

Poetry.

(For the DESERET NEWS.)

Let us Saints of God rejoice,
Who know the voice of Brigham;
And as our Prophet and our guide,
Let us like him lay sin aside,
Should we be tried like Abram.

When Brigham speaks, let Saints attend,
And let them lend an ear;
For to receive that holy word,
Which cometh through him from the Lord,
With one accord let's hear.

JOHN PARRY.

Aug. 15, 1867.

REMARKS

By Elder JOHN TAYLOR, delivered
in the Tabernacle Great Salt Lake
City, May 19, 1867.

Reported by David W. Evans.

As we have just returned from a journey from the south I presume it would be interesting to you to hear some little about how the Saints, generally, are getting on. We have had quite a pleasant journey, but rather a laborious one, traveling thirty, forty or fifty miles a day and preaching from once to three times a day. But we have had very pleasant remarks, feelings and associations during our absence. We found that the President and those who were with him were welcomed and well received in every place we visited. There seems to be an increase of faith among the Saints and a desire to live their religion and to keep the commandments of God. We also find that improvements are taking place in almost every place we visited; they are improving in their farming operations, their orchards, gardens, dwellings, &c, and some places we find are really very beautiful. Down in the far south, in Saint George and through that region of country the people are beginning to live easier and better than heretofore, so that the matter of living is no longer a problem with any of them. In the early days of the settlement of that country a good many became disaffected and left; Geo. A. used occasionally to go down with reinforcements expecting to find quite a large company, but when he tried to put his finger on them like "paddy's flea" they were not there. At the present time, however, different feelings prevail; there are many now who desire to go down there as a matter of choice; and a great many there with whom I conversed feel as though it was as good a home as they could find anywhere in the valleys, and they would not wish to leave unless counselled to do so. It took counsel to take them there and it would take counsel to bring them away. So far as the city of Saint George is concerned it is the best and most pleasant looking city in the Territory outside of Great Salt Lake City, and that is saying a good deal for a new place. They have beautiful gardens and orchards and quite a large number of very beautiful buildings, and they are making for themselves a very pleasant home. And not only so, but the promises to them are beginning to be fulfilled, waters are beginning to burst forth in desert places where they had none before, and they are beginning to feel that the hand of the Lord is over them, that He is interested in their welfare, that He is their God and that they are his people. In fact when we were down there at Conference, which we attended for two days, we had a pleasant time and a good spirit prevailed, and I felt almost as though we were at home, there were so many familiar faces. I noticed, too, that there was a very general disposition among the people to observe the Word of Wisdom. Of course we had to keep it, we could not for shame do anything else; and if we had been disposed to do otherwise we could hardly have helped ourselves for nobody offered us either tea, coffee, tobacco or liquor. There seemed to be a general disposition among the people to obey, at least, that counsel although they had not heard much preaching upon it until we went down and talked things over together. We enjoyed ourselves very much, and the people expressed themselves as being very highly gratified. They met as you met us here with their bands of music, schools, escorts and so forth, and they made us welcome wherever we went and we found that it was indeed a very different thing to preach the gospel among the Saints from what it is to preach it in the world. Instead of receiving op-

position, contumely and contempt, we were received with kindness, good feelings and a hearty welcome.

In relation to these missionary operations which have been alluded to, I should like to see something done, I do not know that it is necessary to talk about it. We used to be in the habit of going without purse or scrip. That is the way I have traveled hundreds and thousands of miles; but then we felt as the disciples of old did. When we returned, if asked if we had lacked anything, we could say verily no. But there was a time afterwards when Jesus said "Let him that has a purse take it with him, and let him that has no sword sell his coat and buy one." We do not always remain in *statu quo*. At that time we were the poorest people in the world, but now we are better off than the generality of mankind, and we are able to help one another; and there is no necessity for our missionaries to go under the circumstances they have done heretofore. And since it is the counsel that they shall not, why let us do what we can to help them. In relation to the Kingdom of God, it is still onward; and we expect it to continue to progress, and we expect, individually, to be co-workers in its affairs and participators in its progress. If we are called on missions, we go; if we are called upon to contribute to assist others to go, we contribute. If the word is "remove here," or "go there," we go, that is many of us do, some do not. When I was at Conference at St. George I felt that I was among a very good people and that there was a great deal of the Spirit of the Lord there; but when I came to reflect on the circumstance I was not surprised that there should be a good people there, because they who were a little shaky in the knees and did not have a great deal of faith, left and came away, and consequently they passed through that sieve and returned again, some to us and some to the settlements around, according to circumstances. And where there is a people that have been called upon to undertake what they consider to be a painful or unpleasant task or mission, and they go and perform that mission without finching, they feel that they are engaged in the work of God, and that His work and His commands and the authority of the Holy Priesthood are more to them than anything else; and they have the blessing of God resting upon them which produces peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, and that is the reason why there is so good a feeling and so large a flow of the Spirit of the living God through that district of country. But where there is a backwardness and a shrinking from duties assigned us there is a drying up of that Spirit and a lack of the light, life, power and energy which the Holy Ghost imparts to those who fulfil the dictates of Jehovah. When I reflect upon these things I take this lesson to myself: "that it is a good and pleasant thing to obey the dictates of the Lord, that it is praiseworthy and honorable to be found walking in the commands of Jehovah, and that it is a blessing to all men to fulfil all missions and to discharge all responsibilities and duties that the Lord lays upon them. When selecting brethren to go down there I remember the Bishops asked me "what kind of men I wanted." I told them I wanted men of God, men of faith, who would go and sit on a barren rock and stay there until told to leave it. If we get a number of men of that kind to go, there is faith, union, power, light, truth, the revelations of Jesus Christ and everything that is calculated to elevate, exalt, and ennoble the human mind and happy the Saints of God. These are my views in relation to the Kingdom of God.

The Lord has established His kingdom on the earth and He has given us his servants to guide and direct us. We, as a people, profess emphatically to be governed by revelation. We do not believe in this simply as theory, as something that would be beneficial to somebody else, but as something that will be a blessing to ourselves. We believe that God has spoken, that angels have appeared, that the everlasting gospel in its purity has been restored; we believe that God has organized His Church and kingdom on the earth, and that through channels which He has appointed and ordained, He manifests His will first to the Saints and then to the world. And we believe that the more we adhere to the teachings of the servants of God the more we shall prosper both temporally and spiritually, the more we shall enjoy the favor of the Almighty, and the

more likely we shall be to obtain for ourselves an everlasting inheritance in the celestial kingdom of our God. We believe that the intelligence and wisdom of man cannot guide us, and that we, therefore, need the guidance of the Almighty; and being under His guidance and direction it is our duty to submit to His law, to be governed by His authority, do His will, keep His commandments and observe His statutes that we may ultimately be saved in His celestial kingdom.

May God help us to be faithful in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Correspondence.

Elder George A. Smith's courtesy enables us to publish the following interesting letter:

DU QUOIN, Perry County,
Illinois, July 24, 1867.

DEAR BROTHER GEORGE A. SMITH:

My heart leaps with joy and thanksgiving to God this morning, while realizing the present manifestations of my brethren and friends at home as they celebrate this, to us, great and momentous day. And that I might, in mind, the better participate in the day's celebration, after breakfast I took the 14th volume of the *Millennial Star* into the woods near by, and, mounted upon an oak log, read your oration of 1852, with none for my auditors but the wild wood birds. You may pronounce this romantic folly, but to me the language and the occasion were indeed a source of profound pleasure.

I wrote to you from Pike County, in this State. I remained there a few days longer, visiting my old friends, than I first expected that I should. On the 12th I left there for St. Louis, where I landed safely, and found br. Henry Boyle still stopping with the St. Louis brethren, awaiting the arrival of br. H. Coray, of whom we had heard nothing since he fell back of us in Echo Cañon, to join Knowlton's train.

I remained two days in St. Louis, when I started by railroad for this place, where I arrived safely, and found, as I expected to, br. John Brown. This is br. Brown's old home, and I find that the people esteem him very highly, as every one must who knows him, and excludes prejudice from his judgement.

By solicitations of old friends brother Brown had held two public meetings in this community, before I came here; and by request we held another meeting last night, preaching in the only meeting house in this section, it being the property of the community at large, and open for the preaching of any denomination. We are to hold meeting again on Sunday. This is called the Four Mile Prairie, and is situated eight miles from any town. The old settlers are mostly former residents of Tennessee and Kentucky, and, so far as I can learn, they are very well behaved people; and their treatment to us shows them to be hospitable and kind, and in their religious views more liberal than they were a few years past.

As yet br. Brown has done most of the preaching, dwelling mostly upon the first principles of the Gospel. Some who have heard him say they do not believe that he preaches "Mormonism," intimating that there is too much truth in his preaching for it to be truly "Mormonism." To many who are of an inquiring disposition we have given access to our books, and I believe that much good would result from a limited circulation of our books. We have written to New York, to learn whether there is a supply of books on hand at that office, and for a price list of them. We hope they have them, so that those who are inquiring can learn for themselves what "Mormonism" is.

We are making our home with Benjamin Crain, a brother-in-law of brother Brown; he is a very wealthy farmer, and understands how to make a guest feel at home, which none know better how to appreciate than does a Latter-day Saint missionary, as you have doubtless experienced.

The other day we walked to the County Seat of this County and back again; it being the first walking I have done for some time, I was very tired. I occasionally go into the field and work in haying and harvesting, as I think that by some labor I will become inured to exercise in walking, so that when we start from here I can come nearer keeping pace with br. Brown, who, by the way, is some on a long heat.

Br. Smith, there is one of two things certain: I either have a very poor memory, or else Christendom is making gigantic strides on the road of wickedness; and a few days stay in St. Louis forced me to almost conclude that they were near the terminus. It is indeed almost heart-rending to witness such an extent of evil and wretchedness associated with our fellow beings, and to know that it is mostly brought upon them by the professed righteousness of the 19th century.

I feel, br. Smith, truly thankful to my God for the verification, thus far, of all those blessing and promises that were placed upon me by the men of God, before leaving my home to go on this mission. My health was never so good as it has been every hour since I left home; it is really too good for the very warm weather we are now having here, as I accumulated too much flesh on the trip across the plains. And then, upon such a mission, I am bold to confess that it is my experience that I never have been placed in a situation, since I professed to be a Latter-day Saint, where one sees and realizes that there are so many weedy spots in the garden of his character as a Latter-day Saint, and thus situated, one sees the immediate necessity of reformation.

As the weather is very warm yet, we think of remaining until it gets cooler, as we hear that there is some yellow fever in the south. I think that from here we will go into Tennessee.

I send you a paper containing a heavy political letter, and have ordered a Pike County paper to be sent to you.

Give my kindest regards to brs. Campbell, Smith and Richards of your office, all of whom I would like to hear from, and will write to them. Remember me to your family and all friends.

May the Lord bless you and all Saints.

As ever, your Brother,
WARREN N. DUSENBERRY.

MORONI, Sanpete County,
August 19.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

On Friday, 16th, at 2 p.m., Gen. Burton, Maj. Calder, Capt. Dewey, Gen. Pace and some others arrived to inspect the militia of this Post. The cavalry were drilled by Major Clark and Capt. Dewey, and infantry by Gen. W. B. Pace, after which Gen. Burton gave some good instructions, commended them and told them to still continue in their good works, and be as punctual in all things as they had been in meeting him on the present occasion.

The brass and martial bands were out, Gen. Burton remarking that that was the only brass band he had seen in the County.

Tuesday morning, 13th, the Indians made a raid on the teams of Springtown while on their way to the meadow, killing James Meeks and wounding two more, one fatally; the other was shot through the ear. The herd boys of this place, being within hearing of the guns, mounted their horses and went to the assistance of those who were in trouble; the Indians, seeing them, broke for the mountains, driving off only a few horses.

All are hard at work gathering in their hay and cutting grain.

I remain yours in the Gospel,

JOHN KIRKMAN.

(For the DESERET NEWS.)

HERBS THE NATURAL MEDICINE OF MAN.

Last Conference President B. Young urged the necessity of the study of various sciences, among which he mentioned botany.

The history of medical botany demonstrates that the natural medicine of man is to be found in herbs, and the Lord, in a revelation on this subject, Joseph Smith, says: All wholesome herbs God hath ordained for the constitution, nature and use of man, every herb in the season thereof to be used with prudence and thanksgiving. A other quotation says: Those that have not faith to be healed, but believe, shall be nourished with all tenderness, with herbs and mild food, and that not in the hand of an enemy. The following quotation from the Book of Mormon scarcely less explicit: And there were some who died with fevers, which some seasons of the year were very frequent in the land; but not so much with fever, because of the excellent qualities of the many plants and roots which God had prepared to remove