

Correspondence.

The Lower Sevier—Dam—Crops—
Plenty of Land, Water and Timber—
More Settlers Wanted.

DESERET, Millard Co.,
Nov. 25, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

Deseret is situated about twenty-five miles northwest from Fillmore City in Millard County. It is watered by the Sevier River. A dam was constructed by G. Webb in the spring of 1875. It is built mostly of rock and willows, the willows being bound in bundles and sunk with large rocks until it was raised to the surface of the water. Sills being laid, four cribs were built of logs, thirty feet long and sixteen wide, leaving a space between each crib of sixteen feet, which was divided into four parts by upright posts, morticed into a sill, gates being put into each space so that the water can be raised and lowered as wanted. The cribs are built up to high water mark, and filled with large rocks. The first summer the dam leaked, and we did not have sufficient water. We then made a fill in front, which tightened the dam, so that we could raise the water as needed. The river was very low, as it was drained at Richfield, about one hundred miles above here. We had surplus water for thousands of acres of land. We have raised this year about twenty thousand bushels of small grain, and some corn. The soil is very good and easily cultivated. All kinds of vegetables grow well. The climate is mild, good for fruit. Timber is plenty, within thirty miles. Lumber, twenty-five miles, at from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per hundred, according to quality. Good adobe clay is in abundance. Wood in abundance, about twelve miles, and thousands of acres of unimproved land inviting the husbandman. We have a large tract of meadow land unoccupied. A townsit has been surveyed. At present we live on our farms. We want more settlers, and to the industrious farmers that want to make homes, we say come. The land cannot be excelled in Utah, and the water we think is sure.

We have no mail yet, but hope soon to have. We get our mail from Fillmore.

Yours very respectfully,

JOSEPH S. BLACK.

The President—Conference—Amusements—Leeds—Votes, &c.

St. GEORGE,

November 15th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

President B. Young and party arrived here at 3 p.m. on Thursday 9th, in good health. The Temple hands were grouped along the road in front of the Court House in their working dress, to greet the President, as well as quite a number of citizens, who were all pleased to see our Prophet once more in our peaceful city.

Saturday 11th, our conference was called to order at 10 a.m., according to adjournment. After singing and prayer, the meeting was addressed by Elders McAllister, Geo. Q. Cannon, and W. Woodruff. In the afternoon Elder Wolfenstien, a returned missionary, and Elder B. Young, Jun., addressed the congregation.

Sunday morning Elder Geo. Q. Cannon delivered a very interesting discourse on the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon. In the afternoon some home missionaries were called to labor in this stake of Zion, after which President B. Young addressed the people for more than one hour. His discourse was instructive, and, as usual, practical and pointed. The people felt much blessed in listening.

Last Saturday night Bro. W. H. Branch's troupe of juvenile amateurs gave a performance in St. George Hall. The attendance was good, and practice will improve the company.

To-night the "ball" players dance in St. George Hall.

Mr. George Romney, of your city, spent a few days here, visiting friends, and took his departure last night for his home in the north.

The weather is delightful, just cool enough to be comfortable.

R. C. Lund started to Leeds this morning in the interests of the Telegraph Company. The object of his visit is to establish a telegraph office for the benefit of the business

men of that camp. Rumor says things are lively there now.

A small office is being built for President B. Young. It will stand east of his new house.

Only sixteen votes were cast for Baskin in this county. He is about as popular here as he is in Ohio. Over eight hundred votes were cast for George Q. Cannon, who is very popular in this county.

AMRAM.

Select Party—Wood—New Road and Colorado Ferry—Silver Reef.

St. GEORGE, Nov. 27th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

The weather here is delightful. The moonlight evenings are very enjoyable to the young men and "maidens fair," and St. George can boast of quite a number of them. But we entertain strong hopes that many of them ere long will be joined together in the bonds of matrimony, and become the honorable and good of the earth.

Last evening we attended a select party in the St. George Hall, and were pleased to see our much beloved President B. Young present, who seemed to be in excellent health and spirits. Elders Woodruff and Rolla were also present, and the evening passed away very pleasantly, all retiring to their homes at eleven o'clock.

Pres. Snow and Elders B. Young, Jun., and A. F. McDonald have gone south to locate a road to a fine body of timber fifteen or twenty miles distant. When the road is completed it will be a great blessing to our town, as wood is beginning to be a scarce article.

The brethren of this place, Washington, and Santa Clara all met on the Temple Block last Saturday, and went to work with a will to grade the Block, and make it ready to receive the trees, shrubbery, etc., to make it beautiful. While witnessing this large body of men at work, and thinking of the noble object they had in view, a work not only affecting themselves, but their families and their dead, it caused me to contrast them with men of the world, where all is division and confusion, and thank God that my home is among the Latter-day Saints, in the "mountain tops," where God has said he will build his great latter-day work, in spite of all opposition.

A road will be made to and a ferry be located south of here on the Colorado, making the route to the Little Colorado more than a hundred miles shorter than by the old route, and a much better road.

Leeds mining district is at present talked of considerably, but only the unthinking portion of our community are affected by the "Silver Reef" fever. The solid part of the community prefer staying at home and building up home industries.

President Young addressed the Saints last Sunday afternoon.

AMRAM.

Which is the Best?—The following was handed in yesterday—

"SALT LAKE CITY,

December 5, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

"There has been a great deal of talk about a narrow gauge railroad from this city to the coal mines of the Weber, by the most practicable route; I, therefore, give my opinion of the shortest, cheapest and best in many ways. I mean by way of Camp Douglas and Wagner's brewery, thence up Emigration Cañon to a ravine above the road that goes over the Little Mountain. A small tunnel through the same to a ravine on the other side, thence around by Armstrong's field to the side of the mountain and round above Hardy's, keeping above the road, so as not to interfere with the wagon track, till the summit is reached. By avoiding Parley's Cañon about two miles of road will be saved. Besides it would be easier to make and keep a road in Emigration Cañon than in Parley's, the former being, for one reason, free from snow, as the grade could be mostly run where the sun strikes, and the rock is softer than in Parley's. The freight to and from Camp and the amount of sand rock for building that could be supplied to this city from Emigration would also be a consideration.

"Be that as it may, seeing that a railroad to the Weber mines is in contemplation, it would be well for the parties interested to examine this route to see whether or

not it would be the cheapest and best.

"Respectfully,

"T. W."

Correspondence.

Gathering of the Clans—Preparation for Action—Arrival of the Next Speaker of the House—Sam. Randall's China Tea-Pot—A retrospect—The Third Term Ghost Again—An Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting—Why a "War" is impossible—About Our Garrison, Etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

December 1, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

Bright and crisp, with a clear blue sky, and a frosty atmosphere, that makes the breath congeal in tiny crystals on the moustachios (of such as have them), and sends the blood tingling to the ears and to the tip of the nose, opens up December in Washington. How will it close? Congress assembles on Monday, the fourth, and already enough of the "Honorable" are present to make a quorum, both in the House and in the Senate, certain. This is the first time, for many years, that members have been so prompt at putting in an appearance, for, as a rule, the said Honorable preferred to eat their Thanksgiving turkey and Christmas dinner, and drink their New Year's egg-nogg, at their own cosy firesides, north, south, east and west, in preference to coming to Washington before the holidays and spending their money and time solitarily (?) and demurely (?) in their own chambers, or hotel bar-rooms.

But, this time, they are all here, full-fledged from the stump and their constituents, and, nine-tenths of them, with a Cassius-like brow that bodes oratorical thunder and rhetorical lightning on and after the 4th of December next, whenever circumstances shall permit. For there is scarcely a mother's son among all of them, republicans and democrats, who does not in the near future foresee an opportunity to make himself heard and make himself great. "Greatness, thou little thought!" exclaims Jean Paul; but, then he did not live in a free and glorious country, as we do, where they had a free and glorious Congress, as we have! Poor Jean had no desire to be great, and never was; but is there a single ex-member, member, or member-elect, who did, does, or will ever sit down at his yellow-grained oak desk (at seventy-five dollars apiece) in the hall of the House of Representatives, without experiencing a peculiar twinge in his bump of vanity and they all have those bumps, "pretty well developed," as Gail would say—demonstrating that now his opportunity has come, at last, to remove the bushel of obscurity (sic) from the shining light which has so long been hidden beneath it, to the detriment of his country and fellow-citizens; that now there is a chance to astonish and reproach an ungrateful and unappreciative public, and to appear in print (in the Congressional Record) free of expense; and that now, at last, the long sought time had come for the rural oyster to let itself be opened by the sharp and pointed scalpel of "the other side," and shed its pearl—of doubtful water!

Among the latest arrivals is Mr. Randall, of Pennsylvania, who will undoubtedly be elected Speaker of the House. The democratic majority well knows that he, of all others, is the man for the occasion, and, moreover, they realize how much they owe him. Had it not been for him and his "sitting up" those famous three consecutive nights at the close of the forty-third Congress, when General Butler was endeavoring to work his pet scheme, the "force bill," through the House, that measure would, without a doubt, have passed, and there would have been no occasion for a suspense like the present. That bill, had it passed, would have settled all matters in dispute within ten days after the election. I well remember those nights, when Randall and Butler fought the battle single-handed, so to speak, for they, alone, "stuck," while a majority of the other members, on both sides, went home to bed. Butler sat on a chair with his feet on the desk, chewing an unlit cigar and twirling his thumbs, and Sam. Randall was, during intervals of reading the papers and writing

letters, seeking solace from a blue-patterned china tea-pot, with cup and saucer to match. Some say there was whiskey in the tea, but I don't believe it.

Considerable excitement was caused here, but in a quiet way, this morning, by the rumor that a movement was on foot among leading republicans to have Governor Hayes withdraw from the presidential contest, and then have the republican electors cast their votes for General Grant. It would appear, from diligent inquiry made by your correspondent, that Mr. Murtagh, editor of the *National Republican* of this city, is authority for the rumor in question. Mr. Chandler denies all knowledge of it, and says that it is a canard only; but then it is well known among newspaper correspondents here that Mr. Chandler never "commits" himself! This much is certain, that an informal cabinet meeting was held last night, at which were present, besides the other members of the cabinet, General Sherman, Secretary Cameron, and Attorney-General Taft; and it is equally certain, although not reported in the papers this morning, that telegraphic dispatches were sent, at a late hour, from General Sherman to General Ruger, commanding the troops at Columbia, S.C., with regard to the course to be pursued by that officer in the present emergency. Inquiry at the War Department fails to indicate the purport of these instructions, and any further statement regarding their nature must, for the present, be merely conjecture.

Our garrison of nine companies of artillery remains quiet within doors, and the *gamins* of Washington are greatly discouraged at the stinginess of the officers in command, who haven't, so far, expended a single blank cartridge of government powder. What are we coming to? Here are the cannon, and here are the men to fire them, paid by Uncle Sam at the rate of thirty-seven and a half cents a day and rations, yet never a shot has been fired! Those who, two weeks ago, talked war and popped off like an overcharged soda-water bottle have had a chance to let the gas escape, and everything is calmness and serenity now. There won't be any war, for the very good reason that people would have to fire at each other across the breakfast-table, instead of across Mason's and Dixon's line, and Mrs. Sluggmugins, who is a democrat, would have to attack Mrs. Fairplay, who is a republican, and lives across the way, with the dish-cloth and with her husband's boot-jack! Because, you see, it's all mixed so that nobody knows what is cauliflower and what is cabbage—as Mr. Snagsby would say.

And while all this hubbub is going on, old Korea throws dust into our eyes and sends the north wind cutting into us without regard to "race, color, or previous condition of servitude," as the fifteenth amendment says.

LOUIS.

The Coal Question.

COALVILLE, Utah, Dec. 6, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

The coal question, which has agitated the minds of the people so much of late, has become so general that it seems to be approaching a crisis. The causes of complaint have been so thoroughly ventilated that it would seem unnecessary to refer again to that part of the question; but people who are not directly and immediately affected upon this question cannot readily understand why we complain. With Summit County it is not merely the difference of one, two, or three dollars more in the price of a ton of coal, but it is to a very great extent a question of how our bread and dinner shall come, and a nearly total loss to us of the hundreds of thousands of dollars we have expended in opening up the mines. It affects our homes, that have cost us so many years of hard labor to make. In fact it is everything, both socially and politically, with us.

The Union Pacific Company will not be satisfied with the one hundred thousand dollars annually that our mines would yield them in the way of freight charges over their road on our coal shipped to market. The Union Pacific Co., by their actions, say the narrow gauge road to Echo, as also the coal mines in this neighborhood, are owned by private parties, who make their profit on mining the coal; they employ white men in-

stead of Mongolian labor; we must not only subvert that system and supply Chinamen, thereby making a greater profit from that class of labor, but we must have the profits on carrying the coal, the profits on mining the coal, and further we must have the profits on selling the coal in the markets, that are now shared by the coal dealers, and so long as there are other parties in the field there will be competition, and so long will prices be kept down.

It is evidently the intention of this powerful company to muzzle or "freeze out" all the coal mines in this Territory not owned by themselves. When the coal fields were discovered south of your city, and it was known that they bid fair to rival the railroad company's mines east, those keen Wall Street speculators, headed by Jay Gould, bought up a majority of the stock of the Utah Southern R. R., which virtually placed the Pleasant Valley, Sanpete and other coal fields under lock and key, with Jay Gould & Co. as jailors. Having done this, they felt secure and thought that they had "bottled up" Utah and the whole of this western country so far as regards that important staple, coal.

But, fortunately for Utah at least, there is yet a possible chance of escape offered, by building a railroad direct from the Weber mines to Salt Lake City. By so doing the coal question will be settled, and the opportunities of a "corner" in coal, manipulated by unscrupulous speculators, will scarcely be possible.

According to careful estimates made, the proposed road can be built and equipped for \$600,000, and that amount would be saved to the people in three or four years by the reduced price of coal. In addition to the coal trade, there will be an extensive business in lumber, railroad ties, wood and charcoal, as there are vast forests of timber on the head waters of the Weber River, which can be utilized by floating down the river to Wanship, where saw-mills and charcoal ovens could be built. The traffic in those articles alone would be immense. Some of the finest rock quarries in Utah are within convenient distance from the proposed route. Park City will be an important point, the freight on supplies, coal, etc., at present rate of consumption, would amount to \$20,000 annually, with the probability of an increase of four times that amount. The road, as projected, will pass within twelve miles of Heber City, Provo Valley, and would bring the products of Wasatch County, particularly lumber and marble, to your city. There are also large quantities of shale lying in Parley's Cañon, which could be used profitably in the improvement of the roads and streets, etc., of Salt Lake City. During the summer months no inconsiderable amount of passenger traffic would pass over the road to Parley's Park, one of the most lovely summer retreats that the Wasatch Mountains afford.

The monetary success of a road direct from this place to Salt Lake City, in the mind of your correspondent, is beyond doubt. The necessity and convenience of such a road is unquestionable.

By a united effort of the people in the various counties interested, the road could be put in operation by the 1st day of October, 1877.

I think that the people of Summit County, outside of Park City, would work \$100,000, one half to be taken in stock in the road and the other half to be paid for. CITIZEN.

The Arizona Settlements.

The following, relating to the settlements made on the Little Colorado, by the brethren called to settle there, is from the pen of Governor Safford, of Arizona, from notes made by him on a trip from Camp Goodwin to that point, and is a portion of a communication published in the *Arizona Citizen*—

Thirty miles over a rolling, grassy plain, Horsehead Crossing on the Little Colorado is reached. At this point a Mexican rancho and has been located here for about five years. Nine miles below is found the first settlement of the Mormon colony. We remained all night at the first settlement, called Obed. We were kindly received by Mr. George Lake, the head man or elder of the settlement. At first he was a little doubtful that the Governor of the Territory would drop down upon them in an ordinary miner's garb, working his own way through so rough and generally uninhabited a country, but becoming satisfied on that point, such as they had in the way of comforts they gave freely, as this people do to all strangers who come among