Selected Poetry.

WISHING.

Of all the amusements of the mind
From logic down to fishing,
There is not one that you can find
So very cheap as "wishing."
A very choice diversion, too,
If you but rightly use it,
And not, as we are apt to do,
Pervert it and abuse it.

I wish—a common wish indeed—
My purse was something fatter;
That I might cheer the child of need,
And not my pride to flatter.
That I might make oppression reel
As gold can only make it,
And break the tyrant's rod of steel
As gold can only break it.

I wish—that sympathy and love,
And every human passion
That has its origin above,
Would come and keep in fashion;
That scorn and jealousy and hate,
And every base emotion,
Were hurled fifty fathoms deep
Beneath the waves of ocean.

I wish—that friends were always true,
And motives always pure;
I wish the good were not so few,
I wish the bad were fewer;
I wish that persons ne'er forgot
To heed their pious teaching;
I wish that practicing was not
So different from preaching.

I wish—that modest worth might be
Appraised with truth and candor;
I wish that innocents were free
From treachery and slander;
I wish that men their vows would mind,
That women ne'er were rovers;
I wish that wives were always kind,
And husbands always lovers.

I wish—in fine—that joy and mirth,
And every good ideal,
May come erewhile throughout the earth
To be a glorious real;
Till God shall every creature bless
With his supremest blessing,
And hope be lost in happiness,
And wishing be possessing.

Correspondence.

TOM'S CREEK, SURRY COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA, July 13, '68.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother: In trying to avoid the extreme of writing too often, I may not write as frequently as I should. Perhaps some items of news from the old North State would be interesting to your readers. Money is very scarce here, and labor very cheap, common labor being worth from twenty-five to fifty cents per day. The only article of produce that brings money to the farmer is tobacco. Wheat is worth $2 50 and corn $1 75 per bushel, and it takes all that is produced in the country to supply its inhabitants. The land here is very poor, not producing above ten bushels of corn or eight of wheat to the acre. This year the wheat and rye crops, the people say, are better than in fifteen years before. The wheat and rye harvest is just over, and it did not come a day too soon, for many were suffering for bread. The week before last, near Dobson, in this county, a negro woman was found dead in the woods, having perished with hunger; her two children were saved by timely aid. Upon the Blue Ridge, in this edge of Virginia, some twenty miles from here, a widow woman (and there are thousands here) with five children, having been in a starving condition for ten days, procured some corn meal, and having seen her little ones suffering so long, (you can imagine a mother's feelings) she very imprudently gave them all they would eat; which caused the death of three of them. Another instance occurred south of here. A family having subsisted on roots and greens for several days partook of something poisonous, which proved fatal to two of the children. Many instances of suffering for the want of bread have occurred in the western part of Western Virginia. There the country is so mountainous that it is next to impossible to construct a road, and the land is so poor and so steep that it is out of the question to raise enough to supply the people of those regions, though they insist on their having one advantage, and that is in their farms being set up edgewise, they can cultivate both sides of them.

In this county near this place is located six or seven iron forges, constructed after the Cataline pattern; but they are called here "Bloomeries," in which a very good article of iron is produced, by a very simple process. The ore is found in great abundance, but at a considerable depth in the ground. Where found it is mixed with mica and yellow ochre. It is hauled to the forge, where it is pulverized by very simple machinery, a stream of water washing away the lighter part of the composition. The ore, in a pulverized condition, is then placed upon the charcoal fire in the forge, where it melts and settles in the hearth, from where the scoria or dross runs off through holes made for that purpose. Then the hammersman forms it into loops or blooms, as he chooses. If into loops, it is then hammered into common bar iron under the tilt hammer, which weighs from five to seven hundred. If in bloomers they are then sent off to the rolling mills and disposed of in this form.

We arrived here from Virginia on the 6th of last month. Since I wrote to you from Mount Airy, in March, we have been very busy teaching and preaching; visiting from house to house and from place to place, slowly but surely gaining upon the hearts of the honest seekers after truth. Here and in Virginia we have baptized 83 members into the Church, and the prospects are bright for many more to be added. All of them are very anxious to go to Utah as soon as possible. About three-fourths are able to go without help; as for the others I see no chance at present. We can buy through tickets from Greensboro, North Carolina, *via* Richmond and Washington on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, (50 miles from here) to Omaha, for $22, which is the very lowest they can be obtained.

Brother Coray joins me in love to you and all the Saints.

Your brother in the Gospel,
H. G. BOYLE.

An ugly old bachelor suggests that births should be published under the head of "new music."

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