DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, . . . February 9, 1869.

Correspondence.

PHILADELPHIA,
January 25th, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother,—I arrived here for the first time, on the evening of the 18th inst., in company with President Wm. H. Miles of New York, and W. N. Dusenberry, my fellow laborer in the ministry. We put up at the "Montgomery Hotel" on our arrival.

On the following day we called on Mr. S. Fenton where we were kindly received, and hospitably treated to their home comforts, which we truly appreciated.

Mother Fenton and Sister Emma showed us some choice presents they received from the loved ones in Utah. Father says he would not take a hundred dollars for his gauntlet gloves. Every body admires them as being superior to anything down here.

We spent a very pleasant evening on the 22nd inst., with Wm. M. Canfield and his happy family, who are not in the church, but friendly. Their daughter Lucy has just returned from Salt Lake where she has been on a visit to see her relatives. She speaks of Utah and the "Mormons" in glowing terms. Her friends do not question her veracity for a moment, but they think she must have turned "Mormon," seeing she speaks of them favorably.

The wicked prejudice which prevailed twenty years ago is fast giving way to honest inquiry, by sober thinking men and women; and they have come to the conclusion to say nothing against "Mormonism" fearing it may be true. Religious bigots and fanatics still cry delusion and cling to their pet dogmas, like Barnum to his mummies, which although dead they yet think profitable.

We found the branch here completely broken up, and the Saints scattered like sheep without a shepherd. President Miles concluded to re-organize the branch and place Elder Thomas Markland to preside. He is alive in the work and is held in good repute by all who know him in and out of the church.

Philadelphia is the finest city I have seen since we left Salt Lake. The streets run at right angles, and the buildings are uniform, nearly all built of very fine pressed brick, with white marble basements. White painted door and window shutters give an air of cleanliness and neatness to the city which I have not seen elsewhere, only in the cities of the Saints. I had hoped the inhabitants of Philadelphia were correspondingly pure; but I am told that here as elsewhere corruption and vice prevail to a fearful extent; and we can only look to the home of the Saints as a place of safety for those who wish to keep themselves and their children pure and uncontaminated from those soul-destroying evils that are everywhere prevailing in the world.

We preached yesterday in the Temperance Hall, 725 Race street, at 3 o'clock and at 7 p. m., to a large and attentive audience, reorganizing the branch and set Elder Markland apart to preside over it, by order of President Miles, who had to return to New York on Friday evening to attend to business.

I feel that a good work will be done here, providing the Saints live their religion and strive to please God rather than conform to the vanities of the world, which only bring disappointment to its votaries, and leave an aching void in the heart which ever yearns to be happy.

We were in New York during the holidays, and had a good time with Bro. Miles, and the Saints under his watch-care. The priesthood and people are all feeling well and working together as a band of brothers ought to do.

Bishop J. C. Little met with us on the 3rd inst., in New York. We listened with pleasure to one of his practical sermons, which makes the Saints rejoice and moves them to action. He carries with him the spirit of the gospel which purifies the heart and lifts the affections above the low, grovelling things of earth.

We spent a very interesting day with Bro. Heber John Richards in New York, and saw sights never to be forgotten in the "Bellvue Medical College," and other places of interest. He is rapidly improving in the study of anatomy, and treasuring up classic lore, which if properly applied will be of great benefit to its possessor.

We saw "the wickedest man" said to be in New York, who has opened his *rat pit* for public worship, in one of the vilest places in the city. By way of contrast we listened to the most popular preacher in New York City, (Henry Ward Beecher,) in his very pretty church, seated like the Salt Lake Theatre. He is certainly a leading spirit, and stands alone in a religious point of view; Paul-like, he is all things to all men that he may be popular.

Thus far we have had a pleasant and profitable time on our mission, through the States. God has been with us by His Spirit in our travels and labors among the people, and blessed us with health and success. We preached our way through Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, baptized and gathered together a number of good men and women whom we found scattered abroad, organized three branches, and opened up a field of labor for several faithful elders to labor in with profit to themselves and to fallen humanity.

President Brown writes us that he is restored in a measure to health, and intends visiting the branches in his field of labor as far east as Hyde Park, Luzern county, Pa., where there is a fine branch of the Church consisting of forty or fifty members, all rejoicing in the truth, and possessed with the spirit of gathering, which is the spirit of the gospel. Br. Bull organized the branch last summer, by order of Bro. Miles, and placed Elder E. Howell to preside over it. He is a first class man, full of faith and good works, a prominent citizen in the place, and is calculated to do much good if he continues to honor his calling as a servant of God, which I verily believe he will do.

We left the Saints everywhere we have been with a promise that we would return and visit them in the spring, if our labors were not otherwise directed by the Priesthood over us.

We shall remain in Philadelphia another week and hold meetings the while, by request of many friends, among whom is Br. Harrison, who has kindly invited us to make our home at his house while we tarry.

From here we go to Virginia, *via.* Washington, where you will hear from us again. Bro. Dusenberry is afflicted with a cold, but I trust he will soon recover. He joins me in kind love to yourself, the brethren in the office and all inquiring friends.

Remember us with prayer, and believe me as ever, your friend and brother,

DAVID M. STEWART.

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Wholesale, by R. L. Campbell, Historian's Office;

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☞ The SECOND READER will be for sale at Twenty Cents each, about six days hence.
Dec. 18, 1868. d214-s48 tf

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d89 tf

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d37 6m

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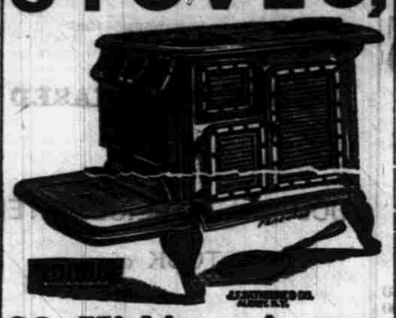

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d278 tf

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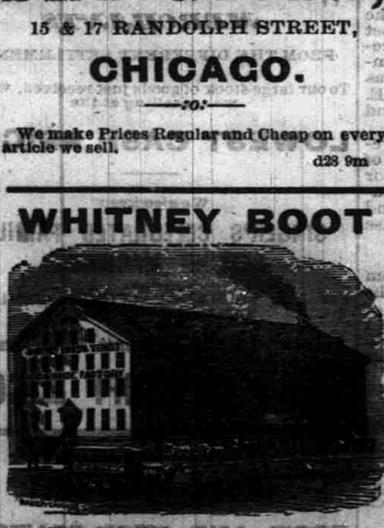

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