

The Eastdale branch, belonging to the Sanford ward, consists of a few families of Saints who are founding a settlement on Costilla creek, in Costilla county, Col., about 25 miles south-east of Sanford and across the Rio Grande del Norte. The townsite of Eastdale is about one and a half miles north of the boundary line between Colorado and New Mexico and about four miles northeast of the foot of Ute mountain. The prosperity of the little settlement depends mainly upon the success of a reservoir which the brethren have been busily engaged in constructing during the last few years. There is only one well in the whole village, the property of Elder Christen Jensen, and on this all the people and domestic animals rely for their supply of water. Hence at every hour of the day the villagers are seen with buckets in hand wending their way to and from this "good and faithful well" which so far has not failed in furnishing the requisite quantity of water for man and beast. The latter, however, are not always liberally supplied. Hence all day long horses and cattle are loitering around the well anxiously watching their chances for a drink, which only can be obtained when some kind-hearted neighbor draws more water than his own animals may need. When I state that the well is 60 feet deep, it will readily be seen that the hoisting of water to the surface for so many living beings is no slight task. Thirteen families, or seventy souls, constitute the present population of the Eastdale branch, and Simeon A. Dunn is the presiding Elder.

The Richfield ward, consisting of 63 families, or 385 souls, is presided over by Bishop Ephraim Coomb; his counselors are Wilhelm F. O. Behrman and Peter N. Guzman. The village of Richfield is situated three-quarters of a mile east of La Jara, a railway station. From 1883 to 1888 it existed as a ward; from 1888 to 1891, owing to the removal of a large proportion of its inhabitants to Sanford, it was reduced to a branch of the Sanford ward; but since 1891, it has again had a full ward organization of its own. The place possesses nearly the same natural advantages as Sanford and Manassa, and its numerous artesian wells afford the people excellent water for culinary purposes.

The Morgan branch consists of seventeen families of Saints, who live in a scattered condition on their respective quarter sections of land in a flat and very extensive country lying northwest of Richfield. The log meeting house recently erected by the Saints of the branch, is situated near the Alamosa creek, eight miles from Richfield, and about fifteen miles southwest of the town of Alamosa. The branch was organized in 1887, and named for Elder John Morgan, who has taken a very active part in this valley in locating and encouraging the Saints who have immigrated hither from the Southern States. John D. Westbrook is the presiding Elder of Morgan.

The Blanca branch consists of a few Saints residing in and around the range known as Zopato, situated immediately northwest of the grand old mountain called Mount Blanca which

raises its snow-capped peaks heavenward at an altitude of 14,483 feet above the level of the sea. It is the second highest peak in the state of Colorado, and is loftier than Pike's peak by 336 feet. The Saints residing on the numerous small creeks which gush forth from the west base of the mountain are all new beginners, and are as yet not so comfortable as they might desire to be; but the future prospects are pretty good; and a ward organization is contemplated here at some distant day, when questions as to the ownership of land, water and other rights shall have been properly adjusted. At present the little branch is struggling along as best it can; meetings and Sunday schools are held occasionally, and Wiley F. King presides over the branch.

The Beulah ward consists of twenty-two families of Saints, or 112 souls, residing on the Chama river, in Rio Arriba county, New Mexico, about 100 miles southwest of Manassa, and about 18 miles west of Chamita, the nearest railway station on the D. & R. G. railway. The altitude is only about 6000 feet above the level of the sea, which, coupled with the fact that it is located on the southern slope, makes it a fine fruit country. But the river, which is somewhat similar to the Rio Virgen of Southern Utah, is hard to control, the bed of the stream consisting of quicksands, and floods being of frequent occurrence. Hence the brethren have been struggling hard since 1889 to make a success of the place. The town is built on lands purchased from Mexicans, and a short distance above the new settlement stands an old Catholic church which was built about three hundred years ago. Asahel L. Fuller is the Bishop of the Beulah ward, being ordained to that position in March, 1891; but the ward was not fully organized till Dec. 11, 1892.

San Luis is the only Stake of Zion in Colorado, but there is room for many more settlements in the same valley, not to speak of other portions of the state. More Saints are wanted here to strengthen the different wards and branches of the Church; but all who come must consider that they are to live between 7000 and 8000 feet up in the air as compared to the sea level. Otherwise the facilities are good. Here are "mountains high," a "clear blue sky," and "pure breezes" do indeed blow, as I am sure anyone would acknowledge who spent a week ago last Saturday here; and the "clear streamlets," such as the Conejos, San Antonio, Rio Grande del Norte and their numerous tributaries flow continually, affording excellent opportunities for extensive irrigation. Yes, let Latter-day Saints who are in search of homes not forget the San Luis Valley; but before deciding to locate their families here let them come and see for themselves. Then they can blame no one for exaggerating the natural advantages of this extensive, lofty and windy valley.

ANDREW JENSON.

#### LETTER FROM ANN ARBOR.

ANN ARBOR, Michigan, Dec. 19.—With a tempest raging without and the fire cheerfully burning within, these notes are being written.

On taking up last Wednesday

evening's town paper we noticed that the Utah statehood bill had almost unanimously passed the House. How gratifying this was to us! We fully expected that it would pass the Senate and President without much difficulty, but we now see that the Women's Society of Washington are going to do their best to have it blocked in the Senate—their ground being that polygamy is not dead in Utah. We will watch with interest the doings of the upper house, and see if 200,000 people are to be kept down by a band of women—claiming that of which they know nothing.

The News of December 10th made a flying trip to Ann Arbor. It arrived here the evening of Dec. 8th—making the trip from Salt Lake in 48 hours. It is the Utah paper that is sought after here.

La grippe seems an epidemic here. Nearly all of Utah's children have battled with it, but, happy to say, all are better of it now.

That we are all keeping temperance and not breaking the Word of Wisdom will be seen when I say that none of us smoke or chew tobacco, drink liquor of any kind, tea or coffee. We have good, healthful cocoa at our meals and water between times.

To those who fear for the spiritual welfare of friends and relatives here we would say: Here we are put solely on our own resources; we meet obstacles in our studies that seem unsurmountable, and we learn that there is but One who can aid us. We therefore become more prayerful and humble, and I am safe in saying that we are more strict in the duties of our faith than we ever were before.

Herman von Holst, the great historian, and of Chicago university, delivered a lecture on "Toussaint Louverture," before the students in university hall, last Saturday evening, the 16th. It was a master effort—a gem of thought—though the delivery was not the best, being of the German-English brogue. Mr. Holst was the guest of President and Mrs. Angell while here.

Christmas vacation is nigh and with it will come but little rest for us. Reviewing our past lessons it will take most of our time. The law department closes for vacation on the 21st inst.; literary, medical and musical on the 23rd.

Miss Louise Keller, of Mantt, now at Op. k county normal school at Chicago, is expected here to spend Christmas vacation with us. Jodie Horne of Richfield goes to Grand Rapids in company with Ernest Partridge of Provo, to spend a few days with college comrades this week.

H. S. Harris and wife, Mrs. James Brown, B. Wooley et al, have had the grip, but all are well now.

Q. U. E. E. N.

Cyrus Hills, of Campo, Cal., has been pestered for some time by a big mountain lion, which killed his hogs, goats and calves. The loss of a particularly fine colt determined Hills to get the lion at any cost. He fixed up a big steel trap and baited it, taking the utmost care to fool the suspicious beast, and that night he bagged his game. The lion was transferred to a stout cage and is kept chained. He is a fierce specimen.