

Pig slaughtering is late this season and many are being prematurely killed as we cannot wait fully fatten them; this while not diminishing the number of hogs killed, will of course lower the percentage of the pork harvest total.

Neshekness worthy of mention.

HENRY CULLUM,
Voluntary Observer.

The News had a call on Saturday from Elder George S. Spencer, of this city, who arrived home from a mission to the Netherlands on Wednesday the 23rd. Elder Spencer left home on April 14, 1894, having been called to labor in Great Britain. On arriving in Liverpool, however, he was assigned to the Netherlands mission over which he was placed to preside.

He speaks very highly of the mission and says that it is in good condition. The Elders are very earnest in their labors and are enjoying good health. The people are kindly disposed towards the missionaries and are noted for their hospitality. Throughout Holland and Belgium there is a spirit of investigation among the people and the principles of the Gospel are being studied as possibly never before in that region.

Elder Spencer, as president of the mission, traveled considerably among the people and says that the Elders are doing much good there. Two branches have been organized—one at Dordrecht, Holland, and one at Liege in Belgium. In June of the present year the publication of the Millennium Star in the Dutch language, was commenced at Rotterdam. Its distribution among the people is having its effects, many perusing its pages with much interest. The mission has been very fruitful the past year, many souls having been added to the fold of Christ. There are now fourteen Elders in the Netherlands mission, with room for more to labor in the ministry.

Elder Spencer returns in good health well pleased with his labors.

Elder Henry Coulam of the Eleventh ward of this city, returned with Elder Spencer, as did also Elders Z. T. Derrick of this city and E. J. Winder of Farmers ward, all having labored to Great Britain. Elder Coulam left home Dec. 24, 1894, reaching here on his return Dec. 23, 1896. In Great Britain his field of labor was the Leeds conference, where he met with good success and was kindly treated. Quite a number have been added to the Church recently in the district where Elder Coulam was stationed.

Franklin Merrill, whose demise took place on the 22nd inst. and whose funeral services were held at the Seventeenth ward meeting house, was born March 17, 1843, at South Norwalk, Conn. He was the son of the late Albert Merrill, "the hatter," and Margaret Merrill. He emigrated with his parents to Nauvoo, Ill., in the year 1844, shortly before the death of the martyr, Joseph and Hyrum, and from thence with the exodus of the Saints to these valleys, arriving here in the year 1852, first settling in Provo and in 1854 moved to Salt Lake City.

At the age of twenty, in the year 1863, he was called and filled a three years' mission to England and the United States, laboring in the Cheltenham and Southampton conferences.

On account of poor health he was released from the English mission and returned to the United States where he spent the winter of 1845-6 with relatives in South Norwalk, Conn., his birth place. His health much improved he returned with the following spring emigration to his mountain home.

In the year 1867, he was called with many others upon what is known as the "Muddy Mission." Shortly before starting upon this mission he married Elizabeth Peck by whom he has had twelve children, five only of whom are living. Being released from the "Muddy Mission," where he and his young wife endured many hardships, he returned to Salt Lake City, and in 1876 moved to Bear Lake Valley settling at Lake Town, Rich county, where he resided until the year 1879, when he moved to Logan, Cache county, where he resided up to the year 1894, when he removed to Salt Lake City, where he has since resided at the old home of his parents in the Seventeenth ward.

He served as High Councillor in the Cache Stake, and a counselor in the Bishopric to Bishop Lewis of the First ward, Logan.

He had many warm-hearted friends among his acquaintances. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but they have the satisfaction of knowing that Elder Franklin Merrill is entitled to a glorious reward.

He leaves a mother 80 years of age, two brothers and a sister, a wife, three sons and two daughters to mourn his departure.

The funeral services were conducted by Bishop W. J. Beattie. According to the request of the deceased the two hymns, Farewell All Earthly Honors and Oh, My Father, were beautifully rendered by the Seventeenth ward choir.

Elder D. M. McAllister opened with prayer, and appropriate remarks were made by Brothers Joseph H. Felt, Moses Thatcher, Apostle John Henry Smith, President Joseph E. Taylor and Bishop W. J. Beattie, who all testified to the integrity, faithfulness and worthiness of the deceased.

Nearer My God to Thee was sung for the closing hymn, and Elder George Reynolds pronounced the benediction.

The remains were then taken to the cemetery and consigned to their last resting place. Peace to his ashes.

MILANDO PRATT.

If the report be true, and there is hardly any reason to think it otherwise, Salt Lake had within its borders on Christmas day a young lady who was either extremely miserable because of an unlooked for disappointment, or one whose frame of mind was directly to the contrary, because of escapist matrimony with one who undoubtedly would have proved to be a scoundrel rather than a loving and devoted husband.

The young woman referred to is Miss Clara Openshaw, a comely maiden of seventeen years, and the daughter of John Openshaw of the Twenty-second ward. According to the story told a News reporter, Miss Clara was engaged to be wed to a young fellow of twenty-two years, who had wooed her for a period of about six weeks. The

time for the happy event was set for Christmas Eve, last Thursday, and all arrangements had been made looking to the matrimonial unity of the couple. It is said that furniture had been bought, friends had been invited and the man who was to tie the nuptial knot had been arranged with.

On last Wednesday afternoon, just a day prior to the happy event, the groom-to-be, whose name was not learned, approached his prospective father-in-law and asked for the loan of \$23—a sum which Mr. Openshaw readily tendered him. The young man full of all gratitude to his intended father-in-law, left his side telling him that he was about to complete all arrangements for the event which was to transpire on the morrow.

At about this time the young lady who expected soon to become a wife was full of cheer and smiles as she contemplated her position.

None of her friends thought the happy girl was to be disappointed, for such an idea had never entered their minds. Besides, the young man was thought to be devoted to ever resort to such a cruel and inhuman act. As he failed to put in an appearance on Wednesday evening Clara was ill at ease. Her friends, however, soothed her troubled fears and bade her remain in peace until the morning, when in all probability her expectant partner for life would likely enough be once more at her side.

Thursday morning came but still no tidings of the missing groom. Slight fears developed into greater ones, until finally the entire Openshaw family concluded that something must necessarily be wrong. The oaths of the young man's non-appearance was soon uttered to the invited guests. Inquiries as to his whereabouts were almost numberless, but no light could be thrown on the subject. The young lady grew almost frantic in her anxiety as to the outcome, until finally she became reconciled to her position.

The arrival of Christmas Eve, witnessed the same status of affairs, and the wedding was declared off.

Attempts to locate the missing man were without avail and up to this writing he has not been heard from. The young woman has not only experienced a bitter disappointment, but Mr. Openshaw finds himself victimized in the sum of \$23, if not more, by reason of the fellow's sudden and unlooked-for disappearance. It is said that he was a restaurant man, but whether this is true or not is not known. The young lady had known him such a short time that very little of his antecedents could have been learned by her.

The above is almost a fac-simile of a case which occurred in this city some four or five years ago, when a young fellow professing love to the daughter of a prominent man here and representing himself as being possessed of considerable means, borrowed a few hundreds from the girl's father and then vanished for parts unknown. It is also nearly synonymous with a case of four or five months ago when Miss Mowrey of the Fifteenth ward was made to weep over the disappearance of the fellow who was to have taken her as his wife, but who departed, just a few hours prior to the arrival of the invited guests.