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GEO. Q. CANNON,

Editor and Publisher,

Salt Lake City, Utah Territory.

Bishop WILLIAM BUDGE is authorized to act as GENERAL AGENT for the DESERET NEWS throughout Cache County.

*Elder GEORGE FARNSWORTH of Mount Pleasant, is appointed GENERAL AGENT for the DESERET NEWS and JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR for Sanpete County.

Special Notices.

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Correspondence.

We are indebted to President George A. Smith for the following letter:

PALMYRA, June 20th, 1869.
Geo. A. Smith:—Dear Brother,—I am now seated on the roots of the tree from under whose branches, I believe, the plates were taken containing the records of the "Book of Mormon." My business having called me to Utica, on my return I determined to pass the Sabbath in this place and reconnoiter "Cumorah's Hill." This tree stands on the north-east of a sharp ridge or hill, which runs almost directly north and south, and is elevated some 100 feet above the surrounding country while around its base is stretched out a landscape of beauty unsurpassed. As far as the eye can reach, lie beautiful farms covered with grain and grass, the earth groaning under its burden; beautiful farm houses dot the landscape. As you pass to the south on this ridge it widens out into a great plateau of beautiful sugar maple, and is covered with a heavy growth of white clover verdure as soft as down. Further to the south lies the village of Manchester, almost smothered with shade trees; the houses are large, stately, and

well built and beautifully painted. The north points of the hill are covered with a good crop of wheat. At the foot of the hill stands a small, neat-looking white house, flanked by a large orchard of apple trees, where a man named Robinson now lives. A little further north and on the Canandaigua road stands the largest old willow tree that I ever saw. Its trunk is over 4 feet through, and its branches reach 50 feet each way from the trunk of the tree.

Here in this vicinity I have spent some three or four hours in reflection and meditation, realizing that I was in the immediate vicinity of the most sacred and valuable treasure that this earth contains; and also that I was treading the ground that Joseph had trod, and where he had walked and talked with angels, who still keep vigil here and guard these sacred treasures. Oh, how sweet were these reflections and meditations! On my return to the hotel it had got bruited about that there was a "Mormon" in town, and on my expressing a desire to see Mr. Pomeroy Tucker and Mr. J. H. Gilbert, the men who assisted in publishing the "Book of Mormon," Mr. Cram, the landlord with whom I was stopping, kindly offered to introduce me. Finding him at the Collector's office near the canal, we soon engaged in conversation and the house was soon nearly full, when I spent some two hours answering questions and bearing my testimony to the truth, apparently very much to the satisfaction of those present. There arose a great desire amongst them to hear me preach, which I was obliged to decline on account of business that I could not delay. If I had known in the morning that such was their wish I should have tried to preach to them. A spirit of general inquiry seems to be waking up in the minds of the people down here in relation to the "Mormons" and "Mormonism," and an intense desire seems to pervade all classes here to hear and know more about us, and a better feeling seems to obtain—a feeling of respect instead of contempt. I could not wish to be more kindly treated than I have been since I have been down here.

Your brother in the Gospel,
PETER VAN VALKENBERG.

SALT LAKE CITY, July 3rd, 1869.
Editor Deseret News.—The 16th Ward Female Relief Society held their first annual meeting, June 15th, at which there was a general turn-out of the members of the society. There were also present Bishop F. Kesler, and Elders Joseph F. Smith and G. C. Riser. After singing, and prayer by Bishop Kesler, the financial report of the society was read by the Secretary and Treasurer which was very satisfactory to all. Several hundred dollars having been raised by donations and articles sold, a considerable portion of which had been given to the poor. A first class Lamb's knitting machine had been purchased for the use of the society, besides fitting up a room for carrying on the millinery and dress making business; still leaving a satisfactory balance in the Treasury, showing that the society was in a healthy condition.

Appropriate remarks were made by Bishop Kesler on the general duties of the members of the society; observance of the Word of Wisdom was urged; the importance of the duties devolving upon mothers in rearing and properly training their children was pertinently dwelt upon; also to have faith and confidence in the ordinances of the holy priesthood, especially the laying on of hands in sickness. Also for mothers to learn the qualities of herbs that they may be able to administer to their children when sick, etc. The Bishop, in conclusion, expressed his pleasure at the progress of the society, and urged its members to continue in the good work in which they are engaged.

Elder Joseph F. Smith felt blessed in meeting with the different female relief societies. The entire object of the organization of these societies he did not perhaps fully understand, but felt satisfied that they were needful and that great good would result from their labors. Very many duties naturally devolves upon the sisters, especially the

mothers, their husbands in many instances being often called to go abroad to preach the gospel, gather the saints, and to perform other duties away from home, the sisters, in consequence, having the sole charge of their families. He thought that too much medicine was used by the Saints. Mothers should live near to the Lord and ask him in prayer for wisdom to treat their children when sick and trust more in the ordinances of the gospel, and not so much in quack medicines. They should also teach their children to pray while young that they might grow up and become mighty in the hands of the Lord in the furtherance of His kingdom on the earth. A few very appropriate remarks were made by Elder G. C. Riser.

The names of the officers of the society are Mrs. Olive H. Walker, President; Mrs. Sophia B. Tripp, first Councillor; Mrs. Julia W. Phippin, second councillor; Mrs. Priscilla H. Kimball, Secretary, and Mrs. Patience Hampton, Treasurer.

After singing and prayer, meeting adjourned to June 15, 1870.

PRISCILLA H. KIMBALL,
Secretary.

Salt Lake City, July 6, 1869.

Elder George Q. Cannon: Dear Brother,—Enclosed is a photograph of the delegation of engineers, machinists and founders, with their wagon containing machinery, tools, &c., of which the following is a description:

On the top of the arrangement is one of Judson's Patent Governors for a 10 horse engine; model of Wood's self raking reaper, lent for the occasion by F. Ferris, Esq., agent for Utah; model of New Yorker self raking reaper, lent by Wm. Carr, Esq., agent for Utah; small turning lathe made by — Pierpoint; one of Pickering's patent governors for a 10 horse engine; ornamental iron casting (watch stand), Brother De Gray; on the sides, pair of type molds, made by Brother Z. Derrick; squares, calipers, &c., made by Bro. J. Tuckfield; photograph of 2 horse engine (first made in Utah), large drawing of upper works of steam boat engine, with a number of cog wheel and other patterns, wrenches, &c., made by Bro. Wm. J. Silver; banners, &c., on poles, smelting furnace, cupola furnace, (Deseret Foundry), drawing instruments, patterns, locomotive.

Yours, &c.,
WM. J. SILVER.

EDINBURGH, Ind., June 26, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother.—Thinking it would not be altogether uninteresting, I write you of the feelings and condition of the people as I found them, traveling through the States, and of my reception in my native town after an absence of a few years.

In company with several of the brethren called to go on missions, I left Salt Lake City, on the 9th of June, for England. To see the city of the Saints gradually fading from my view, to feel the distance lengthening out that was separating me from my friends, to realize that I was being swiftly borne away from the endearing associations of home and all that is most dear in life, caused an aching in the heart, that the knowledge only of the errand on which I was bound could recompense.

Not to dwell on an experience so familiar to the Elders in Israel, I would say, that we had a very pleasant and speedy trip over the U. P. R. R. to Omaha, at which place I left the brethren and hastened to Indiana, landing in Edinburgh, the place of my birth, on the 15th inst. Here I met with a kindly reception and was earnestly solicited by many of my old acquaintances and associates to preach to them on the subject of "Mormonism," which invitation I accepted. An effort was made to secure some one of the churches for the occasion, but it failed. The sanctity of their pulpits forbade the entrance of a "Mormon" elder. Some of the more liberal of the citizens were much surprised at the refusal, but I was not at all myself, for the Latter-day Saints have been long accustomed to such treatment; yet I could not but help contrast the courtesy extended to ministers visiting Salt Lake City and that received by us in return. However, the fair ground adjoining town was obtained. A very fine grove, with seats that would accommodate two thousand persons. As it turned out, it was well we had the meeting outdoors, for there was not a building in the place that would have held one-third of the people. The appointment for Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock

was pretty thoroughly circulated the two days previous, so that the appointed hour found a large congregation assembled, variously estimated at from fifteen hundred to two thousand persons, comprising most of the citizens of the place and many farmers and their families from the surrounding country. Nearly all the ministers of the different denominations of the town were out to hear me.

On approaching the temporary stand that had been placed for my use I felt a nervousness, and trembling never before experienced. Not having been accustomed to much public speaking, especially out door and before such a crowd of folks; and I felt if the Lord did not come to my rescue I should most signally fail, and thereby bring a reproach upon the cause I was sent to represent. In this situation I for a moment most earnestly called upon the name of the Lord. The call was not in vain. Summoning all the faith and courage I was in possession of I launched forth upon my subject, the first principles of the gospel. I was soon oblivious to everything but the subject on which I was speaking. Not a soul stirred, the best of order prevailed and the undivided attention of the entire multitude was secured. My failing voice warned me to bring my remarks to a close when I found I had been speaking near an hour and a half. After closing the meeting they gathered around me, still anxious to hear more concerning our doctrines, many expressing themselves well pleased with what they had heard. However there were plenty of those to mock and ridicule behind my back. I send you the following clipping, from the Indianapolis Daily Sentinel of June 25th, copied from the Jeffersonian, published at Franklin, the county seat of this county, which shows what is in the hearts of many.

"We are informed that Milton Shipp, a few years ago a citizen of Johnson county, but now a Salt Lake Mormon, preached in the fair grounds at Edinburgh on last Sunday, at three o'clock. A gaping crowd numbering some six or seven hundred were out to hear him. Mr. Shipp is on his way to Europe for a three years' stay, where he expects to make thousands of converts to the Mormon cause." Better that he should be drowned in the depths of the sea. He has two sisters living in Edinburgh we understand."

I find about as strong an argument as they set up, is to vilify the character of the saints and to wish them "drowned in the depths of the sea."

Mingling in society, conversing with men of all classes and parties I find the most noticeable features are, the almost entire lack of confidence in each other, the uneasiness that exists, the spirit of distrust that is prevalent, consummate selfishness, unscrupulousness, low standard of morals, the almost universal use of whisky, and in political circles avoiding no means however corrupt to accomplish their purposes. But I must not encroach further. I start in a day or two for New York, and am in most excellent health and spirits. Most respectfully,

Your Bro., in the Gospel,
M. B. SHIPP.

Died:

This morning at 6 o'clock in child-bed, Martha, wife of Henry C. Fowler. Deceased was born at Sheffield, England, Feb. 3rd, 1829, and was baptized in 1850. In 1861 she emigrated to this country with her three children. One of whom died while crossing the plains. She was not then accompanied by her husband, he having been called to preach the gospel in England; he did not follow till two years afterwards.

Sister Fowler was a faithful saint, a good wife and mother. She leaves a husband and three children to mourn her loss. Funeral services will take place to-morrow at half past nine a. m. at residence, one block north of Schoolhouse, 20th Ward. —Mill. Star please copy.

In this city, on Sunday, July 4th, of measles, ORSON P. MILES, JR., aged 6 years, 7 months and 21 days, the son of Orson P. and Margaret E. Miles.

STOLEN.

FROM the 8th Ward Square, on Wednesday evening, July 1st, one large Bay HORSE, 5 years old Branded V S on right thigh, saddle and bridle. Also one Black MARE, branded H (joined) on left thigh with saddle and bridle. Any person giving information at the DESERET NEWS Office, that will lead to the recovery of the above will be liberally rewarded.

ESTRAY.

I HAVE in my possession one Dark Brown or Black MARE MULE, about 10 or 11 years old, branded on the left shoulder E C and F on the neck, the left side. If not claimed within thirty days from date, the above will be sold at public auction.