

## GIBRALTER MISSION.

BY ELDER EDWARD STEVENSON.

## LETTER NO. 4.

Although the Spaniards had been thrice defeated in their attempts to recover Gibraltar, they continued to view that garrison with a jealous eye determined to seize the first opportunity to wrest it from the dominion of Great Britain, and as the close of 1777 bid fair for war between France and England, as hostilities had been carried on for near six months, Spain took this favorably opportunity of interfering by offering her mediation, proposing such arrangements as she must be assured would not be agreeable. On the refusal of Europe, the court of Madrid espoused the part of France, and on the 16th of June, 1779, the Spanish ambassador presented to the court of London his hostile manifesto. The principal design of the court of Madrid doubtless was the recovery of Gibraltar. On the 21st of June, 1779, the communication between Spain and Gibraltar was closed by order of the court of Madrid.

The garrison at this time could command 209 officers, 59 staff, 313 sergeants, 166 drummers, 4632 rank and file, making an army of 5382 men.

On the communication being closed, a council of war was immediately summoned to advise concerning the measures to be pursued. Arrangements were entered into for the defence and provisioning of the garrison. On the 6th of July, a packet from England informed the governor that hostilities had already commenced between Great Britain and Spain. A proclamation in consequence was published for capturing all Spanish vessels, &c., and letters of marque were granted for that purpose to the privateers in the bay. The consequence was, some prizes were taken, and a few hostile shots exchanged.

On the 16th of July, Gibraltar was blockaded and the Spanish began to strengthen their fortifications. As the blockade did not continue long by water many of the inhabitants left Gibraltar, for the necessities of life daily became more scarce.

As the enemy's camp numbered 15,000 and fortifications were continually being erected and advancing to the garrison, a council of war was summoned on the 11th Sept., and on the 12th opened fire on the enemy, which caused them to do much of their work during the night, although much annoyed by the bursting of shell, &c. The enemy being within one mile, they were the most annoyed by 5 1-2 inch shell with short fuses so as to burst over their heads.

About this time several cannon of large calibre were erected on the summit of the rock 1400 feet above their enemies. The smallpox became troublesome in the garrison, also adding trouble to the distressed inhabitants, many of whom could scarcely subsist, as mutton was worth 75c. per lb., and veal \$1.00, pork 60c., a pig's head, \$1.50, ducks \$3.00 a couple, and a goose one guinea.

The governor general, Elliot, for experiment lived on four ounces of rice a day for eight days. Thistles, dandelions, and wild leeks were the daily nourishment of numbers for some time.

About this time the enemy fired on a clergyman performing burial service over a soldier. Soon after, the inhabitants seemed frantic on the arrival of a strong fleet from England laden with provisions, &c.

Although the scurvy had begun to effect many, the garrison having been supplied with provisions, and the magazines filled, also reinforcements received, a new spirit seemed to animate the soldiers preparatory for the great struggle about to commence.

The combined fleets of France and Spain captured the outward bound East and West India fleets, carrying the most of them into Cadiz, one of the heaviest blows which British commerce had ever sustained. The reception of the fleet with supplies did so displease the enemy that they soon opened a vigorous fire on the garrison, destroying many buildings and scattering the terrified inhabitants, leaving their all behind, fleeing to the south of the rock, without shelter, only as some were afterwards furnished with tents by government.

It was not uncommon for shell to pass through roofs of houses and disquiet officers and others while enjoying their luxuries, killing and wounding them, causing much confusion and disorder, which enabled the soldiers to avail themselves of many of the luxuries that had been previously hoarded up. Soon the influence of wine and other more ardent spirits gave the soldiers' great importance and liberties.

On one occasion it pleased them to roast a pig by the fire of cinnamon; also to take the Virgin Mary, and for a bit of fun, place her in a whirligig; and after holding court martial, condemned her of a crime. They were guilty of drunkenness, debauchery and other high crimes. The governor discovering the poor virgin in confinement, she being placed in a conspicuous place, ordered her release and removal. Thus the soldiers had taken liberties until they could scarcely be controlled by their officers while on duty.

Necessity caused the following rigorous measures on garrison orders on the 26th April, 1781:—

Every soldier convicted of being drunk or asleep upon his post or found marauding, should be immediately executed. On the 5th of May, a soldier was executed on the grand parade for plundering. His body hung until sunset as an example to others.

The enemy's cannonade and bombardment continued discharging 1500 rounds in the 24 hours, often killing and wounding men, women and children, blowing up magazines and setting on fire buildings, so that the town exhibited a most dreadful picture: most of the houses were deserted.

On the 21st, 42 rounds were numbered in two minutes. A corporal going with the reliever had the muzzle of his firelock closed and the barrel twisted like a French horn without injury to his person. The enemies' shot pierced 7 feet of solid sand bag work. Some large mortars in the garrison did great execution in the enemy's camp; they were loaded with 28 1-2 to 30lbs. of powder, and a 32 pounder with 14lbs., and an 18 pounder with 9lbs.

Aug. 6, a shell falling in a tent, those in the tent were awoke, and thinking the fuse to be out, were discussing their narrow escape, when the shell burst, and blew them with violence against a wall at some distance, but they were not killed. A horrible circumstance occurred by a shell falling in hospital, where many that were sick discovering it crawled out on hands and feet, while others

not able shared their fate, not being able to help themselves.

Oct. 24, in 24 hours 1263 shot were fired from the enemy, and the preceding day 1948. The garrison during one forenoon fired 1596 shot, 530 shell of a heavy nature, and 10 carcasses and 2 light balls.

Nov. 20, 2 deserters came to the garrison, one a corporal, giving much useful information, in consequence of which orders were given to attack the enemy's batteries, which took place on the 26th at night with great success, driving the enemy from their batteries, spiking 1013-inch mortars, 18 26-pounders, firing their works, which illuminated the troops and surrounding objects. Trains being laid to the magazines, they returned, and just as they entered the garrison, the principal magazine exploded with a dreadful crash. As but little opposition was offered, but few were killed or wounded. The batteries continued smoking on the 30th.

Dec. 31, 1781, from April 1, until the present, 18 officers, 39 sergeants, 8 drummers, 503 rank and file, total 568 were killed and wounded, exclusive of inhabitants. A deserter coming from the enemy's camp stated that 3 sets of guns had been spoiled since the commencement of the bombardment.

## Report of the Thirteenth quorum of Seventies.

The following is a list of the names of the members of the quorum, with their residences as far as known:

## PRESIDENTS.

Charles Burd, South Cottonwood.  
John Fausett, Mountainville.  
Solon Foster, G. S. L. City.  
William Empey, "  
John Eldredge, on mission to England.  
John Needham, G. S. L. City.  
James Smithies, "

## MEMBERS.

S. M. Price, G. M. Keyser, Amasa Burr, Job Smith, Levi Empey, Richard Bush, Wm. Blackhurst, Seth Rigby, Edward Cuthbert, Geo. Spilsbury, Robert Holmes, Perry Keys, W. J. Ruff, J. P. Clay, J. P. Risley, Frederick Holmes, J. M. Barlow and Samuel Wortham, reside in G. S. L. City.

A. J. Stewart and Henry Nelson, Provo.  
Myron Higley, Weber county.  
Joel Terry, Cedar valley.  
John Roylance and Lorin Roundy, Springville.  
Samuel White, Lehi City.  
Asaph Rice, North Cottonwood.  
W. W. Hutchings, South Cottonwood.  
Elias Bassett, Fillmore.  
Thomas Moss, Tooele.  
William Flewit, Sessions' settlement.  
Noah Brimhall, and A. Chadwick, Ogden.  
Wm. Walker on mission to the States.  
James Jarret and D. B. Haight reside in Missouri.

Thomas Atkinson, Matthew Peck, John G. Luce, E. S. Allen, W. C. Calkins, Elijah Corey, Wm. Brown, Edward Williams, Lewis Jones, Daniel Leigh, Wm. Sweat, Richard Riley, and J. E. Ducl, residence and standing unknown.

The quorum meets every alternate Friday evening at the eighth ward school house, (next meeting Friday, Feb. 22, next) and every member residing in this city is requested to attend punctually.

Each member of the quorum is requested to hand in immediately to the clerk, or to Elder John Needham, at the Desert Store, his genealogy, which must contain the following particulars, viz: when and where born, including town, county and state; father's and mother's names; when baptized, and by whom; when ordained, and by whom; also present residence.

Those members who fail to comply with the above request, and neglect the meetings of the quorum, will be considered dead branches, and will consequently be dropped from the quorum, and their places filled by worthy and more faithful men.

JOB SMITH, Clerk.

## MINUTES OF A TWO DAYS MEETINGS, held by Elder J. W. Johnson in North Willow Creek Fort, Jan. 12 and 13, 1856.

Saturday, 2 p.m., the people assembled in the school house.

Singing. Prayer by Elder J. W. Johnson.  
Elder S. Smith from Box Elder spoke a few moments, and was followed by Elders Corden and Johnson.

6 p.m., meeting called to order by Bishop Hubbard.

Singing. Prayer by Elder C. W. West.

Elder J. W. Johnson addressed the meeting, followed by Elders Corden and Smith.

Sunday, 10 a.m., singing. Prayer by Elder J. W. Johnson.

Elder C. W. West spoke to the saints.

2 p.m. Singing. Prayer by Elder S. Smith.

Elders Corden and Johnson occupied the time during the administering the sacrament.

Singing. Prayer by Bishop Hubbard.

The Bishop, Elders Johnson, West, Corden and Smith addressed the people.

During the meetings the best of feelings prevailed, and each one manifested an increased interest and desire to do right, and to live their religion.

On Monday and Tuesday night, 14th and 15th, Elder Johnson met with the various quorums of priesthood which were fully organized, and each one's duty pointed out, and their field of labor assigned them, that they might be useful among their brethren.

**THE MINT.**—The operations of the Mint, although commonly spoken of, and indeed apparently familiar to most persons in the community, are understood by but very few—perhaps not by one hundred. The following description of the various processes to which gold is subjected in the course of assaying is so concise and yet so perfect, that we take pleasure in transferring it to our columns. It is taken from the Albany Knickerbocker, and refers to the operations of the New York Assay office, but the process is the same as in all the U. S. Mints:

"The gold is taken in the weigh room where it is weighed and placed to the credit of the depositor; then to the melting and granulating room, where two parts of silver are mixed with one of gold—in order to purify the gold more

perfectly—melted and dropped into cold water, forming drops similar in form and color to those produced by dropping lead into water. This composition is then taken to the separating room, where it undergoes two operations—separating the gold from the silver, which is done by an acid, and the acid from the silver. By this time the individuality of the metals, as metals, becomes lost, being held in solution by muriatic acid, which solution, when caught in a glass, has the appearance of very clear water. This is put in large tubs and filtered into a solution of common salt and water, which causes the gold or silver to settle in the bottom.

The gold is now as pure as pure can be, and it only remains to form it into bars. But one thing more is necessary; the metal, as it comes from the salt and water, when placed over the fire, would fly and snap, thereby causing considerable loss. This is obviated by subjecting the gold to the pressure of a hydraulic press of 200 tons power, thus condensing it into a cheese or cake about fourteen inches in diameter and four or five inches thick. The rigid discipline of the press destroys its ambition, so that when broken by a coal chisel it melts as quiet as could be wished. After melting it is run into bars of different sizes; the largest, 5 or 6 inches long, about 3 inches wide, and 1 or 1 1-3 inches thick is valued at \$5,500; the others range from \$500 to \$3,000. These bars are taken into the Assayer's office, weighed and sealed, when they are ready for the mint. These various processes are so perfectly arranged that not a particle of metal is lost."

**TREATMENT OF INFANTS.**—We recommend to young mothers the subjoined extract from a small volume recently published by Jewett & Co., of Boston, entitled "Uncle Jerry's Letters to young Mothers."

"Upon the subject of bathing, I differ from some who have written upon it. My own experience, and your aunt agrees with me, is, that cold water is not suitable for a young infant. Some who inherit hardy constitutions from their parents may endure it, and even thrive; but, in general, I am inclined to the opinion that it does more harm than good. I prefer the use of tepid water, and once a day is enough for the little one whose strength is small, and who feels sensibly the fatigue of dressing. I have met lately a passage in Southey's life which may interest you as much as it did myself.

"Speaking of a young sister, he says: 'She was a beautiful creature, the admiration of all who beheld her. My aunt Mary was one day walking with her down Union Street, when Wesley happened to be coming up; and the old man was so struck with the child's beauty, that he stopped and exclaimed, 'O, sweet creature!' took her by the hand, and gave her a blessing; and that which on sober reflection may be justly thought to be a blessing befell her soon afterwards—an early removal to a better world. She died of hydrocephalus, a disease to which the most promising children are the most liable. Happily, neither her parents nor her grandmother suspected that which is exceedingly probable, that, in her case, the disease may have been induced by their dipping her every morning in a tub of the coldest well water. This was done from an old notion of strengthening her; but the poor child's horror of it every morning, when taken out of bed, was intense. I cannot remember having seen it without horror; nor do I believe that, among all the preposterous practices which false theories have produced, there was a more cruel and preposterous one than this."

"We have tried the practice in our own family, and have become convinced, some wise men to the contrary notwithstanding, that tepid water is preferable for infants and very young children."

**A STRANGE FISH.**—We were shown a fish on Friday of most singular shape, that was caught by Mr. Geo. Bowman, in Gowanus bay, one day last week. The animal is three feet two inches long, from mouth to tail, and two feet one inch from one fluke to the other. One of its peculiarities is the unusual size of the head and mouth—the latter being eleven inches in width, and of sufficient depth to hold the blade of a shovel, which was thrust into it when first caught. Another peculiarity is the possession of two legs and feet about eight inches long, which are situated just below the head, and when the animal was pulled on shore, the fishermen were astonished to see it open its mouth, and draw itself up on its legs and tail. The entrails are small, and it is a matter of some wonder how the process of digestion is carried on. The lower jaw is garnished with a row of single teeth, about a sixteenth of an inch long, while those on the upper jaw are much smaller. The construction of the gills is also singular, there being only a small aperture near the fluke for the escapement of water. From the nature of the kidney, it is evident this fish is warm blooded, and brings forth its young alive, like the whale, though unlike the whale, there is no provision for sucking its offspring. The gentleman to whom the fish was sold, Mr. J. L. Bode, No. 116 North William street, though well versed in ichthyology, and having a number of books on the subject to which he could refer, could find nothing at all like this strange fish.—[Ex.]

**ARTESIAN WELL BORER.**—The Evening Bulletin, Cal., gives the subjoined description of the first of these instruments ever manufactured in California. The machine is very powerful, and will easily bore a seven inch hole through solid granite twenty-five feet in ten hours. A seven inch Z drill is used, which is raised by two grooved wheels, (with a counter balance on a fly-wheel,) and turned by means of two smaller grooved wheels set to an angle. The drill is turned one-eighth at each stroke, and gives a stroke of two feet sixty times per minute. The machine is propelled by an engine of four horse

power, which with the apparatus occupies a space of only ten feet by five, and being mounted on four truck wheels, can be easily removed to any locality.

**CHEAP BUILDING MATERIALS.**—Very desirable and durable buildings are now being constructed in the West and in New York State, the walls of which are composed of stone-cutter's spalls or chips, coarse gravel, sand and lime, mixed into a mortar, at the rate of one part of lime, to eight parts of the other ingredients. Moveable moulds are set to form the walls, and the mixture shoveled in and left to harden, and then the mould is raised for another course. Wooden frames are inserted as the work progresses, for doors and windows; and it seems that stone caps are not required, since the whole mass hardens into a sort of artificial stone.—[Ex.]

**The hospital at Scutari** is said to afford some memorable specimens of the resistance capable of being offered by the human frame and system to the action of bullet wounds. One man, shot quite through the chest, recovered; another, who had a ball for two days in his brain, did well after the ball was extracted. One man, who was shot in the leg, had such a hard, sharp bone, that it split the ball which struck it, into two halves, as if the lead had been severed with a knife, and he escaped without a fracture. A rifle ball completely scooped out the eyes of a man, but he recovered without any other injury.—[Ex.]

**A SOURCE OF SMILES.**—Dr. Franklin having noticed that a certain mechanic who worked near his office, was always happy and smiling, ventured at length to ask him for the secret of his constant cheerfulness:

"No secret, Doctor," he replied. "I have got one of the best wives, and when I go to work, she always has a kind word of encouragement for me, and when I go home, she meets me with a smile and a kiss, and the tea is sure to be ready; and she has done so many things through the day to please me, that I cannot find it in my heart to speak an unkind word to anybody."

**SLEEP.**—Professor Hoffman says, that so far as external life is concerned, sleep is no less necessary for its duration than its health. Without the proper amount of sleep, our vital energy is dried up and withered, and we waste away, as a tree would, deprived of the sap that nourishes it. The physical effects of sleep are, that it retards all the vital movements, collects the vital power, and restores what has been lost in the course of the day, and separates from us what is useless and pernicious. It is, as it were, a daily crisis, during which all secretions are reformed in the greatest tranquility and perfection.—[Ex.]

**INVENTION FOR SHOOTING MOLTEN IRON.**—One of the engineers at Fawcett's foundry, Liverpool, where they have been making some thousands of shells for the Crimea, has invented a coating for the inside of shells, which will enable them to be fired full of molten iron. Each shell, in the manner he proposes to make them, will contain fifty pounds of iron in a state of fusion, and where the shell falls, destruction extends around it; if on damp ground, no man can lie within fifty yards of it, thus making the invention one of great value and power. The filling up each shell with the molten iron will take twenty-five minutes.—[Ex.]

**A traveler, who has recently explored the salt mines of Poland, says that he has never seen anything more remarkable than those salt formations, and that they differ from all other salt deposits known. The salt is solid crystallized rock, free from all veins of earth and all flaws, so that it is simply quarried into lumps of some convenient shape, and so sent away. The quantity is amazing, and the solidity is so great that immense chambers are left, one hundred and twenty feet in height, with walls of salt on each side rising from the floor to the ceiling.**

**TO MAKE GRAFTING WAX.**—Take half a pound of good tallow, two pounds of rosin, one pound of beeswax, melt them together, after which turn the composition in a pail of cold water; with hands well and frequently greased, take out a pound or two at a time, and pull it in the hands until it becomes a bright yellow. If too warm use cold water, if too cold use warm. This is the best grafting wax in use. R. RICH.

**A TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT** occurred, Nov. 1, during a trial trip on the new road between St. Louis and Jefferson city, Mo., by the breaking down of the bridge across the Gasconade; 29 were killed and many wounded, casting a heavy gloom over many firesides in St. Louis.

**INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM.**—A gentleman wishes us to publish the following for the relief of suffering humanity. He says he has known a number of cures made by it, and all of them in a short time: Half an ounce of pulverized saltpeter, put into a half pint of sweet oil. Bathe the parts affected, and a sound cure will speedily follow.—Ex.

**The Ashville (N. C.) Spectator** says that recently at the Jackson Superior Court, Judge Manly decided that a person professing the doctrines of Universalism was an incompetent witness in the Courts of that State, and, in consequence, two or three witness of that persuasion were ruled out.

**A witty doctor** once said that tight lacing was a public benefit, inasmuch as it killed all the foolish girls and left the wise ones to grow up to be women.