

THE ISLE OF MAN.

A MOST INTERESTING LETTER FROM "EXILE" WHO IS "DOING" THE PRETTY LITTLE ISLE.

DOUGLAS, Isle of Man, January 24th, 1880.

Editor Deseret News:

This little island, almost equidistant from the shores of England, Ireland and Scotland, is an independent dependency of the United Kingdom. Accompanying this letter is a clipping from *Public Opinion*, which will give the readers of the News a good idea of the government that has been maintained here with little change except as to its sovereigns for more than eight centuries.

"HOME RULE"

is here an accomplished fact within sight of oppressed Erin; and not only has it brought no danger to the British crown, but it has saved England from a peck of troubles in the management of the Manx, as well as considerable expense, and the general results have been most excellent. The United States might learn a lesson of great value from England's treatment of this little "Territory" and the contrast which its government and liberties afford to the wretched system that prevails in the satrapies of the West, over which Congress claims supreme authority and that "exclusive jurisdiction" which the Constitution only accords it over the District of Columbia.

This

GREEN LITTLE ISLE.

washed by the waves of the Irish Sea, is about 33 miles long and 12 miles wide at the greatest breadth, and has an area of about 150,000 acres. It has a chain of lofty hills which the natives call mountains, the highest, Snaefell, being about 2,024 feet to the "top thereof." The climate is soft and equable, flowers growing in the open air most of the year, for it is laved by a branch of the great gulf stream, and its humid but temperate atmosphere does not vary as much as in England.

SUCCESSIVE RULERS.

The Welsh kings ruled it in early times, but in 550 the Scotch seized and held it for a while. In 614 the King of Northumbria gained possession, but it was afterwards captured by the warlike Danes. The House of Keys, spoken of in the article in *Public Opinion*, was founded by King Orry the Dane, and relics of his rule are still to be found on the island. In 1066 Godred the Norman took it, the Norwegians fought for and captured it in 1098 and kept it till 1226, when King Magnus ceded it to Alexander of Scotland. In 1344 the Earl of Salisbury took it from the Scots and it fell into the hands of the Earls of Derby, who became "Lords of Man" and held the sovereignty by succession till it passed by purchase to the British Crown.

Through all these changes the

LIBERTIES

were maintained which were acquired under King Orry's constitutional government. Its laws have been made by its own parliament and its people have been proud of their political independence. The House of Keys, which is the Representative branch of the Manx Parliament, or Court of Tynwald, has twenty-four members elected by men and women having a property qualification, who are alike tenacious of their rights and liberties.

TYNWALD HILL

is in a pleasant little spot on the road from Douglas to Ramsey and Peel. It is where the laws are read annually to the populace. It is a grassy, circular, terraced mound, about twelve feet high and eighty feet in diameter at the base. There are four terraces on which the officials sit, while the Lieutenant Governor's chair is placed at the summit when the laws are read, a ceremony that is essential before they are legally in force. The ceremony takes place on July 5th, sufficiently close to the American day of independence to be quite suggestive. It is a general Manx holiday. A fair is held, then, at St. John's, which is close by, and has now a railway junction connecting the roads to Douglas, Ramsey and Peel. The Church of St. John's stands near at hand, from which the dignitaries of the island march down a broad paved path to Tynwald Hill on the day for the reading of the laws.

MONA'S ISLE.

There are about 60,000 people on the island, who gain a living by agriculture, fishing, and the business brought by the tourists and visitors who flock to it during the greater part of the year. It is called Mona's Isle or Mannin by the Manx. Mannin is said to be an abbreviation of Meadon-in (Middle Island.) It was once the abode of the Druids. Man (a with a circumflex accent) in the Sanscrit refers to "the wise," and some scholars claim that Mannin signifies the island or abode of the wise, i.e. the Druids. One of its curiosities is the tailless cat, which has a very peculiar appearance to visitors. The saying "what a long tail our pussy's got," would be entirely lost on the Manx people.

SUPERSTITION

is rife among the natives, especially in the country districts. Belief in fairies or "the little people," as they are called, is seriously entertained, and marvelous stories are told of babies

changed in their cradles, mermaids that have come up from the sea, wizards that can work wonders, witches that can make spells, the evil eye, giants with three legs, evil spirits and other uncanny creatures, visible and invisible.

DOUGLAS

is the principal town. It is approached by Douglas Bay, a pleasant harbor, a splendid view of which and the sea in the distance is had from the semicircular esplanade, back of which are fine hotels and commodious boarding houses, pleasure grounds and private residences, well stocked "shops" and a clean and healthy town, with excellent drives leading out to the green hills and interesting glens and country spots. Several fine piers jut out into the bay. The Victoria pier is 1,100 feet long and 50 feet wide, of concrete blocks 31 feet above low water mark. The iron pier stretches out 1,000 feet and is 17 feet wide. Out in the bay is St. Mary's Isle with the Tower of Refuge standing like a fort on a rock. Lady Hillary, who is said to have been wrecked, and saved by being cast on the islet, erected the tower as a place of refuge and a warning to mariners. Douglas Head, its summit 300 feet above sea level, may be seen pushing out into the sea, and close to the shore numerous fishing vessels hug the land as if anxious for shelter from the blasts of the deep. It is a pretty sight at night when the boats arrive. The lights on the water, the numerous windows illuminated back of the esplanade and twinkling on the hills, the contrast with the dark waters, the pleasant faces, inviting guests to a place to stay—for the whole town seems engaged in the boarding-house business, the warmth, the welcome, all seem bright and pleasant after rolling upon the sea and looking anxiously for shore. Going from

DOUGLAS TO RAMSEY,

the traveler passes Union Mills; the old and new churches of Bradden; Aitken's Castle, commonly called Aitken's Polly; Greeba mountain, seen in the distance, 1,591 feet above sea level; Greeba Castle; St. Trinian's Church—a famed old ruin, the roof of which could never be completed because as soon as commenced it was cast down by evil spirits; the Round Meadow, where the "Phynnodere" or "hairy stockings" was excoriated by mowing around him in the meadow till he was fixed in the center; then around the base of Sarnell, a mountain 1,560 feet high, and by Kirk Michael, where there are several Runic monuments, and Bishop's Court, the official residence of the Bishop of Sodor and Man; Bishop Simon lived there in King Orry's Tower in the 13th century; by the Ballaugh, where there is a curious Runic cross, and passing near Sulby, near which is a beautiful glen.

RAMSEY

is reached, and shows up a quaint old town with an ancient market place, a fine view of the sea to the east and north, and a handsome bay which abounds in fish. A promenade affords a fine prospect. It is 730 yards long with a sea wall five feet thick and a foot path 12 feet wide. The pier is 131 yards long and 15 feet wide. Albert Tower is seen from the Promenade on a high hill adjacent to the town. Prince Albert the Good landed here in 1847, and the tower of granite and slate 45 feet high with an interior winding stairway, was erected in honor of his visit. Bathing machines hauled up to shore show that in the summer season sea-bathing is one of the luxuries indulged in by visitors. To the southeast Manghold Head, a bold, rocky point, the most easterly of the island is plainly seen, fishing smacks are at work within sight of the shore, steamboats and sailing vessels are moving away out at sea, and right in view is the spot where Captain Elliot with three frigates defeated Thurot with five ships in 1700.

PEEL

is on the same side of the island, but farther to the south. It has narrow, crooked, old fashioned streets and a fishing population. Its chief object of interest is Peel Castle on St. Patrick's Isle. The visitor is ferried over a stream in a boat, and climbing the stone steps, is on a mass of slaty rock at the entrance to the harbor. The summit of the eminence is fully occupied by the fine old ruins, which have a natural and historic interest. It is said that here St. Patrick established the first Church on the Isle of Man.

THE CASTLE,

its battlements, towers and appurtenances cover an area of four and a half acres. Some portions of the ruin are at least a thousand years old, but the date of the first fortress is lost in antiquity. Godred died here in 1187. Olave in 1237. The Earl of Warwick was banished to this spot by Richard the Second in 1397. About 1447 Eleanor, the Duchess of Gloucester was imprisoned here for witchcraft against Henry the Sixth, and was imprisoned fourteen years. It has numerous towers from which one can look down on the massive and rugged rocks at the base, assailed in vain by the surges of the sea. The Round Tower is about 50 feet high from the castle ground and six feet interior diameter at the base. Fenella's Tower is so-called from Sir Walter Scott's "Peveril of the Peak." It is evident to one on the spot that the famous novelist was never on this island. Fenella's leap could never have been taken from this place and the story is clearly a figment

of a vivid imagination. Near to "Fenella's Tower" is the Tiltyard where knights in armor once showed their skill in arms, and close by was the palace of the Earls of Derby and Lords of Man, now gone to ruin.

ST. GERMAIN'S CATHEDRAL

is a fine old relic, one of the most interesting in the castle. It marks the spot of the earliest church on the island, no remains of which are discernible, having been replaced in 1245 by the structure of which the mutilated skeleton only is left. Its dimensions are 114 ft. by 68 ft. at the transepts. The choir is 36 ft. and the nave 52 ft. long, the roofless walls 18 ft. high and very thick, of red sandstone. In the south west corner is a tower 66 feet high, with a helter turret 15 feet higher. A splendid view of the sea is had from here with a dim outline of the Scotch and Irish coasts. In the chancel Bishop Simon was buried in the year of its erection. A passage in the wall under a window on the south side of the choir leads to the crypt, which is 34 feet by 16 feet, with a vaulted roof. This is said to have been used as a prison for the Earl of Warwick, and also the Duchess of Gloucester. A Runic monument on the south of the nave bears an inscription interpreted to signify that it was erected by her husband to "Astrith, the daughter of Ottar."

THE LAST BISHOP

buried in this cathedral was Samuel Rutter, whose tomb has this inscription in Latin:

"In this house shared with the worms my brothers, I, Samuel, by the permission of God Bishop of this island lie in hope of a resurrection to life. Stop reader, look and smile at this palace of a Bishop. Died May 30, 1663."

Near the Cathedral are traces of the episcopal palace, and the castle well, which after being choked up for 200 years, was opened in 1874. At the foot of the Round Tower are the ruins of the old Church of St. Patrick. Another object of interest is the Sally Port, curiously constructed and once well defended, also a two story ruin supposed to have been a prison, and a pyramidal mound, most likely a place of interment, about 200 feet in length on each side of its square base. Beyond the castle walls is a mound said to be the

GIANTS' GRAVE.

The monster with three legs used, in his anger, to throw about huge masses of rock which remain in the vicinity to this day as proofs of his prowess. What further evidence can be required? There are the rocks, there is his grave, and pictures of the three legs are to be seen on steamers that run from Liverpool to the Isle of Man, and on many insignia of Mona's Isle!

SUNDRIES.

Castletown is a small town on the south-west corner of the Isle of Man, which may be seen on a trip from Douglas to Dublin, and at the extreme south is a small detached island called the Calf of Man. Those who have time can find many interesting spots to visit on this pleasant and verdant little Isle of beauty. The Laxey wheel, the largest water wheel in the world, is much sought after by tourists, but when one's time is limited everything cannot be taken in and written up however attractive it may be.

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR

Introduced the Gospel to the Manx folks and many faithful and intelligent Latter-day Saints who live in Utah or who have laid their bodies down in peace in its quiet vales, received the truth in the Isle of Man. Our present delegate in Congress is a Manx-man, and from Logan to St. George many a Saint from Mannin may be found building up Zion in the tops of the mountains. Not more than half a dozen now claim membership in the Church on this island, the last company of the season taking away some of the old stand-bys and leaving no organized branch as a nucleus for further effort.

THE GENERAL SPIRIT

is bitter against the gospel, sectarianism on one hand and pleasure and indifference to religion on the other, render proselytism almost an impossibility. The violence and animosity which greeted the efforts of Apostle J. H. Smith and Elder Joseph A. West, a couple of years ago indicated the futility of public efforts to revive the work on the island. This is perhaps quite enough in one letter; at any rate, it is an epitome of what has been seen and learned in a lively visit of thirty-four hours by

EXILE.

THE LEGISLATURE.

COUNCIL—FEB. 18.

At 2 p. m. the Council assembled, and, after roll call and prayer, the journal of Wednesday was read and adopted. A message from the House was read announcing that they had rejected C. F. No. 26, a bill amending sec. 2, chap. 31, session laws of 1880. Messrs. Barton and Shurtliff presented petitions from the officers of Davis County and Kaysville City, also of Weber Co. and Ogden City, asking for an appropriation to build a bridge over Weber river; said bridge would be a great advantage, not only to Weber and Davis counties but to adjoining counties also. Mr. Hammond also presented a petition from the officers and citizens of Cache County, asking for an appropri-

ation of \$5,000 to assist in rebuilding the bridge over Bear river. The petitioners stated that the bridge in question would cost about \$10,000, and that as there were a number of such bridges in the county to be maintained they prayed for a favorable consideration of their petition. The three petitions were referred to the committee on highways.

Mr. Grover, from the committee on judiciary, reported back H. F. No. 47, a bill for the selection and payment of jurors, without amendment, and recommended that it be put upon its passage; adopted and placed on file for second reading.

Also H. F. No. 46, amending the act incorporating Alpine City, with amendments. The amendments were read and adopted.

Mr. Hammond, from the committee on enrollment, reported that C. F. No. 28, a bill to amend the act incorporating Moroni City, had been correctly enrolled, that it had been signed by the President and Speaker, and at 4.30 p. m. on Wednesday had been forwarded to his excellency, the Governor, for his action thereon.

The special order of the day, C. F. No. 35, a bill in relation to trusts, was then taken up, beginning at section 19. The bill was read the second time and placed on file for third reading.

H. F. No. 46, a bill amending the act incorporating Alpine City, was read the second time and, under suspension of the rules, was read the third time and passed, and the House notified thereof.

H. F. No. 47, a bill to provide for the selection and payment of jurors, was read the second time and placed on file for third reading. Section 13 of this act provides that it shall not be applicable to trials for bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation.

Substitute for H. F. No. 20, a bill to encourage the growth of timber, was then taken up.

Mr. Hammond thought there were some amendments needed in this bill, and as he had not had time to prepare them he would move that the further consideration of this bill be made the special order for Tuesday, the 23d. Carried.

Adjourned.

HOUSE, FEB. 18.

The House was called to order as usual by the Speaker at 2 p. m.

Mr. Lund presented a petition from citizens of Mount Pleasant, asking that their city charter be amended; referred to the committee on municipal corporations.

The committee on elections reported the bill on apportionment and recommended that it be put on its passage; adopted.

The bill in relation to elections was reported and put on its passage.

The committee on highways reported and recommended that the petitions from Beaver County be granted, and that \$1,000 be appropriated to build a road in that county; adopted.

The committee on ways and means recommended that the large safe now at Ogden be sent to Beaver for the use of the Second District Court, and that the expenses of transportation be paid by the court; referred back to the committee to incorporate in the report an appropriation for the transportation.

The bill on equalization was recommended to be put on its passage; filed for second reading.

The committee on agriculture reported the bill to encourage the sinking of artesian wells, and recommended that it be put upon its passage. Adopted.

A similar disposition was made of the bills on penitentiary and reform schools, which was ordered printed.

The committee on claims and public accounts recommended the petition of Mr. A. O. Smoot, Jr., be granted, and that \$85.71 be appropriated to reimburse him to that amount for uncollected taxes; adopted.

The same committee recommended that the claim of Mr. Fotheringham for \$150, for examining court records be allowed; adopted.

A similar claim for \$10 for like purposes was allowed L. H. Reid. Also the claim of John W. Turner for \$141.27, was allowed.

House bill 31 was reported back without action, as the substance of it will be reported in a new bill.

The committee on ways and means recommended that \$200 or so much as may be needed of the amount be appropriated for the transportation of the sale before mentioned. Adopted.

The House concurred in the Council amendment to the House bill in relation to bulls running at large from the 1st of January to the first of July inclusive in each year.

A message from the Council informed the House that it had amended and passed the House bill in relation to incorporating Alpine City, Utah County, and the House concurred.

The report of the receipts and disbursements of Territorial Librarian for the year 1884-5, was read and referred to the committee on library.

The committee on education reported unfavorably on the petition of the Christian Temperance Association in regard to putting temperance text books in the district schools of Utah. The report was adopted.

The bill to increase the appropriation to the University of Deseret to \$10,000, which will afford means for 50 normal students per annum instead of 40, was read.

A bill amending an act in relation to the establishment of a Territorial Insane Asylum, introduced by Mr. Cannon, was read the first time and filed for second reading.

House bill for an act to amend chapter 21 of the laws of 1884 entitled "An act in relation to mortgages of personal property," next came up on special order, was read by sections, and passed by a vote of 22 to 1. The title was amended by striking out the words "for an act."

A concurrent resolution was offered that no bill be presented after the 1st of March without the consent of two-thirds of both houses; adopted.

The Council bill apportioning the Legislative representation of the Territory of Utah was made the special order for next Tuesday.

The House bill for prescribing qualifications for electors and officers was ordered printed, and made the special order for Saturday next.

The bill for the equalization of taxes, etc., was read the second time, by sections, ordered printed and made the special order for next Thursday.

The bill introduced by Mr. Cannon, amending chapter 21, of Session laws of 1884, in relation to Insane Asylums, was called up for its second reading, and passed to its third reading; but the motion was reconsidered. The rules were then suspended, the bill read the third time, and, after much debate, passed by a vote of 15 to 8.

The bill amending the charter of the City of Richfield was read the third time and passed by a unanimous vote, the title being slightly amended.

The House then adjourned till 2 p. m. Friday.

COUNCIL—FEB. 19.

The Council met at 2 p. m. yesterday as per adjournment and opened for business in the usual manner.

Mr. Page, from the committee on highways, reported back C. F. 8, with the House amendments, recommended that said amendments be not concurred in, and suggested the appointment of a committee of conference; report adopted and the House so notified.

Mr. Francis, from the committee on claims and public accounts, reported the claim of Sheriff Cazier, of Juab County, and recommended that the sum of \$476 be appropriated to reimburse him for expense of pursuing and capturing the Moss brothers, notorious criminals; report adopted.

Mr. Shurtliff, from the committee on public health, reported back Council bill 32, on befouling of waters, etc., and recommended that the House amendments thereof be concurred in; report adopted.

A communication from the House announced the passage of H. F. 3, in relation to mortgages of personal property; H. F. 51, amending an act to establish a Territorial insane asylum, and H. F. 15, to amend the charter of Richfield, Sevier County. All read the first and second times by their titles; the first referred to the committee on private corporations, the second placed on file for third reading, and the third referred to the committee on municipal corporations and towns.

House bill 47, for the selection and payment of jurors was read the third time and passed, its title amended and the House so notified.

Notification was received from the House of that body having adopted a concurrent resolution, limiting the time for the introduction of bills; not concurred in.

C. F. 35, in relation to trusts, was made the special order for Wednesday, the 24th.

H. F. 51, amending the act to establish a Territorial insane asylum, was read the third time, and, under a suspension of the rules, passed.

Messrs. Francis, Tuttle and Heyborne were excused for the day.

Notice was received from the House of the adoption by it of a concurrent resolution (H. R. 21) providing for the printing of 5,000 copies of the biennial report of the Superintendent of District Schools and report of the Chancellor of the Board of Regents of the University of Deseret. Amended to read 500 copies.

Adjourned till 11 a. m. to-day.

HOUSE—FEB. 19.

At 2 p. m. to-day the Speaker called the House to order in the usual way, when succeeded roll call, prayer, minute reading, etc., after which business commenced in earnest. Notice was received from the Council of its non-concurrence in the House amendments to the bill on highways, and asked for a committee of conference; the chair appointed on behalf of the House, Messrs. Howell, Cannon and West.

The bills to prevent bulls running at large and to amend the charter of Alpine City were sent to the Governor for approval.

Mr. King reported for the fish and game bill, which was filed for its second reading.

The sum of \$35 was allowed to Gibbs and Irvine for services rendered in transcribing, reading proof, etc., of the joint session of the Legislature in 1884.

The committee on municipal corporations recommended that the bill amending the charter of Park City be adopted and put on its passage. Agreed to.

The petition of citizens of Salt Lake City in relation to fishing in Mill Creek and other streams and breaking in the head of the stream, etc., was reported on favorably.

Mr. Hatch from the committee on counties, in response to a petition of residents of Moab, reported a bill to detach that part of the county from Emery and attach it to San Juan; read the first time and filed for second reading.