## Correspondence.

FRANKLIN, Cache Co., U. T., June 10, 1869.

*Editor Deseret News:*—This settlement is thus far more exempt from the ruthless reprisals of the hoppers (grasshoppers and crickets of every hue) than any other in the valley. I am told that a belt of excellent lands lying along the foot of the hills eastward and southward of the town have for the most part escaped pillage from the little marauders since their first march upon Cache, in 1866. A citizen of Wellsville informed me yesterday that his crops have been consumed by them four successive years, including the present, and that the name of grasshopper has become a terror to him. It seems to have fallen to the lot of that settlement—the oldest in the valley—to have yearly the lion's share of visitation from the rapacious pests. This is very philosophically accounted for on the presumption that the good folks of Wellsville having become inured to "hard times," by their experience here and elsewhere, have accumulated a heavy stock of patient endurance; and, Job-like, are put upon the vigorous exercise of it, lest its fragrance should be wasted on the desert air. Truly I have never elsewhere witnessed such ensamples of "taking joyfully the spoiling of their goods," as a community, and almost to an individual, as within the confines of Wellsville, when, to all human appearance, their last reliance for an earthly subsistence has been thus successively swept away by these incorrigible devourers. If, without invidious distinction, the encomium paid to peculiar personal virtue, may be awarded to any one community, may not the settlers of Wellsville be called the most patient people of Utah, and if of Utah, then, by inference, the most patient people in all the world?

"And why may not Columbia's soil
Rear men as great as Britain's Isle?—
Exceed what Greece and Rome have done,
Or any land beneath the sun?"

But Franklin claims some further notice. As an incontestible index of the progressive, wide-awake status of its people, I believe there is not a family without the DESERET NEWS. Besides, it is promptly paid for. They are characteristically a paying community. For their public spirit they have won the deserved laurel of having no rival, with similar ratio of population, in Cache county; and Bishop Hatch has well earned his distinguishing title of "Working Bishop."

Their capacious stone meeting house is to be at once seated and otherwise put in order for convening the people. The *recherche* addition of a liberal-sized recitation room is proposed to their handsome stone school house. (To quiet any serious shocking of grammatical nerves I had better explain that the adjective "handsome" here very properly qualifies both the nouns "stone" and "school house".) A co-operative store and telegraph office, also of stone, 25x35, receives its roof this week. An elegant prayer-room was dedicated by Pres. Benson on Thursday last, when the people celebrated a Sabbath mid-week by assembling for instruction. Nor were the poor forgotten on that day (it being the regular fast day) as evinced by the donations at the house of Bro. John Biggs, steward for the poor. Their Sunday school is fully attended. A select school is taught by Miss Libbie Merrick, a teacher late from Wisconsin, who, with Mrs. M. D. Merrick as assistant, presides over the mental destinies of some hundred and twenty scholars. Upon this school and all I admired about it, I have now no thought of dilating. I shall state, however, that in my humble judgment, as a primary school, it is a model in this region. Co-operation is in the ascendant. Its advantages are apparent. The Deseret Telegraph is being extended. Franklin is setting the poles to Richmond.

A story is in process of a mercantile gent in a northern town who was convicted of the expediency of baptism some months since. His trade, however, seems not to have revived very much, and it has almost unconverted him again. Such expedients "gang aft aglee" in this latitude for fawning hypocrisy ranges about zero.

An old lady named Coulton, of Franklin, has walked thence to the capital to attend every Semi-annual Conference since her arrival in the Territory, upwards of seven years ago. She is near sixty years of age. When the President visits Cache she leaves Franklin early enough in the morning to reach Logan at the meeting hour, a distance of 20 miles—on foot!

The most elegantly braided, finished and trimmed straw hats for ladies, of home manufacture throughout, were shown me by Mrs. John Durrant, at Brother Biggs', who, during a visit with Mrs. D., from American Fork, had pretty well supplied the ladies of Franklin, who never, probably, even when decorated in the most costly importations, appeared to better advantage.

The martial band at Franklin evinces a perseverance in practice assuring proficiency. A set of brass instruments has been purchased. The brass band will be "out" presently.

Richmond is flourishing. But six miles south of Franklin, her massive frame barns carry one in imagination to the days of Yankee utilitarianism—good house and good barn for Jonathan's farm; but the barn first and foremost. Bishop Merrill is of the famed Marion and Sumpter stock and par excellent in the Aaronic specialty. Their six mile quota from home to Smithfield, completes the telegraph line to the head of Cache.

Smithfield, Bishop Samuel Roskelly, irrespective of the "hopper" encroachments, pursues her every-day march of improvement. A native bard has it, "She spreads herself with a perfect looseness." With an unexcelled water-power, her mills and machinery are ever in view. Brother "Sammy's" typographic tournament has been no bar to prestige in the bishopric. That right line of poles from Logan to Smithfield was well set. Not an "out" or an "in," with a "take" of eight miles is something one must em—— as a "clean proof" of artistic proficiency. There's something in knowing how to "hold the stick." You may expect a "flaming communication" from Smithfield on or about Friday next. The same from Richmond and Franklin a very few days thereafter. The wires are on hand. The hoppers, it is hoped, wont gobble up the wires, though they have eaten off nearly everything else, and that for four years successively.

Hyde Park, four miles farther, has made some stretches of improvement, judging from the broad acres added (and enclosed) to its former fields. Bishop Wm. Hyde is a spiritual thermopyle; but physically impaired since his injury by the accidental kick of a horse. Bro. Duce, formerly of Ogden, has erected in the northern suburbs, one of the tidiest dwellings in the country. The outside hard-finish is but one half to three quarters of an inch thick, instead of an inch and a half to two inches, as is usual about Salt Lake City, thus doubling or trebling the weight and giving a proportionate gravitating tendency to scale off.

Logan, the county seat and residence of Presidents Benson and Maughan, is universally esteemed as one of the most promising towns of the Territory. The ecclesiastical and civil government of Cache genially radiate from Logan; and, tho' 20 miles is a somewhat burdensome distance excised in the transaction of business upon remote districts, the machinery is kept in fair working order. A semi-weekly mail, Richard Williams, contractor, connects the settlements of Cache with Brigham City. From Brigham to Logan it is carried by Messrs. Wm. Maughan and Frank Gunnell; from Logan to Franklin by Hon. P. Maughan. Though by far the most hazardous route within the Territory, probably no other can compete with it in "certainty, security and celerity" for the four years it has been carried by them. Joseph Maughan and John Coburn, the regular drivers, are young mountaineers, of undaunted courage and gallantry, and Father Abbott, who drives the mail carriage over the mountains, is steady as the old family clock. Several grizzleys have recently made their appearance on Logan bottoms where "the woods" afford ample concealment.

Wellsville, it is now generally conceded, would have been better located on an inviting bench across the creek and east of its present site. Her pomologists, though untiring, have never reaped any fruit from their labors. A warmer soil would remedy this and peradventure other disparagements and transform the fertile lands now held under tribute by municipal exactions into profitable farms. One of the most observable recent improvements is the massive frame barn of bro. Frank Gunnell. It is 60 by 58 feet, with well planned stables, each 24 feet long, at every corner. It is capable of storing 100 tons of hay. Main floor 34 by 60 feet. Has no second floor. Contains 30,000 feet of lumber, and is covered with 33,000 shingles. All the timbers and lumber were got out of the mountains above Blacksmiths Fork after the annual Conference and starting of the teams for the poor, under bro. G's personal direction and material aid.

Bishop Wm. Maughan, of Wellsville, I am informed, was the first American who explored Bear Lake Valley. He was accompanied by Messrs. T. R. Leavitt, James Smith, Wm. Garr, and Horace Newell, of Wellsville, then the only settlement in Cache, crossing the Logan river about the present site of Logan city, and continuing north along the line of the present settlements, thence up Cub river (an incident then occurring giving rise to the name) four miles, over on to Mink creek, up Little Pole creek to the present big dugway, and through nature's beautiful pass over the mountains down into Bear Lake Valley. The exploration was then directed along the west side of the lake to what is now called Fish Haven, thence to the head of Fishhaven kanyon, thence over an almost impassable rugged range of summits to the head waters of the Logan. In this region they discovered two small lakes, inclosed by heavy timber, probably never before or since seen by white men. The descent *via* left hand fork of Logan into Cache Valley was tedious and perilous. A road by this route connecting Cache and Bear Lake valleys is absolutely out of the question.

Of Providence, Bishop Wm. Budge, Millville, Bishop George O. Pitkin, Hyrum, Bishop O. N. Liljenquist, and Paradise, Bishop David James, all situated in the east and southern part of the valley; also of Mendon, Bishop Henry Hughes; Newtown, Bishop Wm. F. Littlewood; Weston, Bishop John Maughan; and Oxford, Bishop J. W. Nelson, on the western side of the valley, making in all a total of fourteen settlements, I can now only say they each partake liberally of the same genius of progress and perseverance peculiarly distinguishing Cache Valley from its first settlement, in 1855; and are paying patrons of the "NEWS." May their rulers be ever the embodiment of peace and their exactors, righteousness.

Itinerant and other pedlars with "cheap goods," "really cheap," are beginning to swarm in the county. In one or two instances they have already proved of the pestiferous order. The pedling persuasion is decidedly disreputable in these parts; and those having a penchant for this spy-gypsy mode of fortune hunting will be sure to serve themselves by letting the people of Cache severely alone.

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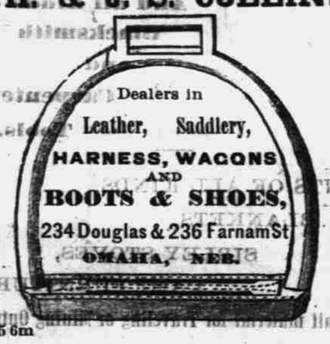

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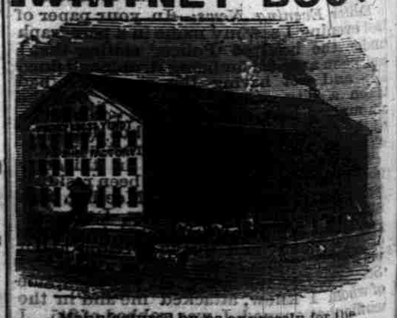

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