

IN MEXICO.

LIBERAL TERMS TO COLONISTS—
FAVORABLE PROSPECTS—
JUAREZ, ETC.

1a CALLE DE SOTO, No. 2,
City of Mexico, May 4, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

The last Mexican colonization law is a very liberal one and well calculated to give a strong impulse to colonization in this country. It provides, among other things, that all colonists shall be exempt for a period of ten years from all military service, import duties, all taxes except municipal, and that they may be transported—

FREE OF CHARGE

over any subsidized railroad or steamer on their way to the colony. Under certain conditions the government will also advance them means to build their homes and pay each adult from the public treasury twenty-five cents a day, and children half that amount, until they are thoroughly established and can sustain themselves. Besides this, liberal premiums are offered for the planting of trees, and each colonist must receive a certain portion of land for which a nominal price must be paid within ten years.

With a view of taking advantage of the clause relating to the free transportation of colonists, Apostle Erastus Snow and Moses Thatcher instructed me some time ago to

PREPARE A LIST

of all the worthy native Saints that wished to gather to the colony. Accordingly I visited nearly every branch of the Church in the mission and succeeded in preparing a list of about sixty persons.

This list was presented to the proper department and in due time received executive approval, and orders were issued for their free transportation over the Moroles R. R. to this city, and the Mexican Central to San Jose station, Chihuahua. All being thus arranged satisfactorily, I left this city on the 23d ult., for the purpose of gathering up those who do not live in or near the city. I was absent ten days, visited six branches, held six meetings, baptized nine, rebaptized one, and gathered together between thirty and forty persons who desired to go to the colony, and conducted them to this city, arriving at 4 p.m. day before yesterday. Elder W. W. Cluff, Jr., met us at the depot with a vehicle to transfer the baggage to the Mexican central station, where the company were joined by

SEVERAL FAMILIES

from this city and vicinity, and all left for Chihuahua on the evening train, in charge of Apostle Erastus Snow, and Elder Heleman Pratt, who had come down from the colony about four weeks ago to attend our conference, transact important business here, and conduct the company back with them. The journey on board the train will last three nights and two days, and the company will arrive at San Jose to-morrow morning where they will be met by brethren from the colony with abundant teams and supplies to carry them to their destination, about 150 miles a little northwest of San Jose which they will probably traverse in four days after leaving the train.

The most of those forming this, the first company of Saints that has ever been gathered from

THIS REPUBLIC

are from the large sugar farms of the Tierra Caliente, where they have been accustomed to work hard for the exceedingly small wages of from 18 to 21 cents a day on which to sustain their families. They seem to be humble, honest and industrious, and are greatly pleased with the opportunity of gathering where their condition will be improved both temporally and spiritually. The officials of the government also expressed much pleasure in extending their assistance to establish a company of Mexican citizens in the colony, for nearly all the colonists in the republic are foreigners.

The uniform courtesy and good will manifested by

PRESIDENT DIAZ,

his cabinet officers, and other authorities toward the brethren who have had negotiations with them in the interests of the colony, are indeed gratifying, and the treatment accorded our people who have come to this Republic, forms a striking contrast to that received in their own country. Here, instead of bonds and imprisonment, we have freedom and protection; instead of confiscation and robbery, this government offers substantial aid and exemptions from burdens placed upon her citizens; instead of impeding the gathering of Israel, public means pays their transportation; instead of

PUBLISHING LIES

and base misrepresentations against us, the press, with few exceptions, praises our thrift, industry and superior methods; instead of desiring and predicting our destruction, the colony is encouraged with flattering assurances of rapid growth and future success; instead of disfranchisement and political bondage, we are made Mexican citizens and accorded all the rights on the acquisition of real estate here, or on the birth of a child within the Republic, unless we declare our desire to retain our own nationality.

I enclose an extract from a recent issue of the *Riqueza Nacional*, an influ-

ential paper published in this capital, which will give an idea of the

PRESENT CONDITION

of the colony, though I will say that the machinery mentioned as about to arrive, is now on the ground, and much more that was purchased at the same time.

Quite a large tract of land has been bought, with a view of establishing a number of towns on it. Two towns, "Juarez" and "Porfirio Diaz," have already been commenced and are growing rapidly and appear to have a bright future.

Reducing to actual practice the doctrine of the gathering, has attracted considerable attention, and I think will result in the opening up of new fields of labor in the mission, and many will doubtless be led by it to investigate our principles. The work of the Lord is steadily gaining ground in this land and I believe the time is not far distant when a good harvest will be reaped. Yours respectfully,

HORACE CUMMINGS.

[Following is the extract referred to from *La Riqueza Nacional*, April 1st.]

"JUAREZ" COLONY.

"The hearth of this colony may be said to have been lighted by savage fires. When the settlers arrived at the borders of the Piedras Verde River, in order to take possession of their lands, they found the embers of the Indian camp-fires still burning. This colony was located in the Galena district, State of Chihuahua, by Messrs. Gomez del Campo & Co., by virtue of a contract entered into for the purpose with the Department of Public Works. It has shown sufficient progress since its establishment in December, 1885. Its lands are rich and are easily and abundantly irrigated. The majority of

THE SETTLERS

are foreigners, honest, hard working, industrious and imbued with great respect for our institutions and our laws and admirers of our national habits and customs. They seem to have great affection for our people and the latter have received them well. They cultivate wheat, fruit trees, and especially the vine, as the cultivation of the latter is well adapted to the district wherein the colony is situated. The location is at the foot of a mountain abounding in pasturage and woods. They have already built some stone houses and others are in course of construction. Soon a water reservoir and a wagon road from the village to the woods in the mountains will be finished, and a saw mill is to be erected in the forest.

THE COLONY

is soon to have a flour mill. In the month of May, 1886, the settlers began the construction of their church and a primary school. A stage line runs from the Gallego station on the Mexican Central Railroad to the Corralito Farm, Casas Grandes, El Sabinal and the Juarez, Ascension and Porfirio colonies. The work of surveying the last mentioned colony, making plans therefor, division of lots for the settlers and construction of their provisional homes is very far advanced, and probably the "Porfirio Diaz" colony may be inaugurated on the second of April, in commemoration of that

MEMORABLE DATE.

All the conditions and circumstances attending the organization of this colony are similar to those existing in the case of the Juarez Colony. Therefore it is to be hoped that it will advance as rapidly as the last mentioned, and that soon they will both constitute important towns of the State of Chihuahua.

A MODEL DEPUTY.

HOLDEN, May 9th, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

A little over a week since a thing, it is called a deputy marshal, came to Holden to make an arrest and in justice to the community in general and Sister Johnson, of Holden, in particular, it would be well to make public the following explanation. Albert Ether, a U. S. deputy, came to Sister Johnson's on the evening of the 28th ult. and sought accommodation for himself and his horse for the night. He mentioned as his acquaintances in Holden the Kenney boys, with whom he became a little familiar while they were employed in Tintic. He inquired about them and others. On the morning of the 29th he went to the home of Mr. Stringham to make an arrest of some one he seemed to think was staying there. Seemingly he did not find the party whom he wanted, as he said to a young lady relative of Bro. Stringham, who was visiting his family, "I think you are the person I want," to which he received the cool reply, "I hope you will continue to think so." Apparently he had no confidence in his "thinking," as he made no arrests. On returning to Sister Johnson's he remarked, "I have made a trip down here to no purpose." However, in the meantime he paid a visit to a bitter anti-Mormon by the name of James Hiki, of whom it is said he should be in the "Pen" for libel were he to get his deserts, and after leaving Hiki, he went and arrested Sister Louise Ashby Badger. Now, the next thing for them to do was to screen the informer from the contempt that naturally arises in the minds of honorable people for that class, so to this end an apostate by the name of Nichols Paul began to cir-

culate that it was Sister Johnson who gave the names of all who were liable under the Edmunds law to the deputy. The apostate's statement obtained to a considerable degree, when it was learned that Ether had with him what purported to be a document dated at Springville, Utah County, and the name of Bishop Packard recommending Ether as a member of the Church in good standing. Ether showed the "recommend" to Mr. Jos. S. Giles, of Holden, and to Judge Thos. C. Callister, of Fillmore, saying, "When I show this to any good Mormon I can get all the information I desire." However, this "recommend" was not shown nor spoken of to Sister Johnson, to which fact a lady who resides with her and who heard all that was said by the deputies bears testimony. But the "recommend," according to Brothers Callister and Giles, was made on one of the forms regularly used by the Bishops; as to the genuineness of Bishop Packard's endorsement, these brethren could not state, being unacquainted with his autograph. The name on the recommend was not Ether but that of Stringham. Ether is light complexioned, without beard or moustache, appears to be about twenty-one years of age, and in my opinion is a sneak or he would never seek to injure a venerable lady of sixty-eight years by circulating lies to save the informers.

A. M. BUCHANAN.

A THRILLING ADVENTURE

AND NARROW ESCAPE OF A BOY.

LAYTON, Davis County,

May 11th, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

Of late several horses have been missed by the farmers in this vicinity, sometimes in a most unaccountable manner, and a few days ago Mr. R. Pilling lost seven head of beef cattle, in each case the animals going so suddenly and unexpectedly as to cause talk of theft.

Yesterday an incident occurred which may help to solve the mystery or at least put people on their guard. A boy about 15 years old named Gregson, after having accompanied his brother to a sheep herd through Weber Cañon, was returning home leading the horse his brother had ridden. About six o'clock in the afternoon he was met near the Devil's Gate by four men and a boy all wearing masks. The men drew their revolvers and commanded the boy to halt (which command was quite unnecessary for the road was barely wide enough for a wagon at that point) and after considerable swearing and "bravado" talk they took the saddle from the horse Gregson was leading and transferred it to one of their own.

They then said that they were going to take the two horses and throw the boy into the river, and proceeded to carry the threat into execution. One of the men was about to take the boy's reins from him when his animal reared striking the robber's horse fairly on the nose, nearly driving man and horse into the river roaring below. The horse the boy was leading, probably frightened by the hideous masks of the men, commenced plunging and kicking and in this way forced a road through the robbers, and the maddened animals rushed through the opening despite the utmost exertions of the defeated cowards and went with great speed down the cañon. The ruffians did not attempt to follow, owing perhaps to the fact that they feared a party of men who were at work on the road about a quarter of a mile away.

Considerable anxiety is felt by parties here, as one of the horses described by Greyson corresponds with one ridden to the cañon by one of Mr. King's boys, and there is some fear that he met the late Greyson so narrowly escaped.

The saddle stolen is a peculiar one, almost covered with brass nails and having no horn.

The men were dressed like the typical cowboy, having leather chaps, or breeches, and wide hats.

The people should keep on the lookout for these men as, from appearances, there is an organized band of skillful thieves in our midst.

BARTON & Co.

RAILROAD PROJECTIONS.

Editor Deseret News:

The complaisance with which the people of Salt Lake receive tidings that railroads are pushing in this direction is commendable. Experience has taught that they are not unmixed blessings. In almost any other place than here the people, when one considers the efforts making to work up a "boom," would be nearly beside themselves at the prospect of another railroad through Salt Lake or to it. There is reason to believe that a third rail will be laid over the D. & R. G.—in fact, the fast growing competition will force such a step to be taken unless the little road is to be crushed between the contending standard gauges. That the Colorado Midland is coming soon has become a settled conviction. Yet there are to be seen no signs of unusual stir over the event. Railroads which open up new country and offer fresh avenues for exportation are always desirable; but it is a question if the benefit to Utah from these roads will be in proportion to what she might expect under reasonably favorable circumstances. Competition, which is said to be the life of trade, but which a

great philosopher declares to be its death, is, by the system of pooling and agreements, practically a dead thing among railroads.

What Utah has reason to complain of is not the rates given into her borders, but the rates out of her territory. If the coming of the Midland, or any other road will afford Utah a permanent outlet everywhere at figures equal to those by which merchants in other sections are allowed to enter her domain, it will do a good work for the people of this section, and they will have cause to be grateful. There is the trouble in a nutshell.

The incoming of any railroad here will bring money, and for a time create a temporary business increase. But such are not always healthy. It will probably create one of those periods of unusual demand which now beguile the vain and unwary under the title of "boom." It will also create a permanent business growth and that far will be desirable. If there were good reason to believe that the policy of the Midland will be to encourage exportation from Utah, it may be assured of a welcome and an encouragement that no road can get here without such a policy. Why should not merchants and capitalists here ask for Utah generally such consideration as will enable her to reach out and begin the exportation of these articles of which she can produce more than is necessary for consumption? A guarantee that the people will aid that road which will befriend them, would perhaps have a good effect and would receive very careful consideration. The coming of the Midland will be a benefit. And we believe if permanent interests were held in view by merchants and capitalists and a proposal made to the projected road to assist in a good work that will build up Utah rather than keep her in the background, that road would be apt to afford some relief.

Yours, SCRANTON.

BEAR LAKE STAKE CONFERENCE.

Editor Deseret News:

Our Conference convened May 7th and 8th, and, like its predecessors, was most enjoyable. It was what one of the speakers termed a valley-lan or home-made Conference, yet not lacking in that one essential, viz.: the Holy Ghost, which was most bountifully bestowed. The Bishops' report was full and complete and very interesting, showing an increasing desire on the part of the Saints to keep the commandments of God. The counsel to plant shade trees and otherwise beautify homes, has been well received and acted upon.

The meetings as usual were crowded to overflowing. Elders Jno. A. Sutton, Hyrum Humphreys and Ira Nebeker, who have been called to labor in the missionary field, expressed their thankfulness for the honor conferred upon them in being called as ambassadors for Christ, and trusting that in the discharge of their duty they will enjoy the faith and prayers of the Saints and the assistance of our Heavenly Father.

Elder Andrew Jacobson, returned missionary from Detroit prison, expressed his good feelings and joy at his arrival among the brethren at home, counting his sufferings as a trifle compared with the crown which awaits the faithful.

The General Authorities of the Church, also those of this Stake, were presented and unanimously sustained.

President Wm. Badger, Counselor J. G. Osmond and Acting Counselor J. U. Stucki, gave much good counsel and instruction. The beautiful singing added much to the enjoyment of our meetings. Our Stake choir, like other institutions of the Church, is not behind the times for they are magnifying their calling in dispensing the gifts which God has blessed them with. Arrangements have been made for continuing the work on our Tabernacle this season, and it is expected that the outside work will be finished before winter.

THOMAS MINSON,
Stake Clerk.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Interesting Report of Missionary Labors There—The Catawba Indians—The Preeceptor a Benefit.

EZELL, Spartanburg County,

S. C., May 2d, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

I was appointed as President of the South Carolina Conference on the 20th of February last, and am doing all in my power to forward the work of God in this land, in connection with the rest of my brethren. There are now eight Elders laboring in this state or Conference and we are expecting another to arrive soon. Two in Oconee County, two in Union County, North Carolina, and four in Spartanburg County, covering an area of country of 200 miles east and west.

Interest in the different sections, as is usual at this season of year, is decreasing, although in Oconee County it is still comparatively good, and we are in hopes of reaping the reward of our labors during the past winter, in which I assisted, by a bountiful harvest, as there seems to be some there who are honest in heart. The Elders in that county have baptized three lately and think that will break the ice for a number more.

Persecution is not prevalent at present, but Satan's emissaries are still on

hand to oppose the promulgation of the Gospel, and we hear mutterings now and again in regard to what they will have to do to stop our making converts to the truth.

There are 140 members in the conference and most of them in good standing. We are using every endeavor to get them to gather to Zion as soon as possible, realizing that the hour of God's judgments is near at hand. The Saints from this State generally emigrate to Colorado. There is another company going in June, but there are only three or four going from here that we know of.

A number of our Saints in South Carolina are Lamanites, known as the "Catawba Indians." Some of them are the best we have got, being full of faith and integrity, and have taken hold with a zeal not commonly manifest with those who receive the truth nowadays.

The Catawbias are a small colony, situated on a reservation of thirty miles square, on the Catawba river, and were first visited by our Elders in 1883. They married and mixed with the white people, and the whites kept intruding upon them and cheating them out of their land, until now these few who remain (about 100) have only a quarter section of land left. The majority of them have embraced the Gospel, but it is hard, under the influence of so-called civilization, to get all of them to refrain from the evil habits which had such a hold upon them when the Gospel found them. When the Elders first went in among them, the neighboring whites had, in "The Nation," as they call it, a regular place of resort for lewd purposes. As soon as the principles of the Gospel were taught them, and they were made to sense their condition they ceased their evil practices and accepted the truth. This, as a natural consequence, enraged some of the pious Christians, because they could not gratify their evil desires, and the spirit of mobbing was soon rife, and as the "Mormons" were an unpopular sect, it was not difficult to get a crowd to drive them out. This state of affairs arising placed the Elders in jeopardy while prosecuting their labors and resulted in May, 1884, in one of the Elders being shot at and the other given 40 lashes. Ever since that time there has been a standing threat toward the Elders; "If they are ever caught in there they will be similarly dealt with," and whenever we do visit them we have to slip about and be watchful.

We have a Sunday school organized in their midst, and one of the Lamanite brethren to superintend it. We write to them quite often and do all we can in that direction to encourage them. We got a number of them to move away from their lands, up in this section, where we can be protected and visit them and teach them their duties. We learned lately that some of them who are yet in the nation are being overcome by the wicked ones around them, since we are, (while they remain there) deprived of teaching them.

All was peace throughout the conference at last accounts and Elders and Saints generally are enjoying a degree of good health. The weather is fine. Corn and wheat crops are beginning to adorn the cleared portions of land, which look like a sandy waste in winter time.

People are busy planting cotton and it will soon be flourishing when the sun shines hot. The woods are getting in full bloom, birds making the air ring with shrill notes in the day and whip-poor-will responds at night.

I have a good deal of walking to do in visiting around and looking after the welfare of those under my watchcare; and sometimes it is tiresome, especially in hot weather. Still I rejoice, and as God has, so far, given me strength perform my duties according to His promises, by observing His laws. I will not complain.

The Preeceptor has been a great benefit to the Elders in this section in getting them to present the principles of the Gospel in order and simplicity. There is one prominent feature adopted by the Elders in their teachings that is contained in it and that is, "to avoid finishing and beginning several times in a discourse." This point always occurs to my mind when I am speaking and the effect of observing it is manifest. Also the plan of having an opposite to speak to is observed. The Preeceptor has and is doing, in my judgment, a great deal of good at home and abroad.

I remain your brother in the Gospel,

W. N. ANDERSON.

THE TEST OATH.

A Massachusetts Paper on the "Political Authorities" Oath.

A rather stupid wrangle is complicating matters in Utah. The Utah Commission, of which Judge A. B. Carlton is chairman, proceeded to draw up a form of oath according to the provisions of the Tucker-Edmunds anti-polygamy bill, and distributed the blanks to all the registrars and election judges. This oath set forth that the applicant for the right of suffrage is not a polygamist, has not been convicted of polygamy, and will faithfully support the constitution of the United States. The extreme non-Mormons claim that the oath is not strong enough, and want this among other amendments added:

That I will not hereafter, at any time, within any of the territories of the United States, in obedience to any alleged revelation, counsel, advice, or command from any source whatsoever, or under any circumstances, enter into