

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 45.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1863.

VOL. XII.

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL.—PROGRESS OF PRESIDENT YOUNG AND COMPANY.

NEPHI, April 23, 1863.

EDITOR NEWS:—The snow storm mentioned in the postscript of my communication yesterday, continued until about noon to-day, which keeps us here until to-morrow. At 12 o'clock, m., another meeting was held, and instruction given of much practical utility, by Pres. Brigham Young, Elders G. D. Watt and J. W. Young, on the subjects of agriculture, horticulture, manufacture, home industry, domestic economy, education, etc., which was listened to with deep attention.

During the afternoon a few hours were spent in passing round through the town, to witness the improvements which have been recently made. We first visited the meeting-house which is in progress of erection. Its dimensions are 44 by 64 feet. Its height from the ground to the top of the steeple is to be 80 feet. It is well roofed, but the tower has not yet been erected. A wall which serves as a support for the weight of the tower, takes off 11 feet of the main room, which forms an outer court. The floor is laid; the stand which is in the east end is finished substantially with good design, and the singers' desks are being constructed in the west end of the room. A considerable amount of lumber has been prepared and put together for the seats, and all the work on the window casings is well executed. The whole superstructure rests upon a stone foundation, rising some four feet above the ground. The cornice is not completed; but the design is to carry out President Young's counsel and complete the entire building this season. One year ago last fall the rock foundation was laid, and one year ago this spring they commenced moulding the adobes and laying the walls.

We next examined the saw-mill, which carries an upright saw, but that is about to be removed, when a circular saw will supply its place. Adjacent to this mill is a tannery, where a good business is done in the tanning line.

Next we examined the foundation which has been laid for a grist-mill, which is intended to be completed this season, by James Hague.

We then went to the nail factory, owned by Adams & Jones, with which we were well pleased. Mr. Adams stated, that they could roll out and cut from eight hundred to one thousand pounds of nails per day. Success to their business. Attached to their establishment is also a good shingle machine, nearly completed. We then examined a set of rollers for grinding cane, which would certainly not be discreditable to mechanics of any country, in their execution. They were forged by Adams & Jones, and fitted up by Charles Kemp, at a cost of about \$250. There is also a chair factory here, with turning lathes attached, which we did not examine.

The Social Hall of which I have before spoken, in which we partook yesterday of such a bountiful repast, has all been built, even to getting the timber from the canyon, since last December. Its dimensions are 55 by 32 feet. It is to be arched over head; not yet plastered. It is a neat, commodious little hall, and will be used for meetings until the meeting house is completed.

The Bishop's new frame house is 18 by 40 feet, a story and a half high, two rooms above and below, with eight feet passage, and a cellar under the entire building. It is well lighted, and when painted will be a delightful residence. It cost perhaps fifteen hundred dollars—rather more than adobe; but it will be better.

Vickers & Salisbury are manufacturing salt, taken from the mountains six miles from here, in Salt Creek canyon. It is blasted from the solid rock, mixed with red clay. It yields about seventy per cent. It is pulverized; placed in boilers containing water and boiled about two hours; then drawn off into vats and left to settle, when the brine is drawn from the vats into other boilers and boiled down to salt. Its quality, the manufacturer informs me, is superior to any manufactured in the Territory, and the demand for it much greater than can be supplied.

I have been thus particular in noting the different items of improvement here, hoping it may encourage the citizens of Nephi, still to persevere in all works of useful improvement; and I need not disguise the hope that at least two settlements through which we have passed—much older and more numerous settled than this—will profit by their example, at least in the matter of meeting-houses and other public buildings. I need not name them here, as it is a proverbial fact, that two large, old settlements between this and Salt Lake City, cannot boast of a meeting-house or any public building now in the state of completion. I believe, however, there are private companies in each of these places, who have been enter-

prising enough to build halls, which are actually rented for meetings—it is so much better financeering for a wealthy community, abounding in cattle, horses and mules, farms, etc., to rent than to build! I refrain from saying more. In the morning, the weather permitting, we go on to Sanpete, where I expect to write again.

MANTI, SANPETE CO.,
APRIL 26, 1862.

On Friday morning, the 24th, the weather being propitious, we were once more in line and heading for the south. Passing up through Salt Creek canyon, the road was rather slippery and hard for our animals, but in very good time we ascended the canyon and found ourselves upon a high, dry road that commanded a view of the picturesque valley of Sanpete. Rolling along down a descending road for a few miles, we passed through Fountain Green without being able to observe anything worthy of especial note, yet the settlement seemed to possess good natural facilities, and when it attains a greater age if there shall then not be traceable to the eye of the traveler greater evidences of improvement, thrift and order, it will certainly be set down to the direct inattention of the citizens.

From thence eight miles still further on, we came to the village of Moroni. Here they were unfortunate in the first commencement, by laying off their town and building on the low bottom, which overflows in times of high water, causing damage and creating sickness, which rendered it necessary to pull down their buildings and erect them upon higher land adjacent. This work they are now engaged in.

There has not been much done here by way of public improvement. A rock foundation is laid for a meeting-house 74 by 44—the walls intended to be constructed of brick. They have a log building, which is used for the treble purpose of dancing, theatre and meetings. A meeting was held at which Presidents Young and Kimball, Elders Geo. A. Smith and John Taylor gave much valuable information.

After dinner, President Young's carriage led off in a north-easterly direction for the North Bend to Fairview settlement, twelve miles distant, where we arrived in good time, holding a meeting at which Presidents Young and Kimball, and Elder John Taylor addressed the Saints, teaching them many things which will prove for their benefit, spiritually and temporally, if they will carry them out.

This settlement possesses many advantages. The soil is as good as can be found in the world. It is a good grazing district, and I was informed that if a man would apply himself industriously with one team he could bring into his yard four loads of wood per day. From this place two years ago, a new road was run out and worked, so that loaded teams were enabled to pass through the mountains to Springville, cutting off thirty miles of the distance from this valley to Salt Lake City; but owing to the high waters last spring it was thrown out of repair and travel prevented. I am told that an outlay of from five to eight hundred would place it in repair; if so it would certainly be to the interest and convenience of the people in this county to expend that amount in labor upon it.

From North Bend, on Saturday, our company moved in a southern direction for Mount Pleasant, six miles distant, where a halt was made, and President Young, Elders John Taylor and Lorenzo Snow addressed the people in the open air, the meeting-house being too small to convene them. This is a slightly elevated and very pleasant. They have an excellent stone fort and some good houses. Here is the residence of our old friend David Candland, whose neat home was certainly indicative of the man.

From Mount Pleasant we passed on seven miles to Springtown, where Presidents Young and Kimball halted before the residence of Elder Orson Hyde, who, with his usual blandness of manner and a countenance which betokened a good heart, received his distinguished guests and welcomed them to the hospitality of his home. His house is of hewn logs, one and a half stories, with a stone kitchen. His corrals, yards and sheds are substantial, neat and orderly, and I discovered he is making an effort to raise quite a variety of fruit. Here Presidents Young and Kimball, Elders John Taylor, Geo. A. Smith and Lorenzo Snow spoke to the people under the bowery, encouraging them to diligence in every improvement for the comfort and happiness of themselves and families. There are several good adobe buildings here. After dinner we rolled rapidly along a descending road to Manti, eighteen miles distant, passing through Fort Ephraim.

Manti is a pleasant location, near the base of a range of mountains rising on the east, covered on its sides with low cedars, while along its summit a different variety of timber seems to abound. Here are some of the finest and largest buildings we have seen—generally

built of stone, of which there is an inexhaustible supply of an excellent quality, of easy access. I am told there is a small meeting-house here, but I have not seen it yet. At Fort Ephraim they have a large meeting-house, and to-day being Sunday, President Young and a portion of the company will repair thither to meet the people, who are expected to assemble from all parts of the valley, although it is seven miles on our back track.

This is a delightful valley, picturesque in its scenic order. Along its eastern limits are ranges of low hills of easy access by teams, covered over with an abundance of cedar for fire-wood, from which the inhabitants obtain their fuel during the winter season. It is rather cold here, and fruit trees do not do very well, yet it is supposed that apples, pears, plums and cherries can be cultivated if pains were taken to preserve them from the aggressions of cattle; currants and strawberries will do well. This valley, for the raising of grain and stock, cannot be surpassed in Utah.

I have in my cogitations several other items intended for this communication; but unexpectedly the express has just reached us, and for want of time to write I must reserve them for the next. In a few minutes we will be rolling off to Fort Ephraim to meeting. The morning is delightful, and this valley now bedecked with spring's fresh and vivid green, encased in a rim of cedar-clad mountains variegated in grand and majestic order, fills the contemplative mind with new aspirations and reverence for the Divine Creator who weighs the mountains in balances and holds the seas in the hollow of his hand. More anon.

FILLMORE CITY,
Wednesday, April 29, 1863.

Last Sabbath, at ten o'clock a.m., Pres. Young and Kimball and a portion of the company repaired to Fort Ephraim, where, in the large meeting-house, we found some twelve hundred people assembled from all parts of the valley. It was cheering to look upon the smiling faces of the multitude whose hearts pulsated with untold joy to meet the leaders of Israel and listen to their instructions. The forenoon was occupied by President Heber C. Kimball and Elders John Taylor, George D. Watt and L. O. Littlefield, and the afternoon by President Brigham Young and Elders Orson Hyde, Geo. A. Smith, Lorenzo Snow and Joseph W. Young. We had a refreshing time and much valuable instruction and counsel was imparted, which was received with joy and gladness by the Saints.

After meeting we rolled back to Manti, where another meeting was held, at which Presidents Young and Kimball spoke with much power and spirit, gladdening the hearts of a large congregation, counseling them to finish their Council House and then build a large meeting-house and to make other improvements. Elder Geo. A. Smith and Bishop Raigh also addressed the people in an interesting manner.

In the company there are now:
Of the First Presidency—Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball;

Of the Quorum of the Twelve—Orson Hyde, John Taylor, George A. Smith and Lorenzo Snow.

Bishops—A. H. Raleigh, Wm. Miller, John Stoker, John B. Fairbanks, William Seeley, Archibald Gardner and James N. Jones.

Reporter—Geo. D. Watt.

Clerks—J. T. Caine, H. K. Whitney, B. H. Schettler, D. O. Calder and Jas. Jack.

Physician—Samuel L. Sprague.

Official—Robert T. Burton.

Peace Commissioners—Andrew Burt, Albert Dewey, Henry Heath and Wm. Calier.

Barber—John Squires, with his compact little portable shaving saloon for the accommodation of the traveling public.

Theatricalians—John T. Caine, Hiram B. Clawson and Horace K. Whitney.

On Monday morning we bade adieu to Sanpete and soon halted in Fort Gunnison, eighteen miles distant. This place is situated near the junction of the Sanpitch and Sevier rivers. Unfortunately the citizens selected the wrong location for their city at the start, and they are now engaged in removing their buildings to a higher and more appropriate site, which will command a view of their farm-land as well as the vast bottom lying apparently as level as a house-floor as far as the eye can reach. The soil seems to be well adapted for wheat, of which they raise an abundance. This bids fair to become a thriving city. Specimens of saltpetre, alum, rock salt and chalk were shown us, which exist in abundance near by. The citizens were addressed by Presidents Young and Kimball, Elders Orson Hyde, George A. Smith, John Taylor and Lorenzo Snow, imparting counsel for their local benefit and their present and future well-being.

After a hospitable entertainment through the night, the morning of the 27th exhibited the President's party stretching along over a

tract of country which, in its scenery, was variegated by lofty mountains and intervening hills and valleys, through which the shining waters of the Sevier showed its silvery sheen in all its serpentine windings. At 12 o'clock we arrived at the Sevier bridge, twenty-five miles from Fort Gunnison, where I was surprised to find that we were in full view and within thirty miles of Mount Nebo; which we passed six days previous—since which we had traveled over one hundred miles. This was occasioned by the circuitous route we had taken easterly through Sanpete valley.

The Sevier bridge is in a bad state of repair. It is a Territorial bridge, erected at a cost of two thousand dollars, the Legislature since making appropriations, from time to time, for its repair. A bill making another appropriation for that purpose passed the Legislature at its last session, but it failed to meet with Executive clemency; consequently the bridge bids fair, ere long, to be in a very dilapidated condition. However we crossed safely, with care, and generosity forbids to speak evil of the bridge that carries us safely over. The liberality of the Legislature and the justness of the appropriation having thus been frustrated, the citizens of the adjacent settlements may yet be under the necessity of repairing it at their own expense.

Traveling twelve miles further on we arrived at Round valley, which is a small settlement numbering thirteen log dwellings and one log school-house. Here, also, they will have to move their buildings to higher ground. This valley is filled with nutritious grasses; the soil is good and water sufficient to supply a large settlement. Wood for fuel is of easy access. It is truly a "round valley," as if an immense basin had been scooped out by the hand of the Creator—around which mountains, near their bold summits, Presidents Young and Kimball addressed the people, giving them fatherly counsel and encouraging them to persevere in all useful improvements to make their settlement an inviting and pleasant place. We were kindly entertained, and the dawn of morning found us briskly wending our way towards the former Territorial capital, located in Millard co.

A few miles out from Fillmore, the President and party were met by an escort of horsemen and two carriages drawn by four horses each, with the stars and stripes floating in the breeze. The Presidency were joyfully received at the residence of Bishop Thomas Callister, and the remainder of the company received invitations in different parts of the city. At 1 o'clock Presidents Young and Kimball, and Elders Hyde and Taylor, addressed a large audience, gladdening the Saints with their presence, and pointing them to the way of temporal and spiritual salvation.

Fillmore is delightfully situated on elevated ground at the east side of Pauyan valley, and what first attracted attention were the brick houses put up in a neat and tasty manner. There are also a few stone and adobe residences, all presenting the appearance of neatness and thrift. There is a large flouring-mill nearly completed and one already in operation; they have a commodious meeting-house, and I noticed a tannery.

The State House is a fine edifice, erected at a cost of over \$50,000. I found it to be well-finished; its dimensions are 44 by 60, with three stories, including the basement. Its large windows and deep, heavy cornice gives it a cheerful, rich and imposing appearance. The upper story forms one spacious hall. Passing through the entire building, I was pleased to find it in good condition.

At 7 o'clock in the evening the President and those with him were invited to a social party, where about one hundred couple mingled in the mazes of the merry dance—a truly intelligent, well-behaved, well-dressed company;

"And the gay dance of bounding beauty's train,
Linked grace and harmony in happiest chain."

This is a very extensive valley, dotted with large mounds or hills as if some subterranean volcanic force had upheaved them; or, as if they had been the ponderous fragments of some mighty throe of nature, hurled into space and deposited there. Many of these hills are covered with cedars, which break the monotony of the expanse, and, together with the towering mountains beyond and around, make up the variegating beauty of the landscape.

I was pleased to find here a good start in the cultivation of fruit; apple, peach and plum trees were in full blossom, and also strawberries.

A thousand good wishes for the happiness of my old friend G. Huntsman and family, where I have been so kindly entertained in their neat, comfortable home, and I hasten on to new scenes and friends, of which I may speak hereafter.

Yours truly, L. O. LITTLEFIELD.