

the Fremont river, and pass over a bench from which a rather steep and dangerous dugway leads down to Graves valley. This is the lowest and warmest valley on the Fremont river; it has a length of about five miles, varies in width from half a mile to three miles, and has an altitude of about 4500 feet above the level of the sea. The nineteen families, which at present comprise the population, live in a very scattered condition on their respective quarter sections, but the valley affords facilities for quite a population—say between one and two hundred families, who in a few years could grow wealthy here, provided they are thrifty and united like our people generally are. There is a tendency among the people here, the same as in some other places, to spread over too much ground, and for a few to take up all the land to the exclusion of other settlers; owing to this and other causes the progress made here is somewhat slow and will necessarily continue so until more settlers come in.

Graves Valley is about 125 miles southeast of Richfield, the headquarters of the Sevier Stake, of which it is a part, and the communication between that point and the lower valleys on the Fremont is very difficult. The presidency of the Stake and other leading men that might encourage the people and have an influence over them for the good visit here but seldom, and the consequence is that the people are starving for spiritual food.

The Bishop, Henry Giles, resides at Blue Valley, which is considered the headquarters of the ward; his first Counselor, Brother Ephraim K. Hanks, resides on Pleasant Creek, twenty-six miles above, and Wm. Bacon, the other Counselor (who has recently resigned his position) resides at Graves Valley, ten miles below Blue Valley; and it requires quite an effort for even these three men to get together. If the large tract of country now included in the Blue Valley ward was divided into three wards and more settlers invited in and made welcome, there is no doubt that this country would become a very desirable locality. But as it now is, the Saints are somewhat discouraged and look forward to a change for the better.

From Graves Valley the distance to Blake on the Rio Grande Western railway is only about forty-five miles, but the road leading thither is very sandy, otherwise that would be the main shipping point for this lower country.

Below Graves Valley the Fremont river flows through a box canyon until it empties into the Colorado about fifty miles to the southeast. Curtis creek, also called the Muddy, on the headwaters of which Emery, one of our Emery Stake settlements, is situated, empties into the Fremont river in the lower end of this valley.

The Blue Valley ward consists of six organized branches of the Church, namely, Blue Valley, Graves Valley, Elephant, Cainesville, Allridge, Pleasant Creek and Hanks' Place. It extends from east to west for a distance of about forty miles—that is from the upper settlers on Pleasant creek to the lower end of Graves Valley. Otherwise the ward embraces the east half of Piate county, extending as far east as the Colorado river. The present mem-

bership of the ward is 305 souls, divided into fifty-nine families.

ANDREW JENSON.

GRAVES VALLEY, June 16, 1891.

LETTER FROM NEW MEXICO.

After seeing evidences of excessive labor, perseverance, self-sacrifice, faith and patience continued for years in some of the settlements of Arizona with very little material return therefor, it was very refreshing to visit Springerville, thirty-five miles southeast of St. Johns, and find the Saints there meeting with all the encouragement they could reasonably ask for in establishing new homes. Quite a settlement of Mexicans and non-"Mormon" white men was established in what is known as Round Valley before any of the Saints gained a foothold there, and for some years after the latter settled in the valley they made no effort to establish a new town, but located in the irregularly shaped Mexican village in the lower end of the valley, a rather unsightly place of abode. At the suggestion of Apostle Erastus Snow, who, during the later years of his life took such a lively interest in the settling of Arizona, and to whose wisdom is largely due the prosperity which now attends the Saints in this land, they were at length induced to secure a large amount of land in the upper end of the valley which was open to entry and besides being of the very choicest kind for agricultural purposes was also much better situated for a townsite than where the old settlement was located. Under his direction also Brother Geo. H. Crosby, with whose ability as a Bishop he had been familiar in Southern Utah, where he served in that capacity for eight years each in Hebron and Leeds, was selected to reside. It was a happy selection. The Crosby family are all workers, from the grandsire, Brother Jesse W. Crosby, now of Overton, Nev., down to the youngest grandchild who is able to handle a tool or drive a team, and none among them are more indefatigable than Geo. H. Disaster in the shape of fire has visited him three times, twice in Utah and once in Arizona, and destroyed much of his hard-earned substance, but these have only served as temporary setbacks to his prosperity, and never wholly discouraged him. Such industry and perseverance as his, combined with natural intelligence and the wisdom which experience has brought to him are sure to succeed and his financial prospects are brighter today than they ever have been. The members of the ward of Springerville seem possessed, too, of the same enterprising spirit, due in some degree doubtless to his example and influence, and they are accomplishing wonders in the way of fencing building, making water ditches and cultivating the soil, and receiving encouragement therein by raising good crops. This is the granary of this part of Arizona, and offers better facilities to the farmer than any place I have seen since entering the territory. When the additional canals and reservoirs which are projected shall have been constructed several thousand acres of excellent land now unclaimed will be opened for settlement and

hundreds of Saints in addition to those already there can then make homes in Springerville. The most extensive farmers in the place are President David K. Udall and his brother Joseph, who have 640 acres of land in one piece, and are this year cultivating upwards of 300 acres of it. They also have an excellent grist mill, fitted up with the latest improved roller process machinery on their property, which does the custom grinding for Nutrioso, Alpine and Heber, situated higher up in the mountains, as well as for the inhabitants of its vicinity.

The citizens of St. Johns also expect to increase their water supply and materially extend the area of cultivatable land by building reservoirs, for which they have some excellent sites, one of which I visited on my way down from Springerville, and which, when the dam, now partially built, shall be completed, will cover nearly 8000 acres to a depth varying from two to twenty feet. From this reservoir and others situated lower down the stream, water can be conveyed to the highest mesas in the valley. Similar advantages are expected to be gained in many of the settlements of Arizona by the construction of reservoirs, and efforts toward their establishment have already commenced or are about to be in Showlow, Concho, and other places. I was particularly pleased to find Bishop C. I. Kempe of Concho prospering as a merchant and enjoying the confidence and patronage of the Mexicans as well as the white people who reside in his neighborhood. Since his imprisonment in the Detroit house of correction for being too much married, he acknowledges that he has been greatly blessed in a worldly sense.

The grasshoppers, myriads of which are found in the fields in the vicinity of St. Johns, constitute one of the chief sources of discouragement to the farmers. The insects do not seem to be of the migratory kind, such as infested many parts of Utah in years gone by, as they do not fly, and they seem to be increasing yearly.

The ride by "jerky" or buckboard, on which the mail is carried between St. Johns and Navajo Springs, a distance of fifty-three miles, is without interest, as is that by rail for most of the way from there to Deming, that over the S. and P. road being performed in the night and that over the Santa Fe road being for most of the distance through a wild and very dry country. As far as the road passes through Mexican fields and villages along the shores of the Rio Grande they present an interesting study.

Deming is an American town, of probably 2000 or 2500 inhabitants there being but few Mexicans here. It is supported by the railways, mines, and stock interests and there is a bank and several stores here, all doing a very good business. It is a town of windmills, there being not less than forty of these structures in sight from one position in the town and many more scattered about on ranches, their purpose being to lift water from the wells, which is generally found at a depth of about seventy feet, to the surface for domestic use and for the stock kept by the people. Here I found Bishop Wm. D. Johnson located, he having charge of the railroad work being done for John W. Young, also Brother D. M. Tenney,