a small band of revolutionists were secreted in the mountains close by—the number was estimated at eighty men equipped and well armed—and for the colonies to be on the alert. It caused our military organization to meet and drill and place pickets out every night so that we might not be taken by surprise. The boys who reported for duty numbered a company of fifty men, ready at short notice to be under arms for the defense of home and country. But I am pleased to state that all of the shots fired have been at targets, with a fair result of getting empty cartridges. Our company is drilling yet, under the able command of General M. P. Romney, and credit must be given him for the interest manifested in this movement.

A few days later we also received information through some prospectors that the noted Apache Indian named Kid was again in the mountain west of us, having a small band of warriors with him, it is presumed the same band who did the killing of the Thompson family last fall. The Indians attacked the prospectors early in the morning and fired on them, but the prospectors managed to get away by leaving behind them all of their camping outfit and six months' provisions, \$200 in cash and some eight head of burrow. A company of Mexican soldiers passed through here last week for the scene of disturbance, so as to ascertain the facts in the matter and report to the government.

Another excitement was created here on Monday the 18th, but of a more pleasant nature. Our martial band appeared in the evening with their sweet strains of music, and which asked what was up, we learned it was a surprise on our faithful fellow laborer and president, A. F. McDonald, he having just returned from Salt Lake City, where he attended the dedication of the Temple, and ex-

pects soon to leave again for the City of Mexico to labor in behalf of the colonies. Some of his friends took this opportunity to show their esteem and appreciation for some of the privation this venerable servant of God had passed through when he was traversing the mountains and suffered hunger, thirst and cold so as to find an abiding place for a driven and persecuted people. This he is still laboring for—exploring and giving reports of country suitable for the Latter-day Saints; and very little of his time is spent at home. Therefore the Saints called upon him with their baskets well prepared with the fruits of the earth. The program commenced with a few introductory remarks by Elder J. C. Peterson, who stated in behalf of the Saints their esteem of his past labor and their entire support in the future, so as to extend the colonies and build cities that may prove to be magnificent monuments to the Kingdom of God and for the elevation of the fallen race. Brother McDonald made a response and stated he indeed was taken by surprise at a time when he at least anticipated it; nevertheless, it was much appreciated on his part, showing as it did the good feeling of the Saints towards him. He also said he had worked in the Kingdom of God for over 40 years and was still pushing ahead for the benefit of his fellows that they may enjoy these same privileges that we do; he expected to see our colonies grow and increase, and he compared our pleasant surroundings with some in the northern country—our beautiful climate, our extreme facilities for fruit as producers of which we had made such a laudable commencement considering our short stay here. A very interesting program was carried out, and the Saints gathered on the occasion appreciated the enjoyable time spent together.

Our second crop of alfalfa is now gathered in and a great portion of the wheat is cut. Our threshing machines are at full speed. This season our threshers will be at work, and will evidently be the means of bringing much wheat into the colonies. Our fruit crops will be light this season of apricots and peaches, but of strawberries and blackberries there has been a fair crop and grapes will be in abundance. Melons are commencing to show an appearance;

in another week they will be plentiful. The first crop of potatoes give a fair showing, cane and corn appear well, and the farmers anticipate a fair harvest. Our cannery expects to put up some 20,000 cans of fruit and tomatoes—a very fair showing for a new institution and in a place where reports say we are starving. Our tannery is pushing ahead in producing leather for harness and shoes; Juarez is trying to be self-sustaining in such things as demand the ready cash; and by supporting our home industries we support ourselves. This is realized by the brethren and especially by our leaders such as Elder George Tenadale, who is ever on hand to encourage home manufacture of all kinds.

Our main street commences to put on quite a business appearance. Our able and pushing townsman, Brother J. C. Bentley, can now be seen offering for sale the old renowned Cooper wagon and the McCormick machinery; surely the Consolidated Implement Co. have marked themselves with progress in pushing their goods into this far-off country.

The colonies appear to be in a thriving condition, and we expect to teach the natives by example. Many whom we come in contact with admire us for the success we have attained in this mountain region—our orchards and fine dwellings, peaceable and orderly towns. The industry and progress marked out by our leaders and followed up by the people, all tend to have an influence for good amongst the natives in the land. Some of these have come amongst us and ask for baptism, and seemingly are very faithful. We enjoy perfect peace in living our religion and holding our meetings undisturbed. All of the Church organizations are in good running order and our young people enjoy good society, for it can be truthfully said that no profanity exists here within our gates, nor saloons for drinking, nor Sabbath breaking. Socially our young people are a credit to their parents and an honor to the Church to which they belong for giving such God-like principles by example.

SIERRA MADRES.

THE DAYS are steadily getting shorter and have been doing so for about three weeks. Everybody may not have noticed it, but it is a fact all the same.