

oppression and tyranny; it matters not what nation, kindred, tongue or people they may be, if they comply with the ordinances, they shall receive the Holy Ghost.

This is the gospel preached by the Latter-day Saints; this is the gospel that is called "everlasting" in the Scriptures; this is the gospel that will save all men and women who will obey the same; this is the gospel that has power in it; this is that gospel that will impart faith to those who receive it—true, genuine faith; this is the gospel that will renew not only the body, as it were, but also the mind; this is the gospel that makes natural men and women spiritual men and women; this is the gospel that puts mankind into possession of that power, that glorious privilege alluded to in the commencement of my remarks, to hold communion with God. Oh, how great the blessing! To hold communion with that Being who created the worlds, that Being who sways the sceptre of universal power; that Being, under the power of whose word, worlds move forth in their regular orbits; and by whose power they are upheld and sustained, and perform their allotted courses in the great universe that he has made and created! To hold communion with that Being who holds in his own hands the issues of life and death, he who has power to redeem and bring up the children of men of all creations and worlds, back into his holy presence. To hold communion with such a being! Who can express the greatness of the privilege to learn from him who knows all things, who comprehends the end from the beginning, who purposed from before the foundation of the world what he would accomplish in relation to this creation, to fulfil what he designed in the redemption of the human family; what he designed to accomplish in the new creation that is to be made after mortal man has fulfilled his destiny here. To hold communion with him is the greatest of all privileges; it enables us to obtain knowledge from the source that is perfect, that cannot deceive. Oh, how joyful, how great a privilege to come before him! to enter into our closets and kneel down before the great Creator of the universe, to address him in our humble language, in meekness and humility as little children, calling him, "Our Father," our Father, hear us, thy children, in thine holy habitation; let thine eye look upon us in pity and compassion; forgive our unworthiness, and pardon all of our follies and weaknesses. Oh, let the heavens be open to our cries and our supplications, and let thine ears be open to the cries of thy humble servants and hand-maidens. To ask him to bestow upon us blessings, and glories, and honors that will save us and prepare us to inherit a place in his divine presence. And if these are not blessings inestimable, if these are not riches worth possessing, then your humble servant is unable to inform you what may be considered blessings that can be compared with them.

Let us then, Latter-day Saints, as children of the Most High, as the sons and daughters of that Being who is now in yonder heaven, let us wake up, as it were, and purge our minds from every thing that is calculated in the least to hinder the free intercourse of his Holy Spirit; let us prepare our hearts to enjoy greater blessings from his hands. Let us lift this veil of unbelief that envelops us through the transgressions and traditions of the children of men; let it be parted asunder, and let the light of truth shine forth more brilliantly in our minds, that the inspiration which comes from the Most High may inspire us to all good works that we may be the sons and daughters of God indeed and of a truth. Amen.

THE SAN PEDRO VALLEY.

JONESVILLE,
June 7th, 1880.

Editors Deseret News:

May 17th, Elder A. F. McDonald and myself left Mesa City at 2 p.m. to visit the brethren and Saints located on the San Pedro River. May 18th, passed through Florence, 45 miles from Mesa City, a town of considerable enterprise, having in it the United States land office, and being principally sustained by the mining interest, the Globe District being within 60 or 65 miles, and one of the largest and most permanent camps in Arizona. We noticed some fine fields of grain.

May 19th, passed through an

open, desert country, with scarcely anything to attract the eye or cheer the heart. May 20th, passed through the second oldest city in the United States, Tucson, founded in 1542, which has all the appearance of a Mexican frontier town, built out of "sun dried brick or adobies," in squares or blocks, with narrow streets and altogether a filthy, warm and an undesirable place to dwell in. Its principal places of antiquity are the Old Church, one mile or more north-west of the city, and the Old Mission, 8 or 10 miles south, on the Santa Cruz River. At night camped near Senega, the present terminus of the S. P. R. R.

May 21st, headed the grading camp of Chinamen near where we come on the San Pedro, at 11 o'clock, drove up to the "Mormon" settlement. This place is situated near the east bank of the San Pedro River, nine miles up and south of Benton on the S. P. R. R. line, 18 miles northwest of the great Tombstone mining district and 30 miles from the Sonora line, and 180 miles from Mesa City. Has near 2,000 acres of splendid bottom land, the river banks showing a depth of 15 to 20 feet of soil. Names of prominent mountains surrounding San Pedro Valley, southeast, "Broncho;" southwest, "Huachuaca;" west, "Whetstone;" northwest, "St. Catherine;" north, "Graham;" east, "Dragoons," can be seen far in the distance looming up in the south, the San Jose in Old Mexico.

The San Pedro Valley from the south on the Pinto Sonora line runs north 110 miles, where it empties in the Gila and averages in width 20 to 25 miles, the river bottom from one to four miles. The vast plain or valley is as fine a grazing country, if not superior to any we have ever seen; it cannot be excelled for sheep raising, having a climate that never reaches above 90 in the shade during warm weather, and snow never laying in winter. The black, curly and white Grama grass prevail on the high land, and Sacaton and wire grass on the bottoms.

The brethren and saints here, as well as old settlers on the river, are entirely free from ague, which never comes to any but those who live on the bottom lands, and after the heavy summer rains, which produce miasma from decom-

posed vegetation and mineral in the soil, which affected the entire valley, and it is presumed will entirely disappear, as it does not in any way have the appearance of an ague and fever country. P. C. Merrill, of Battalion notoriety, is president of the colony of "Mormons", who has the respect and confidence of the Saints here, and will build up, under the Presidency of Alex. F. Macdonald, one of the finest Union settlements in Mormonism. While here we held three discourses, one Sunday school, and two priesthood meetings. In the latter the organization of the Union took place, when Dudley Merrill, Samuel Curtis, John Merrill, John Anderson and Joseph McRae were chosen directors, and in honor to David W. Patten, the martyr, this place was named St. David. On the 25th we bade farewell to our brethren and sisters, and friends, and reached home on the 28th and found all busy in the midst of wheat and barley harvest, which bids fair to yield an average crop in the whole valley.

Brethren who wish to enter into the sheep business could do well on the San Pedro. We need shoemakers, tanners, tailors, farmers, nurserymen, stock-raisers and those who wish to serve God, to assist us in building up this country, which is sparsely settled at present.

Your brother,
DAVID P. KIMBALL.

BATTALION HISTORY.

BEAVER, June 12, 1880.

Editors Deseret News:

Perhaps a few more lines of Battalion history, the last I have written, will not be altogether uninteresting to your numerous readers.

We are on the Loup Fork of the Platte river returning home. We commenced early on the morning of the sixth day to get our animals over on the ice. Some holes were soon broken, the ice bent and cracked, but we continued until everything was over; the last being Thorne's wagon. The weather had begun to moderate with the rising of the sun, so that a few of the last trips were very dangerous, as the ice was getting quite rotten. In a very short time after the last trip was made the ice again broke loose

and the river was filled as before with floating ice. A kind providence had made the congealed water-bridge for our special benefit and removed it as soon as it had filled its mission.

From the killing of Captain Lytle's mule until we reached Winter Quarters, probably eight or ten days travel we subsisted on mule meat alone, without salt. On arriving at the Elkhorn river 30 miles from Winter Quarters, we found a ferry boat with ropes stretched across ready for us to step in and pull ourselves over, which of course we did.

This boat we understand was built by the pioneers under President Brigham Young, was first used by them; then the companies who followed on their trail, then the pioneers, and Lieut. Merrill's company on their return, and last but not least by us for whom it had been last left. We crossed on the 17th of December, 1847.

18th.—We arose early and took up the line of march. The front arrived in Winter Quarters about sundown and the rear a little after dark. Thus it will be perceived that we were just two months from Salt Lake Fort (now City) to this point; now a little over two days travel by rail road. Some of the company found their families in town, while others were across the Missouri river, at or near Kaneshville, now Bluff City, Pottawotamie County, Iowa. The reader can easily imagine our joy and that of our families and friends than we can describe them. The author's family was on the east side of the river, on Musketo Creek, where he found them the evening of the 19th. In addition to the wife and one only child, a beloved daughter of seven years, now widow of the late Charles Oakden, he left at Mount Pisgah, he found another loving daughter who lacked a few days of being one year old, having been born about six months after the departure of the Battalion. She is now the wife of G. W. Adair of Arizona. We must not forget to mention the kindness of our friends, brethren and sisters, on our arrival at Winter Quarters, Nebraska, near where the city of Omaha now stands. Suffice it to say that every soldier in every place, although in some in-

stances highly respectable men, and unavoidably in filth and rags, met warm-hearted sympathetic brethren, sisters and friends, from President Young and the Twelve Apostles, to the least child who knew what the words "Mormon Battalion" meant. They had been taught to know that that valiant corps had been offered, like Isaac, a reapy, living sacrifice for the Church, as well as country, and I trust as well the fact (as the author honestly believes) that an angel of God although not visible, had nevertheless said to Mexico and every foe, "stay thy hand, thus far shalt thou go but no farther." "Touch not the Lord's anointed."

We will now once more return to Los Angeles, California, and ascertain what became of our friends and brethren who re-enlisted on the 20th of July, 1847, after which we will open up the gold fields of Upper California, giving proper credit to all interested so far as we have their names, whether Jew or Gentile, then after pioneering and making some valuable highways over the Sierra Nevada mountains for our nation's future travel, we will bid our readers a final adieu.

RE-ENLISTED COMPANY.

July 20th, 1847.—One company, known as "Mormon volunteers," made up from the rank and file of the Battalion, was mustered into the service of the United States at Ciudad de Los Angeles, California, by First Lieut. A. J. Smith, First Dragoons, of Battalion fame (?), for a term of six months. Daniel C. Davis, captain of Company E "Mormon Battalion," was elected captain of this company. The names of all officers and soldiers will be found upon the roll, which has been preserved intact.

25th.—The company took up the line of march for San Diego, on the Gulf of California, where it arrived on the 2nd of August. It was intended as a kind of provost guard, to protect the citizens from Indian raids and to watch the movements of belligerent parties until news of a final treaty between the two governments should be received; for although the treaty of Gaudilope Hidalgo had been made in February previous, the news had not reached isolated California.

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