



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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#### IRREGULARITIES IN MAIL SERVICE NORTH.

By a letter which appears in another column, it will be seen that there is gross mismanagement of the mails in the county of Box Elder, and probably in Weber also. We are in the receipt of numerous complaints of this character from many quarters. We hope by ventilating the matter to have this crying evil remedied. We are deeply interested in its correction, for this irregularity in the mails is a direct injury to all business, but to none more than newspaper publishing. We are convinced that the mail sacks are properly sent from the Post Office in this city. Personal investigation has convinced us of this; and we know how much annoyance these complaints have been to our Postmaster, Mr. Street. From all we can learn, the blame must rest with the route agents connected with the Railroad. They are new men, not acquainted with the country or its post-offices. Since the completion of the Railroad these irregularities have arisen, everything connected with the transmission of the mails has become uncertain. A correspondent at Providence, Cache county, forwarded us a letter under date of April 21st; it also bore that date on the postmark; Providence is between 90 and 100 miles distant from this city—but it took 31 days for the letter to reach us, we received it May 22d.

The mail sack is tagged through from the Salt Lake office to Willard; but our correspondent, A. Cordon, Esq., the Postmaster, says they do not reach his office as they are sent. The difficulty is they are opened when *en route*, and are gone through. There is no necessity for this, and such a proceeding should be stopped. We hope that our friends will furnish us particulars when their mails fail to reach in proper time. We wish to agitate the subject so long as causes of complaint exist. By doing so we hope to have them remedied.

#### A CASE FOR SYMPATHY.

The name of James S. Brown is one that is familiar to many of our readers, especially old members of the Church, through being one of the "Mormon Battalion," and one of those who worked at Sutter's Mill, California, when the first gold was discovered; also as a missionary to the Society Islands, and afterwards to the Indian tribes and to England. In August, 1864, he went from this city to Alexander's canon, Silver Creek, for the purpose of getting out logs for lumber with which to build. The first day he reached there he looked around considerably for the best place to commence operations, and in the afternoon, not being in good health, and feeling wearied, he laid down to rest. While lying down a feeling took possession of him that he would have one of the main bones of his body broken; and so strong was the impression that he jumped up, seized his axe and made his preparations to leave the canon. Upon second thought, however, he concluded that it would appear foolish for him to go away without accomplishing what he had come for, that probably this feeling was given him as a warning that he might be careful in his logging operations. After this he met a she bear and cub, and was restrained from attacking the bear by the recollection of the warning. That night he stopped in the camp of two of the brethren, who kindly welcomed him to their quarters. With them was a young man from near St. Louis, Missouri. The conversation during the evening was upon bear hunting, and it was the last topic dwelt upon previous to retiring. Between 11 and 12 o'clock Bro. Brown had occasion to get up, and while he was pulling on his boots he noticed that one of the three men, whose bed was a little distant from his, had raised himself up and was in a sitting position. He stepped out and walked a short distance from camp, the moon shining dimly at the time, and in a moment or two he heard a gun go off. His first thought was, what can they be shooting at; bears or Indians? As this inquiry passed through his mind he tumbled over sideways; he put his hand to his left thigh and found the shattered point of his thigh bone protruding through the flesh. He was

shot! The Missourian, his head full of the evening's conversation, it is supposed, hearing the rustling of his getting up and of his stepping out, and seeing his form in the dim moonlight, had mistaken him for a bear, and had fired at him with a U. S. yager. The bullet passed his face, went through eleven thicknesses of cloth, carrying with it his brass suspender buckle, making a deep furrow through the fleshy part of his hand and struck his thigh, shattering the bone. Had he not cried out, he would have probably been killed, for as soon as the man had fired the rifle, he dropped it and seized another with the intention of shooting again. It appears that when Bro. Brown was getting ready to go out of the tent the Missourian was engaged in pulling out four rifles that were lying at his own and companions' heads. Bro. Brown expresses his full conviction, from all that transpired afterwards, that the young man was really under the idea that he was shooting at a bear. He was carried to Wanship, Summit county. A man by the name of Macklin, who professed to have a knowledge of surgery and to have been a surgeon in the U. S. army for five years, set the leg; but it was wretchedly done. He was no surgeon. After remaining there eleven weeks he was brought to this city. But his leg was not sound; the wound continued to slough. A piece of the ball was cut out from the under part of the thigh by Dr. Anderson, which gave him some relief. Afterwards Dr. Robinson opened the thigh for about five inches and took out sixteen pieces of bone, two pieces of the bullet and a piece of suspender buckle. The wound not healing, he underwent another operation and had the bone scraped and decayed portions chiseled off. The wound then healed, and though the leg was weak and stiff, he managed to get about with the aid of a crutch and stick. In the summer of 1867, having an interest in the Sweetwater mines, he went out there, and while out from camp after a span of horses, he was chased by about twenty-five Sioux Indians and had a very narrow escape. His experience was of great service at that time in organizing the white men and preparing for defence; but his exertions were too much for him. He returned home, and his leg became very painful. He was under the necessity, however, of driving a team; and this labor was too severe for him. Finally, he was compelled to abandon this labor, and for nine months past he has suffered excruciating pain in his leg. The limb was recently examined by Doctors Anderson and Heber J. Richards and compressed sponge inserted in the wound to enlarge it. A week ago last Wednesday Dr. Anderson extracted a piece of bone and a piece of the bullet, and Thursday last was fixed upon to give it a further examination. It was hoped that a portion of the thigh bone might be taken out, and the necessity of amputation be avoided. On Thursday afternoon Doctors Anderson, Bernhisel and Richards examined the thigh, Dr. Anderson operating. After opening it to a considerable length and carefully examining it, the conclusion was reached that the bone was too much diseased and too near the knee joint to afford the least hope of saving the leg by any means within the reach of science. The decision was to amputate the limb, which was successfully performed. The patient has suffered so much of late that it was with a feeling akin to relief that he submitted to the operation.

Since the amputation of the limb the thigh has been dissected by Dr. Heber J. Richards. The bone was found much enlarged for a space of four inches. The entire circumference is thickly studded with fragments of the bullet. Wherever one of these fragments was in the bone there it was diseased. There were several pieces of loose, dead bone within the main bone, with an opening leading to them, from which there had been a constant discharge of matter.

Bro. Brown's long confinement has reduced himself and family to poverty. His case deserves consideration and appeals strongly to the sympathy of his friends and the benevolent in the city and country, and we hope some movement will be started to extend to him and his family that assistance they so much need. We feel convinced that all who are acquainted with him, his past labors and the circumstances in which he is now placed, will feel prompted to contribute to his relief, and we hope that while sympathy is awakened it will not be suffered to die away without assuming some tangible form.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF DESERET.

The first term of this institution closed on Wednesday; the second term commences on Monday next. The success which has attended the labors of Professor Park and his assistants during the past quarter is very gratifying to all the friends of education who are acquainted with the progress of the pupils. All with whom we have conversed, both parents and pupils, express their satisfaction at the manner in which the school is managed. This institution supplies a want that has been long felt, and it is to be hoped that the efforts of the Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University to sustain it will meet with the cordial co-operation of the public. We have now the foundation laid for a first class college; if properly supported, it will undoubtedly become all that we can desire and be a renowned seat of learning. Arrangements

are now perfected for teaching every desirable branch of education, and our young people have facilities extended to them which they should improve, and upon which they cannot place too high a value.

It is not the intention to have the doors of the University closed a portion of the year, as has been the case with many of our schools; but to be kept in operation continuously. The advantages of this will be readily perceived. Another evil also will be avoided, which has been a cause of serious complaint: Pupils will not be required to purchase new text books every quarter. In many of our districts there has been a new teacher almost every quarter and every teacher has had his preference for some particular reader, geography, arithmetic, etc. These changes are expensive to parents and discouraging to pupils.

Under the system which has prevailed in many of our school districts it is not a matter of surprise that children become disgusted with their studies. When a child is making fair progress, say for instance, in arithmetic and grammar, the quarter ends and the school is closed, sometimes for weeks. When it is again opened a new teacher, and with him probably new books, or if the old books are retained, the child is put back to commence at the beginning; and thus it frequently is until the very name of arithmetic or grammar becomes hateful to the pupil. Added to this is the lack of interest or the lack of knowledge on the part of the teacher.

In many places when a man cannot do anything else, he attempts to teach school. Some people seem to have an idea that if a man cannot do any other useful work, he can at least teach school. If he cannot do that, then he is utterly worthless. Of course where such views prevail it cannot be expected that school-teaching is either profitable to the children or lucrative to the preceptor. Moreover, let a man be ever so capable, if he only intends to pursue the profession of school-teaching for a winter, he will not take the interest in his pupils that a man would who is a professional teacher and expects his pupils to remain with him through a regular course. The latter is deeply interested in the progress of every pupil; for upon their progress and acquirements depends his reputation.

We are pleased to notice that the interest in education is increasing rapidly. In many of our settlements schools are maintained that are highly creditable to the people. We hope to see good schools become the rule, not the exception, throughout the Territory. The Deseret University will soon we hope, furnish teachers who will reflect credit upon their *alma mater*. We have visited the University, and we think Professor Park has a happy faculty of imparting knowledge in a simple, interesting style. Grammar is made delightful by his system, and we know that all his pupils of ordinary ability cannot fail to thoroughly master its intricacies, that is if they have any disposition to learn.

It would be encouraging to the Professor and his assistants, and be of benefit to the pupils, if our leading citizens would more frequently visit the institution. Many of the young people are nervous and bashful, and the presence of strangers in the school-room embarrasses them. Upon our visits, we noticed some, who if they had been alone with the teacher, could have readily gone through their exercises, but who were so nervous that they lost their balance, became confused and could not answer questions which, under other circumstances, they could have replied to with ease. Knowledge is excellent; but it loses its principal value if the person possessing it cannot use it. Painful as it might be in some instances at first, it would nevertheless be an advantage to the pupils to have visitors occasionally present while they are being exercised. They would become familiarized with the presence of others than their teachers and school-mates, would gain self-possession and be able to use their knowledge as well in public as in private.

#### SUMMER DISEASES—TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN.

THE warm weather seems to have fairly set in, and as is usual in the summer season, there is considerable talk around of sickness among the children. This suggests the necessity of prompt and energetic measures being taken to check the progress of what may be called the summer diseases of children, such as diarrhoea, scarlatina, measles, etc., some of which are generally felt with such fatal severity here. In San Francisco and other places west, the small pox has raged with fearful effect since this time last year; but late California papers have contained the gratifying intelligence that this dreaded epidemic had about disappeared from the infested districts. Nevada papers have also contained announcements to the same cheering effects. There is one thing in connection with this dreaded scourge, that is worthy of note,—that since its appearance on the Pacific Slope, its progress eastward has been steady and certain. We do not record this to excite alarm, but rather to show the necessity of taking steps to prevent all necessity for alarm, by adopting such sanitary measures as will help to extirpate the elements most favorable

to the development of contagious diseases, such as small pox, measles, scarlet fever, scarlatina, etc., in our midst.

In portions of Cache Valley, and at several other points between there and this city, we have heard, occasionally, of late, of the prevalence of measles; and recently, this disease, we are informed, has made its appearance in this city. The virulence of such diseases may be controlled, almost wholly, by the adoption of proper sanitary precautions. This was exemplified by a report in the telegraphic dispatches a day or two ago, stating that the small pox had almost disappeared from a certain part of New York, where it had broken out with great violence, through the prompt measures of the Board of Health. Now, there are certain steps, of great hygienic importance which, if taken by the citizens generally, as they easily can be, would tend greatly to prevent the development of this class of diseases. Among such measures thorough cleanliness of person and habitation are of the first importance.

It is a somewhat common occurrence here for people to keep vegetables all winter in their cellars, or in outhouses in close proximity to their dwellings; all such places should be thoroughly cleansed of every vestige of decaying matter, so that there may be no offensive effluvia arising to help to develop and feed any kind of contagious disease. Every dwelling house would also be rendered much more healthful by being thoroughly limewashed, or otherwise sweetened by disinfectants. All refuse of decaying animal or vegetable matter anywhere in the vicinity of dwellings should be promptly removed; no pools of standing water, or heaps of manure should be allowed anywhere near human habitations; and if any offensive odors arise from a pigsty, stables or any other outhouse, or buildings no time should be lost in cleaning and disinfecting such buildings.

Prompt attention to these suggestions in every locality to which they are applicable will be sure to result in benefit. Personal cleanliness can not be too strenuously insisted upon. Thorough cleanings of the whole surface of the body should be attended to as often as necessary to keep the skin free from impurities. We do not advocate incessant soaking by bathing; but we do advocate the wise and discreet use of this and every other measure within reach of the people that will ward off the attacks of disease.

A great source of evil among our children here is the use of uncooked, unripe fruit. Now that the unripe currants hang in bunches upon the branches, unless very closely looked after, the little folks will eat them; and there is little doubt that vast numbers of cases of diarrhoea, which have terminated fatally have been brought on by this means. In reference to the kind of food that should be used in hot weather, the "Word of Wisdom is all the guide necessary and is sufficiently explicit. Too little flesh cannot very well be eaten by either young or old during the summer season; if good wheat bread, butter, milk, ripe fruit, vegetables, rice and other farinaceous products and pure water composed the diet of the people generally in summer, but especially and above all of the children, their liability to disease and death would be far less than when allowed to eat meat and other improper articles of diet. The "Word of Wisdom", and human experience in hundreds and thousands of cases have proved this, and if the suggestions contained in this brief article be faithfully carried out, through the whole of this summer, and they easily can be by all, we are satisfied that the mortality among our children will not be so high as it has been during several seasons past.

The word of the Lord is given that the destroyer shall pass by those who observe these principles, and that should be sufficient inducement to all Latter-day Saints to carry them faithfully into effect.

#### IMPORTANT LEGAL RULING AND SENTENCE OF DEATH.

In the case of the people *vs.* Thomas Brannigan, Jack Lavelle and Charles Howard, recently convicted of murder in the first degree, defendant's attorneys filed a motion in arrest of judgment, upon which His Honor Chief Justice Wilson delivered the following ruling on Saturday last:

The defendants in this case having been convicted of the crime of murder in the first degree, by verdict of the jury, by their attorneys filed a motion in arrest of judgment. The first point made in the motion is, "That the verdict of the jury finding the defendants guilty of murder in the first degree is erroneous, for the reason that the