

In the death of br. Spencer we sustained a loss which, though lamentable to us, our faith compels us to admit is to his superior gain and happiness. He fell asleep in the faith of Jesus on the 15th day of October, 1853, in the city of St. Louis, being absent from home in the performance of the mission which had been appointed him at the April Conference of 1854. Our beloved brother has gone to try the realities of the spirit world, in the full faith of our holy religion and confidence of the people; and though our words of commendation may not extend to cheer and encourage him in his onward and progressive labors, yet we cannot refrain from bearing our testimony to his unwavering fidelity and integrity, his useful but arduous labors, always evincing great firmness of character, and to his unyielding and uncompromising integrity to Joseph and his brethren.

We deplore his loss for our own and his friends' sake, and who was not his friend that knew him? but rejoice that another faithful and able champion of the truth has gone to assist in the labors of Jesus and Joseph behind the veil.

It has also become our painful duty to record the death of our beloved brother Jedediah M. Grant; whose obituary and funeral proceedings are published in this day's paper. In this afflictive dispensation of Providence we feel that the Lord hath touched us in a tender spot; but we realize that in his unbounded goodness he is able and willing to make good our loss, yea, more abundantly as we draw nigh unto him and live our holy religion.

Although he is gone to another and more extended field of labor, having ripened in the knowledge of God and efficiently and faithfully performed his work upon the earth, still his frequent admonitions, his burning eloquence, his zeal and anxiety, which he manifested for the salvation of Israel, are too indelibly impressed upon our minds to be easily forgotten. Let us, therefore, exhibit our respect to the memory of our departed but beloved friend and brother, by remembering and practicing his precepts and emulating, so far as in our power, his virtues.

Owing to the illiberality, bigotry and intolerance of so many of this priest-ridden generation, every obstacle and hindrance that can be thrown in the way, with a view to obstruct the progress of the work and hedge up the way of those whose most earnest desire is to leave their parting testimony with old neighbors and associates in life and come home to Zion. The gospel of salvation now as anciently finds more ready access to the poor than the rich, forcibly illustrating and confirming the truthfulness of the remark of our Savior, 'How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God.' The poor, down-trodden oppressed of ages, whom the aristocratic lordlings have for centuries continually crushed with the iron heel of despotism, feel, when the light of truth and salvation penetrates their minds, a new impulse to try again to redeem themselves and their posterity from the thralldom of ignorance, wickedness, error, superstition and tyranny which so long enchained them and their fathers. They are inspired by an all-absorbing desire to rise above and throw off the filth and abominations, mystery, corruption and worse than Egyptian darkness of wicked Babylon and bask in the sunlight of pure principles emanating from Heaven's King; to rejoice with the Saints in Zion and become co-workers in that cause which, having redeemed them, may enable them to contribute a share in the redemption of others who are still in the bonds of iniquity and gall of bitterness.

This ever rising ever increasing desire for the gathering of the remnants of Israel pertains unto all the Saints of God, who live their religion and enjoy the rich blessings of the Holy Ghost. It is in the heart of every faithful Saint, their constant prayer to the Almighty Father to enable them, not only to promulgate the gospel of Christ to those who sit in darkness, but to gather out the honest in heart, even the Israel of God, from their long dispersion and to aid them in returning to a knowledge of the Lord God of their Fathers, that they may participate in the society of the Saints and a peaceful inheritance in these sequestered vales. To this end, and the further accomplishment of this object, are continually directed the efforts of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company for the emigration of the honest and worthy poor, those who desire to serve God and keep his commandments, being full of virtue and integrity towards God and their brethren. These are those we wish to deliver from the oppression of wicked Babylon, whose vital energies the proud and powerful are crushing out, upon whom the despotism, bigotry, ignorance and superstition of the world hang like an incubus, and to bring them to a land where manhood though found in poverty is respected, and where the God of Heaven can receive the homage due from man to his Maker; where freedom and liberty of conscience can enjoy protection, honest and faithful labor meet a just equivalent and where the light of revelation and power of the Holy and Eternal Priesthood hold the adversary of truth in abeyance and roll back the curtains of error and darkness, sin and death which have so long enveloped the earth.

This season's operations have demonstrated that the Saints, being filled with faith and the Holy Ghost, can walk across the plains, drawing their provisions and clothing on hand carts. The experience of this season will of course help us to improve in future operations; but the plan has been fairly tested and proved entirely successful. The entire trip from Iowa city, a distance of over thirteen hundred miles, to this city has been thus accomplished in less traveling days than it has ever been by an ox train of wagons, and with far greater ease to the travelers. These companies, with the exception of the two last, which started too late in the season, have made the trip from the

Missouri river in a little over two months, and could have made it in less time, had they not been hindered by the few ox teams which accompanied them. Herein have our expectations been realized, and the usual vast expense and trouble attending this branch of business been in a good degree avoided.

The accounts of this year's operations not yet being completed, we are at present unable to state the precise amount of expenditure incurred per passenger; but we know that it must be far less than heretofore, and may still be lessened in future.

The Saints who have come in this way have been healthier, more contented and happier, and have encountered less trouble and vexation than those with teams; and have, moreover, manifested to the world their faith, perseverance and good works.

They have showed a willingness to have others as well as themselves assisted, by using as little as possible of the Company's means for their own emigration. They have manifested a disposition to accede to any terms, so that their emigration might be accomplished without impeding that of anxious thousands looking to the same source for relief.

Although, in the first instance, drawing laden hand carts so long a distance appeared to some difficult to be accomplished by the brethren, and especially by the sisters, yet the result has proved that it is as easy as and indeed easier than the method hitherto practiced; and the women endured the trip quite as well, in comparison, as the men.

We have taken pains to collect facts upon this subject, as it was an experiment this season. The enterprise, having proved so eminently successful, will in future enter largely into all our emigrating operations.

Let the Saints take courage and avail themselves of the privilege of gathering to this place while the way is open before them, for the time will come when those who would gather to Zion must needs flee with his budget upon his shoulder, or under his arm. Verily, they will come like flocks of doves to the windows, comparatively bare and naked, without food or clothing, escaping, as it were by the skin of their teeth, from the righteous indignation of an off-ended Deity poured out upon and passing over a wicked and adulterous generation.

While we, therefore, feel to congratulate ourselves and our brethren and sisters upon the happy issue of this experiment, we wish to direct our agents and others concerned to a few suggestions, drawn from this season's experience, by way of improvement.

In the first place our emigration must start earlier in the season, and the necessary arrangements must be made and completed by the time they arrive on the western frontier, and no company must be permitted to leave the Missouri river later than the first day of July.

They must be provided with stronger hand carts, and endeavor so to arrange as to have the burden upon each cart vary as little as possible during the journey. Then starting with such heavy loads and lightening them up so soon, it would be better to start with lighter loads and gradually increase them, as the brethren become more accustomed to the labor. This might be accomplished by sending out a few teams with provisions, a few days in advance of the companies, to be taken on the hand carts as they come up, when the teams could return.

All emigrants should provide themselves with an extra supply of good shoes.

The hub or nave of the cart wheels should be 8 inches long and 7 inches through in the center. The boxes at the shoulder should be 2 1/4 inches and the point boxes 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

If it should be considered best to have cast iron axles, they should be 1 1/4 inches thick at the shoulder and 3/4 inch at the point. The wooden axles should have iron or steel skeins, and the wheels should be bound with band iron 3/4 or 1 inch in thickness, with a dish of 2 inches and track 4 feet apart. The timber must be of the best quality for toughness, and be well seasoned. In other respects they may be constructed as heretofore.

The very aged and infirm should be brought in wagons, in a separate train.

On account of their greater experience, let good, faithful Elders from this Territory have charge of the companies. By observing these suggestions it is believed that, with one four or six mule team to each two hundred persons, the emigration will be much facilitated at a still lessened expense.

We had the pleasure, at our October Conference, of meeting with our brethren Franklin D. Richards, Daniel Spencer, John Van Cott, George D. Grant and others of the returned missionaries who had been long absent, from whom we learned the condition and situation of our immigrating companies still upon the plains.

We immediately took effective measures for sending them such aid and assistance as, owing to the lateness of the season, they should require to enable them to reach these valleys, before the snow of winter should block their way and render their progress impossible. This was the first business which engrossed the attention of the Conference, and has since absorbed almost the entire attention of many of our citizens. But little has been done except to forward teams and assistance to their relief, and yet they have not all arrived, though the remainder are expected in a few days.

To companies immigrating to this place we wish to say a word, by way of counsel. Move every day, even if it is but a few miles; that is far better than tarrying in one camping place. On the Sabbath, after meeting and resting during a portion of the day, it will generally be better to make a short march. Move on every day, if you wish to accomplish your journey in due season.

Absolute necessity may justify stopping a few

days in a place, but that will but rarely occur and should be avoided so far as possible. It is far better, for both the teams and people, to keep traveling, until the journey is fully accomplished.

The through emigration will be conducted by our traveling agents under the general direction of the agents residing in Liverpool, from which place it starts, but will receive the aid and co-operation of our agents residing in New York and St. Louis. All other emigration will be received and disposed of by our agents in the United States.

It is desirable to make a few locations along the line of travel, and our agents at Florence and St. Louis have been instructed in relation thereto.

We trust, therefore, that the brethren and sisters will be sufficiently mindful of the general interests of the cause of Zion to readily respond to our wishes and the requirements of our agents who are entrusted with these matters. Any material departure from the spirit of these instructions will be considered cause for dis fellowship from the church, or suspension from office.

Elder Orson Hyde is still residing at Carson county, Utah, and Elders Amasa Lyman and Chas. C. Rich at San Bernardino, California.

Elders Orson Pratt and Ezra T. Benson are residing over the European mission, and publishing the 'Millennial Star' in Liverpool, England.

Elder John Taylor is residing in the United States, and publishing the 'Mormon' in New York city. That publication commends itself to the favorable consideration and patronage of the Saints, being ably conducted and exercising a very salutary influence in correcting public opinion and defending our people and the principles of our holy religion from the calumny, abuse and misrepresentations of the world.

Elder Erastus Snow is also in the United States, residing at St. Louis, assisting in the emigration, &c.

Elder George A. Smith, being one of the delegates elected by the Convention and people to present our constitution and application for admission as a State into the Union, has gone to Washington city to perform that mission.

Elder Parley P. Pratt is also in the United States on a temporary visit, intending to return in the spring.

Elder Wilford Woodruff is in this city, engaged in the Historian's Office.

Elder Lorenzo Snow is residing at Box Elder, in this Territory; and Elder Franklin D. Richards is at his home in this city, having recently returned from his mission to Europe.

Owing to the almost total loss of crops last season, loss of stock during the past winter and heavy indebtedness occasioned by last year's immigration, we were compelled to suspend operations upon the Public Works, until we could pay our debts and somewhat replenish our means. Since harvest we have partially resumed, but will not commence laying stone upon the Temple until next Spring, when we hope to prosecute that work with much vigor. We are collecting and preparing materials, and it is our wish and intention, in the meantime, to finish the canal for boating the rock for the Temple.

The wheat crop of this season was good, but corn was rather light and potatoes were almost an entire failure, though, by a very prudent course, we trust there will be sufficient provisions to last until another harvest.

In pursuance of an act passed at the last session of the Legislative Assembly, a Convention of Delegates met in this city on the 17th day of last March, and closed their labors on the 27th of the same month; having, in a session of ten days, formed a constitution, elected delegates and adopted a memorial to Congress making application for admission into the Union as a sovereign State. Their proceedings, subsequently submitted to the people, were unanimously sustained.

We learn, by recent advices from our Delegates to Washington, that in consequence of the exceeding great opposition and prejudice against us a people, they have not deemed it wisdom to present our application, although no fault has been found either with our constitution or our ability to sustain and administer a State government. The opposition seems to be arrayed against us rather on account of our religious faith and Church ordinances, as though they were a legitimate subject for Congress to canvass. What course may be taken is to us unknown, for our memorial has not yet been presented. When the excitements of the presidential election are past, it is hoped more favorable indications, fore-shadowing a candid and honest action upon its merits, may warrant its presentation. If this can be accomplished, and the claims of our application for admission into the Union as a State be fairly and honorably canvassed upon every point legitimate to the issue, we have not a doubt as to its successful termination.

We are more indifferent in regard to this subject in a religious than in a political sense, for, whether we are organized in a Territorial or State capacity, Government is bound to protect us in the rights of conscience, or over-ride plain Constitutional guarantees. And no intelligent person holds in very high estimation that union which is hourly undug red by the frenzied zeal of rampant, misguided and fanatical demagogues, who trample that heaven-inspired instrument, the Constitution, into the dust and regard neither their fathers' legacy nor their children's inheritance.

It is not our purpose in this Epistle to discuss political questions, but we cannot refrain from honestly and sincerely invoking the power of Him who sits enthroned in the heavens to behold those who are distracting the councils of our nation and hastening the destruction of this great confederacy of sovereign States, and to thwart their wicked and nefarious purposes, to restrain their iniquity and cause others to

arise in their places who will rule in righteousness and save our distracted but beloved country from its impending ruin.

At the April Conference some three hundred and fifty Elders were called to go on missions, all of whom promptly responded and departed to their various fields of labor. The Conference was blessed with rich, seasonable and interesting instructions, and a general good spirit seemed to pervade every bosom. It was numerously attended, and the brethren rejoiced in the unity of the most holy faith, in praise, thanksgiving and worship unto our Father and our God.

Before harvest much destitution was experienced by the masses of the people through the want of provisions, but the commendable liberality exercised by those who were fortunate enough to possess a supply, and the energy of the Bishops in enforcing a rigid economy and distribution to the destitute, prevented any great amount of suffering. We trust that the same generous disposition will always be manifested, in sharing even scanty supplies with the really destitute, so generally practiced among this people during the past season. Still we prefer that all should practice that diligence, economy and obedience so often urged upon them, that the blessings of Heaven be not withheld, and that the elements and the labors of the husbandman may be blessed of the Lord, and the earth bring forth in its strength the grain and the rich fruits thereof for the sustenance of man.

Notwithstanding these and many other good qualities which characterize this people, still we find too prevalent a disposition to murmur, find fault and complain at the dispensations of an All-wise Providence; a disposition of careless indifference to His counsels, and a dull lethargy which lulls the people into a false security; all of which gives Satan the advantage, darkens counsel and leads many into a spirit of apostasy. We must remember that we live in a world of sin, wickedness and sorrow, and that the enemy of all righteousness is ever on the alert to destroy the Saints and lead them into temptation, darkness, sin and transgression.

Brethren, we exhort you to awake from this lethargy, to put on the armor of righteousness, of the gospel of Jesus, and rebuke the adversary and the power of Satan and drive them far from you; to hold frequent converse and communion with your God, that the power of the Highest may rest down upon you, burn in your bosoms, in your families, in your neighborhoods, cities, counties and wherever there are Saints of the Most High God; that fearfulness may seize the hypocrite in Zion and the fire of the Almighty consume the wicked and ungodly from the whole earth. Thus, while the indignation of the Lord is passing over the nations and we also receive a portion of the chastisement, let us be wise and properly receive the correction, as coming from the hand of a kind Father who seeks the best interests of his children. Let us, hereafter, more fully appreciate our blessings and now, when a plentiful harvest has again crowned our labors, be wise and practice economy in using and preserving our grain, that no waste nor unwise disposal thereof shall characterize our acts.

We are happy in being able to say that the Indians are peaceful in all our settlements. We have abundantly proven that a friendly interest for their welfare and a pacific policy are much the most successful in preserving their good feelings, in promoting and preserving peace, and are gradually leading them to an understanding of the benefits derived from a civilized existence. To reflect their angry words and acts, and kill them for every trivial offence, as is the usual course pursued towards them by the whites, is condescending to their savage and barbarous customs, thus reciprocating their evil deeds. Such a course will never cause them to appreciate the blessings of civilized society, nor influence them to seek its benefits, but will, as all past experience proves, drive them to the opposite extreme and, in addition to their own, cause them to imitate the vices, without the virtues of civilization. Therefore let us, in all our intercourse with them, exhibit a superior understanding, a larger comprehension of right, forbearance and honor. Be just, brethren, in your dealings with them; no matter what course they may pursue towards you, never retaliate a wrong, but always exhibit a firm determination to do right, and seek to palliate their conduct and conciliate their feelings.

This course steadily pursued must, in due time, induce them to yield their savage barbarity, wild customs and vicious course of life, to the dictates of superior wisdom and raise them to a higher degree in the scale of human existence. It has already had an effect in this direction, sufficient to encourage us in our efforts to bring them to a civilized, not to say a christianized, life. They must be civilized; must learn to plow, sow, plant, harvest, build houses and make fences; must learn mechanism as well as agriculture; their minds will then become sufficiently expanded to receive gospel light and the principles pertaining to their salvation and exaltation in the kingdom of our God.

Remember, brethren, that they are the remnants of Israel and, although they may apparently continue for a time to waste away and sink deeper and deeper into the depths of sin, misery and woe, that unto them pertain the promises made to faithful Abraham, and they will be fulfilled. Be diligent, therefore, to do them good, and seek in all of your intercourse with them to bring them back to a knowledge of the Lord God of their fathers. Preserve yourselves from their savage ferocity; never condescend to their level, but always seek to elevate them to a higher, purer and, consequently, a more useful and intelligent existence.