

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING
COMPANY, LESSEES.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50
IN ADVANCE.

Saturday - September 16, 1893.

THE MISSION TO CHINA.

About six months ago the NEWS published a notice of the death of Elder Elam Ludington of this county, and in the brief review of his life which appeared at the time, and which was furnished by one of the friends who knew him best, there was reference to his having been the first in this dispensation to carry the Gospel to China. A day or two later a critical and well-informed reader of the NEWS remarked that Church history as he had read it hardly confirmed this statement, though he admitted that the matter was not quite clear; and he suggested that it would perhaps only complicate the question further to attempt to correct it until it could be thoroughly looked into and all the facts ascertained.

Subsequently the following letter, from one of Brother Ludington's associates on that famous mission to far-off Asia, was received by President Wilford Woodruff, and handed by him to the NEWS for publication:

TOQUERVILLE, Utah,
August 8, 1893.

Some time since I noticed in the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS of March 7, 1893, an account of Elam Ludington's death in Sugar House Ward, Salt Lake county. In noticing his good labor in life, it is stated he was the first to proclaim the Gospel in China, and that he went to Japan. I am inclined to think that Elder Elam Ludington was not the first to proclaim the Gospel in China, from the fact that from the October conference, 1852, held in Salt Lake City, Elders Chauncey W. West, Benjamin Franklin Dewey, Elam Ludington and myself, Levi Savage, were called on a mission to Siam; Elders N. V. Jones, Amos M. Musser, and others were appointed to Hindostan; Elders Hosea Stout, James Lewis and Chapman Duncan were appointed to China. Elder Ludington and I, both in the same wagon, left the city on the 16th day of October, 1852, being the last of thirty-two Elders that left the city for the Pacific and Oriental missions. We took the southern route to San Bernardino, thence to San Francisco, where all shipped for their several places of destination. Not finding any ship sailing from San Francisco to Siam, the Siam missionaries shipped with the Hindostan missionaries for Calcutta in the ship Monsoon and sailed on the 29th of January, 1853.

Hosea Stout and company shipped for China about the same time.

We arrived safely in Calcutta. From there Elders West and Dewey went to Ceylon and other parts, Elder Ludington and myself went to Rangoon, an English seaport town in Burmah, hoping from there to cross the country to Siam; but on our arrival in Burmah we found the route not feasible. A short time after I left Elder Ludington in Rangoon and went to Maulmain.

Some time after I learned that Elder Ludington had left Rangoon for parts unknown to me. The next I heard of him

he was at home in Salt Lake City, Utah. A short time since Franklin Dewey said to me that on their return home he and Elder West touched at Hong Kong, China, and there learned that Hosea Stout, James Lewis and Chapman Duncan had been there, but had left for America before our arrival.

Having these facts before me I am confident that Elder Ludington was not the first to proclaim the Gospel in China, and as to his performing an important mission to Japan, it is an item I never heard of before.

I had intended to communicate these facts to you before, but have unavoidably failed, hence I write now.

Your brother in the Gospel,
LEVI SAVAGE.

This letter and the notice which it was written to correct were submitted to Elder Franklin D. Richards, Church Historian, who courteously caused an investigation to be made of all the essential points at issue. The result of that investigation is found in the following note from Elder John Jaques, assistant historian; it conclusively proves that the first statement was erroneous and that Brother Savage is right in his correction. In the interest of accuracy and as a matter of historical importance, we are glad to give it this publicity:

"According to his own account, as published in the *Millennial Star*, Elder Elam Ludington was on a mission at Rangoon, Burmah, in 1853-4, and at Bangkok, Siam, in 1854. On his way home, he arrived at Hong Kong, China, December 1, 1854, to sail thence for San Francisco a few days later.

"Elder Ludington did not visit Japan.

"As written in their letter to President Brigham Young, and published in the *DESERET NEWS* and the *Millennial Star*, Elders Hosea Stout, James Lewis and Chapman Duncan sailed from San Francisco for China, March 8, 1853, arriving at Hong Kong April 27. Owing to the revolutionary and unsettled condition of that country at the time and to other unfavorable circumstances, those Elders concluded not to stay there long, and August 27, of the same year, they were at San Francisco, on their return home."

BACK TO THE SCHOOLROOM.

The days of the summer vacation are past, as indeed the summer itself seems to be, and full soon will the noble work of teaching the young idea now to shoot be the order of the day. Those who lead the juvenile army are in more responsible and even more patriotic positions than those who lead armed troops afield, for while these are also upholders of a nation's rights and the guardians of its honor, the teachers inculcate the first principles without which there would be no sturdiness in our patriotism and no stability in the institutions which our patriotism upholds. They open the soil and drop in the seeds which sprout, appear above the soil, grow and are reproduced in such fruit as blesses those who give and those who take. Therefore with unfeigned pleasure do we greet the return of the educators.

It is not alone in Utah but all through the land that the pedagogues and their retinues of more or less advanced pupils have been seeking and

generally finding relaxation through the surcease of tuition for the heated term. Some have vacations pure and simple, that is, absolute freedom from care and labor; while others, as in the case of our summer schools, spend part of their time in pleasantly reviewing what has been done, analyzing whatever is brought before them and mapping out work for the future. Now they are coming trooping back, pupils as well as teachers, with brown faces and rested minds, and renewed bodies, ready for the work of the year. Teaching is exhaustive work, and, as an eastern paper well says, with the multiplicity of studies in our best schools, the demands upon the strength and vitality of the pupils are something excessive. Neither teachers nor pupils with their humane tasks in hand have any too much time for rest; but let us hope they have all enjoyed it, whether brief or lengthy, and are ready to greet with lusty joy the recurrence of ripe September, with the reunions, the pleasures and the tasks of the schoolroom!

A VETERAN GONE.

The sad information comes to hand that Lyman O. Littlefield is no more for this world. After an eventful career occupying more than three score years, he has closed the struggle with life's final lever and gone to an honored and doubtless a welcome repose. Elder Littlefield was the oldest journalist and typographer in Utah. He was a printer in the days when that designation placed one alongside if not ahead of any one else connected with the paper; when the power press had not got as far west as the Mississippi river; when telegraphic news was unknown; when a salacious glamour seemed to surround the office apprentice; and when the daily was confined to the greater cities and a small affair at that. Through all the stages of the then mysterious craft Brother Littlefield worked his way, and the profession became to him a second nature, so much so that he never altogether left it—indeed it may be said that he died at his post with the harness on.

The deceased was in most of the persecutions of the Saints which resulted in their exodus from Illinois and Missouri, and never wavered in his loyalty to the faith or complained because his lot was a trying one. Coming to Utah he was as soon installed into his chosen calling as a place was ready for him, and with but slight intermissions he has pursued it steadily ever since. He served a long term on the *DESERET NEWS*, and subsequently on the *Daily Telegraph* in this city, after which he removed to Smithfield, Cache county, where he died. He was a man of the utmost simplicity of demeanor and habits, was a friend to his friends without being an enemy to his enemies, was possessed of patience, humility and forbearance to a remarkable degree, and but that he preferred the humbler and lowlier walks of life might with his qualities have become one of the noted men of our generation. May his reward in the land where time is unmeasured be as endless and glowing as his life has been honest, faithful and true!