LOOKING BACKWARD.

A Correspondent Introduces Various Events in the History of the Church.

Correspondence DESERET NEWS.

MESA CITY, A. T., Jan. 17.—Your invitation through a few issues to the "Old veterans of the Mormon exodus" to give some from their experience relating to that period, almost prompts a smile. For be there whom treasured experiences takes us from before the settlement at Kirtland and succeeding vicissitudes of the Church, the Nauvoo experience appears but modern. Who has yet written in detail the circumstances of poverty and persecution in which the Temple at Kirtland was built? Who witnessed the gathering up of Zion's camp, with all of its experience in going and return from Missouri? Who grew out of the Kirtland band? The great poverty band and Kirtland crisis of 1837? The apostasy at Kirtland and the prevention of the Prophet by his trusted Big Eight in Missouri with the singing of the poor lost lambs? Who has written the history of the "gulf gang?"

The first large emigration company of the Saints of some seventy souls, was organized and led by Joseph Young, E. Smith, Henry Herriman, Jonathan Dadman, Jonathan Dawson and others. It began preparing from Kirtland on July 4, 1837, and arrived at Far West in October 2th, just in time to get early experience of that Missouri and Missouri through the succeeding winter. While Joseph Young and others were stopping at Henry's still they barely escaped the massacre Dawson's place, and the spilling of the blood of the Saints at Auxenosis Altman—driven in from the surrounding country and in the midst of deep snow without shelter for the sick, the feeble or the sick, when infants were born in a hunger of cave and starvation was near to all. Followed by the expulsion and gathering again of the "Old Commerce grave yard," afterwards Nauvoo? In 1838 every house was a hospital, but without more or attendance or the rude, for at this time there were hardly well men enough to bury the dead. This experience with the arrival of the Prophet and others from Missouri prison with the breaking of another Temple under persecution and poverty, the martyrdom, etc., we all point to our exodus from Nauvoo, and some of this still remains unpublished, it seems.

Having since 1841 been near the Head in each evolution of the Church, you will perceive that "Gentile" let in on the hell end of our experience appears prior to our experience with Nauvoo, in which, as he has stated, I was near to the front. After the martyrdom of the Prophet, having been for years associated with him in business, I was called by President Young to remain and keep upon the Nauvoo mansion, vacated by the Saints, and having Sheriff Backenstos as boarder and all suitable officers and strangers to entertain, I had excellent opportunity to learn much from the outside that interested us as a people. When it was decreed of agreed that as a people we should leave Nauvoo, with others I was appointed to organize a company of fifty and to take measures preparatory to emigration. To this end we started the making of wagons, occupying as we had need the division in the basement story of a large brick barn belonging to the mansion. After the killing of Frank Worl by Sheriff Backenstos and posse, the hatred and hatry of our enemies generally increased. A report became current, alleged that many anti-Mormons were being murdered in Nauvoo and the Nauvoo mansion was cited as the probable place for great crimes. To allay the excitement a troop of soldiers was by order of the governor sent to investigate and to examine the premises. I was called to be searched about the barn. They came and made a formal examination, after which they appeared satisfied and quietly left. But this did not, and yet, in the rumor circulated as a number of our brethren were seen about the basement of the barn, creating renewed suspicion, thereby was one condition when President Young called for those ready to accompany missing the river, for which I was doing all possible to prepare. I can not certain of the date, but I think it was the 6th of February that private word was brought me in the evening that a squad of soldiers would be in the city before morning with an order for my arrest. There was no time to prepare. I must go at once. So with two of my family, leaving my wife and children in a still at midnight, in a fearful storm, we crossed the river, which the day following was closed up with ice. A waiting vehicle took us to camp on Sugar Creek, where on arrival we were without shelter from the storm or supplies for our comfort. But we were soon joined by others and with De Lee, who my now moved to be forgotten, then a stranger, moved to us his tent and made us welcome to his every comfort, and I remember much of him even now and feel that he was wonfully deserved.

Closing down to the present time, I would not forget to say that the affairs of this State are progressing fairly well. It is still a time of health considering the season, and of prosperity considering the country's financial condition. But I regret to say that our Mesa president, Brother C. I. Robinson, is to perhaps a critical condition. Not long since visit the book of a person he received a tractor employed the late of the lower Jim, from which he is not fully recovered, which will to expect least time to now have him confined to his cots, while we administer to him often and earnestly pray for his recovery.

E. F. JOHNSON.

A MEXICAN CLAIM.

After a Group of Islands Off the Southern California Coast.

A City of Mexico special to the Los Angeles Times says: A movement is on foot in Mexico to assert a portion of what is commonly considered to be Southern California to its southern. It is claimed that the relinquishment of the California archipelago off the coast of Southern California has never been made either by Spain or Mexico to the United States and that the islands comprising it are very properly Mexican soil.

The three islands to which claim is made in particular are Rose of Santa Catalina, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz. A committee has been appointed for the investigation of the geographical and historical association of Mexico to pass the claims of the Republic to the possession of these islands. The committee consists of Senor Don Antonio M. Domingo, Senor Don Tiburcio Montiel and Senor Don Ignacio Ramirez.

The claim is based on the treaty between California to the United States, from which were not included. Because it is the interest, it is said, that the United States should be willing and the claim will not be reported which the state of California to take without the United States government approval.

The matter is of great importance, for it shows that California has a right to claim to state rights which that they are adjacent to the coast, and that they are a part of the state. The islands for all the good from Ensenada in 1602 to this date, and the possession of California to take without the United States government, as well as being upon principles.

The matter is of first importance by reason of legislation which may be enacted by the Mexican congress. They pay no attention to what the United States of Mexico, or to what Mexico here, and have other arrangements and treaties which have not been made. "We don't know the Mexican will not stop to and see if there is any reason why the Republic should not be in possession of the islands, and pay attention to this question. The committee is merely to work making up propositions for laying before the congress of the Republic for the purpose of acquiring the islands to Mexico.

It is not likely to what course will be pursued, but the point is raised with the intention to the treaties of the years 1847 and 1848, as well as the general annexation agreement to which.

The Mexican government has not as yet given their expression as to the matter in the matter, and if the claim is pressed officially it will probably result in an application to the government of the United States and ask that Mexico be given possible possession of the islands.

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