

[From the Mormon.]

From Madras in the East Indies.

It will be seen by the following, that our old friend elder Richard Ballantyne is on his way from the east, and expected we were in the valley. We anticipated the pleasure of a visit from him en route for the valley, but learn by an enclosed note that he is leaving Liverpool in charge of a ship load of saints for New Orleans en route for the valley.

Bro. Ballantyne has labored faithfully and untiringly in the East Indies, and we have always read his correspondence with very much interest; and deprived of his anticipated visit, we can only wish him a speedy and safe return to the bosom of his family, and to that Zion which he loves.

If br. B. can find time we should be pleased to hear of some of his reminiscences in the east.—Ed.

MOUTH OF THE THAMES, ABOUT
50 MILES FROM LONDON, Dec. 3, 1854.

My well beloved brother.—It is with much pleasure that I now sit down to write a little for our mutual comfort. It is Sabbath morning, and while you are, no doubt, sitting under the teachings of God's servants in Zion, I may be excused in thus improving a few leisure moments.

I am well, and I hope through the blessings of our God and Father that yourself and family enjoy good health.

It is about nineteen weeks since I came on board this ship, at Madras, in the East Indies. Our voyage was excellent till we came near the Azores, or Western Islands, when we had to contend with head winds. My health began to improve shortly after I came out to sea. In Madras my constitution was completely shattered; but now, through the marvelous kindness and love of God, I am as well as I ever felt since I have been in this estate. I have not words to express my joy and gratitude to God for bringing me, several times, from the verge of the grave. But I feel to consecrate myself anew to His service who hath loved me, and gave himself for me.

I have experienced much since I entered upon this ministry that I trust has proven a great blessing to my soul and has greatly improved my experience of the goodness and mercy of the Lord. He has ever been faithful. I would that all men knew this. I have been nearly round the globe in the service of my Maker, and I can bear this testimony, that I have never lacked for food, and raiment, and conveyance to carry me from nation to nation, and from one country to another people.

While I was in Madras the Lord was ever near to provide relief; and nearly all that was put into my heart I was able to accomplish. Why I say nearly all is, because on account of the peculiar circumstances of one or two friends, I was not enabled to complete the arrangements that I thought necessary to give an impetus to the work in that country. I was anxious to have ordained a Mr. Mills, formerly a Baptist preacher, to the holy priesthood, that he might have been an instrument in translating the truth into Samli language, and of preaching to the Hindoos and Mahomedans in that language. He, however, was getting out of the employ of the Missionaries in a few days, and he pledged me his word that he would shortly be baptised by br. Skelton. We had, previous to my leaving, ordained a br. McCarthy (formerly also a preacher) to the office of an elder. He promised to translate, or write a proclamation of the gospel, to be published in the Selagoo tongue. He is a young man of excellent education, a good preacher, and I trust may be of some service in making manifest the gospel, to that benighted people.

My beloved br. Skelton, who had been exceedingly faithful, I left in charge of the work. He intended to visit Bangalore, and some other important stations, in the interior of the country.

The progress of the work in Madras, and other parts of India, had been so small while I was there, that President Jones said we might leave Madras, and go where we chose. We had the satisfaction of his testimony, and of a clear conscience, that we had been faithful, and had done our duty to that people; nevertheless, we still felt to make a further effort for the poor benighted nations of India.—But I could not tarry, as my vital organs were so seriously impaired as to leave but little hope of my ever recruiting in that oppressive climate.

I am now near London, and hope in a few days to be in a country, where, with a more healthy constitution, and blessings of the Holy Spirit, I may do something for the glory of God.

Though we are often repulsed from society, and have our names cast out as evil, and are accounted as the worst of men, and the most obnoxious of society, yet there is a joy and a glory in the testimony of Jesus, which the world knows nothing of. I do praise the name of our God, that I was ever accounted worthy of the gospel, and of bearing it to others. It is a sweet and glorious calling.

Though a messenger of salvation to the nations has to forfeit the society of Zion—of teachers, saints, and family—yet God is with us; and though we go down into hell He is there, and we can pass through the fire not only unscorched, but with praises in our hearts. True, br. Brigham says that in Zion the saints can walk by sight, but it is an excellent thing, and most precious, to learn to walk by faith. Then the whirlwinds may howl; the tempests may blow; and all the elements may conspire for our destruction; but when God is near all is well. Those who learn to cherish the Holy Spirit, and know its voice, and walk by it, can never be deceived nor destroyed till God shall permit it.

Perhaps, my brother, you might be better satisfied with this letter were I to have given you a detail of circumstances and events, instead of thus expressing the feelings of my heart; but you know it is good to unbosom our feelings to a friend, and therefore I hope you will excuse me being thus general.

I would here say that I have written more minutely to others, and think it will be my duty to write a report to President Young when I arrive in London or Liverpool.—So, all together, you may learn as much as may be necessary.

I would here say that I trust myself and brethren are not forgotten by you. We need your prayers, and I believe there is great efficacy in them. So long as we could meet in union abroad, we found great comfort and certainty in all that we undertook; and shall we not therefore, consider that the priesthood in Zion shall be heard in our behalf. I can assure you, my brother, that the darkness is such as may be felt, even by those who are

not very sensitive, and I have thought that some of our brilliant lights in Zion might be apt to make an explosion in the world. At any rate, it seems to be the policy to keep the more experienced at home, that Zion may be polished, after the similitude of a palace.

The wars in Europe are trying the rulers to the very centre. All their ingenuity is taxed, and they hardly know what to do. Russia is prosecuting the war with an iron constitution. Her skill and resources far exceed what was calculated upon by England and France. They are perplexed, and general disappointment fills the minds of the English people. The Navy in the Black Sea, and Baltic, have not done what was expected. A great slaughter of Turkish, French, English, and Russian troops has taken place during the summer. There is no prospect of the war ending. Inextricable difficulties are presenting themselves to the European governments.

I could write much, but I must stop. Suffice it to say, that God is visiting the nations with a sore vexation. I think often of your quiet and peaceful resting place in the mountains. Love to all. Amen. May God bless you and family, and all saints in the name of Jesus.

RICHARD BALLANTYNE.

[For the Deseret News.]

Novel Reading.

MR. EDITOR:—In the course of my wanderings lately about this goodly city of ours, I happened to drop into a ward meeting house, where, among the other things of interest brought on the tapis, was the subject of novel reading. The remarks made caused me to have some reflections which I have taken the liberty of writing, hoping that they may prove of sufficient interest to merit a perusal.

It is argued by the advocates of novel reading that there is a sufficient amount of information gathered from them to repay the reader for the time spent in their perusal.—And that as Mormonism comprises all truth, the time may be profitably spent in seeking it among the piles of light literature which has flooded the world for the last few years.

Now this, in my opinion, is but poor reasoning, for as far as my own personal experience is concerned, I have found that the benefit derived is by no means an equivalent for the time expended. If truth is the object desired by our people in reading novels, I should think it would be much more consistent in them to thoroughly search for and glean all the truths contained in our own works first, for we have an abundance to occupy the most of our attention. There are no truths, either historical or scientific, of any consequence, that we cannot find in far greater abundance in works on these subjects than we can in works of fiction. And in pursuing these works the judgment is informed, correct habits of reading established, and the reasoning powers are developed, which is not apt to be the case when novels are the works read. Another fact is, that let a habit of reading novels once be formed, it is very distasteful to read anything else, especially works that do not appeal to the imagination—the Book of Mormon, Book of Covenants, Bible, &c., require too much the exercise of the reasoning and thinking faculties to make them suitable to the taste of this class of readers. These works are of so very different a nature, and there is such a difference in the spirit that it is a very rare thing to see a person that is attached to reading one class of these works that will feel much or any inclination to read the other to any extent; they are almost sure to "hold to one and despise the other."

I have heard it advanced as an argument in favor of novel reading, that by perusing these works we become acquainted with the different styles of conveying ideas in our language, and consequently, our own style and language is improved; and that we ought to be like bees, collect the sweet from every thing and not confine ourselves to the sweet flowers alone, but seek it where it can be found.

This view of the case will do no doubt very well to theorise upon, but I am bold to assert that, wherever practiced and carried out fully, it has a pernicious effect, and the result is a deterioration of intellect, because the powers of the mind are not sufficiently exercised, and therefore they necessarily lose their power of concentration. I am aware that there are many among us, who probably will not agree with me in my views of this subject, but this I cannot help. I am fully convinced that these views, however roughly stated, are borne out by facts, and I am earnestly desirous of seeing these things taken into consideration. Novels do receive too much attention from our people, especially from the young; and as there seems to be a spirit of improvement rife at the present time, let us lay aside the works of fiction, which, be assured, only tend to feed the imagination and engender false and romantic ideas without inferring the judgment, and substitute in their place the revelations of Jesus Christ as given through His prophets and apostles, ancient and modern, together with histories of kingdoms and nations, works of a scientific nature, and such other truthful works as may be thrown in our way, and my word for it, if this course is pursued, there will be an improvement that we may seek for in vain among a novel reading community; and instead of the habits of reading and thinking superficially which are now so prevalent, and which I attribute to the baneful habit of reading novels, we shall have the habit formed of thinking deeply and soundly on every subject that we may read and have also a corresponding increase in our stock of useful information.

With desires for the increase of correct habits and principles among the Zion of God,

I remain, sir, yours,

A COSMOPOLITE.

[In all communications for the 'News,' the Editor must be furnished with the name of the writer, or a good article may have to be rejected.—Ed.]

Home Correspondence.

PROVO CITY, May 1, 1855.

EDITOR OF THE NEWS:—On Sunday the 28th ult., I addressed the Seventies at Lake City, and ordained Peter Smith, and John Shelly into the quorum of Seventies, and set them apart for their mission; arrived at Provo in the evening. Monday, called a meeting of the missionaries who had been appointed from Provo, viz: Wm. B. Pace, Sidney Carter, Clinton Williams, John Clark, James A. Bean, John McEwan, James A. Ivie, Thomas G. Wilson, John W. Turner, William A. Pollet, John L. Ivie, and Benjamin Clough. Five of these were ordained to

the office of Seventies, and all were set apart to their several missions by the laying on of hands. Their blessings were phonographically reported by elder John B. Millner. Elder James Alfred of San Pete, Prest. Higbee, Andrew Moore, and Elder James Ivie addressed the missionaries in a very interesting manner, and at 6 o'clock, p. m., they met at the water's edge, where I had the pleasure of re-baptising and confirming them. In the evening I attended the City Council, and listened to an investigation of different plans for watering the City of Provo. The grasshoppers are making great havoc with the young crops, sweeping the ground bare. The city wall is progressing moderately.

I am very respectfully, yours, &c.,

GEO. A. SMITH.

Report of the 28th Quorum.

The following is a list of the Presidency and members of the 28th Quorum of Seventies and their present residences so far as known.

PRESIDENTS,

MOSES MECHAM—Utah.

URIAH CURTIS "

JONATHAN H. HOLMES—Davis County.

JOSEPH HORNE—G. S. L. City.

JAMES STANDING "

HECTOR C. HAIGHT—On mission to England.

E. T. MUMFORD—G. S. L. City.

MEMBERS,

George W. Boyd—On mission to Israel.

James M. Chadwick, John Welch, Wm. Carter, George Hales, Robert Brown, Samuel Turnbow, Francis Platt, Robert Watson—G. S. L. City.

James Lewis, Otis L. Terry—G. S. L. County.

Alexander Clough, Charles H. Drury, Wm. A. Follet, John Sessions, Wm. B. Mikesell, George W. Clift, John Cole, Wm. B. Sessions, Lorenzo H. Hatch, Gideon D. Wood—Utah.

William Ritchie—On mission.

Judson Talmou—Tooele County.

John Huntington—Council Bluffs City.

John Ellis—Davis County.

Samuel Wilcox, Wm. B. Taylor, John B. Dingman, Green Alfred, Noah S. Coltrin, James B. Lyman, Jonah A. Miller, Jon Lawrence, John D. Court, Lorenzo Tracy, Isaac C. Niles, Alexander Allen, Jacob F. Abbott, Thomas Hill, Herman Abel, Jesse Barber, Frederic Pettegrew, Amos Barrows, Peter C. Vrooman, Jos. F. Tracy, John R. Walker, Jacob Houshelt, Rufus King, Samuel Clark, Henry Stephens, John B. Porter, Peter Richardson, Daniel S. Jackson, James Hutchins, Roswell Stevens, Benjamin Willis—Residences not known.

Appointments have been made for the quorum to meet on the last Saturday in each month, at 6 o'clock p. m., in the 14th ward school house, and it is requested that the brethren residing in the City (and those at a distance as often as they can consistently) will be punctual to attend our meetings, and be united with us in our efforts to magnify our callings in the Priesthood. All members of this quorum whose place of residence is not known are requested to report the same, and their genealogies immediately. Those neglecting to comply with this may expect their places filled by others.

By order of the Presidents,

JAMES STANDING, Clerk.

Report of 33th Quorum.

The following is a list of the Presidency and members of the 33th Quorum of Seventies, and their present residences as far as known:

PRESIDENTS.

BENJAMIN F. GROUARD—San Bernardino.

RICHARD R. HOPKINS "

THOMAS WRIGLEY—American Fork.

ELISHA H. DAVIS—Sessions' Settlement.

DANIEL S. CAHOON—South Cottonwood.

JESSE W. FOX—G. S. L. City.

O. B. HUNTINGTON "

MEMBERS.

John T. Oaine—Mission to the Islands.

Charles C. Cowley, Thomas Stewart, William R. Jones, Edmund F. Bird, Johannes A. Ninde, William G. Dunn, Christopher L. Riding, John Given, Gerrit P. Burnett, Thomas Hollis, Richard Britton, Abraham Noe, Charles W. Player, John Quayle, James Carmichael, Jacob Pearl Jr., David Evans, John Marchants, Robert Hughes, James Wardsworth, John Morgan, Thomas Child, Henry Heath, James Wells, William S. Vanoy, Henry Emery, Robert Barrow, Daniel Bull, Charles Brewerton, Robert Daft, Dominico Ballo, James Eardley—G. S. L. City.

Thomas R. Williams—Box Elder.

Geo. Bowering, William Haslem, Charles C. Woodhouse—Iron county.

Harris W. Odell—Oregon.

Jeffrey Dinsdale—Kay's Creek.

William C. Lewis, Taylor Crosby—San Bernardino.

William Ivens—American Fork.

William Hudson—Lehi.

Joshua Gihit—B. T. City.

Edwin Bryant—English Fort, West Jordan.

John Davis—Palmyra.

William B. Cusworth—Grantsville.

John Lowe—Bingham's Fort.

Julius A. C. Austin, Robert Wimmer, John R. Crosby, David Jones, John Ekhs, John G. Edwards—Residences and standing unknown.

William Walker 1st—Gone to the States.

Geo. H. Drake—Cut off.

James Foster—Mission to England.

O. B. Huntington and William Nixon—going on mission to Israel.

All members whose residences are not known, are requested to report themselves, either by letter or in person, with their genealogies in full that the record may be filled up in order.

Quorum meets every Sunday evening at the house of Wm. Nixon, one block west of his store, immediately after the meeting in the Tabernacle.

WM. G. DUNN, Clerk.

THE GREAT IRON SHIP.—At the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company, lately held at London, the following account of the monster ship, now in process of construction on the Thames, was given.—The dimensions of the ship are as follows:

The extreme length of the main deck will be 700 feet; extreme length of keel, 675 feet; extreme breadth of beam, 53 feet; depth of hold, forming four decks, 60

feet—drawing 20 feet of water light, and 30 feet loaded; tonnage, 10,000, or by builder measurement, 22,000 tons; stowage for coal, 10,000 tons; stowage for cargo, 5,000 tons; 600 first-class cabins, (state rooms,) with ample space for 1,000 second and third class passengers, besides troops, &c.; the screw and paddle-engines will be of the aggregate nominal power of 2,000 horse. She will also carry an enormous quantity of sail.

OUT OF JOINT.—Punch and the British Bible Society are at loggerheads. The latter pious Association has offended the sarcastic writer, by noting that the Czar of Russia was a friend of the Bible, because he remitted a duty of about £400 on a shipment of British Bibles.—Punch in a fit of patriotism, exclaims: "Tattoo £ s. d. on the back of Satan, and these men will drop down on their knees before him!" Very complimentary to British piety. [And very applicable to all regions of Christendom.]

MARRIED:

On Monday, April 23, 1855, by Daniel Burch, of Weber County, Mr. EDWARD RISTON and Miss MARYANN SLATER. Both of Weber County.

On Sunday, May 6, by Bishop Silas Richards, Mr. ELIAS COX, and Miss MARTHA RICHARDS.

Also, Mr. WARREN P. BRADY and Miss RACHEL COX. All of Union, U. T. (And all take the paper.)

DIED:

In G. S. L. City, on the 4th inst., EMELINE, daughter of Frederick and Emeline Kesler, aged 9 months and 20 days.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**FOR SALE.**

AN Adobie House 15 by 20 and half
A lot situated in the 4th Ward, G. S. L. City; cash, cattle, or what taken for pay—apply to Mr. James Cummings, Council House, or to Wm. Reeves, Centerville, Davis County. 9-11

House and half Lot For Sale.

THE Dwelling House and Forge as
formerly occupied by W. J. Westwood on Emigration St., nearly opposite Mrs. Tuff's Eagle Mansion; apply to Wm. Chambers or Wm. Howard. Mr. Chambers is authorized to collect debts for work done. 9-31

NOTICE

THE undersigned will apply at the
next County Court of Great Salt County, for a grant of a Herd Ground, the center of which to be the Salt Pond near the Island Road about 10 miles Northwest of this City. EDWIN D. WOOLLY, BRYANT STRINGHAM. 9-31

LOST.

A COW 7 years old, red mixed with
white, a star in her forehead, and widish horns, and branded P on the left hip. Mr. Thomas Child of the 15th ward, near Jordan bridge, will reward the finder on the cow being restored. G. D. WATT. 9-21

STRAYED.

FROM the bench North of the city
one dark red OX, line back, short tail, star in the forehead, some white under the belly, S A K on the left horn. Any body giving information of the said OX at the Titling Office shall be well rewarded. 9-21 H. T. BINGHAM, Big Cottonwood.

BISHOPS TAKE NOTICE:

THAT there will be an Election of
School Trustees, held in the several wards of this city on or before the First Saturday in June next; agreeable to an Ordinance in relation to Common Schools, passed May 4th, 1855. The Trustees when elected will give bonds at my office. ROBERT CAMPBELL, City Recorder. 9-21

OLIPHANT & WILLIAMS:

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
respectfully tender their services to the citizens of G. S. L. City, feeling confident from long experience in the business that they will be able to give satisfaction and respectfully solicit a share of public patronage. O & W can be found in the 12th Ward, next East of School House. 9-31

STRAYED OR STOLEN,

ON or about the 6th of April, from
near Ensign Peak, a span of bay Spanish Horses, one is about 5 and the other 7 years old; branded W H on the left thigh, one has a star in his forehead; both have heavy black manes and tails. Any person giving information where they can be found will be rewarded by 9-6w WILLIAM D. HENDREX, 19th ward.

FOR SALE,

AT the Salt Lake City Post Office,
Stamped Envelopes at the following rates:—Three cent Letter Size, at \$3.20 per 100. Six "do 6.20 do Six cent official size, at 6.32 do Post Masters, Merchants, and others in this Territory can be furnished with any of the above by remitting the cash. 9-31 E. SMITH, P. M.

WATER EXCURSION.

THE sail boat Deseret, is now ready
to take parties out on the water, for pleasure excursions, either on Jordan or Salt Lake, on reasonable terms. Inquire of the undersigned, half a block West of the 16th ward school house. 9-21 J. COWDY.

N. B.—The above boat will be let or sold on reasonable terms to any person who would like to embark in such a business. J. C.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

WILLIAM HOWARD begs leave
to inform the public that he has purchased the large and extensive stock of goods belonging Messrs. C. A. & E. H. PERRY; and will have the whole removed to his NEW STORE, East of Branham & Norris, on Thursday the 10th inst. It would be too tedious to mention the different items of such a stock. Suffice it to say that it will be found on inspection, well assorted in every article suitable to the market. The goods will be re-marked and the prices reduced. 9-11

\$50 REWARD.

STRAYED from the pasture of Josiah
Miles, 12 miles North of this city, in the month of August last, two American Horses, medium size, four and six years old, one dark bay or brown, the other a light mouse color with a black stripe down the back, both have been branded on the shoulder, but perhaps grown out. Whoever will bring the above animals to Dr. HURT, will receive the above reward, or any information leading to the recovery of them will be liberally rewarded; Also, one small black male with white spots of his back, mane roached, faint Spanish Brand on the hip, lately owned by J. A. Kelting, of Provo; any one delivering the same to Dr. HURT, of this City, will receive Ten Dollars for his trouble. 9-31 LUCIAN L. BEDELL.