

trying to pour oil on the troubled waters by inviting representatives of all the factions, high church, low church, broad church, etc., to conferences at the Lambeth Episcopal Palace, to "study the things that shall make for peace."

One of the decorations which Stanley, the successful explorer, prizes very highly is a gold medal, given to him by Victor Emanuel, inscribed "Henry M. Stanley, the Intrepid African Explorer." A flattering letter accompanied the present, for Stanley did not arrive in time to receive the medal at the hands of the dying monarch. On arriving at Marseilles, France, Mr. Stanley received two other gold medals, one from the Chamber of Commerce and the other from the Geographical Society, of which he was made an honorary member.

## Correspondence.

### Progress in Weber County.

OGDEN CITY, Utah,  
Jan. 23, 1877.

#### Editors Deseret News:

Dr. Murphy, our quarantine physician, informed me to-day of one more well developed case of small-pox, existing in this city. There are also three other suspected cases; but they are not at present fully developed. There has been no new case discovered in Harrisville, and the Bishop of that place tells me the person who was recently taken down with the malady is now convalescent.

I have recently visited some of the settlements in this county. At North Ogden many new substantial dwelling houses, barns, and outhouses have been built, and other improvements have been made. The people of this thriving settlement, last year, raised good crops of grain, vegetables, and a great variety of fruit. While there I ate some fine almonds and other nuts raised on the lot of Brother and Sister Chard. The people of that ward are progressive, and are presided over by an energetic, persevering man—Bishop A. M. Yeock. They have three day schools in operation, two in the town and one at the Hot Spring district of that ward. All of them are well attended, as also are their Sabbath schools. The ministry of Elder Cyrus H. Wheelock has been very successful in that part of this county, where he has labored for some time past. Through his teachings and examples the people have grown in strength, faith and unity. The people there are healthy and happy. At Harrisville I found a like spirit of enterprise and progression. Bishop Pleasant Green Taylor is a live, energetic man, and when anything is necessary to be done, he is always on hand to say, "Come, boys," and "pitches in" to assist in doing it. He is as pleasant as his first name indicates.

Plain City is situated about ten miles north-west of this place, and contains a population of about 600, and a more enterprising community cannot be found in or out of the Territory of Utah. They are agriculturists, and farm their land upon a paying principle. They thoroughly cultivate and manure their fields, and gardens which yield them a rich increase of all kinds of grain, vegetables and fruits, for which they find a ready market at remunerative prices. Messrs. Chas. Neal and Peter Folkman, last year sold for themselves, and a number of other persons in Plain City, 10,807 quarts of strawberries yielding them \$1,361; 20 car loads of potatoes, bringing them \$3,500; and other vegetables amounting to about \$2,000; this is in addition to what they realized from the sales of other produce. Other parties sold a proportionate amount. Bro. Green of that place showed me eight rows of strawberries, each about eight rods long, the fruit from which yielded \$90 in cash; in addition to this he had abundance for his family use and for his visitors. The same vines yielded a second crop the same season, which though not large were very fine. They have two schools in session, well attended, one of which is conducted by Messrs. Geo. W. Bramwell, Jr., and George Carver. They have also an excellent choir, of which Mr. Bramwell is leader and organist. The Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society is presided over by Mr. Wm. England. The members of the institution are devoting them-

selves to the improvement of their minds, acquiring useful knowledge and fitting themselves for future usefulness.

The natural increase of their population is very considerable, and Mother England says she is never so happy as when she is introducing a new generation of "Mormons" to this sublunary sphere. She says they keep her constantly engaged at this kind of business day and night. She is an experienced, kind-hearted mother in Israel.

Brother Chalker, of that place, is now 84 years old. He has nearly all his life long been a dear lover of his tobacco, snuff and his beer. He was an inveterate smoker, and drank and snuffed freely. Two years ago he arrived in this country from England, when he discarded his pipe, pot and snuff box, and has never used the "weed" since. He says to the young men, "Do as I have done."

Bishop Lewis W. Shurtliff is a man of ability and varied experience, which he has acquired while traveling and laboring in the ministry both in this country and in England. He has also visited many places on the continent of Europe. He enjoys the confidence of the people over whom he presides, and for whose interests he is ever solicitous.

No excitement, but peace reigns on our Potomac. SEMPER.

### Home Industry and Tanning.

NEPHI, January 23, 1878.

#### Editors Deseret News:

I read a letter in your paper of Jan. 12th entitled Tanneries and Tanning, soliciting communications from others that might feel interested enough to write a few lines in its defense for the good of our common country. I shall not say anything on the article published, but to recommend it as a step in the right direction, based upon the observance of rigid economy, but will add a few lines for the benefit of the readers of your valuable paper. The art of making or tanning leather is not beyond the comprehension of any ordinary intelligent person. But the main causes of our failures in producing a good article in years gone by in many cases has been through ignorance and reckless neglect, prompted by a desire to make money. The question, will tanning pay in Utah? has been asked a great many times, and has been answered with about the same amount of ignorance as it was asked. If the tanners and curriers in Utah to-day can, by constant perseverance and practice, be supported in the art of making good leather it would take but a short time to answer the question upon its own merits. But our country so far has been anything but reliable for the mechanic, on account of its desert and uncultivated condition, and the skill of mechanism has almost been eclipsed from view. But the condition of the country is changing fast, and the people are changing and improving by it, and mechanics will find their places and develop what they possess. We must make tanneries pay, for it is readily understood to be the foundation of all branches of leather industry. JOHN C. OSTLER.

### The Governor's Message.

BEAVER, Jan. 23, 1878.

#### Editors Deseret News:

When we consider the conflicting elements with which his Excellency Governor Emery is surrounded, his message is perhaps all that could reasonably be expected. Yet I think it but justice to view a few items from a standpoint somewhat different from his. Whilst I differ with him on a few points I fully and freely accord to him integrity and honest intentions.

Under the head of "Common Schools" he remarks, "In this city alone more than thirty thousand dollars are annually expended in private tuition;" and, after some further comment, adds, "this amount of money should furnish schooling for nearly the whole number of children in the city; whereas, under the present arrangement, it procures instruction for only about one-fifth of the entire number of the school age."

I see nothing in his suggestions that would have a tendency to lessen the tuition, but simply to shift the responsibility to different

hands, the propriety of which I shall leave to the superior wisdom of the Legislature. But how four-fifths of the means paid for schooling children in your city could be squandered could certainly have no reference to "the dominant Church," who have already used the strictest economy in school matters. It is well known that whilst the expense is much less in your city and the Territory generally than in several of the States, the pupils are much in the advance in point of education. Reference to the statistics fully corroborates this statement.

That many thousand dollars have been collected and expended under the guise of schools to line the pockets of covetous ministers opposed to the "dominant church," I will not dispute, and herein I fear his Excellency has been misled. That amount added to the real expense would probably show his statement about correct.

With regard to the "secret ballot," all that need be said on that point is that several of the States have substantially the same law as Utah, and new States coming into the Union adopt it as the best safeguard against fraud.

The Governor's remarks on polygamy are, from his standpoint, very good, but from another and more equitable view they are erroneous, and so proven from his own statement compiled with patent facts. He says, "This system of marriage has continued here for thirty years, and for fifteen years in violation of law." Here is a point to which I wish to call special attention. The admitted fact that plural marriage was fifteen years legally practiced in this Territory; also his previously admitted fact that it is a "distinctive feature" in the religious faith of the "Latter-day Saints." This proves two points—first, that plural marriage is a portion of the religion of the dominant church; and second, that that religion was established here fifteen years prior to said anti-polygamic law.

The people would like to know how this law (of 1862) can be reconciled with the following from the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States to wit: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Now everybody knows that the law passed by Congress against polygamy was for no other purpose than to prohibit the free exercise of this religious rite, and a law to prevent the spiritualizing of infants would be just as constitutional and much more in accordance with the Scriptures, for they sustain plural marriage and even give laws to govern it, but nowhere authorize infant baptism in any mode. Besides plural marriage is a revealed law of heaven and is a matter with which the Legislature has no more to do than it has to determine the mode of baptism, or how the sacrament shall be administered, or to abolish them or any other religious doctrine. With regard to any evil influence against the community in consequence of it it is folly to name it. I mean no disrespect when I say that I have never known a rabid anti-polygamist who if put to the test of being without sin by being virtuous, could ever cast a stone against a man with more than one honorable wife. To say nothing of religion it is the only effectual remedy for the damning sin of the age, the social evil. If our nation wishes to suppress licentiousness why not legislate against houses of ill-fame and prostitution of the sexes at D. C., and elsewhere? The answer is too clear to need comment. They would have to live more virtuous lives.

DANIEL TYLER.

SNOWSVILLE, Box Elder Co.,  
Jan. 23d 1878.

#### Editors Deseret News:

Dear Brothers—I thought a few lines from this place would not be out of order. The health of the people here is good, and the winter is very pleasant. We have not had over one and a half inches of snow yet this winter, and the male portion of the community have labored all winter so far, hauling fencing, and building, and preparing to live. We have good prospects for crops next season as the grasshoppers did not deposit their eggs here and the rabbits have left us. Our crops were cut off last year.

This place is now settling up very fast but there is plenty of land and water for a great many more, so come along.

We have had two deaths here this winter, a daughter of Brother Joseph Robins, and Henry Forbes. Bishop A. Goodliffe called the sisters of this place together last Thursday and organized them into a relief society, with Sister Mary Goodliffe as president, and Sisters Ellen Robins and Mary Ann Osterhout as counselors, Sister Esther Goodliffe as secretary, and Sister Mary Potter as treasurer. Our meetings are well attended and a good feeling exists among the people. DOBINS.

### Improvement at Malad.

MALAD CITY,  
Oneida County, Idaho,  
January 24, 1878.

#### Editors Deseret News:

We are having a fine winter here, as is the case throughout the Territory. The roads are dry and dusty, but little snow in the mountains, and unless we have more snow or a wet spring, there will be very poor prospects for crops next season.

Our worthy Bishop, George Dunford, with his council, has been laboring very diligently the past four months in setting in order the various branches of the priesthood, and they have the faith and confidence of the Latter-day Saints throughout the Malad Valley. The Saints of Malad are being awakened to the sense of their duty, and the majority of them have renewed their covenants in the gospel of salvation.

We have a Sunday school, under the supervision of Edward Roberts, assisted by James P. Harrison, which is a source of great benefit to the young. We also have two day schools in good running order, being taught by R. T. Owens and R. H. Davis, and they are well attended.

We were well pleased with the visit which B. F. Cummings of Salt Lake, and Thomas Wild, Lucius Snow and Joseph Jenson of Brigham City, paid us on the 12th inst., in behalf of the Central Committee, for the purpose of reorganizing the Y. M. M. I. A. Following is the result: For President, John L. Roberts; 1st counselor, James P. Harrison; 2nd counselor, Richard T. Owens; secretary, Lorenzo L. Evans; treasurer, Frederick E. Jones; librarian, Daniel Evans.

We have about 65 members, most of whom have improved greatly since our first organization. We also have a Young Ladies' M. I. Association under the presidency of Mrs. Alvira Harrison, who is doing all she can in behalf of the young ladies of Malad.

The health of the people generally is good and a good spirit prevails throughout.

Yours in the gospel of truth.

LORENZO L. EVANS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 1877.

#### Editors Deseret News:

The arrangement of the mail service of the United States, and placing the same under contract, embracing all correspondence and orders respecting the frequency of mails, modes of conveyance, and times of departures and arrivals on all the routes, the course of the mails between different localities, the points of distribution, and all the regulations of the domestic mail service are under the control of the Second Assistant, P. M. General. In his office are prepared advertisements for mail proposals, he receives the bids, and has charge of the annual and occasional mail lettings, as well as the adjustment and execution of the contracts. From this office all postmasters at the end of routes, receive directions for mail arrangements prepared for the respective routes. The Second Assistant P. M. G., through his clerks, reports weekly to the Treasury Department all contracts entered into and all orders effecting the accounts for mail transportation; prepares the statistical exhibits of the mail service, and the reports to Congress of mail lettings giving a statement of each bid; also of the contracts made, the new service originated, the curtailments ordered, and the additional allowances granted within the year. To this office belong certain duties of inspection and mail equipment; but I will pass them by for the present, in order to have more space for my object: the exposure of crookedness and gross extravagance in the management of this division of the Post Office Department.

Contracts on what is known as the star (all service, except by rail-

road, is called "star service," and it is a general name applied to the service by horse, stage coach, steamboat, etc.) service are let in one section of the United States for four years. The States and Territories are then divided into four classes or sections, one of which is advertised to let each spring. For instance the whole of New England was let last spring, and the southwestern States are now under advertisement. Bids are to be returned by February the 15th. I have before me a blank "proposal" covering three pages of ordinary foolscap, with proposal of bidder; oath required by act of Congress, June 24, 1874; a bond that has to be executed by the bidder; oath of sureties; certificate of postmaster at the home of the bidder, and questions to be answered by the bidder. These blanks, which can be obtained free by righting to the Postmaster General at Washington, are prefaced by the words: Proposals altered by erasures or interlineations of the route, the service, the yearly pay, or the name of the bidder will not be considered.

The apparent design of the law is to secure the contracts to local bidders, as far as possible; but the bids have to be prepared with so much formality and red tape, and the printed forms are such abstruse papers, that they are unintelligible to the average applicant; hence a great many honest bids are thrown out for defect in non-compliance with some legal form. There is a powerful ring in Washington that bids on every route in the United States, and never makes any technical mistakes, and a large share of mail routes fall to them at very extravagant figures, because of some slight informality in the papers of bona fide local bidders.

The law, which was perhaps lobbied through by the ring, should allow bids to be sent back for amendment when they are only technically defective, for there are few people who can fill out one of those bids and not make some mistake. The ring obviates all difficulties by having its bids printed.

One of the requirements of the bid is a bond secured by a pledge of real estate, which must be scheduled and sworn to. For instance, if the bond is \$500.00, it is secured by \$1,000.00 of farming lands, we will say, in Kansas. The object is to have security for the performance of the terms of the contract. But, incredible as it may appear, the same \$1,000 may be hypothecated as security for every bid made, or in other words, the possessor of a few hundred dollars worth of doubtful lands may pledge and re-pledge them *ad infinitum* as security in bidding on every mail route in the United States. Of course, if he fails on one route, and the security is exhausted, the government has no security for the 100 other routes that may remain in his name.

With these advantages a ring, having no responsibility, secures most of the mail contracts; and they secure them usually at a profit of from 25 to 50 per cent., which measures the amount that ought to be saved to the government and tax-payer, by an honest and sensible plan of mail contracting. The ring and the claim agents have it all their own way. Settlements are made every three months. By what has the appearance of an understanding with the official in charge of this branch, the ring demands speedy settlements, and its business is promptly attended to, while the small and honest contractor, without a friend at court, is snubbed and delayed.

The autocrat in charge of this is a clerk by the name of Lake, and whether from vanity of his transcendent importance, or because he is paid for it, he makes it his business to exhaust the patience and thus discourage and crush out the smaller contractors, while he acts as attorney in helping along the settlements of the Ring. Standing between the higher official and the small contractor, he deceives the former and cheats the latter.

A business method and a regular order of procedure should be established in this office. The reforms pointed out are demanded. Especially should local contractors be encouraged instead of discouraged. The bid should be simple, the bond honest, the pay should be made promptly in all cases. It would doubtless be well to limit the area of contractors bid, and certainly the security they offer should not be rehypothecated until it has lost all significance of value.

C. A. S.