

car for Lincoln or Jackson park, and there find a cool and refreshing breeze at any time. While we cannot say that all is sunshine in missionary life, still it has its joys as well as its sorrows, its pleasures as well as its pains. For myself, I can say that the past year has been one of the happiest of my life, and all Elders who do their duty can bear the same testimony.

JOHN N. DAVIS,
President of North Illinois Conference.

JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

INDEPENDENCE, Mo.,
August 4, 1896.

It is now quite common to see upon our streets men from Utah; even the local papers have lengthy articles about the opening of a missionary field in Kansas City, and the Temple Lot story is repeated nearly every time the so-called Mormons are mentioned. The story is, that it is the firm belief of the Saints that a grand and glorious temple will some night spring up out of the ground like a mushroom, and be splendid beyond any earthly structure; and no matter how often the story is denied and the statement made that the temple will be erected by human hands in the ordinary way, they do not seem to comprehend it, or do not want to so understand it. I have often thought it would be a source of great pleasure and perhaps profit if someone would secure a register in which the many visitors to the Temple lot could register their names, date their visit, from what part of Utah they come, and where they are destined for. All subsequent visitors would thereby be made to feel at home and would see the names of many of their co-workers who have paid a visit to the center Stake of Zion. Perhaps arrangements could be made to have a place on the Temple lot for the register.

Although we are having extremely hot weather, the season as a whole has been a remarkably good one. Unlike the hills and valleys of Utah, our hills and valleys are covered with trees and grass in luxurious abundance everywhere; but even this luxurious growth of vegetation has its disadvantages especially during the summer months. There are minute insects called "chiggers" which literally cover the grass, but are so small they cannot be seen with the naked eye unless they are placed on a white surface, as for instance a china plate. These small insects are a source of great annoyance to the people who are fond of walking or sitting on the lawns. They are so small they can enter the pores of the skin and the result is something like a severe mosquito bite, burning and itching severely. These little pests are more autocratic about keeping people off the grass than the government officials were with Coxe's army.

With this exception this country cannot be beat for anything in the way of beautiful scenery, climate and agricultural productions. Many people who have traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific say this is the garden spot of the world. Now is the time to secure homes in Jackson county at a reasonable figure; good farms can be bought for \$40 to \$50 per acre and everything is very low. Speaking about farming, however, makes

us all "tired," for money has been forced up so high that farm products are bringing less than ever before in the history of this country. Just think of potatoes, large, smooth and mealy bringing five cents a bushel; cabbage three cents a dozen heads; corn 15 cents per bushel; wheat 40 cents; oats 14 cents, and so on down the line. It shows plainly that something is radically wrong with the health and prosperity of the nation when our grand agricultural pursuits are brought down to such great straits, and when those with a little money laid by can live in comfort and ease on the sweat of their fellow men.

Millions are waiting for relief; some for McKintley and a gold standard, and some for Bryan and free silver. I will just add that the free silver sentiment is largely in the majority in this country, but most of the bankers, regardless of their former party affiliations, are "gold bugs" and for McKintley. Many look for harder times, which ever way it goes. Many look upon the condition of affairs something like a tramp expressed himself a few days ago while passing through town. He said: "This government is sorely afflicted with a cancer. Dr. Democracy and Dr. Republican have each a remedy; each is tested and both make the outward appearance of the cancer look better, but down deep the deadly poison is seeking the vital and eating its way to the heart. Many believe conditions are such that only a heroic remedy can remove the cancer similar to the great surgical operation which almost cost the patient his life in 1860 and 1865".

Whatever the result may be
It's all fulfilling prophecy.

and is only hastening the grand consummation, the long-wished-for redemption of Zion. So let Him who rules the destinies of all nations have our utmost confidence that all will be done for the ultimate elevation of the human race. Respectfully,
E. PETERSON.

UTAH WEATHER AND CROPS.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Aug. 4, 1896.—The weather of the week ending Monday, August 3rd, was very favorable to the growing crops, pastures and meadows, but a little too showery in the northern portion of the State for haying and general harvest work. The temperature averaged about normal, while the precipitation was slightly in excess of the usual amount over the central and northern sections for this time of the year. Harvesting operations continued during the week whenever the weather permitted, and in a few localities the thrashing machines were at work. Corn, beets and potatoes are in excellent condition and indicate heavy crops in all sections of the State. The prospects for a second crop of lucern are very good; the first crop is about all hauled in but in a very bad condition. Throughout the northern and central sections of the State a great deal of the heavy grain is badly lodged, and if the showers continue much longer much of it will be destroyed by rust.

Holden—Fine growing weather for corn and other vegetation. No fruit to amount to anything except apples

and they are falling off; harvesting in full blast.

Scipio—Fine clear week; everything growing fine; grain turning; second crop of lucern growing fast; all of first crop in but in very bad condition.

Pinto—Corn and potatoes growing nicely; some of the early wheat turning.

Levan—Harvest has commenced in earnest; the wheat crop is a heavy one, and badly lodged, and will have to be cut one way; this will incur some extra expense and labor; the week has been all that could be desired in every respect.

Moab—Early Victor grapes ripe; roasting ears at observer's home-raised here.

St. George—Slight rain night of 26th; heavy rain on the night of 26th; .50 of an inch fell between midnight and 1 a. m.

Kanab—Weather clearing up after two weeks rain; everything growing lovely; second cut of lucern will be heavy; corn and small grain crop doing well and will pull through to harvest all right; grass starting up nicely on the range and stock looking up.

Ranch—Rain, plenty of rain, and the crops look well for it; lucern cut and some damaged by rain; all crops are doing splendid.

Moroni—Rain on the 26th, amounting to 0.16 of an inch; balance of week clear and warm, good for haying; some rye cut; wheat commenced to turn ripe.

Harrisville—The week has been one of much precipitation for this season of the year, however much farm work has been done in harvesting ripened grain, but has impeded the hauling of hay with some damage to the cut crop in the field; full indications of a full yield of all farm products.

Plymouth—The week ending August 2nd was good for the maturing of late crops and second crop of alfalfa; the forepart of the week was blustery with light showers on 27th and 29th, but not enough to do any damage; grain crop light on account of dry weather during the forepart of the season.

Cache Junction—Heavy rain night of 27th and 28th of July; cloudy 29th; fair rest of the week; commenced cutting grain.

Spring City—Last week was more favorable to crops than the week before; very cloudy but not so much rain; some wind; crops doing well; oats nearly ready to cut; prospects for a second crop of lucern good. Today (Aug. 3.) it is raining but not very hard; corn and potatoes are doing well.

Uintah—Rains during the week have done immense good to dry farms, and stopped irrigation on low lands. Lots of hay has been spoiled and grain laid down flat on the ground.

Tooele—At day break on July 30th we had one of the greatest electrical storms ever seen in this valley. There seemed to be one continuous quivering flash of lightning and one continuous roll of thunder; it was grand. No rain. Grain will be all cut this week; the threshers busy at work.

Peterson—The first crop of lucern about all hauled; in very bad condition owing to the frequent storms. The cutting of timothy hay is now going on and still looks stormy. Heavy wheat