

DECORATION DAY.

Our honored dead lie slumbering here,
Free from all worldly strife;
Only waiting till God shall come
And give them all new life.
Cover their graves with garlands fair.
With reverence try to pay,
Floral offerings from loving hearts,
On Decoration Day.

For who would not so gladly go
To where their loved ones rest,
And flowers of affection bring
To scatter o'er their breast?
Our dear ones may be laid to rest
In places far away;
Will some kind friend give them a flower
On Decoration Day.

'Tis but a feeble way to show
Our love so pure and deep
For loved ones who have passed away,
Who now have gone to sleep;
They too have put down earthly woes,
So now a tribute pay,
To brighten the City of our Dead
On Decoration Day?

Those who die in the Lord Jesus,
Know their reward is sure,
'Tis but a little while to wait
Let's patiently endure.
When ripen'd garner'd, gather'd home,
Where once we used to play,
How great, how grand, we'll have no use
For Decoration Day.

M. F. MARIGER

Bountiful, Utah, May 25th, 1898.

LETTER FROM SYRIA.

Aleppo, April 4, 1898.
Our party has now safely reached this city. Our journey, overland to Killis, by horse, thirty-five miles, and from Killis to Aleppo by wagon. Another thirty-five miles, or thereabouts, was pleasant enough so far as the weather was concerned, but the ride on horse-back, a long distance, with poor saddles and poor animals is very tiresome. Could we have been seen by our friends they would have smiled at our appearance. Stiff and limpy we made our way into Killis and found our night's lodgings in the same inn with the donkeys and camels. The donkeys brayed with such force and melody that talking while they had the floor was out of the question. Still we were entertained, for the soldiers at the barracks practicing the calls on their bugles were responded to by the "jacks" in their basso tones. And then for a change the dogs on the market below would have a quarrel and then a battle, all of which helped to break the monotony of the occasion.

I should have mentioned the parting with the Saints at Aintab. On March the 29th we left Aintab, after a touching farewell with our dear brethren and sisters whom we have learned to love for their faith and love of the Gospel. They went with us out of town, many of them, where we gathered in a group and offered prayer. This custom has remained since the days of the Apostles, when they left, we read that the Saints went with them, and that they prayed, committing one another to the kind keeping of God. It is only fair to mention here that though many of the people are light-minded in some things and have but few cares in a worldly sense, being satisfied with but a little; yet it must also be mentioned that they are intellectually bright when touched by a flash of light, and that the Gospel is a sweet theme to them. And then they do really desire their soul's salvation. And I do believe a fair per cent of them will be useful member in the Church of Christ and will do much toward the upbuilding of the kingdom of God upon the earth. This may be equally applicable to male and female. Many good staunch sisters may be found among our Saints, and I must say that I have been much surprised at the faith and independence our sisters have exhibited in receiving the Gospel. While here ten

years ago so little was seen of the women that no real opinion could be formed, but now that the Gospel leaven has had time to work we find the same conditions here as in other countries, and find sisters who have stepped forward and received the ordinance of baptism, even though father and mother objected. Young men full of faith and hope have broke loose from kindred and traditions and come out boldly for the truth. Now if they have been inspired of God through His Holy Spirit to begin right, why should they not have power to continue and be useful in doing the part in building up the various stakes of Zion if they observe the conditions of the Gospel?

At Killis we chanced on a Cherkes (Caucasian) whom we hired to take us to Aleppo. He proved a very nice little fellow; so we partly spoke for him to take us from Aleppo to Damascus, overland. At Aleppo we were met by the Saints outside of town and by them we were escorted to the home of Dr. Hagobian, where we were made welcome, and, where Brother Lund and the writer made their home while they sojourned a few days in Halep. The Saints in Halep were not so united as those in Aintab and Zora; still, we believe we succeeded in restoring a good feeling and in organizing them in a better order so that they will find it much better and easier to overcome their difficulties. Three were added to the Church here.

Aleppo, or Halep, as the Turks call it, is a large city, with a large trade. Its bazaars are very extensive. There is a good deal of weaving going on here, so that it may be said to be a manufacturing town also, so that its 100,000 inhabitants are kept quite busy. Many nice houses are being built on the outskirts of the city, so that some parts have quite a modern appearance. Since the road has been built through many fine carriages are found in town.

Aleppo is an old city, probably was in existence 2,000 years before Christ. It was then named Beroea. It is located about 1,300 feet above the level of the sea. The climate is somewhat cool during its short winter period, but the summer is pleasant, being temperate, with cool westerly winds.

A curious disease known as the Aleppo boil or button prevails in this city and neighborhood. Most of the people seem to take the disease. It is said not to be painful, but after a year's time leaves its marks, and the people are horribly disfigured with it, of course, some more some less. Visitors are said to have taken the plague long after they have visited Aleppo. Dogs and cats have their turn also, hence the poor street-dog who has a severe attack presents a most horrid appearance.

Owing to the barren looks of the country around Aleppo, the city and surroundings look like an oasis in the desert. This is, however, not because of the real barrenness of the country, but because of the indolence and carelessness of the fellah (Arab farmer). This species of humanity does nothing to improve conditions, nor to make for himself comfort. He plants no trees nor think of his needs tomorrow but is content to keep things moving in the same lines that his father left.

Between Killis and Aleppo is much fine country, some with fine water privileges. Thousands of acres of as fine land as is laid out door in any country. Yet we saw no signs of a corn (maize) stock. Wheat and barley was the grain, that or nothing. Of course in many districts it was next to nothing. But had they planted a little corn, which must certainly do exceedingly well here, they would rest the land and get better yields and have a chance to clean out the land which is pretty weedy in many places. O, how

well we Americans could live in places like that if we had it under our control. A beautiful climate, good soil, and fair water! Many people with fair energy and economy are living high with no such opportunities laying out doors as may be found in northern Syria. With such a country at their command, it is no wonder that the Syrian kings could raise great armies and carry on great wars. Here were resources and a place where wealth could be produced.

Palestine has its excellences, but it is small. Had Israel been blessed with room like the Assyrians, what a nation they would have been, but God must have had a purpose in keeping them hemmed in on a small corner. For an example of results one needs only to look to America and see just a branch of the mother people broken off and planted in a fertile spot of the earth, and soon they far outnumbered the whole house of Israel. And if such results could be had from a small twig, what could not the main tree have done. But the Turk says inshallah dahi oladjak dir, ie, by the help of God it will yet be. So we feel, the house of Israel will be felt in the earth, and they will yet be crying for room and they will continue until they have filled the whole earth.

F. F. HINTZ.

Hama (Hamath) April 6th, 1898.

It so happened that our little company, consisting of four Elders from Zion and one from Turkey, reached Hama, the ancient Hamath, on the 6th day of April, conference day in Zion. We fancied ourselves sitting in our favorite places in the large Tabernacle, listening to the servants of God dispensing the word of God. Though we were not present, yet we felt that much valuable counsel was given, and that God, through His Spirit would instruct us so that we might always be found in line and harmony with His work. We spent part of the day in Hama in hunting up the lost sheep of the house of Israel. We feel somewhat encouraged, for though not knowing a soul, a couple of us went out and enquired around as to who might be found willing to hear. We were soon taken to a young Dr. Salloom's, who proved to be a gentleman, and in a few minutes after meeting the doctor we were invited to a meeting that same evening, where we might preach to them the word of God. We accepted with thanks. At meeting the doctor acted as interpreter and Elder Hintz delivered a discourse upon the first principles of the Gospel. This is perhaps the first discourse of the kind in this dispensation in Hamath. And we hope it will bear good fruits, as it was brought around in such a remarkable way. We left with pressing invitations to return. Undoubtedly Hamath has heard many a testimony in earlier days, as it was of some importance under the Romans.

Between Aleppo and Hama is three days' journey with wagon, or about 100 miles. The first day out from Aleppo we had a fine view of the surroundings of Aleppo and of the hills south of the city. Cultivation is not very good except on the river, which extends only the short distance of ten miles south, where it is lost in a swamp.

After getting out of the hilly country we struck an open country, more or less improved, but poorly farmed. There was one point of excellence, however, that we should mention—they universally plough the longest and straightest furrows here of any I have seen in any country. Many fields may be seen one half mile long, and every furrow it as straight as an arrow. They manage to sow their grain in rows and many places one may see them cultivate the wheat as we do our corn, by going through the rows with a plow. This is quite a scene in this