

that belong to an office higher than his own, is there any one who will not rejoice in it, or any one who will retard him or throw obstructions in his way? God forbid that there should be.

Now, in connection with this subject, a man a few days ago—it suggests itself to my mind and I will speak upon it—brought a communication addressed to President Taylor and his Counselors, and we read it. It purported to be a message from God—a message from God to us, that is to the First Presidency, and through us to the Church. We read the message, but could see nothing in it particularly; there was considerable said, but there was nothing tangible, or that gave us light upon any point that we did not understand before. The man said he had been in the Church three years, but he had not received the Priesthood. He had had some spiritual manifestation, in which he heard a voice say, "thou art a Priest after the order of Melchisedec."

I wish to speak upon this point, that is, in connection with this subject that I have been speaking upon. God has organized His Church. He has placed in that Church its officers. As I have said, He has given to one man, and to one man only, at a time, the keys to preside over and to communicate the mind and will of God to that Church. While that man is in that position, seeking to magnify it, He will not speak to other men and give them revelations for His Church. I wish you all to understand what I have endeavored to impress upon you—that it is the privilege of every one to receive revelation. It is the privilege of every mother to receive revelation from God for guidance in the training of her children; to be in communication with the Father through the Holy Spirit. It is the privilege of children to have the same Spirit, and to have knowledge from God through that Spirit. What for? To teach the parents? No. If their parents are in the path of duty, it is not so; but it is, as I have said, the privilege of every man, woman and child in the Church to have revelation, to have knowledge, to be instructed of the Lord. But that does not give them the right to give revelations to the Church. God did not design it. God never has warranted or sustained any such action. Therefore, he that cometh in by any other way than by the door, you know what is said of him; he that climbeth over the wall, he that receiveth authority from some source outside of that which God recognizes, we as a people are not bound to receive anything that may be communicated through him. Out of that which is communicated in that way there may be nineteen truths out of twenty statements; but there will be error, there will be falsehood, there will be something that will mislead, because there is not the authority from God to lead and to act. God has His own method of doing things. He chooses whom he will; He takes away, and removes from the path those that He wishes. It is all according to His good will and pleasure. He gives unto us authority, and, as I have said, He confirms it by signs following; and this Church from the day of its organization up to the present time has never been one hour, yea, I may say, one moment without revelation, without having a man in our midst who can tell us as a people the mind and will of God, who can point out to us that which we should do, who can teach us the doctrines of Christ, who can point out to us that which is false and incorrect, and who can, upon all matters that come within the range of our experience, and that are necessary for us to attend to give us the necessary counsel and instruction. This has been the case always. Therefore, a man may receive mighty signs—I heard the Prophet Joseph, when I was a boy, say that the time would come when false prophets would work mighty miracles in the eyes of the people of the earth, and they would seek to establish their authority by the performance of mighty miracles, and we have heard of such things in our day, since his death—but this does not sustain a man in claiming to be leader of a people, and to give revelations from God. But there is a spirit that God gives; there is an influence that accompanies His word when it is proclaimed by His servants that seals itself upon the hearts of the honest, upon the hearts of the meek and lowly, and those who are living in close communion with God themselves—seals upon their hearts the truth of that which He says. I have no fears of any of you, my brethren and sisters, if you will only live near to God. I said the leaders of this Church do not come bolstering up their own claims. It is not necessary. You are the witnesses. You are the witnesses whether John Taylor is President of the Church; whether his Counselors are the men they should be; whether the Twelve have the authority they claim; whether the Presidents of Stakes have the authority they claim—you have this testimony, you are our witnesses, and all the Israel of God, wherever they live, are witnesses of the truth of these things. You can testify because you have received—if you live as you should do—a testimony independent of that which we can give to you, or any argument that we may urge—you have received it, if you have received it properly, from our Eternal Father. You received it in answer to prayer, direct to yourselves—not through any intermediate source, not through any man, but through the Eternal Spirit of our Father descending upon you and bearing witness to you—a testimony that these things are true. You, therefore, are living wit-

nesses of the truth of these things, and know for yourselves whether they are true or not.

Now, I have heard that there are men among us who are professing to cure witchcraft and other evils of that kind. I believe they call themselves astrologers. More injurious ideas and practices than these cannot be introduced among a people to lead them to destruction, and I wish to warn you, before sitting down, in regard to this. Do not seek for those who have peep-stones, for soothsayers, and for those who profess to be able to counteract the influence of witchcraft. They who say so seek to play upon your fears, they seek to take advantage of superstitious fears, and seek to use them for their own advantage and bring those who will listen to them in bondage to an influence and spirit that is as foreign to the spirit of God as hell is foreign to heaven. Any man who professes to have this authority, to have this power, and to use power outside of that which the Priesthood authorizes, is a man that should not be listened to; his claims are false and his methods are from beneath and not from God. And I say to all of you, witchcraft you may defy if you live as you should do—defy it, not in a spirit of defiance, not in a spirit to bring evil influences upon you, but in the power and strength of our Father and God. No evil influence of that kind, if you live as you should do, can have power over you; you are entrenched in the power of God, in the spirit and gifts of God; you are entrenched round about so that none of these wicked influences can have power over you. I wonder if Job thought there was somebody bewitching him when his property was stolen and destroyed, when his servants were killed, when his son's house fell and killed his children, when his boils came upon him. I wonder if he thought that he was bewitched. Why I hear of some people, if anything happens to them, even if any of their chickens die, who are ready to say: "I am bewitched; there is somebody bewitching me." Such expressions and ideas are prompted by the worst folly that ever possessed the mind of a Latter-day Saint. Do not such persons know that not a hair of their heads can fall to the ground unnoticed? Has not the Savior said so, our Lord and Master? And if so, do you not think He will care for us? Do not your angels stand continually before the face of our Father in heaven? And yet shall people unto whom God has made such glorious promises, and upon whom He has poured out such glorious blessings—shall they bow to these wicked influences, these spirits that are not of God, that are full of villainy and darkness and evil, and do that which they say, and seek to wizards and to soothsayers, and to diviners and to men and women who, by hidden works of darkness, profess to obtain knowledge—will the Latter-day Saints do this to take their vile remedies, and if their children are sick, seek unto them? The men and women who do this—I do not want to prophecy evil about them—are in great danger of losing the spirit and power of God and having it withdrawn from them, and if they do not repent it will most assuredly be withdrawn from them. All who take these methods and encourage these practices I say that the anger of Almighty God will descend upon them unless they repent, and they will find that their hidden works of darkness will not avail them when the Lord feels after them, and when His condemnation rests upon them; they will find this out to their everlasting sorrow. Men who are guilty of these practices, and who seek to lead away the unwary, and to prey upon the ignorant and unsophisticated, and to take advantage of their fears and instill superstition into the mind, cannot escape condemnation. These methods are not of God, and beware of them, all of you, and tell all your friends that it is sinful in the sight of God to yield to such influences. Pray, rather, to the Father, in the name of Jesus, to let His angels be around about you, to let His power encircle you, to let His Spirit be in your hearts and in your habitations and rest down upon your little ones and be of strong faith, and say, like Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Yes, that righteous man, though God should slay him, yet he would not fail to trust Him to the uttermost.

Let these truths rest upon your minds and be not forgotten, and let us seek as a people to have the gifts and power and blessings of our Father and God resting upon us continually. I pray God for this blessing to be with you always, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

From the Far North.

GROUSE CREEK,  
Box Elder Co., U. T.,  
January 5, 1884.

Editors Deseret News:

It may be interesting to some of your readers to hear from Grouse Creek. On Sunday December 28, 1884, brother Lorenzo Hunsaker, President of the Fifth Quorum of Seventies was here, and gave much good instruction to both old and young. He also ordained eight brethren to the office of Seventies, in the Fifth Quorum. He was accompanied by Brothers William and Dorwin Mechem, of Park Valley, who also under the spirit of the Lord, gave excellent counsel to young and old.

Our crops the last season were excellent. The general health of the peo-

ple is good, and those professing to be Latter-day Saints as a whole, are earnestly striving to live their religion. Our parties this winter have been enjoyable affairs.

Yours, etc.  
C. F. B.

SAN RAPHAEL, Emery County,  
Dec. 31st, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

Although we number but few—living 160 miles southeast of Salt Lake City—we passed a very pleasant Christmas. We were awakened before the break of day on the morning of the 25th, by the loud explosion of anvils and other small fire-arms. The far renowned Santa Claus found his way to our Mountain homes, and made glad the hearts of the little ones by his gifts of numerous toys, candies, nuts, etc. On the night of the 25th we had a nice supper and a dance, and enjoyed ourselves very much, in fact everything passed off very pleasantly.

We have had a very mild winter so far, raining at intervals and green vegetation is peeping up.

There are many acres of fertile land in the San Raphael Valleys. We have almost completed a canal which will irrigate several hundred acres. Persons desiring a good home would do well to visit this portion of country before settling elsewhere. They can purchase an interest in the canal at very reasonable figures. For any one wishing to see this country, the best route is through Spanish Fork cañon, thence through the mountains from Fairview, Sanpete County; or, by the way of Salina, Sevier County. The mineral resources in this portion of country we think, are very good.

Yours truly,  
THOMAS TIDWELL.

HUNTINGTON, Emery County,  
Utah, December 27th, 1884.

Editors Deseret News:

Thinking a few items from Huntington would not be amiss, I will say that the year 1884 has been a favorable one for this place and for the whole valley. Although the grain crop was not as good as it was in 1883, mostly on account of a great many thinking that late grain was the best, this year has proven that wheat put in during March is a safer crop than that sown in June.

A great many people have located in Huntington this year, and improvements have been made at a lively rate, so much so that a person that was here a year ago would hardly know the place now. Consequently real estate has in the past twelve months

MORE THAN DOUBLED IN VALUE.

We look for more improvements, and better ones, in houses and fencing, to be made in the coming year than ever before, as it has always been very hard to get lumber heretofore, it having to be hauled from forty to eighty miles, but there has lately been a steam saw mill put up in Huntington Cañon, that is expected to make all the lumber needed for building and fencing purposes for some time to come.

We have had and, are going to have again immediately after New Year's

A VERY GOOD DAY SCHOOL,

taught by Brother Terry, who seems to be well qualified for teaching the young. Our Sunday School is also in a very flourishing condition, and I may say the same of all the other organizations of the Ward, namely: Seventies, Elders, Deacons and Y. M. M. I. Association; also Relief Society, Y. L. M. I. and Primary Associations.

The Spirit of the Lord has shown itself and been with the authorities of this place, and with the Elders who have from time to time been called upon to address us in our Sabbath meetings, and I believe the people never felt better spiritually. Notwithstanding this, there has been

A GLOOM CAST OVER US

lately, caused by sickness and death. For the past several weeks the weather has been very changeable—cold, warm and stormy; and as a consequence a great many children have been very sick, and the following deaths occurred: On the first of this month, Brother Chalk buried a little child; on the 18th, Brother Chris. Johnson buried a child; on the 23d, Bishop Chas. Pulsipher buried two children in one coffin, both having died the night before. One of them died through the effects of the epidemic that seemed to prevail among the children, the other from the effects of a scald it got through falling into a pot of boiling water. On the 24th Brother D. Washburn buried a child, and on the 26th Brother Clark Brinkerhoff buried one. As a consequence our Christmas festivities were of rather a gloomy nature. At the present writing those that are sick seem to be improving, and it is to be hoped that the hand of the destroyer is stayed. They were mostly young babes that died, and the people feel to say, especially those that have been called upon to part with their children, "Father, thy will be done."

Wishing all Israel a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,  
I remain, your respectfully,  
W. H.

SAN JUAN STAKE ITEMS.

BLUFF CITY, San Juan Co., Utah,  
December 22nd, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

We held our Quarterly Conference on the 20th and 21st of this month.

There were only a few persons present but the spirit of the Lord was poured out abundantly upon the speakers, and we had a very enjoyable time.

We are building and working on the water ditch, and anxiously looking for recruits to assist us in building up this part of the Lord's vineyard. The weather here is beautiful, more like summer than winter.

The DESERET NEWS comes regularly to hand and is read with pleasure. Hoping it may ever prosper and be a light to the Latter-day Saints, is the desire of your brother in the Gospel covenant.

CHARLES E. WALTON, Clerk.

MINES IN THE REGION OF SEVIER VALLEY.

"Hermit" Grows Enthusiastic on the Subject.

MARYSVALE,  
December 30th, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

Allow me, in the close out of 1884, to still hold up to view, through your columns, a country of real worth to any unprejudiced minds that have the natural foresight of common reason—the portion of the Wasatch range known as Mount Baldy. In one of my former letters to the DESERET NEWS, I stated that the mineral belt of the carbonates showed up on the head of Deer Creek, on the northwest, and wound its serpentine course through Webster and Bullion, from the head of the Cottonwood Creek, running southeast, to the head of the Ten-mile Creek. I am now prepared to state that the Henry mining district, in Sevier county, north of Marysvale six miles, and south of Joseph City about eight miles—has a heavy mineral belt running for the head of Deer Creek, in an easterly and westerly direction, and its free milling ores have been and are being shipped to Salt Lake. There is a fine prospect of a business camp on the Sevier River, seven miles south of Joseph City. There is a heavy belt of grey carbonate of lead also running in this mineral line of deposit, as well as many discoveries of free milling ore on the surface. The assays are light, but as depth is attained, the ores improve in quality and increase in quantity, so there is no mistake in it that in the near future Sevier County will have a

LIVELY MINING DISTRICT

with all the surrounding facilities of a rich farming country, such as the Sevier Valley affords, easy communication with the mines in the low foot hills of the Sevier River, thousands of acres of cedar and scrub pine for fuel, and the close proximity of flour mills, that are now selling flour at \$1.50 per cwt, with all classes of vegetables at the same low rate. With these advantages and the ores of the district running from \$100 to \$500 per ton by the car load, why in the name of the light of the sun should we not say to the mining men of Utah and others that think of investing in the mining enterprise of this Territory instead of stock-blown railroads and broken bond-holders' past credit, that we have a new opportunity for investment.

If Utah cannot offer a field of enterprise in her many mining interests preferable to railroads, with an inflated capital stock, she has but little to offer except the daily toil of the farm and herding of stock on the range of her wild and arid pasture lands.

But we trust that more will be done in the future than has been done in the past, and that men in search of the various minerals of this territory may be rewarded with the success of a plentiful harvest of the precious metals.

The prospector's has not been considered a polite or honorable calling in some localities, but perhaps in the course of an other hundred years a good prospector, understanding how to make discoveries of mineral wealth, may be respected.

We again repeat that this is a good mining region, and when properly developed will make one of the best and most productive fields of Utah.

The Valetites are all

OUT ON A "HOP"

in the Copper Belt Mining Company' store, and kicking out the old year in real broncho fashion, while your correspondent enjoys a good pine log fire in the shades of the evening and the quiet. Looking out at the future of a rising country, we can see in the not very dim distance, mills, smelters, a railroad, a city in the mouth of Sevier Cañon, teams and freight, men and money, all activity and business. Will it come about through a few sheep and dairy cows grazing lazily on the hill sides of the Sevier River? No; the mines! the mines! Let it echo loud enough to be remembered by the thinking public.

HERMIT.

P. S. one of the legal Liberals of this new district has restricted us from using his name in any communication relative to the mines here. We presume the intent is not to let the cat out of the bag until this Faber-suppressor stakes out the whole country for himself. He will no doubt have some lively pedestrian work to do before he heads off the Hermit in this regard. The Hermit does not care for such Liberal patriots.

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