

Correspondence.

BERNE, Switzerland,
Feb. 8th, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Sir:—The passage across the usually turbulent Atlantic, was not marked by any incidents of particular interest, the weather, except during the first two or three days, being very fine, so that the *Wyoming*, a new ship, steamed her 300 to 320 knots, enabling us to reach Queenstown harbor ten days after our departure from New York.

It was noon on Sunday, the 23th of November, 1871, when I landed in Liverpool, the sky was black, and the cold drizzling rain made everything look gloomy, but I soon reached the office of the European mission, where I received a hearty welcome from Bro. Reynolds. I waited almost a week for Dr. Park, who was recovering his strength and spirits on the shores of the romantic lakes of Killarney, but I made good use of my time, visiting the places of interest.

The English seem to have very peculiar ideas about weather. Although a thick fog hung over England the whole time I was there, and although I never once had the satisfaction of seeing the cheerful face of the sun, yet the greeting I received everywhere, was accompanied by these words pronounced with evident pride and satisfaction, "A fine morning, sir," or "A very fine day, sir, very fine indeed." At first I manifested some surprise, and I ventured to make a timid protest, but it was of no use, I could not shake the deeply rooted conviction of those good people. I therefore kept my own counsel, wondering in my own mind what they would say if they knew what we call a fine day in Utah.

The attention of visitors is necessarily called to St. George's Hall, the most prominent edifice in Liverpool. It is an imposing mass, although its aspect is somewhat heavy, and the interior is decorated in a rich, expensive manner.

The museum, at a short distance, is less pretentious in style, but is certainly in better taste, and contains many objects of the greatest interest to science, and a well selected though small collection of good copies of antique statuary. In connection with the museum is a public library, on a truly liberal plan. It is open to all gratuitously, and books may be obtained by simply asking for them. I found the table constantly occupied by intelligent-looking working men, engaged principally in studying scientific or technical books, on subjects connected with their trade or profession. A certain portion of the reading room was set apart for ladies; that, also, was filled with attentive, studious readers.

The station or "depot" of the London and North Western railroad in Lime Street, is a very fine specimen of the English manner in that style of architecture peculiar to such edifices. It is massive, roomy and convenient, and the effect produced by the huge, arched iron roof is very striking. I believe that since the great fire in Chicago, America possesses nothing of the kind, except the great Central Depot in New York, which has only very recently been completed. The building which, in my opinion, is the most perfect in Liverpool, is the Exchange; it is, on a reduced style, very much like one of the inner courts of the Louvre in Paris, and while the various portions of the edifice form a complete, harmonious whole, a rare thing in English architecture, the beauty and elegance of the details are worthy of special admiration. [The Lime Street Hotel, in front of the Lime Street Station, is the finest building in Liverpool.]

There are several other public buildings, as well as many costly offices devoted to insurance or banking business, but all present that peculiarly dingy appearance which is due to the condition of the atmosphere of an English city.

The street cars in Liverpool showed me that the inhabitants are not opposed in practice to the introduction of American conveniences when useful. They are, however, constructed a little differently, having accommodation on the roof, to which passengers ascend by means of small iron steps at the back of the car, the rails also are made and laid in such a manner, that the wheels of other vehicles cannot, as in America, run upon them.

In Liverpool I preached for the first time, and although I fearfully dreaded the ordeal, I am happy to say that the sympathetic, honest Lancashire faces of my hearers encouraged me sufficiently to do my duty and bear my testimony with gladness, and when subse-

quently I became acquainted with some of them, I was rejoiced to find much cordiality and kindness.

In travelling to London, the Doctor and I noticed the carefully cultivated fields, the pretty hedges and the general tidiness of every thing on the road, but although we passed through manufacturing districts, we were unable even to see most of the many towns on the way, as, in Europe, the trains do not pass through the villages and towns themselves as in America, but invariably travel round them, depositing and taking up passengers on the outskirts.

We reached the mammoth city on Saturday night, by one of the many branches of that maze called the Metropolitan railroad. At Bishop's Grove, Ball's Pond Road, we found Bishop Brinton, the president of the London conference, with whom we staid and experienced a cordial and brotherly hospitality.

My stay in London was so short that I was not able to learn much about the Church in that city, but I attended the meetings of the North London branch near Pentonville, and I was enabled to appreciate with what zeal, with what faith the Saints in London gather round the missionaries who bring them the gospel truth. The meeting-house was full, and the Saints presented the appearance of steady, industrious, respectable-looking working men and women, with here and there a few persons, who, from their dress and manner, seemed to be in the enjoyment of quite comfortable circumstances. The Doctor and I both addressed the meeting, and as is the case in Europe, we became acquainted with many of the Saints at the close of the religious exercises, and exchanged many a hearty shake of the hand. Here as in Liverpool the Saints greeted us with heartfelt kindness, appearing very much interested in our answers to their hundred questions about Utah. We reluctantly took leave of them, and felt thankful for the happy spirit which we enjoyed among them.

To describe London is beyond my power, but I hope the mention of some of the places of interest, which we visited during our four days' stay, will not be found uninteresting.

London is immense, its wealth is incalculable, its attractions are great, but there is a "je ne sais quoi" lacking to entitle it to the first rank as a beautiful city. Its beauties are scattered without order or system, and while it possesses so many edifices of unsurpassed splendor, its main streets are irregular, and many of its houses without style or elegance; everywhere I noticed the total absence of harmony, of that happy grouping of architectural beauty, forming a complete, perfect, harmonious "tout ensemble," which leaves an indelible image upon the mind of the observer. For instance, St. Paul's Cathedral is seemingly smothered by the tall business houses around it, from which they are only separated by a narrow lane; and even the main arteries of the city, which lead off from this, one of the principal initial points, do so without symmetry, and tend to hide instead of bring out the architectural qualities of this diminutive copy of the great church of St. Peter's at Rome.

The same want of harmony may be noticed in the grouping of those truly magnificent structures, the Houses of Parliament and the beautiful Abbey of Westminster. The Houses of Parliament are undoubtedly, by their size, their architecture, the richness of detail with which they are decorated, among the world's greatest wonders; but how could that man of genius, who conceived and executed such a marvel, place his master-piece in such a position, and so near the water's edge, as to make it appear as if it had no base, and had partly sunk into the river? That in my opinion was a great blunder; but it is not all—to mar the imposing effect which the building was intended to produce on the side of Palace Yard, that clumsy, tasteless mass, known by the name of Westminster hall, is allowed to stand immediately in front of it, under pretext, perhaps, that it was built by Richard II, and is 290 feet long by 68 wide, with a height of 90 feet. Still further to the right is a block of ugly, shapeless houses, crowding that perfect gem of gothic art, the beautiful Abbey of Westminster. It would need several days to examine this chef d'œuvre of the Florid Gothic, which if it possessed no other treasure than the chapel of Henry VII, would be worth a special visit to London. I would have lingered several hours in the nave and choir, but time and Dr. Park urged me on to other sights and I was reluctantly compelled to turn away from the venerable pile.

The Doctor and I, of course, visited

the "Horse Guards," the seat of administration of the army; not that there is anything remarkable in that building, but because every one who visits London, must go and admire the Queen's Life guards, two of which stand on horseback at the entrance. We, according to custom, and to gratify the national pride of our kind cockney cicerone, admired seven minutes the six feet and several inches of these splendidly bearded warriors, (one minute, and a little over, for each foot of altitude,) after having acknowledged the snow-whiteness of their buckskin breeches, and the dazzling brilliancy of their armor. We could not help noticing the great number of pretty servant girls, who, like inferior satellites, but full of undisguised admiration, revolved incessantly around these proud, resplendent sun-like specimens of Anglo Saxon manhood.

One of the remarkable features of London, which until the last 20 years was peculiar to that city, is the number of fine Parks with which it is adorned; the principal ones being Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Green Park, and St. James, in the aristocratic West End, where in the London season, the fashionable rides and drives present a very animated scene, while the lakes are lively with boats. These parks are planted with noble trees, and include fine walks and shrubberies adorned with flowers of every description. Victoria Park, on the east side of London, is frequented by the less wealthy classes who live in its vicinity, but is nevertheless carefully and prettily planted, while on the shores of its Lilliputian lakes may be seen hundreds of ducks and swans, which are so tame as almost to snatch from the hands of children the bread or cake which it is their delight to give to the beautiful birds.

It is in Regent's Park, the largest of all, that may be seen the "gardens of the Zoological society of London." Since the siege of Paris, when the two fine Zoological gardens of that city were depopulated to supply meat to the famished Parisians, there is nowhere so rich or so varied a collection of living animals.

The beasts, birds, fishes or reptiles of all parts of the world, are here represented by living specimens brought over sea and land at a great expense. One must admire the perfect arrangements, by which the animals are surrounded whenever practicable with the same plants and conveniences they are accustomed to in their native land, and every thing is done to supply them with the peculiar comforts they enjoy. For instance, the hippopotami have large ponds of fresh water, into which these huge monsters plunge with delight, snorting and blowing in very ecstasy. The waders, comprising ducks, geese, etc., enjoy absolute liberty in a maze of little streams, forming many small islands, where they build their nests and live in apparent happiness.

Many animals known to most by the accounts of travelers, may be here seen and studied with facility, while it is an easy task to compare the various species thus brought together. I was somewhat disappointed in not finding some of our North American animals, especially the buffalo or bison, but the keeper had the honesty to confess that the North American buffalo and deer, accustomed to a pure, dry atmosphere, cannot become acclimated to the foggy, damp air of London, and that although specimens are often brought to the society, they seldom outlive a season.

I need not say that although we had determined not to delay in London, and to postpone visiting its establishments of learning, we nevertheless found a few hours to visit that great popular Academy, if I may so call it, the far famed British Museum.

This splendid national collection was opened in 1795, and has since been repeatedly enriched by donations and purchases. Among the contributors are the monarchs of England, many noblemen, and a host of distinguished savants. The original building having proven quite insufficient, the present structure was commenced in 1825, and now stands complete, the stern but noble style of the building being very appropriate.

The Facade is of the Grecian tower order, and the Tympanum of the Portico is enriched with allegorical sculpture. The level of the principal floor of the building is reached by a wide flight of stone steps which add to the imposing grandeur of the whole edifice. This unique Museum contains, as everybody knows, the most complete collection of Zoological specimens, of fossils, of minerals. While Dr. Park took special interest in those departments, I found the greatest enjoyment in the

splendid galleries of antiquities. In these collections one may follow, step by step, the illustrated, authentic history of the ancient world, from the earliest time of the Pharaohs to the last period of Roman greatness. History lives in these monuments of fallen empires, arranged in chronological order, it breathes in these marvellous productions of art from Greece and Rome, it speaks to us by means of these innumerable treasures resurrected from the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

In a previous visit years ago, I had noticed a certain want of system in the classification of the subjects, but no such reproach can be made now, the order is so perfect, that any one may understand it, even without the aid of a guide book. Of course I shall not describe the museum, as such a description would compel me to write a history of antiquity, but it is impossible not to mention the rich collection of mummies found in the pyramids and tombs of Egypt, frequently in a perfect state of preservation; the colossal reproduction of statues found in Memphis and Thebes, (the present Carnack, Luxor, etc.), the specimens of art and manufactures belonging to a period as far back as the exodus of the Israelites; the sculptures of the Assyrian galleries, the contemplation of which fills us with wonder at their remarkable state of preservation, while the perfection of the forms represented forces itself upon our attention, helping to corroborate and elucidate the familiar historical events mentioned in Scripture; and finally the Grecio-Roman saloons, which, although not so rich as the galleries of the Louvre, contain some of the purest specimens of the most flourishing times of Grecian art.

The library connected with the British Museum is, next to the Colossal National Library at Paris, the richest in Europe. It originated in the donation made by George IV of the books collected by his royal father, but it has been constantly receiving additions, and possesses invaluable specimens of the typographic art, illustrating the progress of printing from its very infancy to the present time. The library has now 600,000 volumes, and the annual increase is 20,000 volumes.

It was impossible for us to leave London without visiting the South Kensington Museum, of which I had heard so much. This museum contains a collection of choice examples of "Medieval and modern Art workmanship," attached to which are picture galleries. But this is not all. This great institution is designed to be a great national school of art for artisans and mechanics. It tends, by displaying to them the elegant artistic workmanship of the most skillful workmen of modern times, to inculcate ideas of taste, and while aiming, in a great measure, to speak to the eye, the institution also undertakes to teach gratuitously all those who will devote time to attend the Art lessons and lectures which are daily delivered in special parts of the immense building. The courses of instruction pursued in this truly popular national school have for their object the systematic training in the practice of art and in the knowledge of its scientific principles, with a view to develop its application in the common uses of life, and its relation to the requirements of trade and manufactures. Special courses are also arranged, in order to qualify teachers, male and female, to teach drawing as a part of general education, concurrently with writing.

This fine school is one of the first fruits of the energetic and persevering efforts made by a certain class in England, to develop, if not to create, among the English workmen that taste and refinement, which, in industry and manufactures, has apparently been hitherto the gift of the more southern nations of Europe.

The international exhibition of 1851, '55, '62 and '67, by turns in London and in Paris, began the work of reformation in English art, as applied to manufactures; and the English workman, while he became confirmed in his belief, by comparison with foreign work, that his own possessed certain superior qualities of solidity and durability, also was led to acknowledge its inferiority in point of taste. The English artists, determined to do all in their power to enable the British workman to compete in artistic excellence, have created numerous schools in every district of London, but the South Kensington Museum is the most efficacious and glorious result of their zeal.

The collection on exhibition contains the most beautiful specimens of goldsmith's work, of jewelry and watch-

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