

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A SAMPLE OF THE PERSECUTIONS OF THE PAST

As Described by one who was there.

Editor Deseret News:

If you think all or any part of the following worthy of place in your columns you are at liberty to publish:

I, Price William Nelson, was born in Monroe County, Illinois, 17th of November, 1822, and was baptized 15th of October, 1836, by Brother Dunham, in Adam-ondi-Ahman, Mo. I left my home in Jefferson County, Illinois, with my father, Edmund Nelson, and my mother, Jane Taylor Nelson, and six brothers and seven sisters, also my two uncles, Hyrum and Abram Nelson, with their families. We went to Far West and were counseled to go to Davis County, Mo., which we did, and on the first day traveled about 25 miles. We did not know then that there was any house in that part of the country, but there was one about half a mile from where we camped.

The next morning my father and three of my brothers started out to hunt locations. After they had left us we heard tremendous whooping and hallooing. In the course of the day we found out that there was a small gristmill and still within half a mile of us. The noise was kept up until about dark, when ten men came up to our camp and wanted to know where "Joe Smith's w—e m—s" were, and threatened to outrage the women. They used the most vulgar language that could be made use of by human beings. They stayed about 90 minutes, and then left, saying they wanted us to tell "Joe Smith's w—e m—s" about their visit when they came back. (meaning my father and uncles and brothers. About 2 o'clock next day my father, uncles and brothers came back. We told them of the treatment by the mob. They started down to the mill and still-house. The ruffians saw them and left, except two, who were drunk, and could not get away. My father and uncle found locations on Honey Creek, about four miles from where we were camped. We went to work and built houses and cleared land and got ready for the next season's crop. By that time many more Saints gathered into that country.

We commenced farming quietly, and after awhile we heard of the mob meetings, but paid little attention to them at first. About 100 or 150 of them met, and threatened and sent word that they "would kill every Joe Smithite in the country." About June, 1836, somewhere about 30 men, all blackened, rode up on horseback, with rifles, swords and old scythes made into corn cutters. My father asked them what it all meant. If it was any of his business he would like to know. Then the leader, Captain Pendleton, said: "If it is not any of your business we will make it your business," using oaths, and told him if he was not gone in ten days they would fill his hide so full of holes that it would not hold shucks. "My father asked what he had done that they should come around with such orders as that." "They said he was as good a man as ever lived, but he believed in Joe Smith, and he should not live there, nor any of his followers. Father asked what harm Joseph Smith had ever done them? They said no harm, only he professed to be a Prophet of God, and neither him nor his followers should ever live there. Father told them that he was a free-born American citizen, and he was going to live or die there. They could kill him, but could not scare him. After much talk they went to about all the Saints in the country and gave them about the same orders to leave, etc., and then went back to their quarters and stayed until after the ten days was up, and then dispersed and went home, and for a few weeks after that things were quiet. Then they gathered again, still more numerous, but the Governor quieted them for a while.

About this time I was taken down by a spell of sickness and do not remember what transpired, until about the election time, when there was great excitement and a fight took place, which made things still worse. From that time the mob commenced burning, killing, stealing, etc. By this time the mob became so numerous that the Saints had to leave their homes and go to Far West and Adam-ondi-Ahman for safety. In feeling from our enemies we had to leave almost all our property behind, and when we got to Adam-ondi-Ahman there was a call for fifty men to go to Far West to protect the place. In two or three days word came that the government troops had got possession of everything and Joseph Smith and the Twelve were betrayed by George Hinkle into the hands of their enemies. The Church authorities sent word to us at Adam-ondi-Ahman that the mob was coming and that we must surrender. The next day Captain Gillam's company came in all blackened and very disorderly, and sent word for all the "Mormons" to form themselves into a hollow square, which was accordingly done. We had to lay down our guns, pistols, etc., and the mob formed a square around us. Then we were marched out from our guns and surrounded promiscuously by the mob, who got mad and struck at our brethren with the butts of their guns, jabbing the sharp points at them, etc. They kept us there for three hours, when Jacob, William and Abner Rogers came up to me and told me they wanted me to go over to Haines Mill to drink out of the well, and tantalized us

about the brethren they had killed and thrown into the well. They then went off a short distance and camped and commenced plundering and robbing the people. James Stone threatened to shoot and pointed his gun at me. About 75 sheep of my father's were taken by the mob and I went to try to drive them back, but one man threatened to blow the top of my head off if I did not go back and let them alone. Our enemies now say that it is polygamy they are after, but all this happened years before any polygamy was known, so that it could not be for that. But it was that Satan had got hold of the hearts of the wicked, and they desired to destroy the righteous, as they do today, only it is another cry—"Polygamy." They care nothing about that, but they desire to uproot the Church of the living God and to destroy His Saints.

Yours very respectfully,

P. W. NELSON.

June 18th, 1836.

## UTAH COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Its Nature, Work and Attainments.

Editor Deseret News:

The Utah County Institute opened Monday, June 14th, with an attendance of forty teachers, now increased to forty-two, with a prospective increase next week. Every school district in this county is well represented and they, together with their genial collaborators of Juab, Sanpete, Sevier and Weber, form a corps of energetic anxious workers. The grand object of this noble enterprise may be imagined, at present, but the intellectual and moral results, the social benefits, the scientific acquirements, the improvement in art and literature, the culture in vocal and physical callisthenics which the future promises as a reward is beyond calculation. If the present is improved wisely the years to come contain more than we have yet dreamed of.

Daily exercises of the Institute commenced at 8 a.m. and continue till 3 p.m. with a recess of thirty minutes. Nor does this satisfy the thirst of the pedagogues. Practical lessons in political science are taken at evening, twice a week, by a majority of the students, and to-day (Saturday) a scientific excursion is taken for the purpose of supplying school cabinets with "nature's rich treasures." The study of nature under proper direction is highly favorable to a true conception of the Great Creator, and is a sure foundation for morality. This principle being accepted, its practical application will tend to stem the indelible wave and impress upon the mind a lasting assurance that "man tho' the being of a day, layeth immortal."

## PROGRAMME OF DAILY EXERCISES:

From 8 to 8:15 opening exercises.  
From 8:15 to 9, theory and practice of teaching, by Prof. Karl G. Maeser (42 members).  
From 9 to 9:45, history and rhetoric, (alternating), Prof. Karl G. Maeser (30 members).  
From 9:45 to 10:30, physics, Prof. J. E. Talmage (32 members).  
From 10:30 to 11:15, geometry (10 members), alternating with an arithmetic class of 30 members, Prof. B. Cluff, Jr.  
From 11:15 to 12, physiology and hygiene, Prof. J. E. Talmage (32 members).  
From 12 to 12:30, recess.  
From 12:30 to 1:15, bookkeeping, Prof. G. H. Brimhall (33 members).  
From 1:15 to 2, drawing, Prof. I. M. Coombs (36 members).  
From 2 to 3, physical culture, Prof. J. H. Paul (42 members).  
The course of instruction presented by

## PROF. MAESER ON THE THEORY OF TEACHING

is based on a diagram commencing with the word "Education," and taking the sub-parts through in succession, viz., definition, history, persons whom it affects and method of teaching. The history of education under the heads of "Nations noted for educational pursuits," and, "Educators." Among the first of the two were mentioned the Athenians, Romans, Arabs, Germans, Scandinavians, English and Americans. The second he illustrated expressively by Aristotle the teacher of Alexander, Seneca the teacher of Nero and Jesus Christ the prototype of all teachers. Nothing could be more effective and convincing in his portrayal of the lives, teachings and influence of the above named characters; that intellectuality without morality should never be allowed to guide the thoughts and direct the energies of child and youth; but with these qualifications properly combined, and the spirit of God as a power the achievement of teaching would ripen into perfect manhood and womanhood.

"Persons whom it affects" was classified as "Public, Teachers and Pupils." Under these headings the relations the teachers bear to the public, to the school authorities, to the parents and to society in general, were elucidated. Next came the "Qualifications of a Teacher" under the division of "Physical, Intellectual, Moral." Physical—(a) Age; b, sex; c, constitution. Intellectual—a, special; b, general.

The Professor held that as a rule no teacher can be fully trusted with the responsibility of a

school under eighteen years of age and that male teachers should be twenty. "Youth," said he, "is the time for system building material to be gathered in. It is a time for receiving, not for giving. A violation of this law will draw on life's capital." Instructions were given in the minutest details on refinement, health, sickness, food, sleep, breathing, bathing, dress, fashion and special and general knowledge.

As will be seen by the programme the Professor also teaches a class in

## RHETORIC AND ONE IN HISTORY.

The work presented by him in these branches is as follows:

Rhetoric—a, definition; b, history; c, classification. The sources of rhetoric were stated to be man, nature and revelation. Classification was treated under the heads of the auxiliary sciences—grammar, orthography and logic. The diagrammatic form of history was presented under the heads of aims, sources, auxiliaries, classification, methods of teaching it, and text and reference books. The aims were represented as threefold: I. To cultivate an acquaintance with the development of the human race; II. To study human nature; III. To demonstrate the workings of Divine Providence. The sources were shown to be, (1.) Ruins, relics and inscriptions. (2.) Traditions, songs and languages, and (3), records. The auxiliary sciences were presented to be geography, astronomy, philology and archaeology.

The above subjects were handled with the greatest ease, care and thoroughness, and were so attentively listened to by the eager assembly that not a single idea could possibly escape the recording pen of the mind. Now comes the wonder work of the affable Talmage, which I will briefly present. The

## SUBJECT OF PHYSICS

was systematically dwelt upon as follows: I—Matter, II—Force.

The idea of matter was considered at length, and its (1) changes (a) physical, (b) chemical, and (2) properties, (a) general, (b) specific, were dwelt upon and amply illustrated by experiments. The definition and general explanation of force were followed by a diagram of its subdivisions as given below: I. Attraction. II. Motion. III. Mechanics. IV. Hydrodynamics. V. Acoustics. VI. Optics. VII. Heat. VIII. Electricity.

Attraction was discussed and illustrated under the general headings of (a) molecular, comprising cohesion, adhesion and chemism; and (b) molar, in its application of gravitation to the phenomena of weight and falling bodies.

Motion then claimed a share of attention, incidental to which the ideas of (a) energy, (b) resistance, (c) velocity, (d) momentum and (e) laws, were explained. The kinds of motion were made plain and simple, and compound motion with the phenomena of centrifugal and centripetal force were fully experimented upon and elucidated clearly, physiology and hygiene forming as it does a corner stone of the teachers' efficiency was dwelt upon with all possible fullness.

The human body was presented under I parts II offices.

Under the subjects of parts I bones, 2 muscles and 3 skin will follow. "Bones" were presented as to (a) use, (b) stimulus, (c) growth, (d) joints, (e) classification. The last named heading was amplified in detail, each of the 206 bones of the body being located, and illustrated by pictures and the bone itself. Muscles then came up and the subject appeared under (a) use, (b) structure, (c) classification. The difference between the structure of voluntary and involuntary, flexors and extensors, abductor and adductor muscles was discussed and proved. The instruction in this branch consisted largely of hygienic laws and the rules of health as applicable to school life. In the above branches the students are immensely interested. It seems as if the prodigious interest of their tutor is mirrored in each, so anxious are they to grasp the revealed truth of science and become acquainted with the various phenomena of nature.

## The class in

## ELEMENTARY GEOMETRY,

under the instructor, Prof. B. Cluff, Jr., have completed the arduous work as presented below: General definitions, geometrical concept measurement of right lines, and of perpendicular straight lines. In this class particular care is taken by the tutor to utilize individual force and not sink the student in the group. Each is as well cared for as though the instruction was to him alone. As a skillful gardener deals with his garden where each plant has the culture it needs, so does the fruitful mind of this teacher aid the struggling mind of his pupils to wrest problematic ideas from the entanglement of research, and illustrate their concepts and conclusions with method and clearness.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

During the five sessions past, the bookkeeping class under their efficient and practical teacher, Superintendent G. H. Brimhall, have completed the one book, or Pocket Ledger course. The drill consisted in opening, keeping and closing ledger accounts, together with formulating notes and statements.

Huxley declares that whatever is taught in the university should be taught in the primary school, and rec-

ognizing this principle, all thoughtful educators will approve the work here begun and that the daily work in every grade should be made to touch the entire circle of human culture. Harmony of development, intensity of impression and pleasurable advancement will then be secured. Drilling in mathematics is followed by the important and pleasing branch of drawing. Schelling, the great German philosopher, expresses himself thus: "In a time when people believe it possible to proceed with one leap from the first to the last step of the ladder of knowledge, the sentence may appear hard, that art, like everything possessed with vitality, must

## GO BACK TO THE FIRST ELEMENT."

The faculty understanding the power of the fine art have wisely employed Prof. Coombs, of Payson. This gentleman presents his subject beginning with, "first principles," and branching out into an infinite variety of forms combines the whole at last into a graceful whole.

Mind and body are mutually interdependent and co-operative in producing growth, but the character and extent of growth is determined largely by the manner in which these forces are regulated. It requires steady men—men of nerve and brain—men wise enough to calculate these forces and their probable result.

Luckily for the teachers, the able services of Professor Paul were timely secured and each afternoon he trains the students in vocal and physical culture.

Phillip thanked the gods that Alexander was born when he could have Aristotle for a teacher, and so the people of this Territory, and especially Utah county, should feel thankful that an era of a higher and a better education is now dawning and that under the plastic hand of the educational artist the physical, mental and moral condition of childhood will bud, and blossom, and bear fruit. J. A. R.

Spanish Fork, June 19, 1886.

## INTERESTING LETTER FROM ELDER HORACE CUMMINGS.

His Observations and Experience in Old Mexico.

OZUMBA, Old Mexico, June 15, 1886.

Editor Deseret News:

It has been several months since I last wrote anything for your columns, as nothing noteworthy has recently transpired in connection with my labors that I deemed suitable for your readers, and my time has been mostly occupied in studying this lovely language which is so musical when well spoken.

The district in which I am laboring at present includes a number of fair sized Indian towns situated near the eastern edge of the *Tierra Fria*, or cold country, and three or four cities and towns about thirteen miles east of here in the *Tierra Caliente*, or hot country. Although the extremes of this country are only about fifteen miles apart, there is an astonishing difference in the

## CLIMATE, TEMPERATURE AND PRODUCTS,

due to a difference of nearly 5,000 feet in altitude. Ozumba, where we make our headquarters, is situated among the foothills on the western side of the famous volcano Popocatepetl, and here the climate is cool and delightful, the nights are refreshing, and now the rainy season has again commenced, we are favored almost every afternoon with a shower; but below the edge of the plateau, in the *Tierra Caliente*, it is so hot and unhealthy, and so infested with poisonous insects and reptiles, that we make only monthly visits there staying only two or three days at a time. In fact, here in such close proximity we see, on the one hand, the irrid summits of the great Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl, where eternal winter has planted her feet so firmly that old Sol with all his torrid fierceness cannot drive her away; and on the other, a warm, tropical land, ever teeming with nature's choicest products, where bud, blossom and fruit follow each other in an unbroken cycle throughout the year; while between them is found every degree of temperature, and I might almost say, every variety of vegetation to be met in passing from pole to equator.

We have congregations organized in five of these towns, besides a few scattering members, but we are not accomplishing as much as we could desire, as, from the peculiar customs and circumstances of the people, we are unable to do much missionary work except on Sunday, the men, and often the women, being away from home or at work in the fields all day during the week, and we cannot visit them in the evening as they retire generally about dusk. Moreover, it is very

## DANGEROUS TO TRAVEL

here after dark, even near home, as one of our native brethren and his companion were badly beaten and robbed near the former's house about two weeks ago, and only the other evening my traveling companion, W. W. Cluff, Jr., and a native Elder were entering a large town a little after dusk, when they were encountered by robbers on horses and covered with revolvers. Through the cool and prompt replies of the native Elder, however, no injury was done in the second instance; the robbers, evidently

concluding they had struck the wrong game, put up their pistols and rode on. The people are almost

## UNIVERSALLY CATHOLICS

and care to have but little to do with us, especially after learning who we are, so most of our time during the week is spent in the house at our books. But on Sunday we partly make up for lost time, as we attend four meetings during the day in three different towns situated some distance from each other, the first meeting commencing at 6 o'clock in the morning, and the last one closing just in time for us to get home before dark.

A number of baptisms have recently taken place and several more will probably occur soon, but the quagmire of religious thralldom into which the unfortunate Indians were driven centuries ago by the bloody sword of the Spanish conquerors, still envelops so completely in its slimy depths almost the entire race of their descendants, that the full glare of the Gospel light has seemingly little power to penetrate the darkness that covers them, and I sometimes think that their present condition is but little if any better than when they reveled in cruel idolatry. So greatly do the populace reverence the priests, that I have seen the people in a thronged street, kneel and uncover their heads as if by a sudden, irresistible impulse, and remain in that posture for several minutes, while a carriage, containing the Arch-Bishop or some other church dignitary, was passing. When the carriage had disappeared from sight, they would rise, don their hats, and continue their walk. This ceremony of reverence is observed wherever the archbishop goes, the people kneeling in mud or dust, it apparently makes no difference to them; and I am told that a few years ago foreigners of a different religion, visiting this country who happened to be in the street on such an occasion were forced to assume the same humiliating position, but, thanks to the influences accompanying the influx of foreign capital, such is not now the case.

However, in spite of their religious training, for which the masses are more to be pitied than blamed, I can truthfully say many

## [GOOD WORDS FOR THIS PEOPLE.

They are generous, hospitable, polite and kind. A traveler who has lost his way need not lack for a good bed if he can find a house that contains one, for the best is always willingly surrendered to the stranger who applies for hospitality. Their politeness is almost proverbial. Only yesterday, on visiting the house of one of our Indian brethren his little four-year-old son playing in the yard, raised his hat as I entered the gate, and, coming forward with extended hand, saluted me in a manner that would have done credit to a 16 year old boy at home. On being introduced to the poorest and most untutored of the Indians, one is generally greeted with, "I have a great honor in making your acquaintance; my house is yours, and I am at your lordship's service," or words of similar purport. And if they deem it necessary to be a little more than ordinarily polite they will indulge in still more extreme expressions of humiliation and devotion, and often kiss one's hand. Whenever friends meet, after a separation of any considerable length of time, they always embrace each other, whether of the same or opposite sex, and pass the warmest words of greeting; and often have I been lifted almost off my feet in the arms of a stalwart Indian brother who seemed delighted to see me. In fact their frank, generous hospitality, and polite treatment, almost makes the stranger forget the utter absence of home comforts as he sits on the floor and eats the frugal meal of beans and "chili" (and other dishes, if his host can afford them), that is spread by willing hands on a rush mat before him.

Speaking in a general sense, there are but

## TWO CLASSES OF SOCIETY

in Mexico—the rich and the poor. The former are few in number, but possess great wealth, while the latter are directly opposite in both particulars, being exceedingly numerous as well as deplorably destitute of this world's goods. A sort of feudal system, introduced by the conquerors, still obtains here, and I am told that nearly the whole of Mexico is owned by only 10,000 men. Land is not taxed, and the government is supported mostly from duties. Exports, imports, and most articles of domestic commerce are heavily taxed. The condition here reminds me of the enforcement of the infamous "Stamp Act" in the American colonies—everything is stamped. A three-cent package of cigarettes bears a stamp of one-fourth of a cent, and I was recently told by a reliable gentleman interested in mines, that the stamps on the deeds transferring the title of a certain valuable mine amounted to the exorbitant sum of more than eight thousand dollars! Most legal documents—even the receipts for one's rent—must bear the inevitable stamp.

What this

## COUNTRY SADLY NEEDS

is a strong, healthy middle class, which is now almost entirely wanting. Notwithstanding the Constitution of this Republic is very liberal, and compares very favorably with our own, the wealth, influence, and government are all in the hands of a few, and the masses are oppressed. Not knowing how to use the powers of the ballot, which they are supposed to enjoy, or