

CORRESPONDENCE.

Crops—Grasshoppers—Bees—Schools.

BLOOMINGTON,
June 4th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Sir—Considering that the snow has disappeared unprecedentedly early in Bear Lake Valley, the weather is cool. The health of the people is generally good. Grasshoppers are too diminutive yet to injure crops, but are numerous. Energetic measures are being adopted in this place to destroy them, and thus save the growing crops.

It has been talked of here within a few days that bees will thrive well in this country, judging from the flowers at present; why not encourage the culture of these useful producers, and save the importation of a necessary article?

Bloomington has two-day schools well attended, Sunday Schools under the supervision of Bro. Greenaleh. The uprising is against the 'hoppers, and the drilling is in the Co-op Store.

Respectfully,
L. B. HUNT.

Locations of the Elders—Improvement Associations—Hawaiian Feast and Reunion.

LAIE, OAHU, Sandwich Islands,
May 18th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The Elders have all departed to their respective fields of labor on the different Islands, with the exception of those who are appointed to labor here on the plantation. Bros. H. P. Richards and J. S. Woodbury have gone to the Island of Hawaii. Word has arrived from the former stating his good health and spirits. Bros. Molen and Gates are on the Island of Maui, having been assigned to the Islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai at our late conference. They arrived there in safety, and have started their labors in that quarter. The latter is studying the language, preparatory to teaching the Gospel to the aborigines. Bro. Jas. Keeler is on the Island of Kauai and is blessed in his labors. Pres. Pack, Bro. Woolley, and myself are on the plantation, engaged in making sugar, planting and cultivating cane, and instructing the native saints. All are in good health and have the spirit of the mission.

The native Saints all seem to be feeling well and energetic in the work of God, and unity seemingly prevails.

The young men's and young women's improvement associations had a reunion on the 7th of this month, the anniversary of their organization. They were organized one year ago, and have been in very successful operation since, and a marked improvement is noticeable in the young people even in that short space of time. They are more united in good works than formerly, and have shown greater willingness to listen to our teachings and instructions.

At our late conference the young women came out in uniform, that is, hats and dresses alike, the former the workmanship of their own hands, and they were very neat and tasty. Some of our more enlightened sisters in the Utah valleys would do well to adopt such a fashion and make them with their own hands, as their darkly colored sisters have done here, and cease to import the shoddy articles of Babylon.

Their reunion was not managed as Utah's youths and maidens would have conducted one. It started with a Hawaiian feast, the food consisting of beef, pork, fowls, poi and sweet potatoes, served up in the usual Hawaiian style, not eaten from plates and tables, with knives and forks, but on the floor from fern leaves. The leaves were spread down in a large circle and then the calabashes of poi were set on them, and the fowl and fowl were served upon leaves. When this was prepared the band went out and escorted the guests inside, when a hymn that had been composed for the occasion was sung and prayer was offered. Then all that could be were seated crosslegged on the floor, opposite a calabash of poi and a leaf full of meat. Eating was then commenced in earnest. During the eating songs were sung, composed for the occasion by the young people, and were well rendered, showing latent ability that only needed culture.

Since their organization, some of the young men have formed themselves into a fife and drum band, and are now able to discourse quite creditable music in that line, considering their circumstances. They were in attendance, and made the air resound with strains of martial music.

When the feasting was over, the assembly was called to order, when singing and speech-making was the order of the day. Remarks were made by Elders Pack and Lambert, and some very creditable speeches were made by the young men and girls, quoting freely from the Scriptures, showing that they were studying the good book.

The Young Ladies' Association numbers thirty-one active members, and the Young Men's thirty-three. They meet frequently two or three times a week and seemingly take great interest in their meetings.

With desires for the welfare of Zion, I am, yours truly,
R. G. LAMBERT.

Reflections on Reading the Book of Mormon.

Editor Deseret News:

That the western as well as the eastern hemisphere should have an inspired history and a gospel dispensation inaugurated by Christ himself, comes in contact with the limited conceptions, the self-assured wisdom of this nineteenth century. The Book of Mormon came into a world of antagonisms, and found but little it could assimilate with. The course it directed mankind diverged from every other path they had been accustomed to travel. It has enlarged the field of human thought and action, and, to those who accept its doctrines, it opens up new sources of present enjoyment and brightens the future with the hope of happy realities.

Nearly fifty years have passed since the plates from which it was translated were taken from the hill Cumorah. During this period mankind seems to have been operated upon by unusual impulses. They have been rapidly working out of the time-worn groves of the past, and the world is rushing on to a future of which the uninspired mind forms no conception. It has been a period of great and varied departures from former religious, governmental policies and social ethics. The inspirations attending the Book of Mormon are disintegrating the fragmentary religions and exposing the debasing moralities of many generations, reorganizing the elements of future history, and purifying the fountains of the world's progress. The magnitude of the results of its introduction into the world entitle it to the calm, intelligent consideration of the scientific and curious, as well as the religionist. It develops the purposes of God concerning a hemisphere, and the conditions of its occupation by the human race. It solves the problem of the origin of the aboriginal American. It informs us of the origin of those extensive remains of former civilizations, which evidence the existence of empires, with populations quite as numerous as those which now occupy American soil. Asiatic Israel, with its world renowned Egyptian exodus, with its long record of inspired prophets and special providences, sinks into geographical insignificance compared with the empires of this western land of promise, whose founders traversed half the circuit of the globe to mould the destinies of a hemisphere to the purposes of Jehovah.

The history of the first people who occupied the country after the flood—the Jaredites—occupies about thirty-four pages of the Book of Mormon. Insignificant as this sketch is, compared with the evident magnitude of the subject, it is the only known history of the continent for 1,700 years, or until about 600 years before Christ. Two very important events took place about that time on this western hemisphere—the entire destruction of the Jaredites, and the landing of two colonies from the ancient city of Jerusalem. With the exception of the book of Ether, the Book of Mormon is a history of those colonies, until 420 years after the advent of our Saviour, a period of 1,020—a total of twenty-seven centuries. From this time until the discovery of the continent by Columbus in 1492, a period of 1,072 years, its history can only be conjectured from the recorded visions of the Nephite prophets, from a

few fragmentary and unreliable narratives saved from the ravages of the Spanish conquest, from the traditions of the natives still extant, and from what remains of the labors of extinct nationalities. A great variety of theories have been advanced concerning the origin of the aboriginal American. The future will probably be as prolific as the past in those theories, until the record of Mormon is accepted as a historical fact. These colonies were a mixture of the tribes of Ephraim, Judah and Manassah, and were therefore more generally Israelitish than modern Jewish in type. In changing continents they experienced a great change in climatic and other conditions which create race distinctions, and of necessity there must have been a wide divergence from the original Asiatic stock in the long period of 2,400 years.

These colonies of Israelites carried with them to the west a history of their ancestors, and their descendants have never entirely lost sight of the fact that their fathers came across the "great waters." Antiquarian research on the American continent has so far tended to establish the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon. No ancient record of the eastern hemisphere has reflected one ray of light on the obscure past of the western. Unless Providence has provided some way for the inhabitants of the latter to speak for themselves, reliable information of their past history seems hopeless. Whether or not the Book of Mormon is a history of these people, written by themselves, is now the question before the world.

If the American Indian is a portion of Abrahamic Israel, and heirs to the blessings, there is a comprehensive significance in the following queries—May not God yet favor a people whose season of oppression under the Caucasian race nearly equals that of ancient Israel in Egypt? Are there no promises to them in the archives of the past to gladden their future with hope? Is the assumption reasonable that the myriads of intelligences who have occupied this continent during its long isolation have had no Divine inspiration, no holy prophets, no sacred temples where the sacrificial incense ascended to the Most High, no knowledge of an atoning Saviour, no apostles, no evangelists, no hope of deliverance from death through a glorious resurrection? Does it accord with the Christian idea of Divine justice and mercy, that only half of the world should have had knowledge of the gospel of salvation? Although written on separate continents and in different languages, the Bible and Book of Mormon testify of each other, and the latter asserts that their joint testimony shall be for the confounding of false doctrine in the latter times; in fact, that one should be the complement of the other, and they, jointly, the embodiment of the Divine plan for man's redemption?

European nations at first appreciated the New Word as opening new sources of trade, and as presenting excellent opportunities for the gratification of avarice by plunder; of political significance as affording vast areas of land only partially occupied, where new empires could easily be established by conquest and colonization; of religious importance as opening new fields for the operations of an intolerant spirit of propagandism, whose chief element of success had been the weakness of others. These incentives to conquest and colonization were the legitimate result of avarice and religious bigotry of the age of American discovery and conquest. With few exceptions the foundations of American republics were laid in the blood and spoliation of the aboriginal American, the white race modifying and varying their oppressions to suit their wants and caprices, practically asserting that the Indian had no rights which it was bound to respect. Professedly the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, they have waged exterminating war, and when weary of the slaughter have forced corroding vice on defenceless savages to complete the work of death. Thus for nearly 400 years aggression on the one side has continued the work of extermination on the other. The Book of Mormon is a warrant deed, recorded in heaven and carrying the seal of Divine inspiration, to the aboriginal American, of the lands occupied by his fathers.

The discovery of America brought into contact the customs, the tra-

ditional policies, the religions, the interests and energies of two hemispheres, and produced conditions of existence differing in many essentials from both originals. Conception fails to grasp the results of American discovery, of the consequent intermingling of races, their antagonisms and their reacting influences on each other.

European civilization, with its superior means of aggression and overshadowing influences, expected to mould the institutions of the new world in conformity with its own. For who could then have predicted from the usual revelations of cause and effect that the offshoots of despotism could grow into republics? It was a new epoch in the history of the world, a new development on a grand scale; but, as now appears, a natural outgrowth from American soil. While republics represent the sovereignty of the people, they do not appear to have added anything to the stability of national institutions.

There can be no stability in the midst of cherished antagonisms, as now existing in a great diversity of religious creeds, in disintegrating views of the domestic and social relations, in overshadowing monopolies which oppress and therefore degrade honest labor, and in the maddening struggle for gain.

As the future unfolds to the comprehension of men, that divine inspiration is the only guide to permanent individual and national prosperity, the Book of Mormon will be appreciated as the exponent of a divine plan working out through forty centuries, a chain of special providences in order to open up a higher destiny for man than is now contemplated by the soundest uninspired thinkers and most hopeful philanthropists. Simply as a history of ancient America, it would have produced no more change in the current of human affairs than would the intelligent elucidation of the tile records of ancient Nineveh, or of the mysteries of the catacombs of Egypt. Its potency lies in the fact that it represents a divine purpose yet to be consummated.

JAMES A. LITTLE.

The Fourth—Excursions—Custom House—Twelve—Theatres.

NEW YORK CITY,
May 30, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

There is quite a strong opposition growing up here against the noise, smell of burnt powder, and danger that usual accompanies the celebration of the 4th of July. It is quite probable that the indiscriminate use of fire-crackers and other explosives will be prohibited by the city authorities this year.

Last Sunday all the excursion boats leaving the city for a trip up the Hudson, or a glimpse of the ocean, were crowded, and Central Park was swarming with people seeking the fresh spring air.

The custom house investigation is proceeding cautiously and conservatively, and seems more like an experiment than a reform. Collector Arthur claims to be the slave of the old system of bestowing political patronage, and says that the New York custom house, is but a huge hospital for defeated and broken down politicians, that these patients were brought to him by Senators and Members of Congress, and that he dare not refuse to care for them.

Tweed's chances for breathing the free air again are not so promising now as they seemed about the time of the publication of the story of his flight from the city, his hair breadth escapes, &c., which appeared in print about a month ago. There has been bad management of his case either on his own or his friends' part, and the chances of his prison doors swinging open when he opens his mouth are not so probable as they were.

Most of the theatres close this week for the season and the summer gardens are already open and liberally patronized.

Frost—Crops—Earthquake—False Reports and False Reporters.

PAROWAN, May 29, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

His hoariness, the frost, has paid us so many cold and chilling visits this spring, that there will be found the coming season but a very small sprinkling of fruit, on vine, bush, or tree. The young grain crops look very fair so far and promise well.

A slight shock of an earthquake was felt here on the evening of the 24th inst. This calls to my mind the terrible excitement that certain parties are trying to raise in the east against the Latter-day Saints in this Territory. Surely the people of the United States are getting used to these false reports ere this time. They must begin to know that there is no dependence to be placed in them; they have been proved false so often. I am not willing to believe that those men who send abroad these wicked reports against us don't know they are lying about the people. I believe they must and do know it.

Has any officer of the government been interfered with in the least in the discharge of his duty? No, they don't claim that they have been. Have not government officers, soldiers, lawyers, &c., been treated kindly and like gentlemen when passing through our settlements on business or pleasure? They cannot say to the contrary. Have not all men passing through our settlements been so treated when they have conducted themselves half way decent towards us? Yes. Who deserves the greatest credit for this state of peace and good will in our settlements? Who has led the van in the arts of peace? Who has counselled long suffering and forbearance? And finally, who has been a Father in every sense of the word to the Latter-day Saints, and to every one who would listen to his fatherly advice? Brigham Young. Have Brigham Young and the great mass of his people wrought harm to any living being, intentionally? They have not, and they are at the defiance of the world to truthfully assert to the contrary. Then what is the matter? What is all this fuss about Brigham Young and the Mormons in Utah preparing and arming to resist the government? Is there any truth in it? Not one word. Then explain. It can be explained in a very few words, according to the truth as it is.

A ring of unprincipled men in this Territory, who seem to neither fear God nor regard man further than it suits their own ends, are trying, with all their might, to get the government of the Territory and the control of the Territorial money into their own hands, and they want to make the laws for Utah, &c. Now this can not be done, as things now stand. The laws of Congress relating to this Territory must be changed, says the ring. The "Mormons" must be disfranchised. No "Mormon" must hold any civil office, or sit on any jury. To get a law established to this effect a strong pressure must be brought to bear on Congress during its next session. We must raise a howl through the land against Brigham Young and the "Mormons." Never mind what we say, so that it has the desired effect. Watch every word uttered by Brigham Young, that will bear any other construction than the one he intended. Construe it and twist it to our own liking. Add as many lies as we think proper, then send the stirring dispatch broadcast through the country. Any item that any "Mormon" apostate or other friend will send us from the settlements, dish them up in the same manner and publish them to the world. Never mind how much injustice we may do to individuals or the "Mormon" people at large. The popular prejudice against them will cause our version of matters to be believed abroad, and we shall not be called to any particular account for anything we say against the "Mormons."

Thus they delude themselves, not having the fear of God before their eyes, who will call them to an account, sooner or later, for the deeds done in the body. This is the church of Christ, established by the authority of God through the Prophet Joseph Smith, the prophet of this last dispensation of God to the children of men upon the earth. Brigham Young is now the head of the Church, and legal successor of the Prophet Joseph Smith and though the Church is more or less unpopular with the world, as was the ancient church of Christ, yet men cannot fight against God's purposes with impunity. When a reign of righteousness and truth is established upon the earth, as established it will be, and Christ will come to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, where will men be found who continue to persist in falsifying the truth? Will they not be numbered among those characters spoken of in Scripture, who will call upon the rocks and the mountains to fall