

## Correspondence.

The following letter, handed to us for publication by President George A. Smith, will be perused with interest; it is from Sister M. E. Randall, now on a visit to her friends in the State of Virginia. Her missionary experience seems to be of a more felicitous character than that of many of the brethren in the East:

NEW HOPE, AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA,

January 17th, 1870.  
 Pres. George A. Smith:—Dear Bro.—A few weeks since I wrote to you to send me several copies of the "Voice of Warning." There is, at the present time, much interest in "Mormonism" manifested by the people here. I have but few books, and they are loaned out all the time; the people can hardly wait on each other to read them, and the more they read the more they wish to read. If you will send these copies of the "Voice of Warning," some three or four copies of the "Book of Mormon," one or two copies of Elder Orson Pratt's Works, the "Pearl of Great Price," and any other works you may think proper to send, I shall be much obliged to you. Please send me a list of prices, and as soon as they are sold I will send you the proceeds.

I feel to rejoice greatly at the prospect before me; a good work is being begun here, and I hope will continue till all the honest in heart will learn the truth and obey it and be gathered out of Babylon. When I first arrived here I felt somewhat discouraged, the people were so ignorant of our religion and so much prejudiced against us that they did not want to hear anything about the "Mormons," considering us no better than heathens. I do not mean that every one was so, but the majority were. I have lost no time in speaking to my relatives and others of the principles of the everlasting gospel whenever an opportunity is presented. Now, wherever I go all are inquiring about us—what we believe in, what kind of society we have, our government, laws, etc. When I tell them that we believe in the Bible, they wonder at it; for they thought we rejected it. I could tell you much more, but do not wish to intrude upon your time. The object of my visit was to do good to my friends, and the Lord has blessed my labors abundantly. I am feeling first-rate, and know that the Holy Spirit is with me all the time.

Remember me kindly to Bro. Brigham and Bro. Wells and to your family.

May the blessings of the Almighty be upon you continually.

Your sister in the New and Everlasting Covenant,

MILDRED E. RANDALL.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 25.

Editor Evening News:—Dear Sir—I enjoyed a rich treat at the old Tabernacle on Monday night last in listening to the able lecture of Col. Conwell.

His pictures of the fall of Babylon, the offering of Isaac by Abraham on Mount Horeb, and the passion, betrayal and crucifixion of our Savior, were as fine specimens of oratory as I have ever had the pleasure of listening to.

But there was one thing which annoyed me very much, and not me alone, but many of my brethren if I mistake not. I allude to the clapping of hands. This is a boisterous and unrefined way of showing approval at the best, but custom makes it allowable in some cases. But how very annoying to the lovers of oratory, to hear an audience begin to clap hands and stamp with the feet in the middle of some beautiful passage! This thing occurred two or three times during the lecture, and had not the speaker been perfect master of his subject, he would have been confused, and his fine effects entirely spoiled. The continued cheering at the close of the lecture, was, in my opinion, not only inappropriate but was downright rudeness.

Our people should learn that a lecture is not a theatrical performance, and the lecturer does not expect to be called before the curtain. A good hearty approval is proper, but too much of a good thing spoils all.

With the very best of feelings towards my brethren and sisters of this city, I can but hope they will give these suggestions some consideration and be benefited by them.

JOS. W. YOUNG.

SALT LAKE CITY,

January 23th, '70.  
 Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother:—Your correspondent has long been impressed with the importance of organizing Reading Rooms in this city, as well as throughout the settlements, as an agreeable and profitable mode of amusement and resort. There are many persons in this city, both old and young, who would hail with pleasure the establishment of good reading rooms; and I am convinced that such institutions, if fairly started and properly conducted, would not only receive the support necessary for their maintenance, but they would soon become favorite resorts for those who fall to find amusement elsewhere.

I was pleased to see, in a recent impression of the NEWS, that the citizens of one of the settlements have turned their attention to this matter and are carrying it into active operation. Already a considerable number of names have been enrolled on the list of those who avowed the movement. With all the excellent facilities which this city now possesses for obtaining news, both from the East and West, with excellent school and meeting houses in which to assemble, it does seem that only a desire and determination are necessary to establish reading rooms throughout the city and Territory.

If this idea were carried out, a slight payment from each member would suffice—supposing a respectable number of persons clubbed together—to defray all incidental expenses connected with the successful working of good reading rooms. In case sufficient funds were not at hand to purchase many publications, the economical, and I think successful, plan of exchanging with a neighboring ward—supposing each ward were furnished with a reading room—might

be adopted and thus a large amount of reading matter might be brought within the reach of all with very little expense.

Yours respectfully,

J. G.

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