

Correspondence.

EPHRAIM, Mar. 7, 1867.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

DEAR BROTHER:—Having just returned to this place from my late trip to the Sevier settlements and from Fillmore, I take this early opportunity of informing you concerning my late mission. I left this place two weeks ago tomorrow and spoke twice to the people at Manti, and urged upon them the importance of a general reformation, not only in their daily lives, but also urged upon them the importance of completing their fort and forthwith putting themselves in an attitude of successful defence. My words appeared to find listening ears and willing hearts. On Saturday following I proceeded to Gunnison, where I arrived not in time to hold meeting that evening; but on the Sunday following spake to them twice with good liberty and received good attention, exhorting them to repair their fort and to put themselves in as good a state of defence as they could in the least possible time.

Monday morning following I left Gunnison with Bishop Kearnes, accompanied also by an escort of twelve men from the Sevier settlements. We arrived at Glennwood about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, spake to the people of that place in the evening and likewise in the morning. All the presiding officers in that region were present and continued with me during my labors in those settlements. Read to them the President's letter and left with them a copy of the same, likewise left a copy of it with each one of the three settlements. Glennwood will be removed from their present location on to the open plain, much nearer the river. Much anxiety was manifest and good attention given.

Tuesday noon left for Alma, where we found the people towards evening busily engaged in prosecuting their labors upon their new rock fort, which is being rapidly completed; spake to them in the evening, also on Wednesday morning, and in the afternoon of the day proceeded to Richfield and spake to the people at length; and in the evening we danced a little and talked considerable, and dismissed the assembly at 12 o'clock.

In speaking to the people of these settlements I never had better liberty in my life, nor did I ever receive better attention. The Saints appeared to feel well, and were satisfied to remain and do the best they could.

Thursday morning we left Richfield with an escort of six men to cross over the mountains to Round Valley. The roads up and down the Sevier were mostly dry and dusty and smooth as in summer, but in passing over the summit we found mud and mire, snow and water, in liberal quantities. We arrived at Scipio at about 9 o'clock in the evening, distance 45 miles from Richfield; held a meeting in the latter place on Friday morning and proceeded on to Cedar Springs, and held meeting there in the evening. At this place one of my horses took sick and we had to leave him; procured another and went on to Fillmore, when we spoke to the people on Sunday morning and evening, and the people being very anxious for us to remain longer we held another meeting on Monday morning. In that place we enjoyed the company of Bishop Callister and bro. Amasa Lyman; the health of the latter was somewhat improved, yet he was still feeble.

After dinner we left on our return for Cedar Springs, accompanied by Bishop Callister, wife and son. When we arrived at the Springs the sick horse was dead. Bishop Callister being of the whole-souled order, said I should not return without going in as good condition as when I came into his diocese and laid the matter before the Saints who, in about five minutes raised 70 dollars, at our meeting in that place.

Tuesday we proceeded to Round Valley with the borrowed horse, and held meeting in the afternoon and evening. Bishop Callister spoke in the afternoon with much force and eloquence, followed by Bishop Kearnes whose remarks were excellent. I spoke in the evening, and at the close of my address Bishop Callister named to the people my misfortune, whereupon they raised some sixty dollars more towards the purchase of a horse. There were but two horses in the place that would match mine. These belonged to br. James Ivie, and they were a matched

span. He said he purchased them a few days before and paid five hundred dollars for them, but I should have my choice of them for two hundred dollars. We paid to br. Ivie what means we had raised, and Bishop Callister said he would make out the balance on his return to Fillmore; so I took the horse and left Round Valley, by way of Sevier bridge, for Sanpete, and arrived in Gunnison a little before sundown, where we held a most excellent meeting.

In all my travels and preaching for the last thirty-five years, I never saw the Saints so eager to hear preaching as on this my last mission, and never did I have better liberty in speaking to them. They turned out in mass—hardly a man or woman left at home, and in no settlement was greater anxiety manifested than in Round Valley. In this I was most happily disappointed.

Every settlement seemed to have a most excellent choir, and they sang as though they meant it, indicating great improvement in the science of music.

I feel satisfied with my trip, and I thank the Lord and our good brethren of Millard County that I returned with a better team than when I started.

I hear many rumors about Indian depredation to be committed upon us this spring,—that when the snow is gone the Indians are all going to get mad, east, west and south; though it is said Tabby is all right but a portion of his young men are bent on mischief in Sanpete and its neighborhood. It looks very much to me that Tabby will stay at home under the profession of friendship but secretly instigate his young men to go forth and plunder and shed blood; but in this, I hope I am mistaken. I should think that if the Superintendent of Indian Affairs would visit the reservation in winter he might change their design, or with a moderate force of United States troops, require those bad Indians to be given up or make them pay the penalty of their evil intentions. I saw it intimated in some of the late dispatches that it was recommended to the Government that they should convince us that they were our friends and that we were a part of the United States. If the Government should determine in favor of this policy, there is a small door open in Uintah for them to begin to prove this fact.

Last year we kept from three to five hundred men constantly on duty to operate against the Indians at our own expense and charges; this was a heavy tax upon our settlements, yet we have borne it and murmured not, besides the year before we had some two hundred on similar duty most of the season. In all, we have killed about one hundred of them and they about sixty of us; and now if the United States government wish to prove to us that they are our friends, they have a most favorable opportunity of doing so. We intend to do our best to defend ourselves and protect our property, leaving the issue with an overruling Providence.

I remain very respectfully,

Your Brother in the Gospel,

ORSON HYDE.

NEPHI, JUAB Co., March 1.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

Roads good or bad, mud or no mud, the southern mail Company brings our mails in schedule time, and the NEWS, ever welcome, comes regularly to hand; every item, sermons, editorials, communications, clippings from other journals, friendly or otherwise, are all read with interest, for in times like these, when outsiders talk of swallowing our Utah—our "Mountain Home"—to receive the NEWS and *Telegraph* regularly is a treat.

Here, in Juab, we are all getting along in about the usual way—enjoying ourselves the best we can, leaving our destiny in the hands of God; from former experience, we have proved that He is our Friend and that we are His people, and that, if we obey His laws and the instructions given by His servants, all will be well.

During the past winter influenza, affections of the lungs and bad colds have prevailed to some extent; delicate and aged people have suffered much, and some few deaths have occurred. Last week we were called to part with our beloved and much respected sister Thurza, wife of Edwin Harley; over four hundred persons attended her funeral. Sister Cazier, wife of our respected Patriarch, and several other aged sisters are very sick, and little hopes are entertained of their recovery.

Elders Hyde, Lyman and E. Snow,

on their way home from the Legislative Assembly, held meetings here, giving the Saints much valuable and timely instruction.

Elder Snow, on the 11th of Feb., accompanied by Bishop C. H. Bryan, Judge Jacob G. Bigler, Presidents of Seventies, S. Pitchforth, J. Pyper and T. S. Hoyt and other Elders visited the Saints at Chicken Creek; two good meetings were held, and a Branch of the Church organized there; Elder Abraham Palmer was appointed Presiding Teacher, and Elders J. Wilson and W. Morgan his assistants. Elder Snow gave the Saints of this Branch much choice and fatherly teaching which, if observed, will enable them to have good meetings, and peace and union in their families and settlement. He instructed the Bishop and President of Seventies at Nephi to visit them and send elders often to hold meetings with the Saints at Chicken Creek, also with those who reside at Mona (Willow Creek).

The 49th and 71st Quorums of Seventies meet together once a week, and have good meetings.

Our Social Hall has been often occupied during the winter with balls, social parties, dramatic representations, and concerts. The Juab Dramatic Association have had two excellent social parties, performing the "Golden Farmer" and "Deaf as a Post," which, with dancing made a fine evening's entertainment. During the coming week Bernard Snow will appear in the characters of Rolla and the Stranger. Professor Tullidge's concert went off well, and was a treat to all who love good singing. More anon.

Respectfully,
SAMUEL PITCHFORTH.

CEDAR CITY, IRON COUNTY, Feb. 27.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

We have enjoyed a very pleasant and mild winter. Very little snow until within the past two weeks, in which we have had three severe storms with high winds; the mountains now look promising for a good supply of water when irrigation time comes.

We have completed an excellent and substantial new bridge over Coal Creek this winter, in place of the one washed away by the big flood in 1865. Considerable public work has been done during the winter, and several new brick houses erected.

I have lately returned from a preaching mission through all the southern settlements, in company with Bishop Gardner and several other brethren. We found the Saints generally happy, prosperous and well contented with their mission to "Dixie," so much so that I heard several say that they would be sorry if they were asked to move back north. The Lord is truly blessing His Saints and the earth for their sakes and causing it, in that desert country, through their faithful labors and His blessing, to be fruitful and blossom as the rose.

We have been highly entertained during the winter by a series of concerts given by the Cedar Choir, under the leadership and management of bro. John M. Macfarlane.

With kind regards to yourself and the brethren in the Office, I remain
Your Brother in the Covenant of Peace,
HENRY LUNT.

VINE COTTAGE, Tooele City,
March 13.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

That Utah is capable of producing the finest of fruits usually grown in temperate climates, in the greatest profusion and of unsurpassed quality, is no longer disputed. This being the fact, it follows that the raising of fruit, drying and otherwise preparing it for markets, more or less distant, will form one of the leading branches of our foreign and domestic trade. To create and sustain a commercial value for our own dried fruits we must of necessity provide means for producing an article of uniform excellence in quality.

The Divine promise of the "former and the latter rains" has been and doubtless will be fulfilled to the people of this Territory; the "latter rains," however beneficial they may be in all other cases, are peculiarly inconvenient to the orchardist while drying his fruit; one thorough wetting, when fruit is partially dried, will lessen its value one half; after the second or third wetting it is only fit for the pigs or to be distilled into brandy. Our traders should hereafter make distinctions in the price paid

for dried fruit, based upon quality, and not gauge their scale of prices by the value of injured specimens.

With the lessons of 1864 and 1865 before me, I set myself to devising a plan for drying my fruit so that I could, on very short notice, protect it from injury or wet weather while in the drying process, and, as I was completely successful, I write this for the information of all who may wish to do likewise.

In the spring of 1866 I purchased 8,000 feet of square edged red pine lumber, one inch thick, thoroughly seasoned it, and then worked it up into forms twelve feet long by four feet wide, fastened together by three battens one inch by six inches, letting the battens project two inches beyond each side; I then nailed a strip of inch lumber, three inches wide, along each side, and nailed a strip, two inches wide, across each end, thus forming a rave two inches high around each form. To every eight of these forms I made a tight cap or cover thirteen feet long by five feet wide. I then fitted up a permanent scaffolding, facing the sun at a proper angle to secure the greatest amount of heat. My longest range of scaffolding is 220 feet. At the west end I placed stout timbers near the ground, upon which to pile up eight forms one upon the other, the battens forming rests for each and leaving open spaces for ventilation, being careful to give a sufficient incline to let the water run off freely. I then reared a scaffolding long enough for eight forms, then another piling place, and so on. Upon the approach of a shower I piled up my forms, put on the caps and took quiet satisfaction in watching the falling rain. I have uncovered and spread out my forms, after a rain of eighteen hours duration, and found the fruit dry and in good condition.

To show how complete is this mode of protection, I will state that with the assistance of two boys and one man I have covered up and secured four hundred bushels of fruit in forty minutes. Each of those forms will hold four bushels of peaches, or two and a half bushels of currants.

With my present experience I would recommend others not to make their forms so large, nor to make them of red pine, as weight is an important consideration, especially when they have to be piled up and spread out from once to twice each day for a week together, as was the case last season.

Cash is scarce, produce is cheap, Uncle Samuel's internal revenue collector is after one, a part of what every man eats, and nearly all that he wears just now, smells strongly of war-prices and reckless expenditure; the weather is made up of cold and a little warm and a little more cold; snow, rain, and then a little more snow; the bottoms of the roads are from two to six feet under the surface; the whole country is afloat, or very mellow; the irrepressible grasshopper is in prospect, and times are dull generally; one needs two dollars for everyone in his possession, and I have been casting about to find how I can make some money, to pay demands with and purchase comforting necessities, and I have concluded that, if I can induce the public to buy me at my own estimation of my value and sell me back again at the value placed upon me by my friends and neighbours—a few times—I could make a raise. Who wants to buy and sell on those terms? I beg of the great public not to all come at once, but to address

ELI B. KELSEY.

CURIOUS STATISTICS.—Some statistical genius declared that "more money is expended in the United States for segars than for all the common schools in the country."

A wag, who is undoubtedly a lover of the weed, seeing the statement going through the papers, gets off the following:

"It has been calculated that the cost of washing linen that might just as well be worn two days longer, amounts to enough, in this country, to more than defray the expenses of the American Board of Foreign Missions.

"The expense of buttons on the backs of our coats, where they are of no earthly use, is equal to the support of all our orphan asylums.

"It is estimated that the value of old boots thrown aside, which might have been worn at least a day longer, is more than enough to buy a flannel gown for every baby in the land.—Also, that the cost of the extra inch on the fall shirt collars of our young men, is equal to the sum necessary to put a Bible in the hands of every Patagonian giant."