

CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

FROM NEW MEXICO.

DEMING, Grant County, N. M.,
March 22, 1894.

On Friday morning, the 16th inst., in company with Elder William F. Brown, who was called on a special mission to take me to Silver City, I left Luna Valley, traveling in a heavy lumber wagon, bound for Mexico. For about 8 miles our road led up a steep rocky canyon until the summit of the San Francisco mountains was reached. Thence we traveled down grade over narrow, rocky dugways, steep hills and through rocky gorges, where the road was as near no road at all as anything I have ever seen. Finally, after traveling during the day 25 miles, we found ourselves encamped for the night at the head of a canyon, which Bro. Brown called Gelece. The next morning we climbed a hill which was as near perpendicular as any part of the earth could possibly be and be climbed by a team, and on reaching the top we had the satisfaction to know that, although climbing only a distance of something like half a mile, we were advanced on our journey about six miles, besides escaping about fifty crossings of the San Francisco river; for we had taken a so-called "cut-off." About 20 miles from our camping ground of the previous night we reached the little mining town of Alma, situated at the point where Mineral Creek puts into the San Francisco river; and ten miles further down the last named stream we reached the so-called Williams Valley, where the Mormon settlement known as Pleasanton stood from 1882 to about 1885, when it was broken up, partly because of the prosecutions which at that time were inaugurated against our people who had married beyond what the Edmunds law allowed, and partly because a Mr. Wheeler, who had entered the townsite in behalf of the people, proved untrue to his trust and disposed of the site, on which a number of good and substantial buildings had already been erected, to a non-Mormon, which made vacation preferable. At one time there were about twenty families of the Saints residing here, and a complete ward organization with Wm. C. McClellan as Bishop was effected in October, 1882. It was also here that Jacob Hamblin, the famous Indian missionary, died on August 31, 1886, after nearly all the Saints had vacated the place. His remains were exhumed three years later and re-interred at Alpine, Arizona, in July, 1889. Williams Valley was named in honor of Geo. C. Williams, also known as "Parson Williams," who embraced the fulness of the Gospel at this place, and afterwards presided as Bishop of the Heber Ward, in Luna Valley. He is now engaged in founding a colony of Saints in Sonora, Mexico. This is a very desirable locality. The valley, which is penetrated by the San Francisco river, is about 3 miles long with an average width of 1 mile. It is about 60 miles from Luna Valley, about the same distance from Silver City and nearly 90 miles from the nearest settlements of the Saints on the Gila, in the St. Joseph Stake of Zion. Williams

Valley is now occupied by six families, of which only one claims any interest in the Church. There has been no Church organization here since 1885, when the Bishop and others of the leading men took their departure into old Mexico.

On Sunday morning the 18th inst. we were again on our way and made a Sabbath journey of 30 miles to the Gila river, where we encamped for the night. This river, after the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Feb. 2, 1848, became the boundary between the United States and Mexico, but through the Gadsden purchase in 1854 the present boundary was established. On Monday we traveled 30 miles, crossing the continental divide from the head waters of the Mancos, a tributary of the Gila into what is known as the Mimbres basin, from which the streams have no outlet into the ocean, but sink into the ground or disappear in lakes like those rising in the basin of the Great Salt Lake. Arriving at Silver City in the evening, we found ourselves in one of the principal mining camps of New Mexico.

Silver City is situated in a narrow valley or canyon south of the Pinos Altos mountains; it is the county seat of Grant County, New Mexico, and contains several thousand inhabitants. By special invitation Elders Jesse N. Smith, Ira Hatch and Geo. C. Williams visited this city early in 1884 and delivered four lectures on the principles of the Gospel, which were listened to with marked attention and seemed to give general satisfaction, though it was at first anticipated that violence would be used against the Elders if they attempted to preach. It is hoped that the seed sown on this occasion will bear fruit at some future day.

From Silver City to Deming, a distance of 48 miles, I came yesterday by rail. Deming is situated in an open flat country on the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railways. It is sometimes called the "city of wind mills," owing to the great number of wind mills which of late have been introduced and built in order to raise the vast underflow of water 60 feet under ground to the surface, then to be used for culinary purposes; and for watering gardens for there is no living surface stream where the town is built.

It is from Deming that the railroad projected by the Hon. John W. Young is to start southward into Mexico. After encountering almost insurmountable difficulties, the projectors of this road, which is known in New Mexico as the "great Mormon Railway," are now confident that the enterprise will materialize, and that work will be resumed in a little while. J. Fewson Smith, Esq., Mr. Young's agent, is stationed here at Deming attending to the business of the projected road, and doing preparatory work, looking to the time when work shall be commenced anew.

Apostles Brigham Young, John Henry Smith and George Teasdale arrived yesterday afternoon at this place (Deming) from Mexico, accompanied by Elder Robert S. Watson and others. These brethren have just completed a tour through the Mexican colonies, occupied by the Saints, and on Sunday,

the 11th inst, they organized a new ward in Sonora, which they named the Oaxaca Ward. It embraces the Saints residing on the Bavispe river. Franklin Scott was set apart as bishop of the new ward, and George C. Williams was set apart as his first Counselor; James H. Langford, though not present at the meeting, was set apart as second Counselor. A Sunday School, a Relief Society, a Y. M. M. I. A., a Y. L. M. I. A. and a Primary Association were also organized, and the whole ward machinery set in good working order. The brethren speak highly of the location on the Bavispe river, and commend Elder Williams highly for his energy and enterprise as the mainfounder of what now promises to be a prosperous community.

ANDREW JENSON.

CALIFORNIA MISSION CONFERENCE.

The first annual conference of the California mission was held in the Latter-day Saints meeting house, Mission street, San Francisco, on Sunday, April 8th at 10:30 a.m. and 2 and 7:30 p.m. At the forenoon meeting there were on the stand Elder Karl G. Maeser, presiding; Bishop George Romney of Salt Lake, and Elders E. Stevenson, Salt Lake; E. T. Clark, Farmington; William Wright, Ogden; E. Blodgett and A. L. Kellar, of the California mission; and Elder Mortensen, president of the San Francisco branch. The audience, consisting of members of the San Francisco branch, brethren and sisters from Utah, and many strangers, nearly filled the hall.

After the usual opening exercises, Elder K. G. Maeser and Bishop Romney addressed the congregation. One of the strangers present arose and indulged in strong language against the work of God. Being requested by the president of the meeting to either keep quiet or leave the room, he withdrew, uttering violent imprecations.

The meetings in the afternoon and evening were attended by the largest congregations the Saints have ever had in San Francisco. Elders Maeser, Clark, Wright, Stevenson, Blodgett and Kellar bore their testimonies to the mission of Joseph Smith, the Book of Mormon and the Latter-day work. The general authorities of the Church were presented and sustained, and the sacrament administered. The clerk also read a short statement of the statistical and financial condition of the San Francisco branch, no complete returns from the other parts of the mission having as yet been made.

We have been favored from time to time of late by visits from Apostles Thatcher and Lyman, and Elder B. H. Roberts, as well as other brethren from Zion, and hope to be blessed in a similar manner in the future, as by these visits the Saints are encouraged, strengthened in their faith, and instructed in the things pertaining to their eternal welfare. The interest thus awakened begins to attract the attention of many honest in heart, so that our meetings are constantly increasing in attendance. Our Sunday school meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and we are endeavoring to come as near the pattern set us by our sister institutions in Zion as circumstances