

to greater diligence. Spoke of the great reward that would follow the performance of good works; raised a warning voice against the sins and corruptions that were among us; gave many words of wisdom and counsel to the sisters.

Elder O. B. Huotington and Elder Jacobs spoke on the good work the society was doing, and urged the mothers to look after the rising generation with greater vigilance.

Sisters Zina H. Young, B. W. Smith and M. A. Hyde each spoke and gave many comforting words and valuable instructions to the sisters.

Closed by singing, We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet. Benediction by Elder Jacobs.

Afternoon session. Opened by singing, Our God, we praise to Thee.

Prayer by Counselor C. C. Cannon. Singing, O ye mountains high.

The Stake officers of the Relief Society were presented and sustained.

There was a large attendance, and the meeting was addressed, by Pres. A. M. Cannon, M. I. Horne, Annie T. Hyde, Julia C. Horne, B. W. Smith, C. C. Cannon, M. A. Hyde and E. Stevenson. Many important subjects were discussed and strong testimonies borne to the latter-day work, and a good feeling prevailed throughout the assembly.

Adjourned for three months by singing, This God is the God we adore. Benediction by Pres. A. M. Cannon. N. Y. TAYLOR, Secy.

**RICHVILLE, Morgan County, Feb. 24, 1897.**—At the residence of his father Friday evening a sociable was given by the members of the ward to their worthy brother J. B. Waldren, who left Saturday, Feb. 20th, 1897, to perform a mission to the Eastern States. It was commenced by the choir singing the beautiful hymn, Come dearest Lord descend and dwell. Prayer was offered by Bishop A. D. Dickson. A fine program was then rendered under the direction of John Dickson, comprising, songs, recitations, duets and instrumental selections, interspersed by short addresses from the brethren. All touched upon the event that had called them together, eulogizing the good qualities of the brother, congratulating him and tendering him their best wishes. The tables were then spread with a bounteous repast, which was partaken of and enjoyed by all present, who seemed full of good sentiments and wishes for the missionary. Elder J. B. Waldren responded in a short interesting speech, acknowledging the honor and respect shown him, and bore testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel. F. W. Clark and company rendered a quartet entitled "Good night beloved," and the gathering was closed by prayer by Elder James T. Rich.

Elder Waldren went as the two preceding him have gone, feeling thankful that he was worthy to be a representative of the people of God and an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, willing to face the world in defense of truth and imparting that sweet influence which characterizes servants of God. J. H. R.

**MESA, A. T., Feb. 23, 1897.**

Your kinemote in publishing my letter of November 17, 1896, about the Lower Gila valley has brought many

letters of inquiry. In answer I wish to say that there is no healthier country to be found in the world. I have been here for eight years and never saw or heard of a person having cholera or any other disease that can be attributed to the country. The land is as rich as the famous valley of the Nile. It will produce two crops in one year; wheat and corn in the same year on the same land; and as high as seven crops of lucern may be cut in a season. Vegetables of all kinds are grown here. Winter is a better time for raising most vegetables than the summer. Fresh cabbages, turnips, beets, radishes, lettuce, onions, cauliflowers, celery and sweet potatoes can be gathered all the winter from gardens. Of fruits we grow the orange, dates, pomegranates, figs, grapes, apricots, peaches, almonds, apples, pears, mulberries, blackberries and strawberries. The latter can be picked from the vines about ten months in the year. Pears and peaches may be seen on the trees at Christmas. Let no one think that the above fruits grow wild for they can be grown only where they have been planted and cultivated.

The section of country known as the Buckeye that we wish to colonize is about forty miles west of the city of Phoenix and about sixty miles west from Mesa City. This section of country has an abundance of water for irrigation. The driest season that has been known here, the canal has not been known to take more than one-sixth of the water from the river. Water from this canal can be had for \$1 per acre per annum, and this can be worked out at the rate of \$3 per day for man and team. There is government land enough here to locate about 100 families; and persons desiring to locate here should communicate with me as early as possible, for this land will not remain open for entry long. I am working under counsel.

J. M. CROSBY.

**GROVER, Wayne county, Utah, Feb. 23, 1897.**—The month of February, 1897, has been somewhat remarkable. Every known record of snowfall, or rather snow-laying and general inclement weather, has been broken, the worst period of inclemency being the 18th, 19th and 20th.

The snow remaining over from January was considerable. The first half of the month was more or less stormy, but with the advent of those three days referred to came a light fleecy snow, accompanied by a southwest blustering wind, which not only drifted the falling snow but caught up most of that which we supposed had well settled, and piled it into the most inconvenient places. The spectacle of men digging out their wood piles, gateways and even stable doors was by no means uncommon. In many places the snow had been drifted into heaps five feet deep, and some of our local roads are impassable. The snow will average twenty-six inches deep of well settled snow. The estimation of snowfall will be largely conjectural, owing to the heavy winds that have prevailed.

The low temperature has also been phenomenal throughout the month; this morning gave us seventeen degrees below zero which is the lowest reading we have ever obtained.

Stock men are uneasy. The range is practically shut off until the snow

shrinks. The last report was discouraging; warm winds had prevailed on the winter range and kept the snow somewhat shallow; but browse and not grazing will be the general rule.

The heavy fall of snow will do incalculable good by filling the soil with moisture; for lack of this our ranges have been nearly destroyed. The snow is piled deep in the mountains which will benefit all interests this coming season.

Hay and feed is comparatively plentiful at present and those who have it to sell are fortunate.

HENRY CULLUM,  
Voluntary Observer.

**Price, Carbon County, Advocate:** Wheeler's ranch, fifteen miles south of Green river, on February 19th was the scene of a theft and an unsuccessful attempt at murder. James Rector, who has been employed by Mr. Smith, the foreman, did the shooting.

During the temporary absence of Mr. Smith and his daughter, Clara, the man Rector entered the house and stole a sum of money. The theft was quickly discovered and Rector was as promptly accused of the theft. His first move was to possess himself of a Winchester and revolver, the only firearms on the place. He came out and with the gun stood off Mr. Smith and made for the corral where he could get a horse and make his escape certain. Miss Clara, who is only 17 years of age and an unusually brave girl and withal a pretty one, at the imminent risk of her life, seeing his purpose was to secure a horse and escape, called the dogs and set them barking furiously at the heels of the horses. When Rector saw that his plans were likely to be frustrated he called to Miss Clara to desist and with pointed gun threatened to shoot. She did not bluff worth a cent, but continued until the horses in their freight broke the corral and scampered away. In the meantime Mr. Smith had signaled Wallace Wheeler, who, by the way is one of the nerviest men in eastern Utah. Wallace was across the river, and hearing that something was wrong was hurrying to the house. Expecting Wallace's return Rector now turned to look for him and seeing his near approach to the bank opened fire at a distance of about seventy yards. The leaden missiles did not stop Wallace, although the fourth took a large sized piece from the crown of his hat, he now opened fire from the boat and balls from his revolver whistled so close to their object that Rector was in imminent danger of a punctured skin concluded that it was very unwise to stand before Wallace's gun especially when he was on terra firma. Rector turned and ran to the house where he surrendered.

Wallace Wheeler and Mr. Smith brought him to Elgin before Justice Durrant, who bound him over to the grand jury at Moab. No one could be found to take the prisoner to Moab and Miss Clara Smith begged the justice to deputize her and let her take him to jail, but he wisely refused. He was held over night and the following day was turned over to the Grand county assessor who took him to Moab, where he will have plenty of time to study over the evils of a crooked life ere the sitting of the district court.