

Correspondence.

10 ALMA TERRACE, Thomas Town,
Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales,
September 23rd, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother,
The unabated interest manifested in the spread and defense of truth at home and abroad by the NEWS and its worthy supporters, has inspired me with courage to ask a modest share in the liberal courtesies extended to your numerous correspondents, by placing before your readers a few brief notes on incidents of travel, observations on the moral, social and religious condition of society, and the progress of the work of God in Wales.

It will be recollected by the readers of the DESERET NEWS that I left my home in Salt Lake City on the 6th day of June last, in company with three other brethren who, like myself, were on a mission to Europe. My cogitations and emotions on bidding adieu to home and family and friends would be difficult to describe; suffice it to say, I was too full for utterance, and nothing but an honest conviction of the divinity of the work in which I am engaged and an unwavering confidence in the priesthood of the Son of God by which I was called, could have induced me to leave them as I did.

The trip to New York was performed in the usual time, no accidents or other unpleasant contingencies occurring, everything moved smoothly along. The great trans-continental railroad was in excellent condition, all things considered, and the department of officials and employees on the line, so far as my observations extended, was unexceptionably good. On arriving at New York we visited Elder W. C. Staines, and were instructed by him how to spend our time and money to the best advantage. We acted on his advice without regret. I spent a day or two with a brother of mine who resides at Williamsburg, very agreeably.

The steamship Nebraska, on which we secured our berths, steamed out of New York harbor on the 15th of June, and arrived at Liverpool on the 27th, making the trip in 12 days; and although it was not the speediest passage on record, it was admitted by a number of experienced seamen and voyagers, that it was almost an unprecedentedly smooth one. The great waters of the Atlantic were as unruffled as a mill-pond, and so gently did the breezes blow on the ocean's placid bosom, that some who were over anxious to reach an eastern shore, were heard to exclaim in hibernian vernacular: "We have no weather at all."

It was our good fortune to have on board as cabin passengers, a few of the honorable men of the earth, who, by their gentlemanly bearing, and liberality of sentiment, fully established their claims to the distinguished title. Having learned that we were missionaries from Salt Lake City, they sought interviews with us which, of course, they readily obtained. Among them were gentlemen of high education and judicial standing from Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York and other places in the United States. Several of our conversations were conducted in a catechetical manner. Among the number of doctrines and principles which we discussed upon, and the one which they seemed to be the most deeply interested in was plural marriage. This subject was pretty thoroughly ventilated. It passed through a scriptural, physiological, philosophical, and political investigation, and with the aid of a package of the Hon. W. H. Hooper's "Plea for Religious Liberty," with "Remonstrance" attached, we were credited with having defended this cardinal doctrine of our faith, in a very able manner.

On arriving at Liverpool I learned that it was intended that I should labor in the Sheffield Conference, whither I repaired after a few days' rest at the office. I traveled in Yorkshire a little over a month in company with Elder Hyde, the Conference President, who with all the saints treated me very kindly. My health, however, became considerably impaired, and it was therefore deemed prudent for me to change my location; and on the 3d of August I returned to Liverpool and stayed with President Eldridge at the office. I was made welcome by him, to anything I thought would do me good. Under the favorable conditions of rest and change of air, together with good treatment I gradually improved, and on the 13th of the month I accompanied Brother and Sister Eldridge on a trip to the south of Wales—my native country and former field of missionary labor. On Sunday the 14th according to previous arrangements a conference was held in Aberdare Temperance Hall, a large and commodious building, well suited for the occasion. There were three meetings held during the day, each of which was well attended by the Saints from the towns and villages for over a distance of twenty miles around, and a number of strangers who were residents of the place. There were nine of the brethren from Zion, present, some of whom had been laboring here for two and three years past, and others who, like myself, had but recently arrived. The spirit of the conference was good. The addresses of the brethren were short, diversified and instructive. The congregations were spoken to in both the English and Welsh languages. The choral exercises of the day added much to the interest of the meetings, which were performed by the Merthyr and Mountain-Ash choirs.

During the ensuing week, meetings were held at Ebbo Vale, Aberystwyth and Cardiff, which we have every reason to believe will result in great good. Among the numerous scenes of interest witnessed while visiting the Saints in Wales were the Cyfarthfa and Dowlais Iron Works, the latter being, it is said, the largest in the world. We were conducted through the Cyfarthfa works with a permit from Robert Crawshaw, Esq., its wealthy proprietor. We had explained to us, the several processes through which the iron ore passes, from its crude state until it is made into railroad and other merchantable iron, which was very instructive to any one desirous of knowing how iron is made. An approximate idea of the extent of these works may be formed from the following statistics:—

In 1868, there were employed at the Cyfarthfa works from 4,000 to 5,000 men, and the works, at a rough average, may be said to support 20,000 souls. There are eleven furnaces, seven mine pits, eight coal pits, and the yield is 1,000 tons of coal, a foot thick per acre. The steam and water power used is equal to more than 4,000 horses, and the works, in full force, can produce 1,300 tons of pig iron and 1,000 to 1,100 tons of finished bars, and railroad iron per month. The Dowlais works which are about one mile distant from the Cyfarthfa works are still more extensive. In 1845 these works employed 8,000 persons. The smelting and rolling mills cover an area of many acres on the surface, and mining works extend some miles under ground. The consumption of coal in carrying on their works is 1,200 tons weekly. Eighteen furnaces make nearly 1,600 tons of iron weekly or an annual produce of 74,880 tons being an average of more than eighty tons per week for one furnace. The quantity of finished iron manufactured monthly was equal to 1,800 tons of railroad iron and 1,800 tons of bar iron, and one rolling mill alone in that year made 4,000 tons of rails in one week. The Dowlais Iron Company are the greatest carriers of iron on the Taff Vale Railway: the average is about 70,000 tons per annum. This company paid in one year to the Taff Vale Company the handsome little sum of £25,641 for transporting their iron to Cardiff, a distance of only 24 miles. It was computed that when these works were in full operation, if the colliers employed had worked one continuous seam of coal for twenty-four hours, half an acre would have been cleared; producing 1,500 tons of coal; and that the produce of miners and colliers, was 80,000 tons of iron ore, and 140,000 tons of coal. The eighteen furnaces were worked by seven powerful steam engines. The steam power in operation was equal to 2,000 horses besides twenty water balances, for raising coal to the surface, and locomotive engines with 500 to 600 horses in constant employment. The tram-roads below and above ground, if placed in one continuous line, would extend a length of 2,000 miles. The foregoing statistics I have gleaned from Wilkin's "History of the Iron and Coal trade," and they will no doubt be interesting to the mineralogist and metallurgist, if to no one else in Utah.

On Sunday, 21st of August, a Conference was held at Swansea, pursuant to appointment, during which much good instruction was imparted by President Eldridge and others of the brethren who were present. A calm and hopeful spirit prevailed among the Saints, and the only regret I heard expressed by any of our people, was the smallness of this year's emigration, and their inability to be among the number. But they express a desire to hope on, and trust that God in His infinite mercy will open up the way before them, that they may gather to Zion. The burden of our instructions to the Saints has been on the necessity of faith in God our eternal Father, and in Jesus Christ His Son, as the Redeemer of the world, and in the Holy Ghost, as our unerring guide into all truth; and that obedience to the truth of Heaven, revealed through the Gospel, is the only means of salvation to man.

Monday, 22d.—Brother and sister Eldridge took their departure for Liverpool, having spent eight days in visiting three of the Conferences of the Church in the Principality of Wales. I trust that the visit may be the precursor of several more.

In respect to the moral, social and religious condition of society much could be said that would be profitable to relate, but I will content myself for the present, with saying little, as I do not wish to trespass too inconsiderately upon your valuable space.

In reference to the Work of God in Wales, it affords me pleasure to learn, that it is steadily progressing. The Saints are growing in a knowledge of the truth, and are gaining a better understanding of the manner in which God is building up His Kingdom on earth in fulfillment of ancient and modern prophecy. A few are being added to the Church by baptism from time to time, and as a general thing are a very good class of people. The growing fame and strength of Zion is sensibly felt here, and liberal-minded men acknowledge frankly that we are doing great and good work in the far West. In some of our branches our halls of meeting are encouragingly filled with attentive listeners, and prospects are fair for new additions to our number in this locality.

With kind thanks for the NEWS, which I regularly receive and highly appreciate, and love to yourself and all who favor Zion.

I conclude,

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