

Correspondence.

OFFICE J.S. & D.T. CASEMENT,
END OF TRACK, Apr. 29, '69.

Editor Deseret News:—Within the ensuing fifteen days, in all probability, will be consummated the connection of the two mighty lines of railway completing the inter-oceanic span of iron road which will bring the "hub" denizen of Boston harbor, in five days, to lave his brow in the placid waters of the Pacific.

Nine miles of track remain to be laid on what used to be called the Union Pacific line. Of the grading there are some two or three miles yet incomplete, a considerable portion of which is rock-work. To-night the track is laid half a mile west of Blue Creek. Blue Creek bridge is a substantial piece of trestle-work some 150 feet in length. The graders are busy as beavers immediately at the end of the rails under Messrs. Hill & Green. The whole track-laying force will be consolidated upon the summit to-morrow to work backwards, or eastwards, in consequence of the heavy work yet undone in front. Of course, the material must be transported on wagons eight or nine miles to the summit, and that over a precipitous road. Some three miles of the grade eastward from the terminal point at the summit are ready for the track-layers. In this little distance there are used between 600,000 and 700,000 pounds of iron. In round numbers, 10,000 ties will be required for the same distance. I need occupy no space in computations. It will be an easy and pleasant practice for the young arithmetician of Utah to reduce the quantities given to tons or loads.

The great Central Pacific contest for the track-laying championship, through an accident, did not finally come off till Wednesday. It was witnessed by the magnates of both roads. The aggregate number of iron-men, splicers and screwers, spikers, and supernumeraries employed in laying the track, was 548; besides ninety-two horses. The Central Company are in the habit of laying their rails on but one-half the complement of ties, filling in the remainder as they are brought to the front on the trains. There were on this occasion 2000 Chinamen putting in the back ties and surfacing the track. The 848 men and 92 horses laid the ten miles of track in 16 working hours. Their whole force at the front is about 3000—the most powerful track-laying force ever organized. Mr. Trowbridge is the superintendent of construction, and Mr. Minkler is in charge of track-laying on the Central Pacific. At no time, I am informed, have the Casements had more than 300 men on track-laying at once, inclusive of the tie-layers.

A switch, or siding, has been put in at the low point of bluff where the line curves to the northward, taking thence a right line over a delightful grade for three miles. Mr. Eicholtz has christened this siding ALTONA. On this line, within a mile of Blue-creek bridge, reposes Casement's boarding-train, headed two points west of due north. Here also is a tank of 68,000 gallons capacity, supplied from a spring found in the hills a mile east of the track. The spring is 268 feet above the grade and is conducted to the tank through four-inch iron pipe. The engineers say this is the only good water between Bear River and the Humboldt. The Central folks had abandoned it as not of sufficient volume for their use. It is pronounced capable of supplying 500 to 600 bbls. per hour, and, in this salt, alkali, mineral region, where no other but brackish, bitter, sulphury, stinking water can be procured from either wells or running streams, one begins right sharply to hanker for a dip into City creek.

Sacramento, Omaha and Chicago are preparing for overwhelming demonstrations upon the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad, which implies undoubtedly, the uniting of the two lines at the summit of the Promontory, by which the Central Pacific will be completed to Ogden. At Sacramento there is to be a jubilee, in which every man, woman and child is invited to join. A procession is to be formed of the State officials of California and Nevada, the city and county officials of California; the military, fire-companies, citizens, workmen of all classes, the schools, and the contractors and employees of the railroad. The driving of the last spike, announced by telegraph, will be acknowledged by the screaming of the whistles of every locomotive, steamer and workshop, with the ringing of bells, firing of cannon and bands of music; to be wound up by a grand illumination of the whole city. All the

routes of travel to be free on that day. It is expected there will be nearly as big a demonstration on the Promontory upon the same truly important occasion, or as nearly so as the circumstances will admit.

The remainder of Gen. Wilcox's command, some six companies 12th U. S. infantry, en route for San Francisco, will arrive at Altona siding to-morrow. They are to-night at Wasatch.

The camp lights gleam bright from the hills; the midnight shifts advance to their positions along the line; and I shall court in a Casement coach,

"Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

ANON.

S. L. CITY, April 30, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—I wish again to trespass upon your columns to draw the attention of the public to what I consider to be a great evil, namely the custom of herding large numbers of horses, mules, oxen and sheep on the range near the city. I have been a personal witness of this practice for the last eight or nine years, and have frequently taken the liberty to invite men to take their stock to a range where the feed was better. These invitations have generally been complied with, which indicates that the intrusion was not intentional. But I have met with some who have informed me that "this was a public range" and that "they guessed they could herd their stock where they pleased." I have thought that perhaps you would do the public a benefit by publishing, for the special enlightenment of such parties, the extract which can be found on the 92nd page of the Laws of Utah, sections 8th and 9th, for it is well known that the range adjacent to the city is becoming more limited every year, and I think ought to be reserved exclusively for the city herds.

NORVAL.

MORGANVILLE, WEBER VALLEY,
APRIL 29th, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—I have learned that a little girl was offered for sale by Indians last Fall at Bear City on Bear River east. She was about three years old and they wished to obtain ponies for her; as no ponies were at hand and no other pay would satisfy them they kept her and took her away. The Indians who had her in possession professed to have bought her from others. I believe the child was mine and in order that another favorable opportunity of obtaining her may not be lost I now and herein offer a reward of \$5,000 to any person who will obtain and bring her to me and will pay more should that not be sufficient to satisfy. Any person giving information that may lead to her recovery shall be amply and satisfactorily rewarded.

Yours,

G. W. THURSTON.

Nevada papers please copy.

SMITHFIELD, Cache Co.,
May 1st, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—The Co-operative Mercantile Institution in this city, is in successful operation, with a good tannery and shoe shop in the firm.

Nearly three hundred Sunday school children of this ward have assembled to co-operate with the Sunday school scholars from Hyde Park, numbering between one and two hundred, with banners and flags of every size and description bearing appropriate inscriptions to celebrate May-day. They were formed into line, headed by the martial bands of Smithfield and Hyde Park, marched around the city and drew up in hollow square in front of Surveyor Gen. Fox's quarters at Bishop Roskelly's. The scholars then sang "Lovely Deseret," "The Volunteers," "Lovely May," "Nice young Mormons," &c. The morning was fine, the music of the bands inspiring and the songs of the little folks as sweet and lovely as themselves. Gen. Fox and others made some short but appropriate speeches. Prayer was then offered, imploring the Giver of all good to continue His blessings upon Israel, after which they took up their line of march to their selected play grounds in the canyon, accompanied by their teachers and a host of carriages of various descriptions filled with the parents of the scholars, and other spectators to behold the little ones enjoy themselves. The best of order was preserved and too much cannot be said in commendation of the teachers in the performance of their arduous and useful labors.

By the topographical survey of Utah, kindly furnished by the U. S. Surveyor General Clark to the Territorial Surveyor General Fox, the latter is enabled to identify a certain corner

where a public well was dug in Wells-ville in 1856, from which, on Monday last, General Fox located Wellsville town site. On Tuesday Mendon, on Wednesday Hyrum and Millville, Thursday Providence and Logan, Friday Hyde Park and Smithfield town sites were located. This morning he leaves here for Richmond and Franklin. May God speed him in his labors, for they are highly appreciated in this valley.

Bp. Roskelly and his brethren of Smithfield have got nearly all the telegraph poles set from their city to Logan, a distance of seven and one half miles on a straight line, being determined to open up communication with the rest of the world.

Grasshoppers are hatching out by the acre, and have already commenced their ravages on the grain in many places. Notwithstanding the reappearance of these pests, the citizens are busy in planting the balance of their land, trusting in the future. This is a move in the right direction, for if we do not plant we cannot expect to reap.

PETER MAUGHAN.

[For the "Deseret Evening News."]

DIVINATION.

"And the magicians did so with their enchantments." No doubt of it; those were palmy days for diviners; Egypt was in all her glory; had attained to an intellectuality, which, if it did take a different direction to that of our day, will certainly bear comparison with it. It was in the direction of divination that the current of mind ran; nothing of importance was undertaken either by king, priests, or people, without first obtaining information respecting results. To satisfy the requirements of the age a class of men arose who made it their business to gratify the public taste by cultivating their powers of mind with a view to get an insight into the future.

It is not fair to assume that these men were mercenary in their motives, although some may have been so; they seem to have devoted themselves to study with a determination and disinterestedness such as usually characterize the earnest enquirer after truth; they were temperate in their lives, and even mortified their bodies by an abstinence which would have been trying to the sensualist; and this was all done with a desire to find favor with the gods "to whom all secrets are known."

Men of this stamp were likely to get information from the unseen world; and, in their researches after truth, as they understood it, they could hardly fail to stumble upon some of the principles which influence, if they do not control, human actions, and arrive at a knowledge of some of the great, but simple, natural laws, which lie at the foundation of things. No stone was left unturned by them in their pursuit of that kind of knowledge they sought after: magic in the use of numbers and cabalistic characters; divining by omens, as the flight of birds, traces of which practice remain with us in the old saying: "One crow good luck, two crows sorrow," there is luck in odd numbers, etc.

As to the cabalistic marks they are still used on the eastern continent; and traces of the same are found in the practice of hoarding a crooked sixpence or any coin with a hole in it "for luck," and in marking potatoes and other substances, with mystical characters to act as "charms."

Many very curious things were discovered by the magicians as they were called, the memory of some of which has been preserved to this day by tradition and in the "learned books" by those who dabble in the same "sciences." But it appears to have been more by communications with the unseen world that they obtained intelligence concerning things about to transpire on the earth.

Not that such kind of intelligence was at all times reliable, it was not so; but that a great many things were revealed which did prove true, there is abundant evidence on record. This was indeed, the secret of the success of the "soothsayer," or, as the word implies, truth teller; for by an infatuation which appears natural to man, that which really occurred was believed to be the result of the prediction, and that which did not happen was attributed to a lack of faith in the people.

But that great wonders were wrought by the skill of the ancients in divination there can be but little doubt; it could not all have been deception any more than it is now. They may have had, as they have now in Asiatic countries, their sleight-of-hand conjurers of

the "Wizard of the North" genus. Still, the fact of their having deceivers or imitators, shows that the popular belief was in favor of those things being possible, and it is strong evidence that real miracles were performed. Not that there were then any more than there are now, miracles in that impossible sense believed in by the ignorant, something done without a cause; but there were acts performed which were the result of natural operations not then understood by the masses. There is strong presumptive evidence of the fact that the prophets of Baal, for instance, did at times obtain fire from some supernatural source to consume their sacrifices, or it is not reasonable to suppose that four hundred and fifty men would have been so unwise as to expect such a thing. It was in the presence of Elijah that they failed, for which there must have been a reason; the sequel informs us what the reason was.

It is not logical, then, to deny to those ancient magicians the powers which both sacred and profane history ascribe to them; neither is it charitable to attribute it to venal or corrupt motives. As a class they were kept about the courts of kings and great men; great things were expected of them, and no doubt were realized; and it appears that they did not fail except when they were in the presence of beings who had higher powers than themselves.

By taking this view we get rid of many difficulties which present themselves to the reader of ancient history; we can understand how it happened that in the Court of Babylon "the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans," were baffled in the presence of Daniel, and to come nearer to our own times, the powerlessness of such men in the presence of Jesus and his disciples.

As to our denying the existence of great powers of divination in ancient times, because we cannot understand how they were attained to, it would be quite as just to deny the existence of these things now for the same reason. If the ancients had their soothsayers and astrologers, the moderns have their fortune tellers and Zadkiels; if the former had their necromancers, who held communion with the spirits of the departed, so have the latter—millions of them—in the "spiritualists." If they believed in sorcery, many now believe that their cattle or themselves can be "bewitched." If they had those who by their incantations could command the sick to be healed, in these days there are "Zouaves" and mesmerisers. If they had their witch of Endor to call up the shade of Samuel, there are those now who claim to call up Moses, Julius Caesar or any one else when wanted. If they shut up their mediums in the secret recesses of the "adytum" to commune with the dead, there are in our day "seances" in which the Davenport or others, are shut up in a cabinet, certainly for a less laudable purpose than the ancients sought in the secret chamber,—which was to get information.

Now it is reasonable to believe that all these things are by the same spirit, for the works are the same. Never did this spirit shine forth more conspicuously than when the authority of the living God was upon the earth. With that authority if the spirit of divination is not co-eval in the heaven it appears to have always been contemporaneous on the earth, and it has always been antagonistic to that authority. Fifty years ago there was a great lack of faith in the supernatural; it is not so now. Men had by science endeavored to explain away all the phenomena ascribed to spiritual influence; nobody, comparatively, believed in the spirit of prophecy, either in a good or bad sense. There were no mediums, no "seances," no spirit-rapping, no table turnings; no "interior revelations;" no divination in its many forms. Now these things are fashionable. How is it that this spirit which has slept for ages is again evoked "Like causes produce like effects." Is the antagonism brought to bear against the authority of God which calls forth these manifestations when that is not on the earth the spirit of divination slumbers. It only when prophets and apostles among men with a view to bring about the Government of God; when the power as well as this authority is made manifest, the power of the opposite is needed to decide.

FOR A SAFE & MILD
STIMULANT
Red Jacket Bitters