

Russian advance within their line of videttes. The Russian cavalry detachments alluded to did advance against Pul-i-Khisti March 25th, but they retired before reaching there, when warned by the Afghan commander, as they had been on February 30th.

Secondly—Gen. Komaroff states that near the bridge he found an intrenchment occupied by Afghans. I reply that position was occupied by the Afghans previous to Gen. Komaroff's advance and to the agreement of March 17th.

Thirdly—Gen. Komaroff says: "In order to avoid a conflict, I placed my men five versts from the Afghan position." In reply to this, I can only refer to the main body, as the Russian troops were in Kirzil-Tepe, one mile from the Afghan position, and the Russian videttes were considerably in advance of that position.

Fourthly—Gen. Komaroff says: "When the Afghans were convinced we had no intention of attacking them, they began to come daily nearer to our camp." I reply that so far from the Afghans being convinced of Gen. Komaroff's innocent intentions, their continued irritating daily attempts to provoke hostility convinced the Afghans that the Russians were determined to provoke a conflict. This induced the Afghans to do what appeared a military necessity in extending the defensive position.

Fifthly—Gen. Komaroff states that on the 27th of March the Afghans sent against a company which was charged with covering a reconnaissance three companies with cannons and some cavalry. In reply to this I say that a reconnaissance in force itself means a hostile intention. A Russian company meant 250 men—more than equivalent to the three Afghan companies which aggregated 225 men. On the 27th, two bodies of Russians simultaneously advanced. Col. Alikhanoff with cavalry pushed past Pul-i-Khisti, and Russian infantry occupied the right flank of the Afghan position on the Murghab. Col. Alikhanoff only retired when intercepted by the Afghans. The cavalry was four miles in the rear of the Afghan position. The Russian infantry only retired when the Afghan commander drew other companies, warning the Russian officer if he advanced further he would be fired upon. Gen. Komaroff's chief of staff, at an interview had on the 29th, called Col. Alikhanoff's advance merely a pleasure trip, but he was informed the Afghan commander viewed it in a most serious light.

Sixthly—Gen. Komaroff states that the arrogance and audacity of the Afghans increased by degrees. I reply that it may have been so; but, if so, it was entirely caused by Russian action. The Afghans did their utmost to avoid a collision. It is solely owing to their patience and forbearance during two months of incessant irritation that peace was preserved so long. The Afghan commander's courteous reply of March 29th to Gen. Komaroff's ultimatum, proves his wish to the last to avoid a conflict.

Gen. Komaroff says that on the 28th the Afghans occupied the night commanding the left flank of the Russian camp and began to throw up intrenchments there to establish a post cavalry behind the Russian line, and placed a picket within gunshot distance. I reply that the Afghan commander did, on the 28th, after the hostile reconnaissance on the 27th, place a post of observation on the hills on the right bank of the Murghab river, for the purpose of giving notice of any fresh Russian advance, but the post was withdrawn the next day.

Eighth—Gen. Komaroff says that on the 29th he sent to the Afghan commander an energetic summons, etc., and received an answer that by the advice of the English the Afghan commander refused to retire across the Kusk river. In reply to this, I may state that the fact itself is reported to me to be totally incorrect. Nowhere in the Afghan commander's reply is there any such statement. On the contrary, the wording is distinctly thus: "I have duly received your letter regarding the withdrawal of certain pickets. As I had received orders from the government at Herat to consult Captain Yate, who was deputed to Pendjeh by Sir Peter Lumsden in such matters, I showed him your letter. Captain Yate afterwards had an interview with Col. Zadiehewehi and informed me of the conversation which ensued. Be it known to ye, I must loyally obey the orders I have received from his Highness the Ameer. I can in no wise act contrary to the orders of my sovereign. Of course, in matters of detail, such as alterations of the position of advanced pickets and videttes, I am prepared to arrange with a view to avoid any risk of conflict."

Ninthly—Gen. Komaroff says he again addressed a private letter couched in friendly terms. In reply, I say that the letter in question has never been seen by an officer of commission, but Capt. Delashow was told a letter had been received four hours before the Russian attack on the 30th.

Tenthly—Gen. Komaroff states that on the 30th, to support his demands, he marched with his detachment against the Afghan position, counting still on a pacific result, but an artillery fire and cavalry attack compelled him to accept combat. In reply I say that the Russians advanced to attack the Afghan position, and of course the Afghans were obliged to defend themselves. Certainly the engagement was not commenced by artillery fire, as Gen. Komaroff states, as infantry fire was heard continuing several minutes before the first gun."

LONDON, 22. — Dispatches received here this afternoon state that a terrible volcanic eruption occurred at Passarvan, a province in the east end of the Island of Java. A number of plantations have been devastated, and it is feared that fully one hundred persons have been killed.

PARIS, 22.—The *Journal Des Debats* says this morning in regard to Gladstone's statement waiving the responsibility for the suppression of the *Bosphore-Egyptian* that France must look to England for redress. We will maintain our rights and do not lack ample means to do so. It also states that a French fleet has been got in readiness for the purpose of making a naval demonstration on Alexandria to enforce compliance with the demand of France in retaliation for the suppressed newspaper *Bosphore-Egyptian*.

LONDON, 22.—That government expects war seems to be fairly inferred from First—Its last night's announcement of the probable vacation of the Soudan; Second—The repeated references made by Gladstone last evening to the necessity of holding all the troops there in readiness for service whenever they may be wanted, (and these latter words were observed to be spoken with emphasis). Third—The demand for £11,000,000, meaning five pence half-penny increase on the pound in taxes; a demand never before made except for war; Fourth—It would not have excited popular feeling by so readily giving out Lumsden's belligerent dispatches.

LONDON's morning press spare no words in giving the lie to Komaroff upon Lumsden's testimony. This sentence from the *Chronicle*, heretofore a peaceful liberal paper, is a good instance of the defiant tone of the press. "A more crushing rejoinder could hardly be imagined. Not one sentence of the Komaroff report remains, not one clause of it was exempt, from the grossest and most impudent perversion of truth."

This doubtless will also be the tone of John Bull to-day on change and elsewhere.

LONDON, 22.—Troops are swarming to all the barracks throughout the United Kingdom, in response to the government's call for reserves. The war office in London is besieged by military officers asking for employment. It is decided to divide the Portsmouth fleet up into Channel, flying and reserve squadrons. Fresh orders have been received to increase the number of workmen at Portsmouth.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### A FEW NOTES FROM HYRUM.

HYRUM, April 17th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

Thinking a few items from the north might be of some interest, I send you the following:

It is several years since I was last in Hyrum, and during that time many changes and improvements have been made. The large addition to the meeting house is quite a blessing to the people. There is also a fine two story rock school house, for a central school, which cost \$3,000, and is a credit to this progressive ward. The school is under the charge of Miss Mary E. Baker, of Mendon, who is assisted by Miss Anna May. They have had a very large attendance during the winter months.

Several new and handsome residences have also recently been built, among which are a fine two-story brick building, just completed by Bishop S. M. Molen. James Unsworth and Charles C. Shaw, have also put up pretty cottages. The latter, after much trouble, has succeeded in making a nice lawn. We called on Brother Shaw, who is an old friend of my parents, and was surprised to find a house full of ladies and gentlemen. I was informed that the teachers of the relief society, of which Sister Shaw is a member, had gotten up a surprise party in honor of the 25th anniversary of Brother and Sister Shaw's wedding—the silver wedding. The surprise was a complete success, and quite an enjoyable time was had. About 35 sat down to a table laden with the luxuries of life, and in the evening about 48 invited guests also partook of a sumptuous repast. Among the guests were Bishop S. M. Molen and wife. Appropriate remarks were made by Bishop Molen and several of the brethren. Several nice and useful presents were made, among which was a very nice one which came by express from Mrs. David James, of Salt Lake City.

Brother Shaw made a few remarks and thanked the company for their visit. About 11 o'clock they separated, feeling that the time had been well spent.

The health of the people is very good. The small grain is sown, and the rains of the past few days cause the farmers to rejoice.

Bear River is very high, and the bridge between Preston and Oxford is in a rickety condition and liable to go down stream.

Brother R. L. Anderson and I have had quite a pleasant trip through the northern settlements. The general complaint is dull times and a scarcity of money. E. S. P.

#### A FATAL ACCIDENT.

BENJAMIN, April 18, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

A fatal accident occurred at Benjamin this morning about 8 o'clock. Henry Kagi, aged 12 years, while driv-

ing some horses into a corral was seen to fall from his horse. It was supposed that he fainted, as he is subject to dizziness. His foot caught in the bridle rein and he was dragged by the horse about 300 yards, after which the animal stopped and he was taken up insensible. Dr. Greer, of Payson, was summoned, but it was found that his injuries were fatal, and after about an hour he expired.

Deceased was a native of Switzerland, a member of the Y. M. M. I. A. and was highly respected by all who knew him. He has no relatives in this country, and was living with O. H. Warner. A. J. B. STEWART.

#### A PLEA AGAINST ENGLISH SPARROWS.

WOODS CROSS, Davis Co., April 14th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

Having seen through the NEWS some days since, some questions respecting the English sparrow, its habits, likes and dislikes, I wish to make a few statements through the NEWS, and to give a little of my experience respecting their habits through the year, that is, in England, and I don't think they will be any more favorable in Utah.

In the spring of the year when the people commenced to plant the seeds in their gardens, they had to get worsted or twine and fasten feathers, say about a foot apart, and then cross the worsted or twine every way all over the onion, turnip, radish and other beds, to prevent the sparrows from scratching and eating up the seeds.

Then when the farmer sowed his wheat he would have to employ boys to herd the sparrows or they would take the grain which he had sown.

Then comes the fruit, the cherry for instance. The people had to make scarecrows and place them all about the trees, and then they would get away with perhaps twenty per cent. of the cherries.

The people would also have to wrap quilts or sheets around the currant trees when the fruit commenced to ripen, or the sparrows would destroy the crop; and so with other fruits.

Then in the fall of the year when the wheat commenced to mature, the farmers had to employ boys again, or the sparrows would destroy a great deal of the crops.

Nor did the trouble end then, for when the grain was harvested, the birds would follow it to the stackyards and there stay all winter, tearing the stack to pieces.

I never knew that sparrows would eat worms at any season. I consider them the most worthless birds, and where I was reared there was a reward of four pence, or eight cents, a dozen given for them, dead or alive. This was given in order that they might be destroyed, on account of their being so destructive. The money that was paid for them was taken from the tax.

I think it would be a good thing if our city fathers would offer a reward for them, in order that they might be destroyed, for I see they are traveling both north and south. I saw a few days since flocks of them in Spanish Fork, and I have seen quite a number of them in Farmington. They are getting rather too plentiful in Bountiful. I have bought some medicine for them in the shape of fine shot, and I intend to use it, and I would recommend the same to my neighbors. JOSEPH ARGYLE.

#### KANOSH ITEMS.

KANOSH, Millard County, April 13, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

Although we are not in print very often, we are in existence, a fact of no small importance these precarious times; but you know we are a little on one side of the traveled road, and having no saloons, we pass away our time in peace, although the water question is still a vexed problem.

On Saturday last we were visited by the Fillmore base ball club, who were on the war path and dressed in red and blue uniforms, looking quite soldierly, and putting our boys under a disadvantage, they being dressed in ordinary clothes. The weather was very fine, and a large number turned out to witness the contest, as Kanosh has been the champion of the county a long while, and proved so on this occasion, the result being Fillmore 14, Kanosh 34.

The umpire, Mr. Cherrington, of Holden, gave universal satisfaction. Mr. King thanked the Kanosh Clippers for the hospitality shown to his club and their friends, to which S. Dorrity responded, inviting them to stay to a dance in their honor. Thus ended a very enjoyable day. Yours respectfully. A. CLIPPER.

#### A VOICE FROM SANPETE.

FOUNTAIN GREEN, April 15, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

In these times of general depression, it would be gloomy indeed, if there was not one single ray of comfort under our adverse circumstances and situation at the present time. While we are threatened and misunderstood by our enemies at home and abroad, we still have the assurance that God is with this people, and we also know that our help cometh from Him; that He causes the rains to descend from the heavens, and makes the glorious sun to shine upon us, and to gi-

light and heat. The earth bears evidence of His mercies to us, and never has there been a spring so propitious as the present; our farmers feel thankful for their bountiful prospects; mother earth is bedecked with fruitifying seeds and grasses; nature is putting on her glorious apparel and filling the hearts of the children of men with gratitude to the great Creator, for the bounteous promises that are opened up to view on every hand.

The Saints in this little place feel to thank God for these mercies, and are striving day by day to do what is right. The health of the people is remarkably good. I must not forget though, that our worthy postmasters, Rees R. Lewellyn, has been confined to his bed for the last two weeks with a very severe attack of Bright's disease, which almost proved fatal, but I am happy to say that in a few days he will be convalescent, and soon be able to attend to his numerous duties.

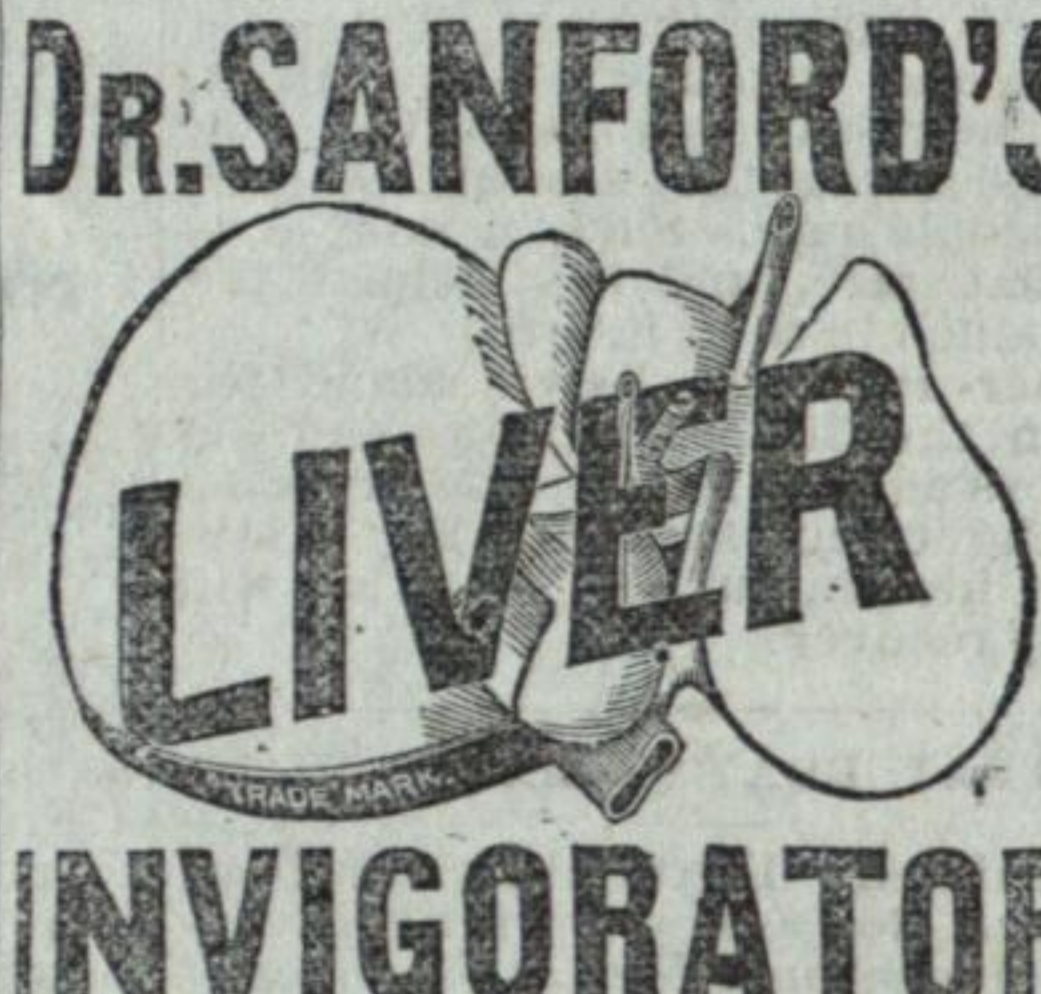
Business is at a standstill here as elsewhere, but we are in hopes that better times are not far distant. A. S.

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