

Correspondence.

Missionary Labors—Baptisms—Writing to Friends, etc.

26 TENBY STREET,
Birmingham, Aug. 29, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

I arrived here on the 28th of June, after having had a very pleasant and agreeable trip overland. On the sea I was somewhat sick, but finally with the rest of our company arrived safe and in good spirits at "42," where we were very kindly entertained. I at once went to Leicester to see some relatives, who treated me very kindly. From there I proceeded to Birmingham, where I again enjoyed the friendship of relatives. Finally I received my appointment to this conference, where I have been laboring since.

I have been traveling in company with Brother Atkin, of Tooele, and must confess I never enjoyed myself better in my life. We have traveled through Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, where we were very kindly received both by Saints and sinners, and held revival meetings, which were very well attended, marked attention being shown on the part of the hearers. We have had the spirit of God with us, and good fruit has come from the seed sown. Some are joining the church and complying with the revealed will of God, but the generality of the people do not want to be troubled with religion. Since my arrival here there have been some fifteen added to the church, and quite a number are earnestly looking into the plan of salvation, and our hopes are that before long there will be quite a number ready for baptism.

For the last two weeks the weather has been quite wet, which has made it quite disagreeable to get around. The wheat and small grain are very much in danger if the weather does not improve for the better, being lodged so bad that it will have to be cut by hand. The potato crop is very much damaged with disease, which makes them pretty high in price, in fact all kinds of vegetables are more or less damaged with the wet, and the coming winter is looked forward to with a dread, for all are complaining of the bad crops and of hard times. Thousands are out of employment, and do not know where the next meal will come from. The wise among the people do not know what to think about the way the Almighty is working with the children of men, but the Latter-day Saint, who is living his religion can very easily explain the matter. If the people will only read the revelations of God then they will be enlightened on the subject. The Lord has said he would vex the nations of the earth, and by all appearances he is doing it, and he will continue to do so if the world will not accept the way in which he wants them to walk, and all who will not bow the knee, and acknowledge the Son of Man, will have to pay the penalty.

There is one thing we hear a great deal of complaint about, and that is if those good saints who are at home in the valleys of the mountains would only write to their friends and relatives here in Babylon, they would be doing a great deal of good. There are many saints in this conference who have lent a helping hand to their friends that they might not be left in Babylon all their days, who, when they are in Zion do not even send them a letter or a "News," which would greatly help in defending our faith, and spreading the good news to many who are yet in darkness.

I am enjoying the best of health, and never felt better in my lifetime, and my constant prayer is that the Lord will bless all who are engaged in doing his will, whether at home or abroad. All the brethren are well and join in best love to all. Receive these few lines, and with them the good wishes of your brother in the gospel of peace.

JOSEPH BULL, JR.

Editors Deseret News:

Under the caption "Swift Judgment," in your issue of September 1st, you say that George Garner "had been rejoicing, we might say gloating, over the sad occurrence," referring to the death of President Brigham Young. You say further: "He made preparations for a feast to take place on Sunday, while the

funeral services of the President should be in progress, and invited a number of persons, of his own stamp, to be present and participate."

With reference to the above charges we have this to say. First—That on the day following the death of the President, our father, George Garner, wrote to his daughter, "The great man of Utah died yesterday," and among remarks to his friends said, "Well, they won't get another to fill his place easily." Beyond these expressions we cannot, after the most diligent search, discover that he said anything which could be misconstrued into "gloating" or "rejoicing."

The story about the feast and the invitations is entirely unfounded, as neither his son John, with whom he lived, nor his wife ever heard him mention such a thing.

There may be half a dozen people in Payson who give credence to the story, but on cross-examination, they knew nothing about it. Bishop Tanner did not hesitate to say to some of our friends that he did not believe the story.

The simple facts of the matter are these—father was out for the express purpose of getting David Colvin to give a deed for a piece of property and to make arrangements about taking a load of apples to East Cañon. His grandson, who was with him to assist with the team was in the act of hitching up when one of the horses became restless. Father thoughtlessly struck the horse a slight blow with the whip, causing the horse to plunge forward, dropping the end of the tongue out of the neck yoke, finally running away and thus bringing about the accident. Geo. Garner was a cripple, and was sitting in the wagon at the time, and he was himself unable to manage the horses. Thus it will be seen that it was not from some "unaccountable cause his horses took flight" as stated by your informant.

Finally, allow us to say that after the most diligent investigation, we have no hesitancy in declaring the whole statement untrue, and without foundation.

In justice to ourselves and to our dead father's memory, we ask you to give this communication equal publicity with the charges referred to.

Yours Truly,
ANDREW GARNER,
J. E. GARNER.

Salt Lake, Sept. 15, 1877.

Baptisms—Christian Bigotry, etc.

ELYRIA, Ohio, Sept. 7, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

Dear Brothers—The sad news of the death of our beloved friend and leader, President Young, reached here the day after he breathed his last. At this time, while thousands at home are in mourning over the melancholy event, it is difficult to describe the emotions which fill the hearts and flow from the lips of the Saints who are scattered beyond the borders of Zion.

We deeply feel the loss of our noble guide, and shall, for many a day to come, think with sadness of the sudden blow which deprived Israel at once of a father, counselor and friend; but while bowing beneath the weight of grief thus imposed, we feel to join our voices in meek submission with the rest of the Saints in our answer to the Lord, "Father, thy will be done."

Brother Brigham has done a great and noble work on earth, and left a name and character worthy of imitation; and God grant to us who are left strength to emulate his bright example, heed well his parting counsel, and so live that when we are called to join him in the spirit world we may be as well prepared to meet the summons, and dying, leave as pure and worthy a record for the study of posterity.

The good work still makes headway. Yesterday I baptized three more—two re-baptisms, one fresh convert. Have preached several times recently to good audiences some distance away, but this region—the rural suburbs—is now thoroughly embittered against us, and the door will soon be closed in the face of further effort. Some of our neighbors, the other night, paraded the streets shouting, "Brigham Young is dead. Glory!" and other exclamations coupled with language too gross to repeat, and not satisfied with this, posted up the same on boards along the way to vent their spite upon the "Mormons," and their exultation over the death of one of the best and truest men of the nineteenth century. Even while I write, within

a stone's throw of this place, on the barn of a "pious" (?) church deacon, is painted a repetition of the above sentence—we hear it was the work of his own hands. Such acts are really as unworthy of respectable notice as their authors, and at other times I would not deign to mention them, but this shows pretty well the feeling existing against us in the minds of our "Christian" brethren, and the disgraceful act stands as a testimony to speak in thunder tones against them at the judgment day. May God have mercy on their souls and those who are led away by their false and wicked teachings. But does this not follow in the natural course of prophecy? "As with the priest so with the people." These are they who enter not in themselves and prevent others from doing so, and with the Bible open in their hands they are yet too blind to see the literal fulfillment of the prophets.

The press all over the country predict the speedy dissolution of "Mormonism"—they little know that the Almighty is at the helm, that the rock of revelation is the basis of the Church, and that the kingdom of God has been established never more to be thrown down. But the time will come when they will know it, and the Saints can not only afford to await the event in patience, but pity and forgive the futile efforts of those who fight against the work of the Lord.

ORSON F. WHITNEY.

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* thinks the reason why the Turks can't get hold of the Balkan Passes is that the passes are not transferable.

Some men solemnly say: "Give us this day our daily bread," and then loaf all day on the fence, wondering why prayer is not answered.

The woman who wears a diamond ring over her kid gloves could accomplish the same object by carrying around a sign reading: "I am a shoddyite."—*Detroit Free Press.*

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M. A. WALKER.

Salt Lake City,

sw tf Sept. 12, 1876.

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