

FOURTH GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE  
PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS  
CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, FROM  
THE GREAT SALT LAKE VALLEY, IN THE  
STATE OF DESERET, TO THE SAINTS SCAT-  
TERED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH,  
GREETING:

*Beloved Brethren:*—Another opportunity is presented, whereby we may communicate to you what great things the Lord has been doing for his people; for truly has he made the wilderness to bud and blossom like the rose, and the fruit thereof to come forth in its season, while the solitary places of the mountains of Ephraim are made vocal with the praises of Israel's God.

Since our last Epistle of the 12th of April, our Heavenly Father has cheered our hearts, and strengthened our hands; and the earth has yielded an abundant harvest. On the twelfth of May, peach trees, of two years' growth, were in bloom; and several trees of the same age, in various parts of the City, alternately bloomed till the twenty-ninth, when currants, peas, beans, &c., put forth their blossoms, and nature smiled with the prospect of early fruits; but on the 17th of June the snow fell freely on the surrounding mountains, followed by a severe frost on the 18th and a slight one on the 19th, which injured the vines and tender plants; more particularly on the lowest lands, yet we feel confident that this Valley will yet produce the choicest fruits, accustomed to the latitudes, as it now does the richest vegetables.

The peaches in Bro. Young's garden grew finely, until they were accidentally destroyed by the sports of the children; and the California grape is flourishing beautifully in the same garden, and other places in the City.

On the 13th of May we located a farm, one mile by two, near Jordan bridge, for the benefit of the poor, designing to build houses for the accommodation of all such as were not able to build for themselves; but on investigation we learned there were but two per-

sons in the Valley who were unable to provide for themselves, and the contemplated farm was converted into a pasture, for the time being.

The Indians have been more quiet the present season than hitherto; though the Utes continue to steal our horses and cattle more or less, and threaten some. A band of Utes killed a small band of the Snake Indians, some time in the summer, and one white man by the name of Baker was killed by them on the twenty-ninth of May, between the Utah and San Pete vallies, though more recently they have been on their hunts, and manifested less personal hostility; yet, for the safety of the people, the drill and discipline of the Nauvoo Legion is not neglected, for we have none to depend upon for protection but God and his people; and God helps those who try to help themselves.

Emigrants from the States, and from almost all Nations, passing through the States, bound for the gold mines, began to arrive here on the 27th of May, and have continued to arrive till the present time, though most of them have passed a month since. Their numbers have been much larger than the previous year. Several have arrived in our city, who had been left, by their companions to die by the way side, and many companies and individuals have had contentions among themselves, not very creditable to civilized society, and which, contrary to the wishes of the Magistracy of our State, they have been called upon to settle. It is the urgent wish of all the citizens of Deseret, that travellers would settle their own difficulties; or rather, that they would have no difficulties, so that our officers might pursue their daily avocations in peace. Were there no travellers in our midst, we might soon forget the name of law-suit. As a people we have too much to do to attend to such matters.

Many scores, if not hundreds of

these Emigrants on arriving at the Valley, and hearing the Gospel, in many instances for the first time, have been baptized for the remission of their sins, and gone no further; while others have witnessed our location, peace, union and prosperity, and though not professing to believe the doctrine of Christ, are making their way home as fast as possible, to bring their families hither, where they can enjoy health, in a land of civil and religious liberty, where they find themselves free to do right.

June 8th, a mail was received from Kanesville P. O., per hand of Thomas S. Williams, containing the first authentic intelligence from the States this season, and on the 14th commenced the printing of the Deseret News, the first Periodical in the State of Deseret.

The Nauvoo Legion, in uniform, honored the 4th of July with a public parade, which closed with a patriotic address by the Governor of the State.

The Topographical Engineers have closed their surveys for the season, and returned to Washington, as we are informed, by way of Arkansas. Rumors having been circulated in the States, that the Engineers had been received with coldness, and the object of the Expedition had been forcibly opposed by the inhabitants of the Valley, we here give extracts from a letter of Capt. Stansbury, [President of the Corps] to the Editor of the Deseret News, dated July 1st, '50, concerning the matter. "How the rumor became prevalent, I am ignorant, \* \* I take pleasure in declaring that nothing can be further from the truth. We were received by the President and Public Authorities with the greatest courtesy, both officially and personally, and will remember with gratitude the many tokens of kindness and regard we have received from them and the citizens of the place.

"Every facility has been studiously afforded us for the prosecution of our duties; instruments of