

dramatic company for our own amusement.

The efforts of the company were a brilliant success for a first attempt. The hall was beautifully decorated with evergreens, mottoed banners, Union flags, etc; the scenery was very tastefully arranged; the scene shifting, managed by the brothers Hyde, worked to a charm. Great credit is due to the artistic skill and good taste of the managers, Messrs. Joseph Walsh and James E. Robins, also to the stage manager and prompter, Mr. James Linford, who had the performances commence punctually, and opened by prayer. As each performer, or set of performers, appeared before the very appreciative audience that was present, the most marked feature of admiration, next to the scenery, was the exquisite dresses worn by the amateurs, and the great rapidity with which they were doffed, and other characters assumed, the brevity and sudden conclusions of some of the performances being highly amusing. The determined efforts on the part of our minstrelsy to keep us alive were delightful. The "Daughter of Zion," by the full company, was beautifully rendered, so also was a sentimental song by the tenor, Mr. Joseph Walsh. Then a comic dialogue in character by Messrs. Robins and Swan caused considerable mirth. Next, some specimens of sweet music by our talented organist, Miss Annie Phillips, who tried earnestly to make up for the unavoidable absence of her colleague, Miss Martha Layton. The Misses Bardley and Graham and the Boynton family displayed great artistic skill. The entertainment was interspersed with comic songs, glees, trios, full choruses, recitations, and a trip on the light fantastic toe by Mr. Jas. Robins, concluding with the farce of the "Jolly Nigger Boys."

The audience departed expressing themselves very audibly in terms of eulogistic commendation toward the entire arrangement. I will not omit to make special mention of Master Willie Harris, who gave a recitation that must be admitted was a *chef d'œuvre* of any thing that was ever heard in these valleys from a boy so young. A grand ball will be held in the same hall to-night, commencing at 6:30.

Next Saturday Professor Montgomery, of this place, has accepted an invitation to attend professionally to assist in the "Little Old Folks," at Ogden.

Respectfully,

R. J. FILCE.

The European Mission.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 27, 1876.

President Brigham Young:

Dear Brother—Your most heartily welcomed and very interesting letter of Dec. 28 came duly to hand, cheering us all with its glad news of the increasing diligence, faith and union of the gathered Saints, the signal discomfiture of their enemies, the increasing spirit of inquiry and friendliness in the States, the success attending Bro. Jones and party, the spread of truth among the Lamanites, and that your health was so far restored as to again admit of your traveling among the people and supervising for the welfare of Israel, labors so pleasing to yourself and the Saints, and so beneficial to the progress of the church and kingdom of our God.

On our part I am much gratified in again being able to report an encouraging spiritual condition of the work in the European Mission, the faithfulness and diligence of the Elders from Utah very commendable, and their health generally good. The spirit of inquiry does not seem quite so spirited in the British Isles as in the Swiss and German and Scandinavian Missions, still the reports from eight of the thirteen Conferences in the British Isles show an increase in the last six months of sixty-four more than the total of those who had emigrated, died, apostatized and been excommunicated during that period, indicating a goodly number of baptisms, notwithstanding the general prevalence of infidelity and indifference and the powerful opposition of the powers of darkness.

Soon after my arrival here in September last, the weather prevented holding meetings in the open air, but they will be resumed as soon as the weather will permit; and, as heretofore, every possible opportunity will be improved for reaching the attention of the people, for

which all the elders feel very zealous and energetic, as also in encouraging and instructing the Saints.

Labor on the *Star* being rather too confining for the best condition of Bro. Hanham's health, I deemed it best to change his duties for a time, and he started yesterday to labor in the Bristol Conference, where he traveled a while on his first arrival here. Bro. David McKenzie has taken Bro. Hanham's place in the *Star* department, and seems to enter upon his duties with much willingness, spirit, and understanding. Bro. H. G. Park relieves Bro. McKenzie in the presidency of the Glasgow Conference. I trust these changes will meet your approval, and be beneficial to Bro. Hanham's health and to the Mission.

Bro. J. U. Stucki, Pres. of the Swiss and German Mission, and apparently a very excellent Elder, from Bear Lake, I believe, writes from Bern, Jan. 19, as follows:

"There is plenty of room for all the Elders that are here, and more would be required if the work should open up in Germany. I would therefore respectfully suggest that, if any of the brethren are to be released to return home this season, their places be filled with good, faithful Elders who have a knowledge of the language. In the selection of such Elders, the editing of the *Stern* should be borne in mind."

The Elders now there are J. U. Stucki, President and Editor of the *Stern*, who arrived here May 12th, 1874; J. J. Walser, here May 12th, 1874; Fred. Theurer, here March 31st, 1874; Henry Eyring, here Sept., 1874; and Bro's Lenzi and Wells, who arrived last Fall. At least one of them who have been here the longest will need to be released to accompany the emigrants from that mission this season; if thought best that that one be Bro. Stucki, the one selected to be sent to fill his place would need to be qualified to edit the *Stern*.

Elder N. C. Flygare, of Ogden, President of the Scandinavian Mission, writes:

"I would like to get three good missionaries for this mission next spring—a Dane, a Swede, and a Norwegian, suitable to reside in the Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania Conferences, as the brethren now presiding in those places expect to go home this season."

In the Holland Mission President P. J. Lammers, of Ogden, seems to be doing the best he can, but it continues to be rather a hard field in which to hunt the honest in heart. They number forty-one members.

Bro. George L. Farrell, of Logan, President of the Nottingham Conference, in which your son Arta D. is laboring so well, writes, Jan. 17:

"We baptized four more yesterday, and hope soon to baptize several more. We have more of the spirit of inquiry at present than we have had for some time. Our meetings are much better attended than they have been heretofore, and a good spirit prevails in the midst of the Saints."

Such are the reports from the B. f. Conferences in general, and the Elders are vigilant and diligent in improving all opportunities for opening new fields as fast, far and wide as infidelity and indifference will permit.

I should be very much pleased if the facts would permit me to make a like report of the financial condition of the scattered Saints in this Mission, but strikes, lockouts, reductions in wages, high prices of rents, food, &c., and a very general depression in trade place it out of the power of very many to do much toward saving means for their emigration. I am aware that the carrying on of the work at home requires a very large amount of means, and that you and all of us would be much pleased, if the Lord will, that you had a very much larger amount at your disposal for expediting the many and great home improvements you so much desire for the benefit of gathered Israel, for which reason I feel a hesitancy in so much as mentioning the circumstances of the poor Saints abroad, many of whom, as you so well know, see no earthly way for their deliverance except through aid from Zion. Since the Fall of 1873 business panic in the States, cash payments of indebtedness to the P. E. Fund have been few and small, so far as I am advised; also donations, with the exception of your liberal donation of \$1,000 last season, which I am pleased to inform you accomplished much good in delivering some very

poor and, I hope, worthy Saints. It is no doubt true that during the good rates of wages here in 1874-5, except in the agricultural districts where the wages are always pitifully low, several more might have gathered through their own means, if they had wisely used what the Lord was blessing them with; at the same time the prudent and struggling poor have been increasing in numbers during those years, the result of circumstances beyond their control.

Your Brother in the Gospel,
ALBERT CARRINGTON.

School Examination.

WILLARD CITY,
Box Elder Co.,
February 13th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

On Friday and Saturday, the 11th and 12th inst., an examination and exhibition of the Willard Sabbath school was held at the school-house. The room was tastefully decorated with evergreens, flowers, pictures, mottoes, etc., and at 10 a. m., on Friday, the entertainment commenced by singing, "O Lord, Accept our Jubilee," followed by prayer by the chaplain, Bishop G. W. Ward, and singing. Superintendent T. W. Brewerton, in a few brief remarks, said he regretted the lack of room to accommodate all who wished to attend, but bade all welcome. He alluded to the increase of numbers attending, and interest taken in the Sabbath school.

The subjects from which the classes were examined were as follows—1. Order of Priesthood (Doctrine and Covenants 3rd Sec.). 2. Dispensation of fullness of time (Catechism Chapter 17). 3. The Gospel (Compendium 1st and 2nd Chapters). 4. Questions from 2nd Book of Nephy (Book of Mormon). 5. Questions from 7th Chapter of Acts (New Testament). 6. Precepts of our Saviour (New Testament). 7. How do Mankind know there is a God (Catechism 2nd Chapter). 8. Questions and Answers for little learners (Juvenile Instructor).

Between the examinations thirty songs, six glees, fourteen dialogues and thirty-eight recitations helped to make the entertainment amusing, interesting and instructive.

On Saturday the secretary read a report of the condition of the school, showing that, during the past year, there had been an average attendance of about 150 pupils, also that upwards of \$60 had been spent to purchase books and prizes for the school.

During the six meetings held, the room was crowded each time, over four hundred persons in a room which will not comfortably accommodate more than two hundred, and all expressed themselves as being highly entertained and pleased with the proceedings.

Prizes were awarded to the smaller pupils on Saturday evening.

There are eighteen classes organized in the school, and the superintendents and teachers are very punctual and diligent in laboring for the welfare of the rising generation.

JAMES J. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

Plenty of Snow—Intellectual Feasts—Schools—Meetings.

PLYMOUTH, Box Elder Co., Utah,
Feb. 11st, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

We often find contradictions to that blank assertion, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever;" for, although "the beautiful snow" is a theme for poets, we realize here that "familiarity breeds contempt," and fall short of a warm appreciation of our pure but very cool and intimate visitor. Speaking without a figure, we have got enough snow, and, loving an equilibrium of temperature—if it persists in snowing—we may petition for its removal to Central America, where it may be better appreciated. Some idea of the depth of the snow may be formed from the fact that the Utah Northern R. R., at a point a short distance from here, was blocked for some time, and only by great labor and expense has the blockade been removed. Yet, blessed as we are by health, strength, and the Spirit of God, we should not murmur at a little inconvenience, but rather be thankful for manifold blessings bestowed upon a favored people.

Our town has been visited this winter by an unusual amount of

talent, and we have been favored with many intellectual feasts. We take pleasure in acknowledging the visit of the worthy and estimable Bishop of Portage, Bro. Haskins, in company with his friends; also Brothers Abraham and Daniel Zundel, of Willard, and others of whom I may speak commendably.

Under the superintendence of our worthy President, we continue to grow in number and strength and while our homes are not mansions, we live in peace and pleasure, away from bustling strife and the turmoil of an uncharitable and busy throng.

We have a day and Sunday school, which are well attended and make no mean display in advancement. Our quorum is regularly and well attended, which speaks volumes for the young brethren. We have meetings regular and often and are well crowded by almost every one in the settlement. With scarcely an exception our settlement is composed of peaceable and God-fearing citizens, and although surrounded and intermingling with outside influences, we have but little to fear from this source, as our good brethren do not encourage corrupt or profligate associations.

Very respectfully,
W. W. F.

In North Carolina.—The following is extracted from a letter from Elder John R. Winder, Jr., dated at Tom's Creek, Surrey County, North Carolina, Feb. 2nd, to his father—

"On the way from Bridgewater to this place we stopped over a Sunday at Jonesville, a small town, and held meeting in a Methodist church, and bore a faithful testimony to the people of that place. While there we stayed with a Quaker family, very nice people. Next day we walked about 22 miles and carried about 30 pounds of baggage, and stayed at a house where lived a woman who was perfectly furious against us, declaring that if she had her way she would have us and everybody that would even entertain a "Mormon" turned out of the country. Next day, Tuesday, after a walk of twelve miles, we reached Brother Hill's, very tired and footsore, but otherwise feeling well and hearty, I having been restored to health from sickness, with which I was afflicted a few days before, by the power of God.

"I hope, by the grace of God, to do some good in this part of the vineyard. I have not done much preaching yet, but a great deal of talking around the firesides of the people, removing prejudice from their minds.

"On Sunday next we will hold meeting in a Baptist church, and have already quite a number of calls for preaching.

"From Burke to Surrey county is over a rough, mountainous country, covered with timber, making traveling on foot very disagreeable. We are now close to the Virginia line."

Washington.—R. F. Gould writes from Washington, Utah, Feb. 15th, as follows—

"Last Sabbath we had a Sunday school exhibition in this place, which reflected credit on those who took part in the proceedings, at the same time furnishing unmistakable evidence that the children in this part of the Territory are not lacking in point of intelligence and ability. The exercises consisted of recitations, dialogues, songs, essays, questions and answers, and reading by classes.

"The attendance at school has been very irregular during the summer and fall months, in consequence of the prevalence of sickness. But I am happy to say the health of the people is rapidly improving, the result of which is our school is much better attended, yet we experience much difficulty in obtaining a good efficient corps of teachers, which is very essential to the success and prosperity of a Sunday school. We have also a Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association organized in this place, which is being presided over by Brother J. E. Pace, who is very energetic in his labors in seeking to make the same prove a blessing to our youth, yet we find some who appear to have no desire or disposition to avail themselves of the privilege thus afforded."

Homansville.—John Freckleton writes from Homansville, Tintic, Utah County, Feb. 12, as follows—

"The winter, thus far, has been very severe in this region. You cannot get within two feet of American soil, anywhere about here, for the "white mantle," so much talked of, is spread on pretty thick. Stock on the range looks rather thin, and a dead one may be found here and there; if it storms much more, a good many of them, will suffer.

"The Wyoming mill starts up on the 20th inst., after resting since Christmas. There is considerable ore out at the mines, but it is hard work to haul it to the mill, the snow being so deep and drifting. The people here enjoy good health."

The Destruction of the Valley Lands.

Some of the papers printed in the mining counties have latterly adopted a very foolish and imprudent tone in writing about the damage caused by the mining debris on valley lands. They affect to think that the miners have a right to destroy the property of their neighbors, and that if it can be shown that mining existed before agriculture, the latter interest is practically put out of court. This is simply ridiculous. No law can give the miners, or any one else, a right to injure the property of others. If it could, then miners as a class would be above the Constitution, both State and Federal. But the truth is that this great question is only obscured and rendered more difficult by such preposterous arguments, and it is very desirable that they should therefore be abandoned. It should be perceived that there is here no necessity whatever for ill-feeling or acrimony, but that profound questions of right are involved, and that the sole possible way of answering them is in accordance with equity. Here are two important interests, both valuable to the State, both involving the fortunes of thousands, both deserving encouragement. The mining interest, however, has for some time past been so conducted as to react injuriously upon the farming interest, and it is a perfectly certain proposition that some means will have to be found for putting an end to this state of things. It will never do to hold that the miners have a right to continue the present destructive processes indefinitely, for all the equities are on the side of the farmer. But since no one wishes to put a stop to hydraulic mining, supposing such a measure practicable, it is incumbent upon the miners especially to come forward and assist in finding a way out of the difficulty. Upon them the onus rests, in fact. They cannot and do not deny that the damage done, not only to the valley lands, but to the river channels, is attributable to their work, but their champions seem to think that they ought not to be asked to take any action in the premises, and that above all things they should not be required to bear the expense of any remedial processes. These writers do not remember that the miners have already cost the farmers millions of dollars, expended for levees, but seem to think it is the business of the miners to wash down the hills, and the business of the farmers to spend their substance upon levees, and that this arrangement can be got to work indefinitely. Assuredly this is a great mistake. The injuries inflicted upon the farmers are of the kind which no men will stand permanently. If at this moment their reasonable remonstrances are treated cavalierly, and they are defied, the effect will only be to intensify their determination to secure relief, and if they should then be driven to demand measures calculated to injure the miners, the latter will have no just ground for complaint. For the sake of all interests, therefore, we earnestly advise moderation and rational discussion of the questions at issue, and we recommend the advocates of the miners to make up their minds that the evil of which the farmers complain is in its nature so great that a remedy will have to be found, no matter at what price. If this obvious and inevitable truth is recognized at once, it may avert much waste of time, and promote a speedy and mutually satisfactory settlement.—*Sacramento Record-Union*, Jan'y. 17.