

Correspondence.

ST. GEORGE, March 11th, 1879.

Editor Deseret News.—Dear Bro.—As soon as we entered the Iron Military District we found ourselves accompanied by a company of yeomen, who escorted us from Cove Fort to Beaver. A marked improvement in the appearance of Beaver City was apparent to every eye since our last visit.

The number of barns in this settlement is probably equalled by few other settlements having the same population; many good brick buildings have been erected during the past year and others are in progress. Five meetings were held in the meeting-house, which was excessively crowded.

Pres. Young and the Elders accompanying him occupied the time. The ladies accompanying our party addressed a meeting of a Ladies Relief Society held in the Institute. The Relief Society of Beaver has exhibited much energy and diligence in procuring a lot, fencing and clearing land, improving the same, and erecting thereon a convenient brick building for their association, which is now used as a school under their patronage.

On Monday evening, the seventh, meeting was held at Parowan, but the little time allowed us to stop in that place prevented our noting the extent of improvements going on.

President Young left home with the intention of having a rest, which he has improved by traveling thirty to forty miles each day, which, however, has a tendency to fatigue him rather than rest. The anxiety of the people to hear him, as manifested by the crowded audience that greet him in every town, whether he stops there or not, induces him to give them instruction, even beyond his strength. On Monday evening he addressed the Saints at Kanarra; on Tuesday evening he was much fatigued, driving his own team, as he has done all the way from the city, that day's travel being peculiarly fatiguing over the rocks and black ridges, where our Dixie friends have expended enormous labor to make roads over places formerly supposed to be impassable.

The meeting at Kanarra was unusually attended. This little settlement is located in a desert spot, which I first visited in 1857, and did not even suspect, what is now a fact, that a thriving village with blooming orchards and vineyards containing a great variety of fruit would so soon ornament a spot so desolate and barren. After a call at the cotton factory in Washington of a few moments, we proceeded to St. George, escorted by mounted militia men in uniform, cheered with three bands of music, saluted by the firing of artillery and greeted by the familiar faces of thousands of old friends and acquaintances, many of them dating back to the days of Kirtland. We became guests at the hospitable mansion of Pres. Erastus Snow, where we were soon after greeted with a most cordial welcome, and the first of this winter, and the telegraph informing us that the same luxury was being enjoyed all the way from here to Salt Lake.

We scarcely passed a town but what young and old youth and beauty, as well as middle-aged, were in the streets to greet us, many of them having banners and mottoes, and singing songs of welcome; and this gave us an opportunity to form some opinion of the health of the people of our Dixie as contrasted with the settlements north of the river of the basin. The display in St. George of the schools indicated anything but a sickly country.

The destruction of the crops and fruits by grasshoppers in the western settlements has been a serious loss; but there are no signs of its being renewed the present season. Trees are leafing out, apricots and currants in bloom, and some peach blossoms are making their appearance; peas have been up for some time and gardening is being vigorously prosecuted.

Since I was here last many permanent houses and barns have been erected, and the general improvements of the place is manifested to the eye as soon as we see it. A number of grape vines are being planted in the Clara field.

Your brother in the gospel,
Geo. A. Smith.

Editor Deseret News.—Dear Sir.—The President and party arrived here yesterday afternoon and were received by the citizens with becoming demonstrations of joy and pleasure. Everywhere the people manifest exceeding gratification in seeing their distinguished leaders who have their temporal and spiritual wellbeing so much at heart. Shortly after our arrival there arose one of the severest dust, hail, and then snow storms, that has visited this city for years. We learned the storm reached the city and all intermediate points.

I dropped you a few lines from Fillmore. Our kind host at Fort Cove did the tidy very nicely while staying the night at that "impenetrable fortress." His good ladies had their hands full with so large a company to cater for. Cove Creek is getting quite low and some fear are gathering that a lack of snow deposits in the mountains will cause a lack of water for irrigating purposes in Cove Valley.

We reached Beaver in good season on Saturday afternoon last and on the following Sunday had three very good instructive meetings in which Presidents Young and Smith took an active part. Almost every conceivable subject, wherein the prosperity of the people is involved, was discussed at these meetings, and great praise be to all places in this territory, excepting Salt Lake and this city, Beaver is taking the lead in improvements. Quite a number of substantial brick buildings have gone up and now a co-operative firm is putting the floors of a three-story rock woolen factory, measuring ninety-five by thirty-five feet outside. The walls of the lower story are two and a half feet thick; the remainder two feet in thickness, laid in good lime mortar. This great enterprise has already cost the citizens some \$15,000. The machinery for the inside is not yet purchased, but arrangements are being matured to

obtain it and it is expected that the factory will be running by next fall. They will commence with some 350 spindles. The brick meeting house, with its basement story and room, is also an ornament to the place. There is a gallery across the end of the main room, in which we had meetings. This structure has cost the citizens about \$14,000. Two more brick buildings, the "Ladies Institute," and a well proportioned school house, are worthy of notice. The Institute was built by the Female Relief Society. How the climate of Beaver has changed within a few years! One year they had snow in May, and another year, during harvest time, in early September.

On Monday we went to Parowan and held meeting at six in the evening. On Tuesday we went to Kanarra, holding meeting by the way, at Cedar City, at 11, and in the evening a meeting was held at Kanarra. On Wednesday the party reached Harrisburg, and Thursday, (yesterday,) this beautiful place, in good health and spirits. If not too cold, and we guess it will not be, Saturday and Sunday will be spent in public meetings. Monday next we expect to start for the Muddy and may be gone from here at least two weeks. Then up the Rio Virgin, thence to the Kenab, and thence, via Toker, home.

Respectfully, &c.,
A. MILTON MUSSER.

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