

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MAIL.

SALT LAKE CITY POST OFFICE,  
October 23, 1855.

## EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

Sir,—In consequence of the failure of the contractors on the route from Independence, Mo., to this city, to bring through the mail for the last month, it is generally believed, as I am informed, that our mail facilities in that direction have entirely ceased. I wish to say to the public that the mail for Independence will be sent out from this office, as usual, on the 1st day of November next, and I know of no reason why it cannot be taken through with as much certainty as formerly.

The agent, Mr. Dotson, has secured the services of an energetic conductor, with a sufficient number of experienced hands to take out the mail to Fort Laramie, and from that point it will of course be escorted through by the government troops, if necessary, in consequence of the Indian difficulties supposed to exist on that part of the route.

The California mail, which has been carried very punctually during the past year, may be considered by some more safe for the transmission of mail matter than the eastern mail; if so, their letters, &c., can be sent by that route, if desired.

Hoping that our mail facilities will improve instead of getting worse, and that confidence which seems in a great measure lost, will be restored to the Post Office Department by the adoption of energetic measures for the transmission of the mails to and from this Territory by the Department,—I have the honor to be yours, most respectfully,

E. SMITH, P. M.

## UTAH AND OREGON TERRITORIAL LINE.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:—

Sir,—You will oblige by publishing the following report:—His Excellency, Gov. Young, having appointed Jesse W. Fox—the Territorial Surveyor General, and myself to determine where latitude 42° north intersects the main road from the States to this city, and also to ascertain the line of intersection of the same parallel with Green River, we, in accordance with our instructions, left the settlements on the morning of the 11th of September, being provided with a good sextant and artificial horizon of Troughton's construction, surveyor's compass, chain, odometer, &c.

We slowly proceeded over the rugged mountains, and through the deep canyons; and in a few days found ourselves on the bank of Green River where, eight years ago, a company of hardy Mormon pioneers, with myself, ferried this rapid stream on a log raft of our own construction, and pursued our toilsome journey in quest of some lonely resting place for the persecuted, exiled saints.

Referring to my journal of eight years ago, I found the latitude of this point to be 41° 52' 37", as calculated from a meridian observation of the sun, which I took with a sextant on the 2nd of July, 1847. The barometer, at the time of the observation, standing at 24,009 inches, and the detached thermometer at 55° Fahrenheit.

On the morning of the 19th, having attached the odometer to one of the hind wheels of our carriage, we proceeded from this point, following the main road towards the South Pass, nearly fifteen miles, when we halted, and, having made the necessary preparations, I took the apparent double meridian altitude of the sun's upper limb, (using the astronomical telescope in the sextant)—99° 33' 05". Index error 30" plus. The sun's semi-diameter being 15' 58"; parallax 5".5; corrected refraction 38".3; corrected declination 1° 23' 17".2 North; barometer 23.8 inches; detached thermometer 67° Fahrenheit; assumed longitude 7h. 22m. west.

The above data gave for the latitude 41° 59' 00".5; or 1.14 statute miles south of 42°, or the boundary line. By the aid of the compass, chain and odometer, we soon determined where the Utah and Oregon boundary line intersects the road, close on the west of which we erected a stone with U. T. engraved on the south side, and O. T. on the north side.

A few rods further to the west, we erected another stone; and on the east side of the road we threw up a heap of stones. The distance, by the road, is 5.98 miles in a north-easterly direction from the big bend of Big Sandy.

From the Big Bend we took the California road, in a westerly direction 8.34 miles, and came to the junction of Kenney's and Sublimat's roads.

From said junction to Kenney's ferry on Green river, in a south-westerly direction, it is 8.66 miles.

From Kenney's ferry, following a trail on the bluff and up the river on the left bank, to the Territorial line it is 7.02 miles.

From Kenney's ferry, following the road on the right bank down the river, to the Pioneer, or 'Mormon' ferry it is 9.92 miles.

September 21, 1855. On the east or left bank of Green river I took the apparent double meridian altitude of the sun's lower limb—96° 53' 50". Index error plus 30". Sun's semi-diameter 15' 58".5; parallax 5".6; corrected refraction 33".6; corrected declination 0° 42' 35".5 North; barometer 23.9 inches; detached thermometer 67° Fahrenheit; assumed longitude 7h. 23m. west. These data gave for the latitude 42° 00' 00".

We were much surprised to find the point of our observation exactly on the line. We erected a stone, engraved on each side as the former one. We also found three large cottonwood trees, a few rods apart and on the line; each of these we hewed smooth on the north and south sides, and upon one of them we engraved the same letters as upon the stones, and wrote upon each side of the others, with a lead pencil, UTAH AND OREGON TERRITORIAL LINE.

About 30 or 40 rods south of the line there are 4 large points erected on the east or left bank of the river, surrounded with trees and brush, where a ferry was recently established, but it is now abandoned.

After having accomplished the object of our expedition we returned to G. S. L. City, having been absent 18 days, during which we traveled 418 miles.

The mules not being sufficiently strong for the carriage and its contents, we were compelled to travel about 300 miles of the journey on foot.

Respectfully yours,

J. W. ORSON PRATT, Sen.

G. S. L. City, Utah, October 18, 1855.

## MISSIONARY VISIT TO BOX ELDER AND THE INTERMEDIATE SETTLEMENTS.

Monday, May 14, 1855, I left G. S. L. City, at 8 a.m., in the mail coach, and arrived in Ogden about 5 p.m. Went to Bingham's Fort and put up with Bishop Bingham.

15th, went to Willow creek.

16th, arrived at Prest. Lorenzo Snow's, at Box Elder, in the forenoon; he gave out an appointment for me to preach in the School-house in the evening; the meeting was well attended, and a good spirit was manifested by the brethren.

17th, at 4 p.m., I preached at Bishop Hubben's, Willow Creek; there was a good spirit and attendance; among the audience were a number of missionaries on their way to their various fields of labor, also br. E. Reese, on his way to Carson Valley, and Col. Thos. S. Smith, on his way north.

18th, visited Bishop Thomas Dunn, and gave him instructions with regard to the High Priests there. Went to Bingham's Fort, and held a meeting at 6 p.m. There was not a very good turn out.

19th, I walked to Ogden city; staid over night with Capt. James Brown, and was well entertained.

Sunday, 20th, I preached, at 10 a.m., to a goodly audience, and again at 2 p.m. Much interest and harmony were manifest, and, by his request, I ordained a counselor to Bishop Browning.

21st, I spent the day in Ogden city, visiting from house to house.

22d, went to Bishop Wardsworth's, upper fort on Weber river, and held a meeting in the evening; had good attention and the manifestation of a good spirit.

23rd, went to Bishop Kingston's, lower fort on Weber, held a meeting in the evening, and ordained br. Cook a counselor to Bishop Kingston.

24th, went to Bishop Kays, and held an interesting evening meeting.

25th, went to Bishop Hess' in Farmington, was treated kindly, and had a good meeting and good music.

26th, went to Bishop Smith's in Cherry's settlement. The school house was well filled, and we enjoyed a good time.

Sunday, 27th, met with Patriarch Isaac Morley, in Sessions' settlement, and held meeting together. A good spirit and feeling prevailed. At 4 p.m. we got into the stage coach, and soon arrived in G. S. L. City, having been absent about two weeks.

In all the wards and branches, I exhorted the High Priests to be up and doing, to attend to their duties and magnify their callings. Organized them in the several places I visited, appointing the oldest High Priest to preside, that they might have regular meetings and report their proceedings, once in three months, to the Presidency of the Quorum in this city.

## VISIT TO TOOLEE VALLEY.

August 7th, at sunrise I started alone on horseback for Toolee. Arrived at E. T. City about 3 p.m., staid over night with br. Howard Coray, and was well entertained.

8th, arrived at Grantsville about 2 p.m., and put up with Bishop Clarke.

9th, 7 a.m., held meeting. The people were assembled by the sound of a buzze, were much divided and in a bad frame of mind. Held three meetings during the day. Called the High Priests together in the evening, and instructed them in their duties.

10th, arrived in Toolee city about noon, called on Prest. E. B. Kelsey, and held an evening meeting; had an interesting time, and a good spirit prevailed. The authorities here had renewed their covenants by baptism.

11th, occupied the time in visiting from house to house. Sunday, 12th, held meetings at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and in the evening. Had an interesting day, for the people seemed to be desirous of living their religion.

13th, started for E. T. City; dined with Bishop Rowbery; visited Bishop Mangham and held an evening meeting. A very good spirit was manifested, and some very appropriate remarks were made by Bishop Rowbury and others.

14th, at 4 p.m., arrived at my home in this city, having been absent eight days.

## VISIT SOUTH, AS FAR AS PAYSON.

August 23d, I left this city on horseback, and staid over night at Jordan Mills.

24th, arrived at Bishop Isaac Houston's in Mountainville, about 4 p.m. Held an evening meeting, and the people generally felt well.

25th, arrived at Lehi City about 2 p.m. Called on Bishop Evans, and staid over night.

26th, had meetings, one at 10, 2, and 6; not very good attendance, but good attention by those who were present. In the evening I was taken with a very severe pain in my head.

27th, remained at Lehi sick in bed all day. I was anxious to know whether I should go ahead or return home, and it was plainly manifested to me that I should go on.

28th, I went to Battle Creek, called on Bishop Walker, and had a good meeting, with a very free course of the Spirit.

29th, went to Provo; authorities not at home; went on to Springville, and called at Bishop A. Johnson's, he did not get home until evening, when he at once gave out an appointment for a meeting, and there was a good attendance. There were a number of Indians in the fort, and some dissatisfaction with the people about their destroying their vegetables.

30th, went to Palmyra, left an appointment for Friday evening, and passed on to Payson. Called on Bishop Charles W. Hancock. Held an evening meeting, which was well attended and very interesting.

31st, Friday, returned to Palmyra and held an evening meeting which was not very well attended, and the audience were rather dull.

September 1st, returned to Provo, and was well received. Sunday, 2d, held meeting at 10 a.m., when good attention and a good spirit were manifested. In the evening called the High Priests together in the Seminary; had a very good time, and organized them by appointing Emer Harris president over 50 High Priests in that place.

3rd, went to American Fork and called on Bishop L. E. Harrington, who immediately notified the people, and we held an evening meeting; had a large congregation and much enjoyment. Severe pain in my head, accompanied with ear-ache.

4th, went to Drapersville; called on Bishop Draper, and held an evening meeting; this was not a very good meeting, and the prospects were not so favorable as could be desired.

5th, rode over to Jordan Mills. Had a very severe pain in my head this day.

In all places visited on this trip, I lifted up my voice in solemn warning to the High Priests and Elders in Israel to be up and doing, to do their duty in this the last, the eleventh hour, that they may earn their penny. I organized the High Priests by appointing, as a general thing, and out of respect to age, the oldest to preside. They can now hold their meetings, and report their proceedings, once in three months, to the Quorum in this city, that we may know how they are progressing.

DAVID PETTEGREW,

Past. of the High Priests' Quorum.

## MOUNTAIN EXCURSION.

G. S. L. CITY, Oct. 3, 1855.

MR. EDITOR:—Having just returned from a short pioneer excursion among the mountains and canyons east, I thought I would speak of it for the benefit of spreading Mormonism. Mr. Rhoads and myself left the city on Saturday, the 29th ult., and by way of the "little mountain," passed John Killian's, Lamb's mill, the sacred spot where Mr. Dixon and Quail were killed by the Indians in the summer of '53, and camped at the foot of "Parley's Park," about 3 miles north of S. Snider's mills, 22 miles from the city; good grass and water, and a splendid appearance of timber fore and aft; on the west, the mountains, however, look ancient though not as high as the Wasatch on the east of our valley. They have wrinkles, by the by, and if they were 3000 years old when they had the first wrinkle, and then produced another wrinkle for every thousand years, there must be some "old mountains," for we saw several with as much as three wrinkles.

On the 30th we passed east, leaving Mr. Snider's to the west. He has a fine range for stock, and we observed quite a large herd, fat and fine, in the midst of the goodly pasture so luxuriantly prepared by the Lord. About three miles east of this range, we came to another very fine prospect for grazing and hay on Silver creek—we never saw a better, and the creek is as beautiful as the waters of Eden. From this place we made the best way we could north easterly among hills and canyons to the Weber; country very rough, though the hills and mountains, during the way, were well covered with bunch grass and prickly pears, some of which were quite religious, being founded on a rock.

We struck the Weber some 12 or 15 miles south of the states' road crossing, and after going up some 4 or 5 miles at the junction of the east and south forks, we came to another fair sight for grazing. We stopped for the night where the south fork of Weber enters the "grand pass," north of Provo about 3 miles. We had already left some fine antelope, and as we were shaping our course down Provo west, we discovered what we at first thought were two Indian ponies, but on nearing them, found they were an excellent span of grizzly bears. Being not on racers, we were compelled to let them live their religion, which they did Mormon fashion, and fled from their friends (?) to the mountains to save themselves from being loved to death. We saw several flocks of sage hens and antelope, and a few prairie hens.

We next shaped our course over the mountains west, a mile or two north of the Provo, and as we ascended, on looking back to the east, plenty of timbered hills and mountains spread their yellow, red, and green foliage before us, and about twenty miles in the distance, between Provo and Weber head waters, was a grand space for another "fat valley of Ephraim."

We passed on seven or eight miles and descended into a small valley full of Buffalo bones, about a mile north of Provo; we called it Buffalo valley. Just as we came in sight of this valley we discovered a large gentle fox with a neighboring sage hen in his mouth, imitating the christian world, one nation devouring another. We turned north and passed over the divide into Silver creek valley, and at night camped about two miles north of Snider's mills. There was a severe frost, the first we were plagued with. We saw a stump of a petrified pine tree about 3 feet in diameter.

We took P. P. Pratt's road down big canyon on our way home, and think it will need considerable labor to make it even a passable road. The distance from the city to the "grand pass" is about 40 miles, the way we returned; the northern route would be more.

Respectfully, &amp;c.,

W. W. PHELPS.

## REWARD FOR POWDER AND LEAD.

CEDAR CITY, Iron co., Sept. 18, 1855.

I will give \$150 on the Deseret Iron company, for the first 10 pounds of good rifle powder manufactured in the southern settlements, viz: Fillmore, Parowan, Cedar City, and Harmony; extending the offer to Capt. Allen's company; the powder to be made of ingredients found in said regions of country. I also will give \$100 to the first discoverer of good lead ore in sufficient body to pay for working profitably. The powder, and ore to be produced and authenticated at my residence. I will allow two years for the term of the above reward.

Lieut. Col. ROBERT KEYS.

## ELDERS' CORRESPONDENCE.

## SWITZERLAND.

Cher Messrs. Graubner Rue de Cendrie, 108, Geneva, 4th June, '55.

[To Elder L. Snow, from Elder Daniel Tyler.]

As it would doubtless be interesting to you to know the present state of the work in these missions, I will give you a sketch.

I believe Elder Stenhouse sent you a copy of the minutes of the council held in this city on the 1st, 2d and 3d of last October, if not, I suppose you read them in the Millennial Star. From that council I have been presiding in place of Elder Stenhouse. Soon after that time Elder Seriat who was laboring in the Canton de Berne was put in prison for preaching, &c. He was confined 8 or 9 days in fifty places, and then put over the frontier into France near Basle. He went to Liverpool, and finally emigrated in company with Elder Riser and the German saints.

Not a great while after the banishment of Elder Seriat, Elder George Mayer and Wm. Budge received orders to leave the Canton de Zurich in 8 days. This was

caused by excitement raised by the people. Elder Mayer having been previously imprisoned, and having staid afterwards without his papers, &c., more as a favor than anything else could, not resist. He went from place to place for a season, but finally emigrated with a small company of saints.

Elder Budge applied to the English consul who protected him for a time, but at last he was obliged to leave. He traveled about in several other cantons, got banished from all of them, and at last could stay but three days in a place, as the police were after him wherever he went. He at last went to England where he now labors. There is not at present an elder in the German part of the mission except the natives, and one dares not enter.

In the French cantons nothing scarcely has been done since the emigration of last year. The Lansanne and Nenchatel branches are little better than nothing. In Geneva it is a little better, nothing scarcely is being done. Old bro. Morel, whom you ordained an elder here, is a good old man; he is always on hand to do as he is counseled. He often speaks of "Frere Snow," and longs to see him in the valley. He sends his kindest love to you.

There is not much doing in Italy at the present. The valleys are the only place where there are any saints. Efforts have been made at Genoa, Nice, and Jurin, but hitherto with no good effect. The saints in the valleys are generally faithful; they are very poor and suffer much from hunger, &c., and long to be delivered from their misery and taken to Zion.

There is a young elder presiding there named Samuel Francis, who is an intelligent, faithful young man of some years' experience in England; he acts very wisely, and I hope and believe will do all the good that it is possible to accomplish under the circumstances. A small company of over a dozen persons are on their way to the valley from Piemont, among whom are the Malon family who first received you in Piemont. They are under the presidency of Elder James F. Bell, late president of the Malta mission. I hope they will reach the valley safely. I may remark while speaking of Italy, considerable opposition and some persecution is manifested in Piemont at present.

Before closing I will say that although there are no foreign elders in the German cantons, the native brethren are zealously disseminating our doctrines and they meet with some little success.

I have commenced to publish a 16 page periodical in the German language. It will appear monthly; the 2nd No. is just out for June. The title is "Der Darsteller;" you will see particulars in the "Star."

Be pleased to accept my kind love, and believe me yours faithfully in the kingdom of God.

## JERSEY.

Channel Islands, June 18, 1855.

[From Elder William C. Dunbar to the President and Members of the 39th Quorum of Seventies.]

I thank you for your kind expressions for my welfare. The assurance that I am remembered by 70 of the elders of Israel ought indeed to give me faith and confidence that God will be with me, and that all is well. Such has been—such is my faith.

While on this mission, no matter in what circumstances I have been placed, I have felt that I was borne up and sustained by the power of God. True, I have been and still am afflicted in body, but what of that, so long as I enjoy the Spirit of the Lord and the power of the holy priesthood? I am, perhaps, too much of an enthusiast in acknowledging the hand of the Lord in all things, but this enthusiasm has afforded me comfort and happiness when others were sad. In reasoning myself into the belief that all things work together for good, so long as we do right, I am kept from complaining at what I believe to be the hand of God.

Do you think I fret and droop my head because I am in Babylon? I tell you, nay; I rejoice in the Holy One of Israel continually; live or die, rich or poor, sick or enjoying good health, I am calm and happy in mind. If a cloud does sometimes hang over my mind, I have only to retire and call upon the Lord, and it is dispersed, and I feel as though the whole heavenly host was in my room. It is impossible to witness the wickedness, misery, and corruption surrounding me everywhere, and not mourn over the degraded and benighted condition of man. It is impossible to hold the holy priesthood—to have a knowledge of the principles of eternal life—to know that heaven and happiness are within their reach, and see them go down to hell, and not weep and mourn over their sad condition. It is an awful picture to look at. Could they but understand the things that are taking place before they are for ever hid from their eyes!

I feel the responsibility more perhaps on account of the peculiar circumstances connected with the French mission. The reflection that so vast a multitude of people are in darkness—that I have the means of enlightening them, and have not the privilege of doing it, is enough to cast down the most buoyant spirits. We cannot even give a tract without breaking the law and running the risk of being put into prison. You may ask, is there not the same liberty now, as when brs. Taylor and Bolton went there? No. When France was a monarchy, there was more liberty. Although they will not grant us licenses for preaching, they very readily grant them for brothel houses. Still, if simply baptizing people would accomplish anything, we could baptize thousands; tell a Frenchman that we have an emigration society, and hold out a prospect of his bettering his circumstances, and you may baptize him a dozen times in one night. I believe that the majority of them are sceptical in regard to sacred things, from the "Emperor down to the payson." Religion seems merely to be a matter of policy with them; yet I hope I shall be connected with this mission when revolution shall have broken the chains that now hinder many noble men and women from rejoicing in the light of the gospel.

When there is liberty of the press and of speech, I believe there will be a great work done in the French nation. They are much given to reasoning and philosophizing, and have very little veneration for old, rusty traditions; only convince them of their error and they soon shake it off, and while the novelty lasts, they will spill their last drop of blood for it.

This is much the case with a great many; so long as the novelty of Mormonism lasts—so long as their wonder is excited, and so long as you keep promising something great to them, they are good Mormons; but let a few years

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