

DESERET NEWS.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1850.

Far be it from us to approve of wholesale robbery, but, while reading, by permission, a letter from elder Richards to his wife, we felt justified in abstracting the quotations which appear in this days paper; believing that our readers will feel something as we felt, in getting a gleam of intelligence concerning the last mission of the twelve to various countries in Europe. We alone are responsible for this theft, and only wish we could have the opportunity of committing many more such felonies among our friends who may be so fortunate as to receive letters from the saints abroad. These extracts, together with elder Jones', (more familiarly known in his mother Welsh land by "the little Captain,") translation of Howell, will warm the heart of many a mountain or valley saint; and while we hear of the spread of the gospel in foreign lands, like fire in the dry forests, and of the thousands and tens of thousands who are ready and wanting to come home, our joy is increased by the interest and self denial that is manifest in our midst, for helping to bring about the gathering of Israel to the building up of Zion.

Scores and hundreds of the early settlers of this mountain city have voluntarily left their peaceful homes, which they had enjoyed but a few months, or at most a year or two, and gone to new places, opened new farms, created new settlements, and labored night and day to increase the products of the earth, and the comforts of life, for the sustenance of those thousands who are preparing to emigrate hither to enjoy them; and even now, in the midst of winter, our streets are daily whitened by the canvassed wagons that are moving forward to unite in establishing an agricultural out-post at Iron County, [Little Salt Lake] under the direction of their worthy and persevering president George A. Smith.

Nor is this all, we confidently hope that this band of pioneer settlers who have left their pleasant homes at this inclement season, will be able to prove that the internal nature of the county corresponds with its new name, and that from thence they will draw resources whereby a highway may speedily be cast up in the desert, over which the thousands and tens of thousands who are now waiting, will return and come to Zion with songs of everlasting joy upon their heads, and help to build up the waste places that have been thrown down from generation to generation. Let such thoughts continually cheer the hearts of the brethren who are now going from our midst, and walking humbly before

God they can never be weary, neither can their hearts faint, for they will have the prayers of all the faithful.

The General Assembly of Deseret met on the first Monday, inst., in the Representatives Hall, organized, received the Governor's Message, continued its sitting four days, and adjourned to the first Monday in January.—Particulars hereafter.

ONE CENT POSTAGE.—A bill was introduced at the last session of Congress, to establish rates at one cent on all prepaid, and two cents on all unpaid letters passing in the U. S. Mail, weighing under half an ounce, same proportion for heavier letters, and abolishing the franking system. Fate of the bill unknown.

The Mail was closed at this place, on the last of Nov., preparatory to starting for the States, but, as we suppose the snow prevented.

The Tithing office has been removed to the front room of the Mint.

The Post Office will be continued at the old tithing office, where the News will be delivered, and the time of labor on the public works reported.

The weather was severe on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 3rd and 4th inst, in this city, mercury 6° below 0 at sunset; during those days. At the N. Cottonwood the wind and frost suspended all business. Snow fell in the valley from 4 to 6 inches. Since Thursday the 5th it has been more mild, the former part of this week has been marked with a thaw during the day, and gentle frosts at night, and but little snow left on Wednesday evening.

Wise men will try to sharpen their sight, according to notice in this paper; and we hope some of our friends will try the experiment of saving butter without salt, we intend to, should we ever be so fortunate as to get another pound. If any blacksmith thinks a wire ring more appropriate for a horse shoe than a pigs nose, let him try it. We like to tell of all the new things, then say to our friends use your liberty,

TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

The Pennsylvania papers, particularly those from Schuylkill co. continue to bring us the most distressing accounts of the loss of life and property by the late flood.—The rise of the water was so sudden that many families were swept off by the flood. More than fifty lives between Philadelphia and

Berwick, Columbia county, have been sacrificed by this catastrophe. At Reading eleven lives were lost. The number of buildings destroyed at Reading were one hundred and nine. The aggregate loss at Reading is five hundred thousand dollars. At Tamaqua thirty-one persons were drowned.

At Berwick, Columbia county, twenty-one persons lost their lives. Two houses at Nescopeck Forge, containing about twenty persons, were swept half a mile down the creek; only two men were saved. The house lodged among some trees and was dashed to pieces.

WM. L. MACKENZIE, of the Patriot revolution party of 1837, has been allowed by the county council at York, Canada West, his claim of \$1,172, being in full of his wages, with interest, as member of parliament for that county in 1832, when he was five times elected and as often expelled by the tory majority. He could not draw his pay at the time because the speaker would not sign his warrant, but he is now paid exactly as if he had served through the session.—[N. Y. Tribune.

AMERICAN TEA.—The tea grown here turns out far more highly and delicious flavored than that imported, being in all respects like that drank by the wealthy in China, the grand difference between the American grown and the imported, being in the loss of flavor occasioned by the sea voyage.—Latitude thirty-four north, in Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina, proves better suited for the cultivation of the plant than any other region. Dr. Davis of South Carolina, who originated the experiment, is already realizing handsomely by the sale of his young trees, which are eagerly bought up at any price by southern agriculturalists.

There are persons yet living who can recollect when the cotton plant was only seen in flower-pots in which it was cultivated on ac-