

CORRESPONDENCE.

ACCOUNT OF AN EXCURSION NORTH.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

I have deferred till now to acquaint you with some of the incidents of a recent excursion from this to Brigham city and return, not because I thought that you were in any degree indifferent as to what might be transpiring outside of the metropolis of Deseret, but solely from an almost complete absorption of time demanded by other matters. The consciousness, however, of your manifest interest in whatever pertains to the welfare of the people located in these mountain vales—wherever choice has prompted them to rear their humble cot—revives my pre-determination, and I set to the task immediately.

Since the summer of 1853, when a general uprising of the Indian tribes in the mountains took place, resulting disastrously to many of our people north and south, I had not visited any of the settlements north of Great Salt Lake City and, as you may readily infer, my surprise was great in beholding the remarkable changes which had been effected in the lapse of time since that period.

At Bountiful—formerly and still commonly known as Sessions' Settlement, ten miles north of G. S. L. City, where, in 1853 there were but a comparatively few settlers, located here and there, with scarcely a visible trace of appointed thoroughfares, except the zigzag northern trail and canyon leads, intersecting it at every conceivable angle, my eyes were refreshed with the sight of a capacious city, with plainly defined roads, laid out at right angles to each other, many fine domicils with surrounding grounds in not a few instances under a commendable state of horticultural improvement, substantial and commodious barns and out-houses, good fences, and other unmistakable marks of thrift and progress. In addition to all these, in a most prominent site, looms up the meeting-house—one of the handsomest, if not altogether the most superb building for meeting purposes as yet erected in Deseret. Its cost, if I have been rightly informed, when completely finished, will be nearly one hundred thousand dollars—by no means a small investment assumed by a city of three or four thousand inhabitants in a single public edifice. The cost of this house, as stated, considerably exceeding the amount raised for its construction, Mr. Anson Call—rather than it should for an indefinite time remain unfinished—has individually undertaken its completion, which, I was assured, he designed to push forward vigorously, regardless of the expense incurred. It is to me very refreshing as well as gratifying to note such examples of great-souled interest in public affairs.

Passing on, we next came to Centerville, a modest and apparently prosperous little settlement, taking its name from its location, about midway between Bountiful and Farmington. It has sprung into existence, I believe, since 1853—as I have no recollection of anything indicating signs of civilization on the site of what is now known as Centerville. The road from Bountiful to this point diverges too much from an air line to suit travelers with whom time in transit is a material item; and if one more direct could be engineered without too great an outlay, I doubt not that all parties concerned would be better satisfied.

Farmington, the next settlement northward, some seven or eight miles from Bountiful, has been chiefly built up since 1858—subsequent to the return of the people from the Southern Exodus, or the final movement of the series which so signally resulted in the frustration of the designs of Buchanan's crusade. Here again were everywhere recurring indications of industry and well-requited toil. Besides a good-sized stone meeting-house and many very comfortable looking dwelling-houses, there are two first-rate flouring-mills which are as creditable to the enterprising owners as invaluable to the interests of the inhabitants. Another desirable improvement might be effected by turnpiking or macadamizing the main thoroughfare.

Four or five miles further northward is Kayville, a city by no means in embryo, with a fair beginning and good location for successful farming operations—where, but a few years since, some half dozen rude cabins, of log and adobe, scattered here and there, marked all that could be seen of Kayville. A stretch of seventeen or eighteen miles further brought us to Ogden, in point of size the principal town north of Great Salt Lake City. It is a most wholly built on the Weber river bottom, where the land, of course, is exceedingly rich, being of the black, mucky composition usually found in such localities. A few of the settlers, preferring to dwell on more slightly ground and where the streets, with slight grading, would be passable most of the year, have located themselves on the upland, or bench, as it is usually called, where the houses generally, as in further witness of their good taste, if not superior judgment, are of a neat and comfortable appearance and, so far as I could learn, fully occupied by an eminently practical and enterprising class of citizens. While it cannot but be admitted that there are many very attractive residences in Ogden "under-the-hill," it is equally undeniable that, to be compelled to navigate through

a great portion of it, while the mud is knee deep, or "up to the hubs," is far from being relished and, the "doctor" thinks, would prove a sure emetic to the most inveterate turtle that ever coasted in the Cuban marshes. Some of the houses in that quarter, however, I must say, look as though they had been erected at different eras in the world's history, the style of architecture being also as much of a medley, or neither-one-thing-nor-two other description, as the material used in their construction. Ogden has advantages not enjoyed by many of the settlements of the mountains. Two fine rivers lave its sides, affording almost unlimited water privileges. Wood, also, can be obtained, or could be, if the canyon roads were put in repair, at a distance allowing the procurement of a load in a single day—while here, as in other localities, from two to three days are consumed therein. To the transient observer, the existing cause of stagnation observable there, in bold contrast with the vitality apparent in other and less-favored settlements may not at once be perceived; but, upon research and inquiry in the premises, the reason to me most obvious was a lamentable absence of public spirit and, as a sequence, the prevalence of inordinate selfishness. I speak sir, of these things, not as a solitary observer; but as well from the frank admissions of old residents there as from my own solemn convictions. I refrain from further aversions to Ogden and its surroundings with the expression of a devout wish that time may effect radical improvements there and wherever else they may be needful among us—in the meantime, trustful that like baneful influences may never seriously infect any of those enterprising, devoted, and united, though perchance not most favored communities, where a high-toned self-sacrificing spirit has ever been the sure guardian of public prosperity.

North Ogden, about six miles further on, lying on the base of a deep angle in the Weber mountain-chain, though but an infantile settlement, furnishes encouraging evidence of what can be done in a very short time by well-directed energy and good will.

Plain City lies near the border of Great Salt Lake, some eight miles to the westward of the mainly traveled road. This, also, is a lately formed settlement.

Of Willard, formerly known as Willow Creek, next in the order of travel and about seven miles from North Ogden, I can only say, in confirmation of a statement made by Hon. Geo. A. Smith, last fall, that the town was so much obscured by straw-stacks that points of its elegance were not at once discoverable; but from the partial view afforded, the conclusion was irresistible, that the good people of Willard thought more of their "beef and plum pudding" than of the style of houses they live in.

A ride of some seven miles, over a delightful, rolling and gently side-sloping road brought us to the terminus of our present tour—Brigham city—the most northern settlement of G. S. L. Valley. Had it proved other than a lovely place, blending attractiveness of locality with good taste and skill in the construction of buildings, both public and private, as also in the general plan and way of doing things, I should at once have pronounced it unworthy of the name. It was exceedingly gratifying, however, to find the *beau ideal* fully realized. I do not design to nominally personify. Whoever or whatever may be the spirit leading to the attainment of surroundings so eminently exemplary, in spiritual as in temporal concerns (if any distinction may be drawn) could derive but feeble stimulant from the highest encomiums that might be written. I regard it as a model town. Its public improvements and its private enterprises go hand in hand. The air one breathes is there freighted with a peaceful assurance of prevailing brotherhood, order, unanimity and interwoven good fortune. The contrast between what was BBox Elder in 1853 and Brigham city as it now is, was truly great.

My return to G. S. L. City was, of course, by the same route.

VOYAGEUR.

WEBER COUNTY ITEMS.

OGDEN CITY, U. T.

Feb. 17, 1863.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

It is some considerable length of time since you received a communication from me. Having nothing very special to write about, I did not care to trouble you. Whether this letter will interest you or your readers, I know not. It may be too long and tedious.

Thus far the winter has been more severe than anticipated it would be some few months since. There is a great deal of slushy snow upon the ground, and it has been storming all day.

The peace of our city has not been sufficiently ruffled of late to create much excitement. There has been a great amount of sickness amongst children all through this county; here has also been a greater number of deaths than has ever before been known to occur in any one previous year.

On Thursday, the 12th inst., two young men at South Weber—William and Henry Peak—went on the range to hunt a cow. It was very stormy in the afternoon, and the young men being but thinly clad, got severely chilled. On their return homeward William was so much fatigued that he could not walk. For some distance the brother Henry packed him on his back, until he himself gave out. When about half-a-mile from home, Henry left his brother and proceeded home as fast as he could, to obtain some help. Being directed to the place where William was left, Mr. Daniel Ross

went immediately to the spot, but unfortunately he arrived there too late. The young man was dead.

The Ogden City Dramatic Association occasionally favors the public with theatrical entertainments.

The Literary and Scientific Institute here have been improving the winter evenings, and lectures have been delivered once, and sometimes twice each week to crowded audiences. In his opening address this winter, the President of the Society spoke at some length upon benefits to be derived from such institutions. He enumerated various subjects upon which lectures would be given. He also encouraged the members of the Association to be diligent in the pursuit of that knowledge which will refine their feelings, dignify and ennoble their minds and exalt them in the scale of intellectual being.

Mr. John Barker gave a highly entertaining lecture on "Variety," in which he showed the utility of variety in all things. He dwelt at some length on the human countenance, the beast, the fowl, the fish and the great variety of natural objects that interest the mind of man. But what seemed to much interest the lecturer, was, that the great variety in the human countenances enabled him to easily distinguish his "frow" from those of his neighbors.

Mr. J. W. Browning delivered a lecture on "Astronomy," in which he dwelt particularly upon the relative size of the planets; their distance from the sun and the velocity with which they move in their orbits.

Dr. Rettau gave an instructive lecture on "Education." After speaking of the benefits of education, and the rapid strides it has made during the last twenty years, the lecturer spoke at some length of the blessings conferred upon the human race through the means of the telegraph. He then referred to the invention of the balloon and the diving bell. He related some of his experience in his ascent in the one, and his descent in the other. In the former, he said he ascended up about 4 miles above the earth, at which distance the rumbling noise of the wagon wheels or the sound of the human voice can be heard as distinctly as when within a few feet of them. In the diving bell he descended about 200 feet in to the sea, where, from the cabin of a vessel which had been wrecked some 4 years previous, he, with some others, extracted a large iron safe, containing some two and-a-half millions of dollars. He then described a number of human bodies which he saw in the cabin, in a state of perfect preservation, some of them in an upright position—one lady was sitting on a chair with her dead infant on her arm, and her eyes appeared intently fixed upon each other. The lecture was very entertaining.

Capt. John Donlon gave, as the subject of his lecture, his "five years' experience on the Ionian Islands," the which are seven in number. He described the manners and customs of their inhabitants, who, he said, are mostly Greeks. He spoke of the abundance of all kinds of fruit raised on the Islands, and referred to the frequent earthquakes that visit those places.

Mr. John Gallaher lectured on "Education." He addressed himself chiefly to the youth, and pointed out to them the necessity of education in order that they may be enabled not only to deport themselves correctly in polite circles, but honorably fill the measure of their being upon the earth.

Mr. Wm. Petre delivered a lecture on "Navigation." He had been a navigator for some 40 years. He had sailed as far north as lat. 78°. He related many interesting anecdotes of the country where Sir John Franklin is supposed to have perished. The lecturer explained apparent and true distance; also the different kinds of sailing, viz: plain, transverse, parallel and oblique. He likewise explained the rule for calculating the distance gained in all the different modes for sailing. The simple manner in which he treated the subject rendered it very interesting to both old and young. His lecture was followed by an original poem, "The days in which we live," by Mr. John A. Jost.

Mr. Thomas Jenkins lectured on Mineralogy, and explained the different kinds of iron ore and their combination with other minerals, &c.

That I may not be too wearisome, I will defer a notice of other lectures until a future time. We have not heard much as yet from the Farmer's Club here, but expect to hear from them soon. Whatever of interest is elicited in their deliberations will be freely communicated for the benefit of the farming fraternity.

JOSEPH HALL.

FROM UTAH COUNTY.

SPRING LAKE VILLA, }
Feb. 16, 1863. }

DEAR NEWS:

We are in the middle of a huge snow which commenced coming down on Thursday night of last week, and continuing to fall briskly till Friday noon, giving us at least a foot or more on the level at the present writing.

From several we have seen from southward, we learn that the fall of snow was much less even at Salt Creek, and that at Fillmore very little but rain fell. How far the storm extended north we have not learned, but about this region the feed & r stock on the range has fairly disappeared from the outward vision. Weather still cold and winter-like.

On the 6th inst., the people of Payson gave a "Battalion Party," which, we are told, was

a pleasant and interesting affair, but as the denizens of that locality are particularly choice in the selection of their associates, we are unable to speak from observation, for we have the misfortune of not inhaling the atmosphere of the "Uppers." We are, however, told that upon the occasion referred to, the music was faultless—the ladies fascinating—the guests agreeable—the refreshments excellent, and other circumstances favored enjoyment—the guests going in and appropriating.

A grand wolf chase has been recently instituted and arranged for at the same place, about 40 to the side—twenty days run—the losing side to pay for a first-class party, music, refreshments, etc. We shall expect some interesting points in the strife and shall post your readers. The people of Santaquin have a similar affair on hand, though on a smaller scale.

They have also organized a corps of dramatic amateurs, who made their first appearance before the public a few evenings since very creditably.

Yours, J.

"MILLIONS FOR WAR."

I hear it stated, that our chivalrous country intends to war for peace and freedom till every obstacle is quietly removed, and all saucy mouths closed in wisdom, should it cost one billion of dollars. I am not a magician, nor a very great mathematician, but to count one billion at the continuous rate of one million a month, would take Adam, or any man destined for eternity, 83,333 years and four months, without stopping Sundays and holidays. The present national debt would require two hundred more years than the government has passed, to count it in dollars, without interest. Seriously, how much is 1,000,000,000,000? I answer, it is just exactly ten hundred thousand millions. Quite a sum, but not a mite to the number of stars in the heavens, or the particles of dust of our little world.

Should Sundays and holidays be allowed, the counter would require one hundred thousand years to count a billion, and to count a trillion, no less than one hundred thousand millions years; an hundred thousand billions of years to count one quadrillion, and so on to one decillion, which would only be called a "breath" in eternity.

All that I can say of the nations that have, and are spending millions or billions in war, they would be better off, by far, to consecrate, or pay one-tenth for tithing and secure the good will of the Lord, to obtain glory, good will, and a welcome to happiness that wise men love.

GUILIAN.

DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

On Tuesday next, the third day of March, the thirty-seventh Congress should, according to law, terminate its existence, and thereafter be numbered among the things that were, but according to the rule which has been followed of late, the closing scene may not be expected to take place till twelve o'clock at noon on the 4th, and should some military necessity exist, the time of dissolution may be deferred to a much later hour. As to the legality of his proceedings, the present Congress can with as much propriety continue to enact laws till next December, as to prolong the session for one hour after the 3d day of March shall legally expire.

What may be done by the National Legislature now in session before its dissolution shall take place, could not well be devised with certainty, for so many things have been done in violation of the Constitution and laws of the country within the last two years, indeed by necessity, as alleged, that it would not be strange if a majority of the members should come to the conclusion, that their services as law-makers could not be dispensed with, and that the interests of the country would be greatly enhanced by the continuing of the session till after the capture of Charleston, Savannah, Port Hudson and Vicksburg. Stranger things than that have transpired in years gone by, as by reference to the history of nations can be fully made to a pair. That such a thing should transpire at this stage of the marvellous proceedings, which are causing the nations to fear and tremble is hardly probable, and the presumption is, that the close of the third session of the thirty-seventh Congress will be announced before the setting of the sun on Wednesday next.

THANKS FOR FAVORS.—To the Hon. J. M. Bernhisel our thanks are due for favors received through the Post Office—newspapers and documents. To some of our friends in England, we know not whom, we are also indebted for many valuable papers received within the last few months.

THE "GIRSY" CLOTHESPIN.—We were shown, last week, an article of clothespin—the utility of which will not be questioned by even the least inexperienced house-keeper—manufactured by Mr. Thomas Hawks, East Temple street.