

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

JUNE, 1850.

NO. 9.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1891.

VOL. XLII.

A FEBRUARY VALENTINE.

O February, you are keen!
Your smiles are few and far between;
And yet no other time of year
Is half so welcome and so dear!

The months in glad procession go,
Their arms with offerings overflow,
For each some wondrous gift has brought
And into earth's dull fabric wrought.

'Tis April the first violet brings,
But May a host upon us springs;
And as its banners fade from sight,
She too dissolves in bloom and light.

Though June into her glowing rose
The ardor of her whole soul throws,
She thinks with anguish of July,
In whose hot grasp it soon must die.

Of drifting snow and dazzling spell
By sunlight woven what need to tell?
Of trackless plains and perfect moons
Whereby the nights excel the noons.

No month is ever twice the same,
Yet do you put them all to shame;
Yours is a more abiding worth,
Sweet month that brought my Love to earth!

Whatever warmth your hands deny
To sullen earth and sullen sky,
Whatever hue or gift or grace,
Has found expression in her face.

For all the ills the winter sends
One thought will always make amends:
Upon a February morn
The sunniest of her sex was born!

Lucy C. Bull.

THE BANNOCK STAKE OF ZION.

BY ANDREW JENSON.

MENAN WARD.

William Nephi Stephens, Bishop;
Oscar William Greeley Green, First
Counselor; Spencer Vaness Raymond,
Second Counselor.

Menan Ward, the oldest "Mormon" settlement in the Bannock Stake of Zion, consists of the Saints residing on the west end of Poole's Island, thus named in honor of John R. Poole, the first settler. It is also called Long Island. The ward extends east to the Labelle Ward or to the township line between Ranges 38 and 39 east. It is nine miles long with an average width of three miles. The whole island, which is one of the choicest spots in the upper Snake River Valley, is about twenty-five miles long and ranges from one to three miles in width, the

west end being the widest. It is separated from the main land by the largest channel of Snake River, on the north, and the so-called "Dry Bed," on the south. This latter stream was undoubtedly dry once, but is now a large river, with a swift and dangerous current, so that the only means of crossing it is by ferry most of the time. The Big Buttes Ferry is the means of communication between Poole's Island and the main land on the north.

Fine groves of timber and numerous clusters of cottonwood trees beautify the island, which is also noted for its extensive meadows and very rich and productive soil.

Only a small portion of the people live on the townsite, the others residing on their farms.

The Menan townsite comprises 320 acres of land and is part of section 33 in township 5 north, range 38 east, Boise Meridian. It is 17 miles, by way of ferry, north of Eagle Rock and about sixteen miles southwest of Rexburg. In a straight line it is only two miles north of Louisville. (See map on Page 130).

About two miles east of the Menan townsite stands a peculiar oblong hill known as Cedar Buttes, also called Little Buttes to distinguish it from the Big Buttes, or Craters, on the main land. The "Little Buttes" have a height of about one hundred feet, and is about half a mile long from north to south; it is covered with small cedars. A deep depression in the middle gives it the appearance of two buttes. The ascent from the west is quite steep, while the slope is more gradual from the opposite side.

HISTORY.—The beautiful and fertile island now known as Poole's Island lay "for many years as if lost to the busy world, except when visited by some trapper in search of such wealth as he might occasionally find in beaver and wild animals, which were found in great numbers along the banks of the Snake River, or perhaps some nomadic stock owner who had located here for the convenience of water and pastures which nature seemed to lavish in bestowing upon this lovely land. It lay here as if hidden from the outside world by the protecting hand of Providence for the future home of Latter-day Saints, those of God's children who may choose to locate here and sanctify the land by keeping the statutes and judgments of the Almighty, until February, 1879, when Elder John R. Poole being

attracted here by reports of wild game in great abundance visited the island, after which he proceeded to Ogden, Utah, where he resided, and reported what he had seen and knew of the country to Franklin D. Richards, who gave him a letter of instruction, authorizing him to induce settlers to come here and he was to preside over them.

During that year (1879) that part of the country was surveyed by the government.

In March, 1879, Joseph C. Fisher moved his family to the island and located near the "Little Buttes." This was the first Latter-day Saint family on the island. Previous to this a few non-Mormon stockmen had located temporary ranches there.

In April, 1879, John R. Poole again visited the island and set teams to plowing at a point northeast of the "Little Buttes," which was the first plowing ever done on the island. In a letter which he, under date of April 20, 1879, sent to Apostle Franklin D. Richards, he writes:

"I left Ogden April 1, 1879, and arrived in Blackfoot the same day. After visiting my railroad camp I, together with others, proceeded to the vicinity of the forks of Snake River and thence to the mouth of the South Fork Canyon, where we encamped for the Sunday. On Monday, April 7, we procured a boat and crossed the South Fork. On that and the following day, in company with Frederick Garner and others, I prospected the country between the two forks of Snake River, as far as we could within the limited time we had at our disposal and the means of conveyance in our possession; for the boat with which we had to cross the river was too small to take our animals over. In the evening of the 8th we re-crossed the river to camp, and in the evening of the 9th we arrived at the "Little Buttes," or mounds, standing on the south side of the river, directly south of and within three miles of the forks of Snake River. On the 10th, assisted by Brother Garner and others, I selected a section of land lying west of and adjacent to the buttes for a townsite. Afterwards we selected and located lands for farms, all of which was done agreeably and to the entire satisfaction of all present. Our little company consisted of fifteen souls, among whom were three brothers by the name of Wilson, of West Weber, Utah, Brother Fred. Garner and brothers, James Pincock, my son