

Correspondence.

Reminiscences—The Natives—The Work.

LAIE, Oahu, Sandwich Islands, March 12, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The first of our Elders, ten in number, arrived at these Islands in 1850, and soon became satisfied that to introduce the principles of the gospel among the foreign population with any degree of success was a simple impossibility. One half of the little company became disheartened, released themselves and left the islands, while the remaining five, Elders Geo. Q. Cannon, Henry Bigler, Wm. Farrer, James Keeler, and James Hawkins, with commendable energy, commenced the study of the language spoken by the natives. In this they succeeded remarkably well, so that in a very short time they began to preach to the natives in their own tongue. Many hundreds were soon baptized and confirmed members in the church. The natives being naturally of an excitable character, no doubt many of them embraced the gospel through excitement, and many others through deference for those whom they looked upon as their superiors, and as they received the gospel followed them in their wake, without any special conversion to the truth, so that the gospel net had soon taken of all kinds.

The storm clouds of persecution began to gather, and the priests of the day to howl, and to hurl forth their missiles of misrepresentation and scandal upon the devoted heads of those Elders who had dared to come among and lead away portions of their flocks.

The old Spaulding story, and its contemporaries, were brought forth in primitive style, and bitter invectives, such as are known only among modern divines, were brought into requisition and sown broadcast among the people, for their creeds were in danger, and the possibility of their losing their bread and butter stared them in the face.

The Elders, however, were firm and untiring in their exertions, and were successful in their labors. Other Elders were sent to their assistance, and the mission corps has been increased and diminished from time to time until no less than seventy-five different Elders have labored among this people, many of whom have performed their second and several their third mission on these Islands. No less than \$30,000 has been spent by the missionaries in traveling expenses while here. Many of the Elders have traveled thousands of miles on foot in this, to foreigners, debilitating climate, sometimes destitute of clothing and barefooted, and preached from town to town, and from house to house where the people would give them a hearing. This has been repeated over and over again, until I presume to say there is scarcely a Hawaiian but has heard, or had an opportunity of hearing, the gospel frequently. As many as five thousand, more or less, have belonged to the Church at one time, and I think I am safe in saying thousands have apostatized. Still, the members of the Church now number over four thousand, but oh! how frail and prone they are to fall into all kinds of sin, especially the national sin of adultery. It is impossible for the most ready writer to describe the scenes of suffering that disease, the offspring of this sin, has produced among this people; it counts its victims by thousands yearly, and to all human appearance the nation will soon become extinct through the effects of this evil. Children, owing to their scarcity among the natives, are fast becoming objects of attraction and special comment.

If I am correctly informed, the legislative body of the nation has seriously contemplated offering a premium for the most numerous and best regulated families of children; the king upon his throne is becoming serious, and is exerting himself to arrest the mortality among his subjects. There are now hundreds among this people who are afflicted with a combination of loathsome diseases, called by them leprosy, some hundreds of whom have been gathered out and taken to the island of Molokai, where they are supported by the government and prevented from intermingling with any except those who are like afflicted as themselves. Their disease being incurable, they linger out a miserable existence,

but, like the drunkard who has witnessed the destruction of his predecessors in drink, this people continue their downward course and are falling victims to their own folly.

Formerly the Hawaiians were idolaters, and worshipped the sun, moon and stars, wood and stone, and different kinds of fishes and fowls; also the great volcano Kilauea. To these idols they offered sacrifices of various kinds. I have been told by some of the older natives that, upon special occasions of great moment to them, they have gone so far as to offer human beings a sacrifice to these gods of theirs. On occasions of this kind the young and most beautiful were selected as victims, and without a possibility of escape were immolated.

As is the case with all semi-civilized nations, they are credulous and superstitious, and manifest great reverence for the traditions of their fathers. To this day there are those among them who worship secretly their heathen gods.

Formerly, on the death of a chief, or nobleman, the people would gather in large bodies to mourn their loss, where they would weep and chant their death wail, similar to that of our American Indians, would burn themselves with hot irons, scarify and lacerate their flesh, knock out their front teeth, and indulge in promiscuous sensuality.

Over twenty years ago, during my travel of three years among them as a preacher of the gospel, I saw but very few adult females who had not lost a part of their front teeth. Now I find them different in this respect. Neither are they so much addicted to tattooing as they were formerly, but at the present time the traditions and superstitions of former days enter largely into their composition.

Many of them are now well educated, dwell in fine buildings, with beautifully ornamented grounds about them, ride in their carriages, &c., but the poorer people can boast of nothing more than grass houses, with thatched sides and roof. Persons, to be well adapted to become travelling elders in this country, should be made on the telescope principle, so that they can shorten down and enter these hovels without inconvenience, should have perfect control of their stomachs, be capable of living in a dense fog of tobacco smoke, and be encased in tin or some composition equally capable of repelling the attacks of fleas and other vermin, should take no notice of the intrusive character of dogs, cats, and other pets, should be proof against rain and the scorching rays of the sun, be "good feeders" and practical fasters. Persons being endowed with the above requisites, and who are jolly, good natured fellows, with good locomotive powers, would be likely to meet with success, and to be hospitably entertained in Hawaiian style.

The natives, where they have not been tampered with by the whites, are kind-hearted and given to hospitality. The principal fault with those who have received the gospel is, they are too frequent candidates for conversion. If a rigid discipline, such as justice would seem to demand among more enlightened people, was enforced among the native Saints, it would be only a short time before their numbers would be materially diminished. Branches of the church have been organized on each of the inhabited islands of the group, our headquarters being at Laie, Oahu, thirty-two miles from the metropolis of the kingdom. We are using our influence to gather the Saints to this place, quite a large number of the most faithful of whom are now here, laboring under the direction of the Elders, raising sugar cane, &c. Our object is to furnish them with labor, so that they can sustain themselves where we can exert an influence with them for good. Many of them are anxiously looking for the time when they can gather out to Zion, and join with their friends, perhaps a dozen of whom have gone before them, in assisting to perform a work for their kindred. We have to deal with them as with children, leading them along as best we can, and have splendid opportunities for applying the seventy times seven rule of forgiveness.

With kind regards,

I am your fellow laborer,
WARD E. PACK.

Nobody but a doctor can take the jaw out of a weaman.

Baptisms—Emigration.

KIMBALL, Basque Co.,
Texas, April 6, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Brother—Elder J. S. Page, jun., and myself have just arrived in this section of country from Arkansas. Since writing to you from the latter place on the 9th of March, we have baptized six persons near Des Arc, and organized the company leaving there this month. Elder J. P. Wimmer of Payson has the leadership or presidency of the company, and N. P. Beebe of Provo, and T. C. West, a native Elder, act as his counsellors, Milton Chalk as chaplain, H. H. Cordell as captain of the guard, Gad Morris captain of the first ten, and Thomas Tolley of the second ten. A captain for the third ten remains to be voted in yet.

I feel that I have done my duty in that section of country. Within the last thirteen months there has been between ninety and one hundred persons baptized into the church, and all of that number (except thirteen), with their families, 140 souls in all, are either now on the road or ready to roll out to gather with the Saints, either in New Mexico or Arizona. I consider our work there about complete, and for this reason we have left there, and come here to labor, and Kimball, Basque Co., Texas, will be our address for some time to come.

I receive encouraging news from all the Elders laboring in the Southern States.

Desiring to be remembered by all the Saints in their prayers, I remain as ever yours, &c.,

H. G. BOYLE.

Y. M. M. I. A.

BOUNTIFUL, South District,
April 19th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

On the 10th day of April, 1877, we re-organized our Young Men's Literary Association into a Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, under the auspices of our worthy and former President, Bro. Wm. J. Parkins, in which he was re-elected. He then chose Wm. Page for his first counselor and Joseph Hogan for his second counselor, with a Secretary and Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary and Librarian. We have received great assistance in our rules from Brother Junius F. Wells, President of the Y. M. M. I. A., Salt Lake City. Our Association is steadily progressing, under the untiring efforts of the President, W. J. Parkins, and his zealous co-workers. The influence of our first organization is very perceptibly seen in the reformed conduct of our young men, and their devoted attention to intellectual pursuits. The exercises that are practised in our meetings are such as will prepare young people to promote the interests of the work of the Lord, and they are of a sufficiently diversified character to render them interesting. The great portion of the time in our meetings is devoted to seeking to receive and impart a better and more extended acquaintance with the principles of the Gospel. The few members of our association who have not yet received a testimony of the truth of the Gospel are taking steps to obtain it, and generally a portion of the time in the meetings is devoted to bearing testimony to the truth of the work of God. The handing in of written questions by members on suitable subjects, and the allotment of the same, for answer, to other members is one of our commendable exercises, in which they conclude with the delivering of a brief address.

We have our meetings once in two weeks, and have a good time, and the spirit of the Lord is felt and enjoyed in our presence, and will be the precursor of much good in the community of which we are members.

Respectfully,

JOHN B. TURNBAUGH,
Corresponding Secretary Y. M. M. I. A.

Beaver—The Country South—St. George—Leeds—Silver Reef—Bonanza City—Improvements, Etc.

BEAVER, April 15, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

As each succeeding wagon makes its appearance upon the summit of the mountains south and rolls down

into Beaver, the town looks more and more like what it was a couple of weeks or so ago, and what it has not been since, viz., a tolerably populous settlement. The Conference visitors, with but few exceptions, have returned from their expedition, and the remainder are looked for to-day or to-morrow at furthest.

That portion of Utah lying south of the Black Ridge and north of the Arizona line has undergone considerable change in the past two years. The person who had not been there for some time previous to that period, must scarcely have been able to recognize some portions of it. St. George itself has donned something of a metropolitan aspect, quite in contrast with its quiet, sober-looking appearance of a few years ago, and looking at this season of the year, to the voyageur from Fremont's Basin, like a veritable oasis in the desert. The trees which line its streets so thickly that at a distance the houses are scarcely discernible, are in full foliage, and have been for weeks; the gardens are already plentifully adorned with variegated flowers and ornamental shrubbery; vegetables of different kinds are on the market in good quantity; and nature generally is attired in her most becoming apparel. But most conspicuous among all the pleasing scenes with which St. George abounds, is the view which is afforded from all parts of it of the magnificent Temple, which is situated half a mile south of the eastern portion of the town. Being entirely of the purest white externally, its noble outlines stand forth in bold relief against the dark background of the Arizona mountains, forming a picture which once seen is always remembered. It is no less an ornament to the city adjoining, than a lasting tribute to the perseverance, industry and faith of the people by whom it was constructed.

Leeds, also, has experienced a complete transition. Fifteen months ago it contained about a dozen buildings, all occupied by families, and no business houses of any description. Now, the former are doubled, and there are half a dozen of the latter. Indeed, if I were to include Silver Reef and Bonanza City in Leeds, which is commonly done (the three towns being actually about half a mile apart, though attached to each other by straggling cabins, the whole being like so many links of sausage), I should have to say that there were fully 150 buildings of all kinds, at least twenty-five of the number being business establishments of greater or less pretensions. The population of this connected town cannot be less than 1,000, and a "fair count" might raise it some hundreds above that figure. Silver Reef, the center of the trio and the center of attraction, has much the largest number and the greatest amount of business; yet, as a natural consequence of the rush which invariably follows the opening of a new and prospectively good mining camp, the place is sadly overdone and in a majority of instances overdrawn. There are too many men for the amount of work being done, and the daily traffic is sadly inferior to the opportunities offered for investment. If it retains its present advantages for, say, six months longer, or until tardy-gaited capital drifts along and a few more quartz mills are erected, it may then be a flourishing locality financially, and it may not; speculation as to the future of a mining camp is too intricate a subject for the writer hereof.

Beaver is preparing for substantial future prosperity and independence, by providing for the reduction of her crude materials at home. By "crude materials" I do not mean ores or any other mineral resources, for these have done her but little good so far; I mean her breadstuffs, her wool, and such other products as constitute the necessities of every-day life, and which she can produce in ample quantity and of superior quality. A first-class grist mill, of stone, and containing the latest improvements in machinery of that class, is the most recent accession to her industries. It produces a grade of flour excelled by none in Utah, and has supplied a want which has been long felt in this vicinity. Then her woollen factory, descriptions of which have often appeared in the NEWS, and which is entitled to be considered as the keystone in the arch of independence, produces fabrics of a quality which any portion of the west might well feel proud of. The co-operative store is also a promi-

nent feature, it being one of the best conducted and best paying concerns of the kind in the country. Beaver is determined to hold her own in the matter of commercial prosperity at least.

Mr. Stillson, a correspondent of the New York Herald, arrived in Beaver yesterday evening, and will proceed southward in the morning. His destination is St. George, and his avowed object the obtaining of an interview with President B. Young.

The NEWS informs us of the re-appointment of Judge Boreman. This is very gratifying in one sense and in one only—it relieves us of suspense.

The weather is not so summer-like as it was a few days ago. Evidently Winter has not entirely relaxed its hold upon this part of the Territory.

Reminiscences.

THREE MILE CREEK DISTRICT,
Brigham City,
Box Elder County,
April 2, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

In the year 1853 I started for the gold fields in California, from my native State, Old Virginia. I fell in with a company of men, strangers to me, in Weston, Missouri, fitting up for California. The leader of this company got up some twenty or twenty-five wagons, brand new from the shops, and loaded them with goods for Utah. We were to drive teams through, or at least until the goods were unloaded in Salt Lake City, for our passage. There were some thirty or more of us in company. A rougher crowd of men I never saw in my life. Not one of us belonged to the church of the so-called "Mormons."

We arrived in Salt Lake City a few days before the 24th of July, 1853, unloaded the wagons of the goods, and were allowed to camp within a few rods of the old Tabernacle. This company of men were allowed to camp there unmolested for at least a week or ten days, unmolested in the least, although many of them were of the most suspicious character, and the "Mormons" well knew that they were enemies to them from their expressions. They then went to California unmolested, but even protected from the savage Indians through this Territory. They arrived unmolested in California.

I was informed by this man, some time after, for he returned to Salt Lake City, that one or two, if not more, of this company, soon after their arrival in California, were swung by the neck without judge or jury. I have seen this man pass and repass through this Territory, unmolested by this people, and he made a fortune out of them, selling goods, and has ever been looked upon by them as a bitter enemy. He, as well as thousands of others, have passed and repassed to California unmolested, which is a well known fact.

Ever since 1853 up to this present time, I have been a resident among this strange peculiar people, so called, and have become identified with them, after having proved, to my entire satisfaction, that they were not the people as represented by the world at large. I have been a careful observer of the teachings and counsels and transactions of the leaders of this people, and during this twenty-four years, I have never seen violence taken upon the emigrants, nor on any other living person, residents or non-residents, either in companies or singly, in any shape, only in self defense, for of all people that has ever lived upon this earth since its first existence, none could abhor the shedding of innocent blood, or could guard against this great, unpardonable crime, more than the leaders of this people and their true followers, and is a well known fact, by all the faithful Latter-day Saints, and every honorable, unprejudiced mind, of those traveling through this Territory, that Brigham Young is a friend to mankind, that he is honorable and just, true to God and to man, and all his counsels to saint or sinner have been of a saving nature. All can say this who are men enough, honest enough. When that formidable army of the United States came against us, headed by General Johnson, for the purpose of obliterating or destroying the Latter-day Saints from off the earth, in order to defend ourselves, our wives and children, our religion, our all, we went into Echo Cañon, to keep the army at bay until peace should be declared, and our safety declared. The counsel of Brigham Young all