

ployed as a shepherd in care of a flock of mules and express ponies at Echo station, and on the Weber hills around Witch and Pulpit rocks. I, a frugal swain, pastured the flock, which occupation was extremely laborious, as I had to saddle a mule twice a day, drive up the herd and catch out an express animal, and once a week corral eight mules for mail teams. This was exceedingly wearing on me, but by strict attention to a generous diet and frequent steaks in the shade, I retained sufficient vitality to periodically sign the pay roll. And as all things come to those who wait I was soon promoted to the position of "helper" or assistant to Wood Reynolds, who was driver of a string of mail teams on some three hundred miles of the road, and I appreciated it wonderfully, as it enabled me to ride while enjoying my leisure.

Being of a very precarious and apt disposition, I soon acquired the art of driving, in fact became an accomplished Jehu, and could almost turn a coach over with a jack-screw. But in September 1860, the agent, appreciating the rapid advancement I had made in the art of transporting "Pub. Docs." and other mail matter, promoted me to the position of pony rider between Salt Lake City and Bear river; but this subject having become old straw I will not thresh it. I remained with the pony until the daily mail started, when I was again promoted to the position of conductor. I noticed, however, in some late contributions to the press they are distinguished by the appellation "Treasure Messenger." We used to receipt for iron boxes, but were unofficially designated, "dope agents" for the reason that one of our duties was to lubricate the axles of the coach.

I continued as a conductor until October, when the agent, a gentleman of fine perceptive faculties, proposed that my remarkable talents for staging should not be left to go to seed, and gave me an Irish host by sending me to Big Sandy as station keeper. It was, however, to have been a supply depot, but Milesville being subsequently selected, my duties dwindled to looking after the stallion and filling requisitions for provisions when we had any to spare for stations below.

I remained at Big Sandy until the frequency and nearness of Indian outrages gave to Mr. A.'s apprehensions of danger a practical turn, when we left to the night. Not as persons going to Canada, but as people who, under the circumstances, had no faith in the virtue of hair restatives. I returned to the road, remained a few months and finally finished my overland education at Cape Horn and Egan stations on the western road; and if any gentleman is still curious I invoke the sesame to the grand arcadium of overland fellowship and protest that many a sack of company grain have I hypothesized to ye pilgrim for seasonable delicacies wherewith to garish Ben Hallusay chickeeo.

Those of your readers who can appreciate a well stored receptacle of overland experience, horse love, and Indian depredations will observe that as apprentice, journeyman and master, I passed through all the various branches and degrees of the science requisite to evolve an ex-

pert mule whacker and pony rusher and that I have husbanded the knowledge and now have a fully matured stock on hand; and if any of our enterprising fellow citizens contemplate establishing a line to Klondike the monopoly of my matured experience by them will be appreciated by a discerning public and assure the enterprising and unqualified success.

WM. P. APPLEBY.

SALT LAKE CITY, July 30, 1897.

## TWENTY-FOURTH OF JULY:

VEEDERSBURG, July 26th, 1897.

I left my home at Mona, Juab county, Utah, June 29th, 1896, and on the 3rd of July I took the train and arrived at Kansas City, Missouri, July 4th. Was met by President Samuel G. Spencer and other Elders. On the following day we visited the Temple Lot at Independence, also held meetings at Brother Prestor's. July 6th I was appointed to labor in Columbus Grove, Ohio, with Elder T. G. Eggett as my companion. Among the benevolent people of Ohio I wish to make mention of Brother and Sister Norman. They were always on hand to assist the Elders in spreading the Gospel truth; Elders are always made welcome at their home. On October 17th and 18th the Northern Indiana conference was held at Cramtown, St. Joseph county, Indiana. There we received kind instructions from Elder S. G. Spencer of the Northern States mission and our conference president E. M. Boyer. At this conference I was assigned to labor at Angola, Steuben county, Indiana, Elder U. G. Miller being my companion, traveling without purse or scrip, receiving much kindness at the hands of the people, making many warm friends and true investigators of the Gospel, of whom some have applied for baptism. I wish to make mention of Sister Rakestraw and family of Meitz, Steuben county, Indiana. Their home is always ready to receive the Elders and they do much for the cause of truth.

Our next conference was held at Logansport, Cass county, Indiana, on May 1st and 2nd, 1897, there being present Elder L. A. Keleb of the Northern States mission, Elder E. M. Boyer of the conference and fifteen Elders. At this conference I was assigned to labor in Fountain county, Indiana, with Elder John T. Gabbott as my companion. On our arrival in the county near Covington, we visited Brother and Sister Shelby, who kindly received us. From them we soon learned we were not the first Mormon Elders to labor here. They presented us with a list of the 74 Elders they had entertained in times gone by. We were also asked to sign the list and were also registered. Elder Jonu Morgan and Joseph Standtug's names head the list. They were here in 1876. Elders have labored in the county every few years since. Much good has been accomplished, and numbers of saints have been gathered from here to the valleys of the mountains.

We find the people as a rule broad-minded, willing to live and let live. Some are earnestly investigating the Gospel. Many are eager to hear us talk. School houses and residences have been thrown open for us to speak

in. The city of Veedersburg is our headquarters. If any of the Saints have friends in this county whom they would like the Elders to visit, and will send their names and addresses, we will with pleasure call upon them.

On the 24th of July, 1897, we were invited by Brother Oliver Shelby to spend the day with his family at their home, and there under his supervision we had the privilege of hoisting the American flag in honor of the Pioneers of the State of Utah. As yet Brother and Sister Shelby are the only Saints of Fountain county. We have always been made welcome at their home and have been partakers of their hospitality. Their home is always a home for the Elders. The fiftieth anniversary of Pioneer Day spent at Brother Shelby's is one long to be remembered by us as Elders in Israel.

Your paper comes regularly, and is a welcome visitor.

JOHN L. ELLERTSON.

JOHN T. GABBOTT.

## PROF. ANDREE AND THE NORTH POLE.

TOOELE, Utah, July 29, 1897.

Whatever the world may think of the foolhardiness of the act, Professor Andree's attempt to reach the North Pole by aid of his balloon is one of the most daring feats of the century. The probabilities are that we may never hear from him again. While the professor worked for success, it must have been in his mind that there was a possibility of failure. Those who have studied the matter know that there was not one chance in a thousand for him to gain the object of the daring voyage; as air currents were almost sure to carry him to one side or another of the Pole, even under the most favorable condition and circumstances.

It was not that Mr. Andree never got three hundred miles from his starting point. It is a fact, which we believe can be clearly demonstrated, that the atmospheric conditions of the equator and the temperate zones of the earth must change materially towards the Pole; and a balloon voyage must be subject to more disasters there even than in those other portions of the earth. As you near the Pole the carrying condition of the atmosphere must get less; and in spite of all the experienced aeronaut could do the balloon would be drawn towards the earth, and thus increase the possibility of disaster.

Of course the unlooked for may happen, as it does so often in this world, and the daring explorer may have made a successful voyage, and now be making his way by slow, easy stages to the borders of civilization.

That the Pole may be reached is a conceded point by those best informed upon the subject; but the way to get there is the problem. All plans thus far have failed; and all plans still proposed have their drawbacks. If ever the Pole is reached we believe it will be by one bold dash, through the means of some modern improved mode of travel—some bicycle arrangement perhaps, that will carry, or can be carried, or pulled along, just as circumstances may present. In that case any season may be as good as another to make an effort to solve the North Pole problem. The north country is the graveyard