

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

GLASGOW, Scotland,  
LONDON, England,  
DUBLIN, Ireland, } Nov. 27, 1854.

To the Lieutenant General, Officers, and Soldiers of the Nauvoo Legion;

COMRADES—On foreign service and in the strangers' camp, our hearts often turn to the calm retirements of the eternal peaks, and their intervening vales; and to the sweets that are nowhere else to be found but there. There are our wives and little ones; and they are closely entwined with our dearest thoughts. There is many a kind kinsman and dear friend who have each a warm place in our affections. "All the best things we have on earth are there." But amid them all there seems to be a centre still more attractive. There is something so sanctifyingly holy and immortal in the affection that is brought into existence by the associations of troubles and dangers. And as there are no tears so bitter as the drops from the warrior's eye, neither is there any love so exceeding as the attachment of the soldier for his brave and faithful comrade.

The attachment of the disinherited Jonathan for the Shepherd King was begotten in the battle-field, and matured in the camp. The still greater devotion of the modern patriarch for his prophet-brother was bred in the camp, and bore fruit on the mob's bayonets. The equally great endearment of your presiding Trio now, a spark from the original fire, was nourished with care while the yell of the plous marauder emptied itself into the air, and was fanned into an imperishable flame by the waving of the threatening flags of Satan's Christians.

Such an attachment have we for you, though it may lack the experience of time and varied changes to make it equal with such examples. At home we loved you dearly, truly, devotedly, but we knew not the depth of our affection. Like the pure, clear air we breathed, and whose purity we could not realize till we tasted of the empoisoned atmosphere of the world's polluted cities, we lived in your esteem, and that of each other, and were happy under its influence; but only knew its depths when we met the shallow pretensions of the ungodly, and tapped at the hollow heart of the worldling. Our teachers, those GREAT GOOD MEN, often told us of what we now realize. We believed, but little heeded, and like the harsh law to the heedless Israelites, our experience has become a school-master to bring us to a sense of our privileges.

What, when within our reach, was but as the pebble, over which the unthinking stream passes on to the reservoir, we now realize to be a pearl of value, and for which we have to dive long and deep.

The voices to which we listened familiarly, as those of prophets, send their echoes through the mountains, and over the sands, and then, borne dancingly along over the wild waves, they sound like the voices of gods to us here. And all, all our mis-spent time, our follies, and our triflings, whisper to us that we must work the harder now.

While passing along through the confused assemblages of vice-ripe Babylon to offer the bounty given by heaven (remission of sins) to volunteer recruits, we have many a happy reflection. The joy we feel at making the mourner rejoice, and in liberating the captive from his despair, more than repays us for the sacrifice, for a time, of the joys of home. And how happy to reflect on the share (however small it be) we have taken in the establishment of the nucleus of God's empire against the opposition of the Gadlanton savage, and that, in all, we have cemented to us your affections.

While naught is to be seen and heard around us now but corruption within, and war without, we are happy to hear that peace still reigns at home. And the smile that there gladdens all without but indexes the contented purity which fills every heart, and even sanctifies the land itself. While you can thus at home continue to progress peaceably in all that can create to you happiness and exaltation, and nourish the young plant till it becomes the overshadowing tree in whose branches despairing princes may find refuge, and in whose shade fainting republics may revive, we shall be content to continue under our schoolmaster, and share with you the lessons of our experience. But when the white squall gathers in the sky, and the whistlings of the hurricane are heard on your borders, we are afraid we will get homesick; we want you then to sound the assembly, and give us a corner in your ranks. Now, we would like very much to be poetical in this our letter; but when we come to this part of it, we get in a hurry, and our eloquence is all vanished. By the by, now we think of it, we would like to have you play sometime or another, for our memories' sake, that beautiful air,

"Whistle and we'll come to ye, my lads."

There is not one of us who has yet seen the moment he sighed for home; or if he did, 'twas but a passing sigh, for "the air is not the pure air" of our darling west, of our "wild woods, and mountain home, where the heart speaks its will," &c. We have ever felt in our hearts thankful to God and our brethren for our appointments. And if we can but do honor to ourselves by trusting in God and fulfilling our missions righteously, the reflections on our present moments will be among the happiest in our lives. The separation from home but endears us to each other abroad, and we study to make each others' troubles lighter. Nor do we forget to learn so that we can be of service among you when we return. Now "boys," (our ranking officers will excuse us) behave yourselves. Heed well when "the old chief whispers in your ear." Love one another at home that ye may reap the fruits of it abroad. Study to excel each other in humility and obedience. They are the only true and safe steps to exaltation and command. And may the spirit of the Legion's first General rest ever upon your General and his General, and be diffused through all your ranks.

The same abroad as at home,

G. D. GRANT, Scotland,  
WM. H. KIMBALL, England,  
JAMES FERGUSON, Ireland.

Correspondence of the 'News.'

## TEXAS.

MILAM COUNTY, Jan. 1, 1855.

EDITOR OF THE NEWS—Dear Sir:—Through the blessings of my Father in Heaven, to whom be glory and honor for ever and ever, I have been permitted to arrive into this land once more in health and safety. This is the fifth time I have visited this country upon missions to preach the everlasting gospel.

I find things very different here now from what they were when first I landed upon the shores of Texas. I then

had but lately been exiled from the State of Illinois, had parted with all my friends, as the Church of God were just then all leaving Nauvoo, and neither I nor many of them knowing where they were going; but this much we knew, that we were leaving a state where we had no protection for our lives or property from mis-rule and mob violence. I was on foot and alone, without money, without friends, and with a heavy heart, contemplating the hard fate of the Saints of God now exiled for their religious faith. I took up my line of march in search of a people, if such could be found, who would receive the gospel. I was not long in finding friends, and those too who obeyed the gospel. From that little commencement the truth has spread to many parts of the country, and now wherever I travel I find saints and friends. Several hundred have already gathered out of Texas, many of them being men who promise to be extremely useful in the kingdom of God; and there is another company who are preparing to go out in the spring.

As I came up into this section I came by where bro. Oscar Tyler had been preaching and baptizing in Washington county; he was not then among them, but was off in another quarter preaching. I stopped among his people and preached, and then came into this county where I found bro. Blair, who with bro. McGaw had baptized some thirty or forty.

For the past two weeks I have been preaching some 40 miles west of this, on the St. Gabriel river. Some of the people are believing, and I think soon will be baptized. Bro. Blair, at this time, and two young elders are preaching in Washington County. I have heard nothing definite from bro. Clapp and Martindale, though I have understood that the former is on Trinity river, and that the other is in eastern Texas. The field for preaching seems as good as it ever was in Texas, and I should like to see more elders sent here, and a regular organization established in this country.

I expect soon to leave this field for Washington City, where I was appointed by bro. Taylor and Erastus Snow, at the Conference in St. Louis.

We have had the 'News' for the month of September, and are anxiously looking for the October numbers. The first No. of the St. Louis Luminary has been received with some letters from the same place. No one, but those who have traveled abroad, knows the estimation in which news from headquarters is held by an elder in a distant country. The tone of many of the newspapers in the United States are becoming quite belligerent towards Utah, and I hope soon to see bro. Taylor, Snow, and Spencer returning their fire. Some of these editors deserve pitching into the worst kind. I desire the prayers of all the brethren, that I may have the spirit of the Almighty to enable me to fill my mission with honor to the people of God and to myself, and to the benefit of many souls, that all may redound to the glory of God. And that He may bless us, and save us in his celestial kingdom, is the prayer of your brother in the New and Everlasting covenant,

PRESTON THOMAS.

## Our Home Correspondence.

PROVO CITY, Utah County, }  
March 6, 1854. }

EDITOR NEWS—I left G. S. L. City on the 1st inst., in Mr. John Daley's mail coach, and arrived at this place at 7 o'clock p. m. The bluff on the northern bank of Provo river has been so graded as to make a good passable road. Good bridges are made, one across the slough at the foot of the hill, and one across that on the south side of the river. Three abutments for the main bridge have already been put in, and much material is on the ground for completing it.

Lieut. Col. Steptoe made a wise disposition of the improvements on the military road when he determined to bridge the Provo.

On Friday evening I preached on the subject of the gathering of the saints, and the revelations of the Priesthood to the Church, in the meeting hall which was crowded. On Saturday Elder E. T. Benson arrived, and we visited the City Wall, Seminary, Tithing Office, Music Hall, Meeting Hall, Messrs. Holdaway and Simkins' Woollen Factory and Machine-shop, and other public improvements.

The City Wall is progressing very slowly, and indicates a want of energy in the matter. President Joseph Young and several of his counselors arrived. Prest. A. P. Rockwood, E. T. Benson and myself preached in the Hall which was crowded, and many listened out of doors. An appointment was given out for the Presidents of the Seventies to preach 3 times on Sunday, which they filled to the gratification and instruction of the saints. Elder E. T. Benson and myself addressed the saints in Springville on the temporal things of the Kingdom. Bro. Wm. Miller conveyed us to Palmyra, where Elder Benson preached in the school house to a crowded audience, while many listened out of doors; I followed him and spoke about 1 hour. On Monday bro. John Berry took us to Payson, and at 10 o'clock a. m. we addressed the saints in the school house. Elder Chas. B. Hancock was unanimously chosen Bishop of Payson, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Benj. Cross, and we ordained him. The branch organization was discontinued, and the Bishop directed to reside, with Elders Jas. McLellan and Fairbanks for his counselors. The saints listened to our instructions with every manifestation of pleasure.

After partaking of their hospitality, we proceeded to the Fort of the newly incorporated City of Spanish Fork, and were very kindly received by Bishop Wm. Pace. The Fort wall is built of adobes, and is 165 feet long by 111 wide, and 12 feet high; fifteen houses are built on the inside against the wall, which has good and substantial gates. The cleanliness of this fort speaks well for the taste of its inhabitants.

Elder Benson and myself set as referees to decide a difficulty between the cities of Palmyra and Springville, both cities having claimed a tract of land located between the two. We listened to the arguments of the committees from both places, and decided to the satisfaction of all. I rode to Springville in company with the committee of that city. Elder Benson remained and addressed the saints. We met again at Springville this morning, and committed to writing our decision upon the above named land dispute.

The inhabitants of Springville have continued to labor on their City wall during most of the winter; the City plot is 3-4 of a mile square, and two-thirds of the wall is built six feet high.

We preached in the Meeting Hall to a crowded assembly

of very attentive listeners on the subject of oneness among the saints. Much wheat has been sowed, and a number of new fields have been enclosed.

GEO. A. SMITH.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, }  
March 17, 1855. }

## EDITOR OF NEWS:—

On Wednesday, the 7th of March, Elder Benson and myself visited the foundation for the Provo Bridge. It is located immediately above a dam across the river, which renders it very difficult to sink the piers as low as required, in consequence of the water rushing into the pits as soon as dug. The timbers are of an excellent quality, and are well put together; the piers, however, will be very apt to give way before some of our mighty spring torrents, if the bed and banks of the river are not thoroughly secured.

We attended a party at Elder Redfield's, where we enjoyed ourselves with a very pleasant company until 12 o'clock.

On Thursday morning, Elder Benson took leave of Provo for the city. I examined the improvements made by Mr. Roberts in his pottery; also visited Elder Evan M. Green's farm, which had been damaged by the citizens of Provo turning the river across it, to prevent its overflowing the city. I think the City Council would do him justice, if they would give him \$200. I examined some heavy wrought iron work manufactured by Mr. James Simpkins—a full set of wrought-iron grist mill gearing for Mr. Kelting; also a set of saw-mill irons very elegantly finished for the settlement in Cedar Valley, and the wrought-iron gearing of several thrashing machines, well executed. These show conclusively that the machine shop of Simpkins and Holdaway is capable of granting the best accommodations in the shortest time to any persons wanting heavy irons draughted and finished. I set out in my garden 90 orange plants, as a commencement for a hedge fence.

On Friday morning, set out some fruit trees. In company with Elder John Y. Greene rode to Lehi, part of the way facing a severe north rain storm. Put up with Bishop David Evans; preached in the evening at the School-house, which was crowded; many people went home for want of room.

Saturday, stormy all day. Attended the drama of "Luke the Laborer," and the farce of "The Rough Diamond." The play would have done honor to the Social Hall in this city, although the performers had but just commenced, without having any one of experience to teach them.

On Sunday, in company with brother Evans, went to Pleasant Grove; preached in the School-house at 10 1-2 a. m.; returned to Lake City, and preached at 2 p. m.; in the evening preached at Lehi at 6 1-2 p. m. The houses were all crowded to overflowing; many went home for want of room.

Elder John B. Milner is teaching the Deseret alphabet with considerable success, having 60 scholars at Lehi, 28 at American Fork, 25 at Mountainville, 28 at Pleasant Grove, 22 at Provo, first ward, who are making good progress.

On Monday returned to this city on the top of a load of wheat, in company with Thomas McKenzie; arrived at 10 1-2 p. m., night so dark we could not see the horses—we judged, however, the roads in Great Salt Lake City were capable of some improvement; having been absent 12 days, travelled 150 miles, and preached 15 hours, attended two plays and one dance, and settled many minor difficulties.

The people of Utah are busy fencing their fields and putting in grain.

A large new field of 2,500 acres is being enclosed at Lehi, and the main water ditch enlarged, which extends seven miles, bringing the water from American Creek, near the canyon.

An additional field is being enclosed on the south east of Provo.

The inhabitants of Springville and Palmyra are making arrangements to enclose a new field of 3,500 acres between the two cities, to be watered from the Spanish Fork. A considerable portion of this land will be put in grain this summer.

The people of Utah have commenced to adopt, as a field fence, a mud wall.

The Provo Canyon Road Company organized on the 6th inst. Liberal subscriptions of stock were made, and a committee appointed to immediately locate the road through to Fort Supply, who will commence their operations the beginning of next week.

The following report shows the progress and condition of the city wall at Provo:—

"PRESIDENT GEO. A. SMITH:—Dear Sir: Agreeable to your request, I have examined the city wall of this place, and find it as follows:—59 rods of wall completed; 7 rods, 11 feet high; 20 rods, 10 feet high; 7 rods, 9 feet high; 11 rods, 8 feet high; 17 rods, 7 feet high; 144 rods, 6 feet high; 15 rods, 5 feet high; 8 rods, 4 feet high; 12 rods, 3 feet high; 151 rods stone foundation laid: total amount, commenced and completed, 451 rods; 829 rods remaining, not commenced.

"ELIAS H. BLACKBURN, Bishop."

"Provo City, March 8, 1855."

I have advised them to wake up a little on the subject.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

GEO. A. SMITH.

## News from our Emigration.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, }  
March 16, 1855. }

## EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

The following copy of a letter from my son is submitted for your clemency, &c.

W. W. PHELPS.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Jan. 10, 1855.

DEAR FATHER:—I left Liverpool on the 7th of December, in charge of a company of 422 Saints on board the "Clara Wheeler," Capt. Nelson, all in good health and spirits. During the passage we had one birth, seven marriages, and twenty-three deaths, all children, with the exception of two; and all owing to the measles having been brought on board.

We made the quickest passage of any of our ships, having only been 34 days from Liverpool to New Orleans. During the voyage we enjoyed the Spirit of the Lord, and every blessing that could be asked for or required on ship-board. When we arrived at New Orleans, we met Elder

James McGaw, the agent for our emigration, and we made arrangements for all to go to St. Louis on the steamer "Oceana."

Sunday, Jan. 14.

Since writing the above we have embarked, and got up the river as far as Natchez, and, as usual, the Lord has blessed us in every thing. We have with us the mortal remains and effects of the late Elder W. W. Major, who died in London, of which you doubtless have been informed.

I am sorry to say that my health is not improved as yet, but I have full faith that it will be sufficient to allow me to return to England and fulfil my mission: if not, I shall be in the valley in the course of the coming season. Of course, then, I shall let all my affairs relative to the war in the East remain "in statu quo."

Times in the old country are bad; labor scarce, and badly paid. The poor are oppressed, and long for deliverance: the same condition extends to New Orleans, which has generally been a busy place; but this season trade is dull, and thousands are walking about without employment, and stout, hearty men are begging. The devil has full sway, and grinds harder as Mormonism grows stronger; so look for coming events.

This letter is roughly written, owing to the jumping of the boat, which renders writing almost impossible. I will write again at St. Louis, and send you further particulars. Remember me to all the brethren.

I remain, your faithful son,

H. E. PHELPS.

P.S.—Brothers Parsons and Crosby, as counselors, and E. C. Brand, as clerk, desire to be remembered to you and brother S. W. Richards, and all the rest of the brethren. Please hand this to the Editor of the Deseret News, if you think proper.

H. E. P.

[Much obliged.—Ed.]

## Sioux Indians.

By the politeness of Mr. T. S. Williams, of the firm of J. M. Horner and Co., we are enabled to furnish the following news:—

"Sandy Point, 7 miles west of Fort Laramie, }  
Feb. 14, 1855. }

"Messrs. J. M. Horner and Co., G. S. L. City:—

"GENTS:—A part of our horses and mules, about sixty-five head, were driven off yesterday by the Sioux Indians; among them were three of your mules—the three best. There were six left by your partner, Mr. Williams; you have three remaining. We do not consider any property safe on this river, or lives either, any longer, as the Sioux, we think, have commenced their war on the traders, as well as the soldiers.

"We remain, yours respectfully,

"WARD AND GUERRIER."

Extract from a letter from Alexander Majors, of Westport, Mo., to J. M. Horner and Co., dated January 30, 1855:—

"There is at present, and has been existing for sometime previous, a considerable pressure in the money market; failures of long and firmly established houses occur almost daily. Page and Bacon, Loker, Renick, and Co., Charles Belcher, and other respectable houses in St. Louis, suspended payment a few days ago."

## "Military.

The gentlemanly bearing of Col. Steptoe appears to be endorsed by Orson Hyde in the Salt Lake News. Wonder what the Elder will say now, since his prophet Brigham, is deposed and the Col. appointed in his stead?"

Editor of News:—Among the numerous slips cut from eastern papers and forwarded here by Hon. J. M. Bernhisel per last mail, the foregoing seems to call for a word of reply from me at the present juncture of affairs when a change, in the administration of the government of Utah is on the tapis.

During my first acquaintance with Col. Steptoe, I formed a very favorable and high opinion of that gentleman. He appeared to me to be a noble-minded and honorable man. And since that time, I have seen no cause to change that opinion. I might speak in like terms of some others of the command whose acquaintance I have made to a limited extent.

So far as I am acquainted, there is no man in the Territory, outside the church, who shares, more liberally, the respect and confidence of her citizens than the Col. There are those, however, that are equally well respected.

Col. S. is not obliged to accept his appointment; and it remains to be seen whether he entertain a similar respect for popular sovereignty and the known wishes of the great mass of the citizens of the Territory to that which they entertain for him.

If he accept the appointment, I shall obey him as our governor. If he remain in his distinguished and elevated rank as a military officer, I shall respect and honor him.

Respectfully,

ORSON HYDE.

## Floating Batteries for the Baltic—Shot-Proof Iron Plates.

The British Government has entered into a contract for the manufacture of about 2,000 tons of enormous slabs or plates made of the best scrap iron, with which powerful floating batteries are to be covered, so as effectually to render them proof against the heaviest shot the Russians can throw. These plates vary from 8 to 12 feet in length, are from 21 to 36 inches broad, and about 4 1-2 inches thick. Each plate will weigh from about a ton and a half to three tons; and, after being fitted, they are to be bolted to the outside of the floating batteries. From experiments carefully made, it appears that iron plates of the scantling here mentioned not only resist the heaviest shot, but break them in pieces when they strike. So urgent are the authorities to have the batteries ready for active operations against Russia in the spring, that the contract has been divided amongst the principal makers in Glasgow, Newcastle, Lowmoor, and other places in the North of England.

The operation of making these huge plates is curious. In one corner of the yard is a huge pile of scrap iron of all sorts, but including a vast quantity of circular pieces punched out of the rivet holes of boilers and iron ships; and also clippings from iron plates. After being freed from rubbish, they are carefully piled on plates of old thin sheet iron, about a foot long, 10 inches broad, and 5 inches high; the largest bits being placed round the margin and the little pieces in the centre. In this state the pile is put into a reverberatory furnace, where it soon acquires a welding heat. It is then withdrawn and pas