

Correspondence.

IRASBURG, VERMONT,
May 12th, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—It was in September I arrived in the Eastern States, on a mission to labor in the vineyard. I soon felt to cry out, "lo the vintage is done!" but the Lord of the vineyard led me to where there were a few "gleaning of grapes."

I found in Westfield, Irasburg, Troy and Jay in Vermont and Canada East, some that had been baptized long ago. Some of them have returned to the faith; and others have obeyed the gospel that never before heard it. They all are now happy in the faith. But there are others whose name is legion, that stand aloof, and are perhaps less happy than before; and some may feel that they are "tormented before the time."

I have baptized in all twenty-five, which were all represented to be in good standing, at our conference meeting last Sunday in Irasburgh. On my way from the mountains here I baptized one man, a miner, returning from the Sweetwater mines. I traveled with him two or three days and preached to him as we rode along. He was fully convinced of the truth and went on to his family in Tennessee rejoicing.

The members of the little flock here are laboring with all their strength and faith to gather to Zion this year; and I hope and pray that the Lord may preserve some good fruit from this vineyard in the season thereof.

Your brother in the gospel,
W. P. WILSON.

MISSION TO THE MUDDY IN 1858.

BY JAMES A. LITTLE.

*Written from the verbal narrative of
Elder Ira Hatch.*

Over twelve years ago, when the events recorded in this narrative occurred, the region of country watered by the lower Rio Virgen and the Muddy, and for some distance towards California, was not only a lonely, barren desert, but was made still more forbidding from being occupied by marauding Indians, who were always ready to attack the weak and defenceless traveler, and neglected no opportunity to prey upon the animals of the watchful and strong.

The brethren, who had been on the mission to the Indians in Southern Utah for several years, had formed an extensive acquaintance with these and surrounding tribes, and, when present with them, could exercise considerable influence for the protection of travelers. Of course, they were in some danger themselves, but not nearly so much as strangers. In the beginning of 1858 there was considerable travel on the road between the southern settlements of Utah and California. With the hope of making the road more secure and of doing a little good to the Indians, Elder Ira Hatch was sent out there, in the neighborhood of the Muddy, in January 1858. He was here alone, among the savages for two weeks, 100 miles from the nearest settlement—Fort Clara—and also from white men, except the occasional passer-by. He camped in a broken down wagon left by the side of the road by Mr. Crismon, when freighting from California. He experienced considerable difficulty in keeping his food from the Indians; he cooked it in the evening after they had retired to their own camp, and kept it concealed during the day. The Indians finally discovered his provisions, and one day, when he was busy interpreting for some travelers, they cut the sack containing them, and stole his bread and meat, leaving him only a little cheese. They endeavored to console him for his loss, by telling him he must not feel bad, for he could beg more of travelers, who would give him food when they would not to them.

To assist in passing away the lonely hours, Elder Hatch was in the habit of going daily on to a hill in sight of his wagon, to watch for teams crossing the desert. The Indians loitered round on the hills as well, and would sometimes amuse themselves by trying to arouse his fears, by pointing arrows at him, sticking them in his clothes, and telling him that they would shoot him full of arrows; then they would motion how he would bob up and down when he would run from them. By way of counter chat, he would sometimes reply, that he could shoot six of them through with his revolver, while their arrows would only stick in a little ways. There was

an Indian, whom Elder Hatch called Sneak—the name sufficiently indicates his character—who bothered him considerably. One morning when he was washing in the creek, a short distance off, he saw an Indian handling over his things in the wagon, and called out to him to stop it or he would whip him. When he returned to his wagon he found the Indian to be Sneak, and still at work. He tried the effect of a cut with his whip, when Sneak instantly drew his bow and Elder Hatch his revolver. Sneak evidently thought the revolver would be too much for his bow, and suffered his wrath to cool down. It was running a narrow chance for a serious quarrel, which for Elder Hatch would have been extremely dangerous.

While Elder Hatch was alone, Elders Ezra T. Benson, O. Pratt, sen., Geo. Q. Cannon, John Van Cott, Wm. Miller, Samuel Miles and others returning from missions to California passed by. They considered Bro. Hatch's position not only very lonely but dangerous. On their subsequent arrival at St. Clara they recommended President Hamblin to send him company, and in due time Bro. Thales Haskell arrived.

During the winter many interesting circumstances occurred to break the monotony of their lonely duties. Col. Thomas L. Kane and party, on their way from California to Salt Lake City, remained with them over night and a portion of the following day. He requested Elder Hatch to make a treaty with the Indians concerning a cave near the Mountain Springs. In this cave Col. Kane had placed a number of bottles of medicine, and wished it called Dr. Osborn's Cave. He desired the treaty with the Indians to stipulate, that the contents of this cave should never be disturbed, and that when a sick white man got into it he should be safe. His object was to provide a place of security for white men, on this road, to be called the Traveler's Home, and also for the Indians to get the idea that the medicines left in the cave were good only for white men. He told Elder Hatch to apply to the Indian Agent of Utah, or the Governor, for the articles which he might agree to pay the Indians in the treaty. He afterwards made the treaty as requested, and applied to Dr. Forney, then Indian Agent, for the articles to pay the Indians, but without success. He never applied to Governor Cummings.

The manner in which conversation was carried on during Col. Kane's visit was rather novel: Elder Hatch had spent so much of his time with the Indians, that he spoke English very indifferently, while Col. Kane's excellent English was almost too much for his comprehension; and while he acted as interpreter between the company and Indians, a third person had to interpret between Col. Kane and Elder Hatch. It was a subject for interesting reflection, that here, in this desert and among savages, in a little wickup made of brush and dirt, which served to protect the meagre outfit from the weather, Col. Kane, from his luxurious home in the East, and on a mission of kindness in behalf of a persecuted people, should spend several hours in obtaining information about the characteristics and dialects of the Indians, and the geography of their unexplored country, and laying plans for the benefit of sick and defenceless travelers. But it is characteristic of the man's life, to neglect no opportunity of doing good. All seemed to regret when the time of separation arrived.

Elders Hatch and Haskell remained among these Indians until about the first of March, when they returned to their homes in the settlements.

In this desert of burning sand and rock, which a few years ago seemed totally incapable of supplying the necessities of civilized life, are now several thriving settlements of the Saints. Many of the Indians are being taught to labor, and are learning better than to rob and murder. In these settlements the traveler finds supplies and protection, and but a few years will elapse before, the past of this difficult and dangerous road will seem like a dream.

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

SENATE.

In the evening session Tipton reported a joint resolution, allowing the Midland Pacific railroad to build a bridge across the Missouri River at Nebraska city.

Trumbull reported the appointment bill, with amendments, one of which

increases the number of representatives to three hundred after March 30, 1871.

A bill giving the consent of Congress to the acceptance by New Jersey of the Stevens' battery, was passed.

The appropriation bill was discussed; the amendments, placing female clerks in the department on equality, as to compensation, with males; making appropriations for improvement of the Capitol grounds; appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for an expedition to the North Pole; fixing the compensation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at ten thousand dollars, Associate Justices at eight thousand, Circuit Judges at sixty-five hundred and the Court of Claims and District Judges at five thousand, were adopted and the bill passed.

Sumner presented a petition from the American cable company, asking aid to the proposed line from New York via the Azores, to Lisbon and Land's End, England, Havre and Amsterdam; referred. He also presented a petition from the colored citizens of Maryland, asking a remedy from persecution in traveling, on account of color; referred to the judiciary committee, which is now considering the subject.

Willard reported a general bill granting pensions eight dollars per month to the surviving soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812, who are in dependant circumstances, and who gave no aid or comfort to the rebels in the late rebellion.

Winans moved to strike out the exception.

Holman moved to include the surviving widows and officers and men married before or during the war of 1812, and who are in like circumstances. Winans' amendment was referred, 60 against 111. Holman's amendment was adopted 80 to 34; the bill passed.

On motion of Sargent, the paragraph relating to distilleries was amended by taxing distillers of spirits from apples, peaches or grapes, producing ten barrels or less within a year, forty dollars for every barrel produced in excess of ten barrels. An additional paragraph was inserted, taxing the proprietors of banking games, such as faro, roulette, rouge-et-noir, vignette, &c., one thousand dollars for every table, where such games are played. The exemptions in favor of savings institutions were limited to those not authorized to receive a higher rate of interest than the rate authorized by the general laws of the State. The paragraph relating to places of public amusement was amended by reducing the tax on the gross receipts of permanently located places to one per cent.

HOUSE.

Cullom reported a bill annulling the law of New Mexico which reserves real estate from execution, with a proviso that a homestead to the amount of \$1,000 only, be reserved; passed.

A bill creating an additional land district in Colorado, passed.

The committee on appropriations reported the Northern Pacific Railroad bill; all the amendments were debated and rejected and the bill passed just as it came from the Senate.

Wallace was declared entitled to a seat from South Carolina and sworn in, the Democrats protesting.

Cullom reported a bill annulling the laws of Idaho Territory taxing the Chinese, and denying them the right of holding office and prohibiting the Territorial Legislature from paying extra salaries to Federal officers or to members or employes of the legislature; passed.

The committee on foreign affairs presented a report referring to the case of Nagle and Warren, American citizens, now prisoners in England, with a request to take such action in accordance with the international law and the right of Americans as the facts justify; agreed to.

Schenck reported a bill to reduce internal taxes, which occupied thirty pages of print.

GENERAL.

NEW YORK.—Weston walked a hundred miles in twenty minutes less than twenty-two hours.

Special despatches in regard to the movements on the frontier are in substance the same as sent last night. One from Buffalo, dated midnight, says that about four hundred, some say six hundred, more Fenian troops from the west left on a late train to-night; they did not start from the depot, but were picked up and were switched from the Lake shore train. There is unusual commotion among the leaders here to-night; they are more reticent than usual.

There are rumors that a large addition of troops are to arrive on propellers, which are expected during the night or early in the morning. It is expected that another large detachment will leave to-morrow evening.

A monster festival, similar to the Boston Peace Jubilee, is proposed to take place in this city in June. Empire Rink is to be fitted up for the purpose. Distinguished vocalists and musicians from all parts of the States are expected.

Late Cuban advices state that there is a rumor to the effect that a loan of \$50,000,000 will be placed in the hands of the people of the United States, if possible, giving the island and its revenues as security. If true, it would give the Spaniards plenty of money and form a party of bondholders for them in the United States.

DETROIT.—The Fenian movements in this vicinity are quietly conducted, and it is impossible to obtain, positively, any reliable intelligence. A movement in some direction is certainly on foot. Not less than 100 men left this city last night, and another detachment will probably go to-night. The most probable destination is towards the Bay City. Great efforts are being made among the Fenians to raise money. It is thought that they have been moderately successful.

CHICAGO.—There is considerable excitement and activity among the Fenians here, but, so far as any reliable information can be obtained, it finds vent merely in speech-making. A headquarters here last night, the large meeting was held at the Fenian main object of which seemed to be the collection of funds, and a considerable amount was raised. Enthusiastic speeches were made and reports of the operations yesterday were received with immense applause. One unfortunate Canadian, who happened to be present, was pointed out as a spy, and was obliged to seek safety in flight.

A rumor is circulated to the effect that several hundred men have left here for the frontier and large quantities of arms and ammunition were forwarded yesterday, for some unknown destination.

It is the impression, generally, outside Fenian circles, that the arrest of Gen. O'Neil will have a demoralizing effect on the "new move."

TOPEKA.—Col. Crosby, of Gen. Sheridan's staff, arrived at Fort Hayes from the Indian Territory and report that the Northern Indians had come down asking the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas and Comanches to join in a general war, and the indications are that they will be partially successful.

CINCINNATI.—About a hundred Fenians have left the city in small squads the past thirty-six hours. It is generally rumored that they are destined for Malone.

MALONE, 26.—The Fenians, under Gens. Starr and Gleason, crossed the line this morning, and encamped at a grove a mile beyond. Trout River is the point of concentration. Huntington, eleven miles beyond, is occupied by Canadian volunteers. The sixteenth British Rifles are moving there by forced marches. Two Fenians were wounded while attempting to pass the guard at Trout River. An engagement will doubtless take place soon.

Gen. Gleason has been strongly reinforced; he has three thousand men under his command, and now occupies a position four miles beyond the line. He is entrenched strongly and is confident of holding his position.

News has been received that after the arrest of Gen. O'Neil, Gen. Saint P. Spear was appointed Commander-in-Chief, and proceeded at once to issue orders in the face of Marshal Foster. General Spear will either cross the Canadian borders at some point heretofore not attempted, or reinforce Gleason. This statement is by authority. Privates express great dissatisfaction with O'Neil. Some say he is too young to plan, and too inexperienced to execute, and that he is both practically and theoretically incompetent.

General Gleason telegraphed to a friend in this city, last night, that he would fight before daylight this morning. The British regulars and the Canadian volunteers are concentrating along Trout river. The Fenians are busily engaged in throwing up earthworks.

OGDENSBURG.—The Fenians crossed the border this morning and occupied Burlington. Reports from Canada speak of a fearful depression in the price of all articles. There are rumors of the defeat of the regulars. One hundred and seventy-five U. S. troops are here, under Col. Dura.

Much interest is felt here in regard to