

## Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
July 23rd, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Bro.—I was somewhat surprised to see, by an article in the News of the 22nd inst., that since the Deseret Telegraph Co. have made arrangements for transferring business to U. P. and C. P. R. R. lines at Ogden, the citizens of the Territory can telegraph to any part of the United States and Europe, if they desire to do so; and if I did not know otherwise, I would infer from it that it was only since this arrangement was made that this could be done, which is not the case, as I will show.

In 1861 the Overland line was built through from Omaha to California via Salt Lake City, which established telegraphic communication with all the principle cities of the East and West. Sometime after the United States Co. built lines through to California; but the company was short lived, as it was bought out or turned over to the Overland Co's lines. About that time nearly all the telegraph companies in the United States consolidated under the name of the Western Union Telegraph Co., by which, now, nearly every little town in the United States and Territories can be reached by telegraph without transferring to any other companies' lines. This is not the case with the Atlantic and Pacific Co.; they cannot reach Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Kansas and but few places in California; and the wires in New York City connecting with the cables are in the Western Union Co's building. Add to this, the new company do not come with a lower tariff rate; and again, the Western Union are paying higher wages, and therefore have a better class of operators and are doing a strictly commercial business, with no railroad business to interfere with them; and have everything thoroughly organized and in good working order and generally give satisfaction to their patrons. I do not see that the public have any additional advantage by the Deseret Co. connecting with railroad companies at Ogden.

Respectfully,

M. CROXALL,  
Manager W. U. Telegraph Office.

## FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

If there is anything more remarkable than the suddenness with which war broke out between France and Prussia, it is the celerity with which the armies of the two nations were pushed to the Rhine, the probable scene of the beginning of hostilities. Both nations are renowned for their quickness of movement, for superb military organization and for great military resources. France was determined that Prussia should not get the start, and it is said that three days after the declaration of war was made, France had 130,000 soldiers on her frontiers. Opinions vary as to which power will be successful. The general sympathy in this country thus far leans towards Prussia; but there are not wanting those who think that France will be victorious. They assert her population and navy are larger than those of Prussia, her military resources and wealth are greater, and what is very important her people have greater homogeneity of feeling and they have been in the habit of whipping the Prussians. If Lord Aberdeen's opinion of France, uttered in the British Parliament on the eve of the Sebastopol campaign, be true of France to-day, then the friends of that power and those who predict that she will be successful in the pending struggle, have good grounds on which to base their hopes. In his opinion, he said, France was a power greater than both Russia and Austria combined.

"Modern history, he said, has twice proved that it has required, in the times of Louis the XIV, and of Napoleon, a coalition of all the powers in Europe to stop the career of French ambition, and even that was necessarily united to the army and naval resources of this Island (Great Britain.)"

If this war is pushed, events will soon prove whether Lord Aberdeen's estimate of the power of France in 1854 will hold good for 1870. The worst feature of this war, so far as France is concerned, is the undue eagerness with which she has sought to enter into it. All feel that the cause of war is too trivial. And this will array against her the moral sentiment of Europe and the world. Her course throughout this whole affair has been dictatorial and

overbearing, and her language and demands have been of such an arrogant character that it would be strange if a power such as Prussia estimates herself to be, did not resent them. The victor in this contest will, without doubt, obtain an addition of territory. The desire of France to obtain possession of the Rhenish provinces has not been disguised. This is the real object of the war. But there is a possibility of Napoleon being defeated. In which case he who goes forth to shear may get shorn, and France may possibly lose some portion of her fair domain. There are Rhenish provinces which she holds, the people of which for the generations that they have been a part of France, have never forgotten their German origin; they speak the German tongue and their literature is German as well as French.

Whenever a collision occurs the fighting will be bloody. Everything that engineering skill could accomplish has been done by France and Prussia to fortify every available point on their respective frontiers, and their garrisons will defend them to the last extremity. The soldiers of both armies are trained to the highest point of skill, and they go into the contest like machines, and will do the largest amount of killing in the shortest space of time.

According to the law of 1868, the French army is composed of the Active Army and the Reserve. The aggregate number of her land forces, both active and reserve, is asserted by some authorities to be about 1,300,000; but others estimate her total available forces at 1,029,121 only, of which about 450,000 form her Active force.

The grand total of men in active service in the German army in 1868 was 396,442; this number is taken from an official report published that year at Berlin. But these are the numbers of the army when on a peace footing. In time of war, the battalions are increased until, according to the report, a grand total of 977,000 men is reached.

In carefully studying this subject we find it difficult to arrive at a correct estimate as to exact and comparative strength of the two armies. Authorities differ; but enough is known to show that the two powers are not unequally mated, and it is difficult to say upon which banner victory will perch. We pity the poor wretches who will have to suffer and die in this contest of ambition. Of what benefit will it be to them whether France and Prussia gain or lose territory? The royal scoundrels who provoke wars should be the ones to suffer by them; but they are most careful of their precious persons. There will be none of them killed, unless it is by accident. Yet if the people had sense enough to govern themselves and to live at peace with one another, it would be a great gain to mankind at large to hang up or otherwise remove out of the way these tyrants, who to gratify their unholy ambition hurl armies upon one another to be mangled and butchered, though hecatombs of men should be sacrificed, and at the same time placidly and eloquently expatiate upon their valor and patriotism in dying for their country!

## THE MORMONS AND THEIR TERRITORY.

Utah is the next prosperous and populous of our Territories. The number of inhabitants is estimated by the Mormons to be 150,000, and Salt Lake City is credited with 20,000. Gentiles who have visited Salt Lake think the estimates not far wrong. A State would have been organized ten years ago if Congress had not feared that the result would be the legalization of polygamy and the introduction with it of troubles that might not be cured for many centuries. Several States are now represented in the United States Senate with a smaller population than that of Utah.

A Church with devoted adherents was needed to tie people down to the basin of Salt Lake. The landscape was bare, timber remote, water scanty, the climate severely cold in winter, and all access to navigable tide water, and to the main centres of population and trade, very costly. Brigham Young selected this unpromising place for the seat of his new Zion, and for a quarter of a century he and his people have been faithful to each other and to the desert valley, which they have filled with thrift and prosperity. Some travelers have said that the Mormon capital is the prettiest town in the United States; and all admit that it does great credit to the people who have built it.

The Mormon community is filled with the spirit of confidence and co-op-

eration. If a neighbor needs help he has no difficulty in getting it. If the public interest requires that anything should be done, and there is a delay about beginning the work, the church authorities select men to begin it, and they obey orders. Settlements are established and abandoned, roads are opened, factories are built, and trading expeditions sent out by the direction of Bishops, Elders and other ecclesiastical functionaries. There is a mutual helpfulness that is not found in any other community of equal size.

It has been part of Brigham's policy, from the first, to make his community as independent, industrially, of the Gentiles, as possible; and for that purpose he has encouraged home manufactures, and discouraged the importation of costly and useless luxuries. The women have been accustomed to dress in plain cottons and woollens, plainly made, and though they have evidently not heard from Paris for years, their gowns are quite as comfortable as those worn by the most obsequious imitators of Eugenie. One of the first productions of Salt Lake Valley was leather, and its title of "Valley Tan," given to everything else of home production, was sufficient to command the favor of every Mormon. We say every Mormon, for although there were malcontents among them, yet, taking them as a class, they were harmonious in their government and business beyond all example. Frequently, they moved, as though their temporal welfare and eternal salvation depended upon implicit obedience to their ecclesiastical authorities, and those, again, acted with a similar unanimity. Churches, families, social clubs, old and life-long friends separated on account of slavery, secession, and minor points of politics, and questions of personal gain or advancement, but the Mormon leaders were of one mind. If they have any wire-pulling and quarrelling, they keep them secret.

The Mormons include a great number of skillful mechanics. They have cotton and woollen factories, and saw, planing, and grist mills, and they can now produce nearly everything that can be made in any part of the United States. The construction of the railroad has reduced the price of many of the articles with which they supplied the miners of Idaho and Montana two years ago, and they are compelled to seek for new industries. One of these is silk, and they have so far succeeded very well in cultivating the mulberry and rearing the silkworm. They will have about 2,000,000 cocoons this year, and the main object of John W. Young's late trip to our State was to visit our cocooneries, and see what information he could get that would be of value to the silk-growers of Salt Lake. With such an industrial spirit as the Mormons have, they must prosper.

The future of Utah depends, to some extent, upon polygamy. The Mormons should pass a bill through their Territorial Legislature forbidding polygamous marriages, for the future, and they should get a new revelation or adopt a rule of the Church that the time has come when all marriages must be monogamous. It is far better that they should do this than that somebody should do it for them. If they do it, they can use the form that suits them best; if they refuse, the form may be the one that will suit them least. By prohibiting polygamy for the future they will disarm their most dangerous enemies, and probably put an end to an agitation that would otherwise continue for a long time, and often cause alarm. As for past polygamous marriages, it is probable that more harm than good would come from disturbing them. So long as the social evil prevails extensively in Washington, it would be unbecoming in Government to make war on the Mormons for polygamous marriages contracted in the past, many of them at a time when there was no law to prohibit them.

The entire Pacific slope is interested in the peace and prosperity of the Mormons, in the removal of all causes of quarrel between them and the Christians of the Nation, and in the admission of their Territory as a State of the Union, upon terms that will secure the preservation of good feeling, protect the principles of our most enlightened society, and foster the development of the resources of the Western slope of our continent.—*Alta California.*

## Died:

Yesterday morning, in the 8th Ward of this city, Jane C., wife of Richard G. Lightly; aged 60 years.

Funeral takes place this morning at 10 o'clock at the 8th Ward School House. Friends are invited to attend.

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

## By Telegraph.

## FOREIGN.

PARIS.—Of the total number of deaths in Paris during the last week, one-fifth were from small pox.

3 p.m.—The Bourse is weak; *rentes* continue to decline and are now quoted at sixty-five francs.

No fighting, either on sea or land, has as yet been reported.

Deputies from the Departments of the Upper and Lower Rhine, Moselle and Murcha, are kept well informed, by telegraph, of the movements of the army, and they state that no important conflict has as yet taken place between the hostile forces.

The Prussians on the border say that Bismarck is much troubled at the slowness of the land forces in coming forward.

PARIS, 20.—The representatives of foreign powers here made another effort, to-day, to prevent war, but were unsuccessful.

There was an extraordinary scene of excitement at the Grand Opera, last evening, on the occasion of the Prima Donna singing the *Marseillaise*; the enthusiasm was indescribable.

A morning journal of this city says, "the war between France and Prussia is God's intervention to check Protestantism."

CONSTANTINOPLE.—The *Levant Herald*, to-day, announces that the first class of reserves has been called under arms; this, with the regular force, makes the Turkish army 300,000 strong. The policy of Turkey is absolute neutrality.

LONDON, 4:30 p.m.—It was rumored that a collision occurred this morning, near Forbach, between the French and the Prussian advance guards; but nothing further is known, and some doubt is cast on the report, as Paris advices say there has been no fighting. It is reported that France denies that the stipulations of the Paris convention apply to the present war.

LIVERPOOL, 2 p.m.—There is a better feeling in the market; business is recovering from the effects of the panic.

LONDON.—The case of Edmunds, the patent office extortioner was discussed in the Commons at some length. The Government finally opposed the release of the accused.

Earl Granville reports that the determined and absolute refusal of Emperor Napoleon to entertain negotiations will render it possible that any attempt to renew them will be useless until a great battle has been fought.

Dicken's family decline the offer of two thousand pounds for the manuscript of *Edwin Drood*.

The Belgian official organs say that France misconstrues, as an evidence of hostility, the construction of a bridge near Blaudin, which was merely a result of misapprehension of orders, and they declare that Belgium remains neutral.

The Spanish papers unanimously condemn Napoleon for declaring war.

The bark *Berkshire* ran into and sunk on the east coast of England, an American vessel whose name could not be ascertained. All on board were lost.

LONDON, 21.—The following sketch of the French campaign has been obtained from reliable sources: "The French army is concentrating within the quadrilateral of Theonville, Strasbourg and Mayence, south of Strasbourg, on the same meridian as the entrenched camps at Celfout, where the corps d'armee is taking up its position to form the right of the French army; another corps will be in reserve at Chalons sur Maire. The entire army will be composed of eight corps, each of three or four divisions of infantry and from six to eight regiments of cavalry. Each division will have three batteries of artillery and one company of engineers, and will comprise from 10 to 12 thousand men.

The army of the Moselle will be commanded by Marshal Bazaine, and composed of the second, third and fourth corps. The headquarters of the respective corps will be at St. Arvard, Metz and Thionville. The army of the Rhine, which Marshal McMahon will command, is composed of the first, fifth and seventh corps, with headquarters respectively at Strasbourg, Bitche and Celfort. The corps under General De Failly, posted around Bitche, will unite with the two armies. The reserve corps, in camp at Chalons sur Maire, under Marshal Canrobert, will be composed of troops of the line, and will be reinforced from reserves of all kinds.

Three hundred Hanoverians have volunteered for the French service.