

Correspondence.

Worldly Fashions and Follies.

LOGAN, April 20th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

That the Latter-day Saints came to Utah poor, none familiar with our history can doubt, but they found a place of rest and their prayer was answered. Notwithstanding poverty, they abounded in faith, hope and charity, being bound together in a union of interest made strong by a divinity.

Distinctions as between classes were with them unknown, the pure love of the Gospel reigned supreme in their hearts, and each in the other found a friend and a brother, all having drunk from one spirit and received knowledge from one God.

They came out of the world to partake not of her sins and to receive not of her plagues.

If caste has since risen among us, is it not because we have clung to and practised upon the traditions of the world, rather than to the spirit and precepts of Christ? If we conduct our mercantile establishments and banking houses as do the people of the world, in that regard wherein are we unlike them? If we construct and operate railroads as they do, in what do we differ? If we array combinations of capital against the interests of labor, instead of harmonizing them by a wise system of co-operation, wherein have we gained wisdom? And if we puff the rich, flatter the exalted, and ignore the poor and weak, where is the key that locks the hearts of the people in Union?

I know of no age in the world's history where such a state of society has existed and the people were of one heart and mind, and I believe a perfect union of interest under such circumstances is morally impossible.

God's people must be one, loving each other and hating the oppressive ways of the world, or they will turn away and love the latter and hate the former. They cannot do both, there being neither union nor harmony between them, and there never can be. We may philosophize and moralize until weary in the vain hope of securing a different solution of this fact, and we will find it at last to be a problem upon which successive generations for thousands of years have worked and have failed to either unite or harmonize right with wrong, or justice or purity with impurity, or pride with humility.

The leaders of our people have for years sought to impress these facts upon the minds of the Saints, and have preached against pride and encouraged humility, decried luxurious extravagance, and taught the necessity of economy. And, sir, while our people are familiar with these teachings, there are few thinking men, even among the laboring classes, who fail to recognize, at least in part, the influence of our public press in shaping and directing public opinion on the issues of the age.

Political, financial or religious, the News, Junction and Herald are each read extensively by our people, and anything published in either editorially generally receives the consideration to which it is entitled, emanating, as we believe, from Elders in the church. In view of this fact, your correspondent, a laborer, very seriously questions the wisdom of any of our papers encouraging, by giving detailed publicity, to acts of worldly folly, even though practised by members of the church.

Your correspondent is fully aware, however, that he has nothing whatever to do with, or to say about, the affairs of private individuals or families, but when they choose to permit our public journals to detail in their columns their acts, which are antagonistic and diametrically opposed to the almost daily private and public teachings of our leaders, and those journals, or any one of them, chooses to cast around the practice, by our people, of any of the ridiculous fashionable follies of the world, the gauze of sensational romance, then the matter, it appears to me, assumes an entirely different shape, and becomes public, subject to public approval or to public censure. A few fathers and mothers in the community may feel justified in lending their influence in the introduction to their families and friends of such worldly follies as the participation in and encouragement of masquerade balls, and "brilliant and resplendent wed-

dings," together with all the attending pomp of ceremony and show usually prevailing in the outside world. They may obtain some gratification in having a public journal detail, in a novel and sensational manner, just how their children were costumed, whether "en train," or "a la pompadour," or both. It may also afford some momentary pleasure to a daughter of Zion to be publicly described as being "a lovely blonde, of elegant figure, with large, expressive eyes, and waving profusion of rich, brown hair," "queenly, perfect figure," "much of a belle," and so on. But it can be but temporary, and must fade away, leaving in the heart an aching void, for the obtaining of such things among any of our people can only be looked upon by the masses as an outgrowth from the world's hot-bed of folly and sin, rather to be pitied than exemplified, realizing fully that all who desert the genuine pleasures within the reach of all, to follow the pomp, empty show, and vanity practised elsewhere, only grasp at shadows, having lost the substance.

Marriage is honorable and among our people should be encouraged by keeping it within the reach of all who are of suitable age. The lack of wealth should be considered no obstruction thereto. But the introduction of foolish and extravagant fashions among us, especially under the apparent sanction and approval of the press, may and undoubtedly will prove not only a serious obstruction to marriage among our young people, but will soon create a positive barrier. In view of this well recognized fact I believe the masses of our people would, had they the opportunity, enter their humble protest against any paper, receiving their patronage, publishing in detail such unwise and hurtful practices.

In a private way it may be all right and very gratifying to some to create a sensation by which the heads of some may be turned to a senseless desire to emulate, and no great harm would come of it, at least outside of the immediate circle of the "wealthier and better classes of our society," but when, at the price of even a remote possibility of creating among the humbler classes a morbid desire to follow examples which ought not to be imitated, one of our daily newspapers lends itself to feed, in the most sensational and extravagant possible manner, the vanity of a few, by describing—ah! well, I need not mention what, for I suppose an editor can publish what he pleases in his own paper, so it be not scandal, and I presume the people have the right to read what they choose, and it is the opinion of many that they will not only do so, but will endeavor among themselves to talk and write down the senseless follies of the world by whomsoever introduced, practised, or puffed.

FARMER.

Much Snow—Little Hay—Another Heard the Report.

MONTPELIER, Bear Lake Co., Idaho, April 14, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

This is a little the darkest prospect for spring that we have ever had. Snow is 20 inches deep, and hay is getting very scarce. Very little stock has died yet.

Strange as it may appear, we distinctly heard the report of the explosion of the magazines in your city. Three distinct reports were heard here, as loud as common thunder, at 5 p.m.

The health of the people is good.

Respectfully,

DAVID OSBORN.

About School-Books.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 26, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Sir—Permit me the use of your columns for the purpose of noticing, in a brief manner, the communication which appeared in your issue of the 25th inst., from Mr. John R. Park, bearing on the action of the School Book Convention recently held in this city, and some of the books which were presented for the consideration of that body.

Mr. Park is well known here as a gentleman and scholar, and would not, I am quite sure, intentionally do injustice to any good school text book, nor to the publishers thereof, therefore I reply to him in a spirit of kindness, and in the belief that he had not, in the multiplicity of his professional duties,

found sufficient time to investigate the correctness of some portions of his article.

In comparing the National with the Pacific Coast Readers, he enumerated two books among the former which should not in any way be brought into the argument, simply from the fact that they are a class of books not used in District Schools, but are intended solely for advanced classes, in High Schools and Academies. These are the National Fifth Reader and the National Pronouncing Speller, both of which have a very limited sale as compared with these of the series which are used in District or "Common" Schools.

I doubt if the entire annual sale, in the Territory of Utah, of the National Fifth Reader, is two hundred copies, and they only to advanced schools, where, in the absence of this book, some similar work, such as Shaw's or Cleveland's English Literature, would necessarily be used in order that the finish of reading and rhetoric might be accomplished by the pupils.

The Pronouncing Speller, being also a special or advanced book, must, with the Fifth Reader in question, be set aside from a comparison of grades and prices with the Pacific Coast Readers, and only such of the National Readers as do compare in grade should be made the subject of comparison. Hence I submit the following table, and ask all who see it to read it carefully. And, if opportunity offers, let those who may doubt, step into any book store and examine the books. The National books begin with the Primer, and end with the Fourth Reader. The Pacific books begin with the First, and end with the Fifth Reader, and while the name "Primer" may not sound so well to some as "First Reader," do not fail to notice the comparison of pages in each book, and it will be readily observed that the difference is in naming and grading.

NATIONAL READERS.

National Primer,	64 pages,	retail price	25c
National First Reader,	128 "	"	38c
National Second Reader,	224 "	"	63c
National Third Reader,	288 "	"	\$1.00
National Fourth Reader,	432 "	"	1.50
National Elementary Speller,	160 "	"	25c
Total Pages, 1,208	Total Retail,	\$4.01	

PACIFIC COAST READERS

Pacific First Reader,	60 pages,	retail price	25c
Pacific Second Reader,	120 "	"	50c
Pacific Third Reader,	216 "	"	75c
Pacific Fourth Reader,	240 "	"	\$1.00
Pacific Fifth Reader,	312 "	"	1.25
Pacific Speller,	132 "	"	35c
Total Pages, 1,080	Total Retail,	\$4.10	

These, Mr. Editor, are the figures, and what do they show? Simply a plain fact, that is, the National Readers and Speller have 216 more pages, and sell for nine cents less per set than the same books in the Pacific Readers. The National Readers are in nearly, if not quite, two-thirds use throughout the Territory already; which is a nearer "uniformity" than any state or territory in America, with perhaps one exception—California; and as for the \$171,000 Mr. Park says will be saved in five years by displacing them, and substituting the Pacific Readers, I will say I am ready to give bonds to pay two dollars for one for every dollar that is saved by this change, so long as the Pacific Readers are printed and bound as are the samples deposited with or submitted to the Convention. This is a broad statement, but I am not writing without a knowledge of what it is all about.

It would not cost the people of Utah two thousand dollars to make the use of the National Readers as near uniform as is possible to do, and by making the introductions gradually, and getting the books at half rates as they are needed, and we offer them on these terms, the expense would not be felt. The apparently munificent donation, by the Messrs. Bancroft's agent, of a sufficient quantity of Pacific Readers to even exchange for any and all Readers now used in the schools, will be turned on the people, when, after about six months, they will be obliged, on account of the poor binding of these books, to supply their children with new books at full retail prices. That is

where and when this nicely fitting shoe will pinch awfully.

In regard to Monteith's Geographies, also mentioned by Mr. Park, I must beg to vigorously protest against his assertion, "that it is now scarcely possible to organize a class in any grade of the series, and find the text matter in all the geographies alike."

This series, Mr. Editor, has a sale throughout the land of more than any other two series of Geographies put together, a statement I am ready at any time to prove; and do you suppose that if they were so full of faults as Mr. Park's statement would make them appear, the people of other States would use them so generally?

In Geographies there are times when, if a publisher did not make some slight changes, teachers would complain loudly, and accuse us of teaching falsely. For instance, when Alsace and Lorraine were taken from France, and added to the German Empire, would we not have been negligent had we not so changed our maps, and map questions in our Geographies? When a slice of Utah was added to Wyoming, when the Suez canal became a part of history and geography, when the explorations of Livingston and Stanley opened up new geographical facts in Africa, would we have been live publishers had we ignored these and similar geographical changes, or discoveries, and kept them from the pages of Monteith's Geographies?

It is only once in a long while that such changes are necessary, and they in no way conflict with the use of the books in classes, yet it is these very slight though highly important changes that Mr. Park complains of, and as he quotes from the agreement with the publishers of Cornell's, as follows, "That there would be no revision to interfere with different editions in the same school," etc., it is to be presumed, inasmuch as Mr. Park does object to the changes referred to in Monteith, he inserted that clause into the agreement, to prevent any changes in Cornell, and should the Capital be moved to St. Louis, or Canada be annexed to the United States, the Messrs. Appletons could, under the agreement, leave two such important facts out of the Geographies sent into Utah.

Monteith's Geographies are used in nearly if not quite four-fifths of the schools of Utah, and had the Convention sought for an economical plan upon which to secure uniformity in this branch of study, they would have selected from this series such as are best suited to the wants of the schools, and we would have gladly undertaken to complete the uniformity at a guaranteed expense to the people of not more than one thousand dollars, besides putting into any one of the books selected additional historical and geographical matter pertaining to Utah, including a full page map of the Territory. It is true, we did put in a proposal to supply a new series of Geographies at half rates, but not until it was understood that a complete change was sought by the convention.

The two books thus offered were of about the same grade and price as Cornell's two first books, and were expected to meet equal consideration.

We, however, handed to the chairman of the Committee on Geography a supplementary proposition relative to the supply and uniformity of the Monteith's Geographies now so generally used throughout the Territory, which it is quite evident the Convention did not care to consider.

Very respectfully, &c.,
C. J. BARNES,
A. S. BARNES & Co.,
New York and Chicago.

Long Winter—Schools—Mails—More Witnesses, etc.

ST. CHARLES, BEAR LAKE CO., IDAHO, April 14, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

We have had a tedious winter in this locality, though as a general thing the weather has not been intensely cold, but windy and disagreeable, with from one and a half to two and a half feet of snow on a level, a large portion of which remains yet, but is slowly disappearing.

The lake is like a plain covered with snow. The loss of stock has not been extensive, owing to the supply of hay in the fall. The long winter has given the people

an opportunity to prepare for spring work when winter's icy fetters are broken, in making arrangements in relation to irrigating ditches, herding stock, etc.

We have had two day schools here this winter, one of which is now in progress. It seems to be the intention of the farmers to make an effort to raise large crops of grain the present year.

The DESERET NEWS is always welcome and read with great interest. The mail has arrived as regularly as could have been expected, considering the depth of snow and the furious wind storms to be encountered. Instead of a semi-weekly mail, we anticipate having a tri-weekly mail soon.

We have an excellent co-operative saw mill, seven miles from St. Charles, which is calculated to amply supply the place with lumber.

Some persons in this valley are of the opinion that they heard the noise produced by the explosion of the magazines at Salt Lake City.

Respectfully,
L. B. H.

Sabbath School Examination.

OGDEN CITY, April 26, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

We witnessed a very pleasant Sabbath school examination last Sunday, and, as it contained some new and very interesting features, we thought a few items might prove useful to your numerous readers, and especially to those interested in a similar cause.

This school numbers about ninety, including teachers, pupils and superintendent, and appears to be in a healthy and prosperous condition. It contains but few books to aid the teachers in the discharge of their duties, in consequence of which they depend more upon the inspiration of God, and thus become living books, and, we might almost venture to say, authors in theology for their school. The exercises were various and appropriate and exhibited the good taste of Superintendent Wade. In connection with the branches usually taught, historical sketches and commentaries upon the Book of Mormon, and also reminiscences of our Church, were interestingly blended. The closing exercises consisted of original compositions, recited by the students who composed them. These, although deficient in poetic measure, did credit to their youthful authors, and exhibited a literary ability and pride worthy of more noted districts. While listening to these poetic effusions, we heartily wished that our Governor might have the opportunity of witnessing some of our "sagebrush districts," and compare them with others of better facilities, before he prepares his next message for our Legislature. The sentiments expressed in these pieces were full of love and gratitude to the superintendent and teachers, as well as to the superintendent of the county, and proved that their Sabbath school was indeed the pride of old and young. The singing also was excellent, and formed one of the most interesting parts of the programme.

Remarks were made by L. F. Monch, Thomas Wallace, Supt. R. Ballantyne, and President Cyrus H. Wheelock, all of whom spoke in eulogistic terms of the examination and the high degree of advancement attained by the school.

Very respectfully,
L. F. MONCH,
Sec. of Sabbath Schools of Weber county.

Progress of the Work—Baptisms—Sitting to Preach—Increase of Vice and Infidelity.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, March 29, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

Two years ago last October Conference I was called on a mission to Europe, and I was appointed to this conference. I arrived here in Stockholm, all well, the 27th of November, 1873, and have been in this conference since that time. I have enjoyed good health and spirits the whole time.

I am pleased to say the mission in this conference is in a prosperous condition. Our meetings are well attended, and a few are constantly being added to our numbers. The last six weeks we have baptized 17 in this city, and in the time I have been here 307 have been added