

Correspondence.

ST. GEORGE,
March 11th, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Bro.—As soon as we entered the Iron Military District we found ourselves accompanied by a company of yeomen, who escorted us from Cove Fort to Beaver. A marked improvement in the appearance of Beaver City was apparent to every eye since our last visit.

The number of barns in this settlement is probably equalled by few other settlements having the same population; many good brick buildings have been erected during the past year and others are in progress. Five meetings were held in the meeting-house, which was excessively crowded.

Prest. Young and the Elders accompanying him occupied the time. The ladies accompanying our party addressed a meeting of a Ladies' Relief Society held in the Institute. The Relief Society of Beaver has exhibited much energy and diligence in procuring a lot, fencing and otherwise improving the same, and erecting thereon a convenient brick building for their association, which is now used as a school under their patronage.

On Monday evening, the seventh, meeting was held at Parowan, but the little time allowed us to stop in that place prevented our noting the extent of improvements going on.

President Young left home with the intention of having a rest, which he has improved by traveling thirty to forty miles each day, which, however, has a tendency to fatigue rather than rest. The anxiety of the people to hear him, as manifested by the crowded audiences that greet him in every town, whether he stops there or not, induces him to give them instruction, even beyond his strength. On Monday evening he addressed the Saints at Kanarra; on Tuesday evening he was much fatigued, driving his own team, as he has done all the way from the city, that day's travel being peculiarly fatiguing over the rocks and black ridges, where our Dixie friends have expended enormous labor to make roads over places formerly supposed to be impassable.

The meeting at Harrisburg was numerously attended. This little settlement is located in a desert spot, which I first visited in 1857, and did not even suspect, what is now a fixed fact, that a thriving village with blooming orchards and vineyards containing a great variety of fruit would so soon ornament a spot so desolate and barren. After a call at the cotton factory in Washington of a few moments, we proceeded to St. George, escorted by mounted militia men in uniform, cheered with three bands of music, saluted by the firing of artillery and greeted by the familiar faces of thousands of our old friends and acquaintances, many of them dating back to the days of Kirtland. We became guests at the hospitable mansion of Prest. Erastus Snow, where we were soon after greeted with a snow storm, as we understand, the first this winter, and the telegraph informing us that the same luxury was being enjoyed all the way from here to Salt Lake.

We scarcely passed a town but what young and old, youth and beauty, as well as middle-aged, were in the streets to greet us, many of them having banners and mottoes, and singing songs of welcome; and this gave us an opportunity to form some opinion of the health of the people of our Dixie as contrasted with the settlements north of the rim of the basin. The display in St. George of the schools indicated anything but a sickly country.

The destruction of the crops and fruits by grasshoppers in the various settlements has been a serious loss; but there are no signs of its being renewed the present season. Trees are leafing out, apricots and currants in bloom, and some peach blossoms are making their appearance; peas have been up for some time and gardening is being vigorously prosecuted.

Since I was here last many permanent houses and barns have been erected, and the general improvements of the place is manifested to the eye as soon as we see it. A number of acres of grape vines are being planted in the Clara field.

Your brother in the gospel,
GEO. A. SMITH.

ST. GEORGE,
March 11, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Sir—The President and party arrived here yesterday afternoon, and were received by the citizens with becoming demonstrations of joy and pleasure. Everywhere the people manifest exceeding gratification in seeing their distinguished leaders who have their temporal and spiritual wellbeing so much at heart. Shortly after our arrival there arose one of the severest dust, hail, and then snow storms, that has visited this city for years. We learned the storm reached the city and all intermediate points.

I dropped you a few lines from Fillmore. Our kind host at Fort Cove did the tidy very nicely while staying the night at that "impregnable fortress." His good ladies had their hands full with so large a company to cater for. Cove Creek is getting quite low and some fears are entertained that a lack of snow deposits in the mountains will cause a lack of water for irrigating purposes in Cove Valley.

We reached Beaver in good season on Saturday afternoon last and on the following Sunday had three very good instructive meetings in which Presidents Young and Smith took an active part. Almost every conceivable subject, wherein the prosperity of the people is involved, was discussed at these meetings in great plainness. Of all places in this Territory, excepting Salt Lake and this city, Beaver is taking the lead in improvements. Quite a number of substantial brick buildings have gone up and now a co-operative firm is putting the floors of a three floored rock woolen factory, measuring ninety-five by thirty-five feet outside. The walls of the lower story are two and a half feet thick, the remainder two feet in thickness, laid in good lime mortar. This great enterprise has already cost the citizens some \$15,000. The machinery for the inside is not yet purchased, but arrangements are being matured to obtain it and it is expected that the factory will be running by next fall. They will commence with some 360 spindles. The brick meeting house, with its basement story and room, is also an ornament to the place. There is a gallery across the east end of the main room, in which we had meetings. This structure has cost the citizens about \$14,000. Two more brick buildings, the "Lady's Institute," and a well proportioned school house, are worthy of notice. The Institute was built by the Female Relief Society. How the climate of Beaver has changed within a few years! One year they had snow in May, and another year, during harvest time, in early September.

On Monday we went to Parowan and held meeting at six in the evening. On Tuesday we went to Kanarra, holding meeting by the way, at Cedar City at 12, and in the evening a meeting was held at Kanarra. On Wednesday the party reached Harrisburg, and Thursday, (yesterday,) this beautiful place, in good health and spirits.

If not too cold, and we guess it will not be, Saturday and Sunday will be spent in public meetings. Monday next we expect to start for the Muddy and may be gone from here at least two weeks. Then up the Rio Virgen, thence to the Kenab, and thence, via Toker, home.

Respectfully, &c.,
A. MILTON MUSSER.

DES MOINES CITY, Iowa,
March 16th, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother—Since my last letter to you, bro. Murdoch and I have been laboring in the western part of Pennsylvania and New York, where we have been well treated by most people, and in most places have obtained houses to preach in.

At one place near Titusville, Pa., we were asked to preach. A large hall was obtained, and warmed and lighted for us, and the room was filled with an attentive audience, many of whom at the close of the meeting asked us to hold another, and an appointment was accordingly left; but the principal trustee, who had not been at our meeting, closed the door and sent us word that we could preach there no more. We held five meetings in Oil City, Pa., and were threatened with a mob, but a few men stood for us and would not see us ill-treated.

While visiting an uncle of mine in Sinclairville, Chautauqua County, N. Y., a fine hall was opened and we were invited to speak, which we did. One man said he would play Brigham. He invited his neighbors' wives and daughters, twelve or fifteen in number, to go to meeting with him. They came in single file, placing themselves in a row on a reserved seat right in front of us. The audience cheered a little, after which I remarked that we were well pleased with that gentleman's move, it looked real old fashioned, made us

think of home; we were not aware that we were making converts by platoons before, thus acknowledging as a compliment that which was intended as a burlesque. The whole congregation cheered us heartily, and our meeting passed off first rate. These and many other incidents of a similar nature we have met with, which tend to give variety and life to the labors which the Elders have to perform when preaching the gospel.

We came to this point via Canada and Michigan, holding several meetings and preaching by the way. The little branch that we organized five months ago, we found in good condition, numbering now thirty members. The brethren who are living and presiding here have used their means and influence in assisting the Elders from the Valley, who have called upon them to introduce and preach the gospel in the towns and villages in this vicinity. We have always preached the first principles of the gospel, also tried to disabuse the public mind concerning our social relations, as well as our relations with the Government. We find much prejudice exists in consequence of the ignorance of the people with regard to our true position in the nation. We have talked with many persons concerning the Cullom bill, and find that the majority look upon it as partial legislation and high handed injustice, and would protest against its passage. We have been blessed thus far upon our mission; God has sustained us, and the way has been opened before us to do much preaching, and we trust that the testimonies we have borne, may do some good in time to come, if the effects are not seen now.

Praying that God may bless all who labor for Zion: I am as ever yours in the cause of truth.

ISRAEL EVANS.

ST. GEORGE, Utah, Mar. 21, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother—Father says "write," and here goes. I have been keeping a synopsis of the sermons, and consequently have had all the writing I cared about, without even writing home to my family.

The instructions of the President have been most excellent and of that character which will prepare the people, who honor them, for eternal life. Speaking of our labors to carry on the work of building up Zion, he says, "If the Saints want a meeting house, they have faith to build it, and some go to the cañons, others haul the rock for the foundation, mortar is made and the walls are completed by the labor of the hands of the elders; the digging, masonry, finishing, etc., are done by hard work and the bone and the sinew are brought into requisition to perform this labor. The Saints might sit and talk about building up Zion until Doomsday, and it would never be accomplished without adding to faith these auxiliaries—physical and mental labors. The earth is to be redeemed, and the Latter-day Saints have that work to perform; faith without works will never bring it back into its Paradisaical state, and those who anticipate dwelling upon this earth, when it is received back among the celestial bodies, must labor to bring about its redemption. We may theorise till our heads are grey and then it is not accomplished."

While addressing the Saints at Parowan, he said—"I visited this place in 1851. There were no settlements between here and Salt Lake City, excepting a few families at Provo, and Manti, in San Pete county. On the 9th of May, 1851, I camped on Red Creek, four miles north of here. During the night, snow fell to the depth of ten inches. Many were dismayed and were quite confident that nothing could be grown in that region of country. There were no meeting houses there then, nor farms and fences, and it certainly looked like there never would be any. The few families who were here were afraid that they were forever isolated, and they could never have an opportunity of visiting their friends again. But I told them that settlements would soon spring up on each side, and but few years would elapse ere neighbors would be plentiful. Many flourishing settlements may now be found southwest and north of Parowan."

Our teams are in excellent condition, and the members of the company thoroughly recuperated. Our arrival here was most opportune, for we had scarcely made all snug, gotten our animals safely housed and vehicles properly prepared, when one of the fiercest dust storms I have ever witnessed in this country, burst upon the city. Snow soon filled the air, the first which our Dixie friends have seen this winter,

and really I could very well imagine myself in a more northern latitude. The President has decided on leaving here on Monday. The present intention is to travel the river road on going down, and return by another more recently located route. No matter which road we take, I presume we shall heartily wish we had taken the other, if accounts be true.

I must not omit to mention the very fine sweet potatoes which are grown in this neighborhood. What I have seen of them are certainly quite equal to those raised in Jersey, or any part of the Union.

Regards to all friends.

Very truly, your brother,
B. Y. JUNE.

ST. GEORGE, March 12, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother—Yesterday, the President and party, being fatigued, made it a day of rest. Brigham Young, junr., and L. D. Young attended a meeting for the dedication of the Third Ward schoolhouse, a large and convenient edifice just completed, and of sufficient capacity to accommodate the juveniles of that ward. Elder Erastus Snow offered the dedicatory prayer.

The enterprise of the citizens of southern Utah in the erection of suitable school buildings, and keeping up good schools, is highly creditable. The Fourth Ward has been enabled to secure the efficient services of Elder Richard S. Horne for this winter; he has been long and favorably known as a first-class teacher in your city. The Fourth Ward schoolhouse has been erected since our last visit.

To-day, the weather being cool, the congregation assembled in the St. George Hall at 10 o'clock a.m., and was addressed by Presidents Young and Smith; only a small portion being able to get within hearing. In the afternoon the meeting was held in the open air, a verandah being used for a stand; the audience was large and gave strict attention. B. Young, junr., L. D. Young, J. W. Young and Erastus Snow addressed the meeting.

The municipal election took place last Monday. Some ladies came forward to exercise the elective franchise.

Lumber is worth from \$7 to \$11 per hundred in this city, and not of the best quality at that price, and yet there appears to be more building going on and a better class of buildings than there have been in any other settlement we have visited, according to population and advantages.

Our enterprising friend, Charles R. Savage, is collecting romantic scenery in this region of country.

March 13, 1870.

This morning a very large congregation assembled in the yard of the Tithing Office, and listened to addresses delivered from the verandah on the south side of that building. The wind blew, but Elders Musser, Savage and Geo. A. Smith continued speaking until twenty minutes to 12, when the wind became so severe that the congregation adjourned to meet at 1 p. m. in the basement of the new meeting house, a magnificent stone building in course of erection, the walls of which are about eighteen feet high. It is built of beautiful red sandstone, artistically cut and laid. This shelter, though insufficient to break off the wind, which was terrific, enabled us to hold the meeting for two hours. The audience was much reduced in size in consequence of the change. At 3 p. m. the wind and dust became so furious that the meeting had to be adjourned. This is the hardest wind of the season. Presidents Young and Smith occupied the time in the afternoon.

Preparations are making for an early start to-morrow.

Your Brother in the Gospel,
GEO. A. SMITH.

Married:

In this city, March 21st, by President D. H. Wells, George Frederick, son of Frederick and Mary Culmer, of London, to Annie Haynes, daughter of Henry and Mary Haynes, of Belper, Derbyshire, England.
Mill, Star please copy.

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