

month, as far as my knowledge extends, from which you will perceive that there is very little sickness of any kind prevailing, and this has been the case throughout the entire winter.

Perhaps I may be permitted, on this occasion, to give publicity to some of my ideas respecting the climate of this mountain region, and its influence upon the health of the body. The result of a careful analysis of the numerous cases which have come under my care during the past eighteen months, has led me to a conclusion—somewhat startling, but not the less true,—viz.; that there is no disease which has yet come under my notice in this place, which could fairly and honestly be attributed to the influence of the climate! And although I have visited every latitude of this northern hemisphere, I am bound to award the palm to this, over every other country, for health and bodily and mental vigour!

Every case of disease, I have met with thus far, has either been imported (in the germ or otherwise) from other localities—or, is the result of hereditary taint—or, lastly (perhaps the most numerous class), is caused by disregarding those principles which the Lord has revealed, in these days, for our guidance in matters pertaining to our temporal salvation. This fault I have generally found to arise from a want of knowledge respecting the influence which an enlightened observance of these principles exercises, not only upon the health of the body, but also upon the development of our physical, moral, and intellectual capacities.

The precepts and promises contained in the "Word of Wisdom" bear towards each other the exact relation of cause and effect. Here then we have a clue to the mystery of much of the sickness which prevails, especially amongst our little ones, and the want of faith in the ordinances of the church so often manifested amongst us. For no one living in open violation of the wise counsels of our Heavenly Father, can honestly believe that he will ever go out of his way to work miracles for healing diseases brought on by our own folly and wickedness—hence they fly for aid to the use of nauseous drugs; which, although for a time they may relieve, can never cure disease.

This is a fact now admitted by the most intelligent modern physicians, that medicine never did, or ever can, cure disease. Professor Gregory, of London, remarks in the introduction of his great work on the Practice of Medicine, "As a general principle of the first importance, I wish to inculcate strongly upon the student, that the cure of all diseases must be effected by the powers inherent in the living system, and that remedies are only to be employed with a view to placing the body under the most favorable circumstances for resisting disease." In a word remove impurities of all kinds, cleanse the body outside and inside, cease to clog up the delicate machinery of the system by improper food or otherwise; then, and not till then, will the Spirit of the Lord be poured out in the ordinance of anointing and the laying on of hands, and the sick shall be healed as in days of old—then, and not till then, physicians in our midst may close their offices—drugs, along with all other Gentile abominations, be banished from the community—and I for one will have cause to rejoice in being relieved from the care and anxiety inseparable from a faithful discharge of the duties now devolving upon me.

These are my views, and I wish them to be known more extensively, that my name may never be identified with the miserable creatures who make a trade of the sufferings of their fellow men, and whose conduct has rendered the very name of physician or "doctor" odious.

My object, on all occasions, is to extend a knowledge of the human system, and of the laws which regulate our organization; that by strictly observing those laws, we may bring our bodies into the best possible condition for resisting disease—so that when the destroying angel goes forth, he shall have no power over us.

You are at liberty to make what use you think proper of these remarks, which are but a glance, as it were, at the great and glorious truths which unfold themselves to the mind, on investigating and following out the principles of the "Word of Wisdom."

Believe me ever faithfully,

Your brother in the gospel covenant,
WM. FRANCE.

Medical and Surgical Report of cases under my care, for the month ending March 31, 1855.

Diseases of the lungs	6
" " liver	3
" " skin	4
Canker	5
Chronic disease of kidney	2
Difficult dentition	5
Rheumatism	1
Piles	1
Fits	2
Inflammation of eyes	3
Karache	1
Toothache	3
Surgical cases, consisting of wounds, fractures, dislocations, abscesses, surgical operations, &c.	16
Total	62
Cured, 35. Dead, 1. Remaining under treatment, 16.	

WM. FRANCE.

We cheerfully comply with the request to publish the following communication, regretting that press of business prevented our being present at the closing examination.

For the Deseret News,
COMPLIMENTARY.

To ELDER ORSON HYDE:

Dear Sir:—Inasmuch as the term of our Grammar Class is expired, we beg unitedly to tender you our sincere thanks and gratitude for the zeal and unremitting assiduity with which you have labored to impart unto us a thorough knowledge of the science of our language. The progress we have made under your able tuition far exceeds our most sanguine expectations. We attribute this to the untiring patience you have manifested in explaining and illustrating every principle that has come under our observation: while the urbanity of manners you have displayed on all occasions has won our warmest affection and esteem.

As a class we have labored under great disadvantages, in not being able to devote that time to study which the

science necessarily requires; having to labor all day at our various occupations; but the knowledge we have already gained in the short space of thirty evenings convinces us that it only requires a little application to make us fully conversant with every principle of this important branch of education.

We reflect with pleasure on the harmony and good feeling that have characterized all the meetings of this large class. The divine blessing was invoked at its commencement, and has been richly felt throughout our studies. We feel highly gratified with the result of our examination, and proud of the encomiums passed upon us by Professor O. Pratt, Lorenzo Snow, and the other learned visitors.

We cannot separate without expressing a hope that the progress we have made may prove an incentive to many others to begin the study of the science of their own language, a knowledge of which will enable them to express themselves with elegance and propriety; and we hope and trust that ere long many grammar classes will be formed in this city and territory.

From what we have seen during our studies, we feel that much of the pupil's advancement depends on the tutor; for your example has taught us that grammar, which is generally looked upon as dry and uninteresting, may be rendered both amusing and engaging.

And now, dear brother Hyde, as you are about to take your departure from this city, and settle down in a distant part of the Territory to fill an important station, we pray for Heaven's choicest blessings to rest upon you and yours, that you may be prospered in all things, and that you may be to many, what you have been to us—a blessing.

Signed in behalf of the class,

W. WOODRUFF,
JAMES URE,
GILBERT CLEMENTS.

G. S. L. CITY, U. T., March 30, 1855.

THE DESERET NEWS.

Eternal Truth and Liberty.

ALBERT CARRINGTON:.....EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY:

Wednesday-----April 11, 1855.

BOOK, JOB, AND CARD PRINTING executed to order.

ADVERTISEMENTS to ensure insertion in the current number, must be handed in previous to 1 o'clock, p. m., on Tuesday.

DURING THE CONFERENCE held on the 6th, 7th, and 8th inst. the elements were very propitious, and the assembled thousands of the Saints evidenced, by their strict attention, perfect unanimity of voting, and readiness to comply with all the requirements of the Lord, that union, faith, and obedience were constantly on the increase. This fact alone cheers and encourages not only the righteous but all good men; and in this principle is couched the true why of the constant and fierce opposition of all evil spirits, and wicked persons. The devil may laugh in high glee at the great power temporarily committed to him, and at the gross darkness and wickedness that he has succeeded in spreading over the earth; wicked people may exult in their oppression of the just, and sinners and the ungodly may point their finger of scorn, and scoff at the institutions of High Heaven; but the purposes of the Almighty will go forth unto their accomplishment, and every Latter-Day Saint who cleaves to the "rod of iron" will pass safely through the mists of error, overcome the "world, the flesh, and the devil," and inherit the blessings promised by Jehovah.

POTATOS.—At no small risk of running against some one's hobby we venture to suggest the moshanic as the best kind of potato now in the Territory, and among the different varieties of that kind we prefer those which have blue streaks passing through them.

We should not now be so venturesome on this matter had not so many indifferent kinds been brought here from various localities, and from the fact that a little carelessness in the choice of seed perpetuates much actual loss.

The moshanic is fine flavored, but little subject to rot, keeps well, yields well, ripens soon, is palatable when quite young, and wintered in pits remains mealy until new potatoes are again raised. As it costs no more to raise a good potato than a poor one, and as the quantity raised affords a chance for exercising a choice that will most amply repay all trouble in the matter, it is really an object worthy of proper care, not only for the sake of our families, but for the comfort, health, and benefit of our animals who also have tastes and stomachs. Having been thus venturesome we leave the question of seed from large, middle sized, or small potatoes, or from large or small cuttings, the best times and modes of planting in garden and field, &c., to be treated upon at an early date by some of our experienced farmers and gardeners, which we hope they will soon find leisure to do for the benefit of their brethren who are less skilled.

For early use it will generally answer on dry soils to begin to plant from the 1st of March,

and we have found it a very good method to plant fair sized cuttings, from good sized potatoes, in drills from 2½ to 3 feet apart, about 9 inches apart in drills, and about 4 inches deep, leaving and tilling the surface level, except the shallow water furrows.

RATHER TOO LATE.—We regret that the minutes of the last Fall's Conference at San Bernardino did not come to hand until the 9th inst; we hope that the clerk will not be so remiss in future.

PEACH TREES in this city began to bloom on the 1st inst, in warm and sheltered localities, and if no unusually late, hard frosts happen the bearing trees will be heavily loaded with fruit.

MYSTERIES OF THE OCEAN.—A few days ago a paper, containing the results of various observations made in the coast survey by A. D. Bache, was read before the Scientific Association at Washington. Among other interesting passages, was one relating to the shape of the floor or bottom of the ocean, showing that some extraordinary depressions exist along our own coast.

"For instance, on the seaward line abreast of Charleston, from the shore to sixty miles out, the depth increases pretty gradually, till at that distance it has acquired a depth of one hundred fathoms—(600ft). But it soon deepens with great rapidity, as if on the one side of a mountain until at about eighty miles out, the ocean bottom is more than six hundred and fifty fathoms—(3900ft) from the surface.

This continues forward less than ten miles, when the depth as suddenly decreases to not more than three hundred and fifty fathoms—(2100ft), which so goes on only a few miles, when it again deepens to about five hundred fathoms—(3000ft), with subsequent fluctuations. There is therefore a submerged mountain peak or ridge between these points, of a truly remarkable character.

The differences in the temperature of the water vary almost precisely according to the change of contour of the bottom, showing that the temperature at great depths is much modified by the proximity of the ocean's bed. It appears that the gulf stream, whilst certainly not superficial, does not run to the bottom, for off Cape Florida, at twelve hundred fathoms—(7200ft), the water in summer is of a temperature of 33 deg. Fahrenheit, a degree below the average winter temperature much further north.—[Ex.]

THE CURIOUS THRUSS.—There is much more intellect in birds than people suppose. An instance of that occurred the other day at a slate quarry, belonging to a friend from whom we have the narrative. A thrush, not aware of the expansive properties of gunpowder, thought proper to build her nest on a ridge of the quarry, in the very centre of which they were constantly blasting the rock.

At first she was very much discomposed by the fragments flying in all directions, but still she would not quit her chosen locality. She soon observed that a bell rung whenever a train was about to be fired, and that, at the notice, the workmen retired to safe positions.

In a few days when she heard the bell, she quitted her exposed situation, and flew down to where the workmen sheltered themselves—dropping close to their feet. There she would remain until the explosion had taken place, and then returned to her nest. The workmen observed this—narrated it to their employers, and it was also told to visitors who came to view the quarry.

The visitors naturally expressed a wish to witness so curious a specimen of intellect; but, as a rock could not always be blasted when visitors came, the bell was rung instead, and for a few minutes answered the same purpose. The thrush flew down close to where they stood, but she perceived that she was trifled with, and it interfered with the process of incubation; the consequence was that afterwards, when the bell was rung, she would peep over the ledge to ascertain if the workmen did retreat, and if they did not, she would remain where she was.—[Jardine.]

CURIOSITY.—A writer in the 'Floridian and Journal' says: The upper stratum of Florida rests on one vast net-work of irregular arches of stupendous magnitude, through which innumerable rivers, creeks, and mineral waters, in silent darkness, perpetually flow. Wakulla, Ocala, Wacissa, Crystal, Homosassa, Chesiouitska, Wichawatcha, and Silver Spring, are the principal rivers.

The creeks of this denomination are too numerous to mention—most of them afford fine mill-sites. They are, too, partly or wholly navigable for the smaller class of steam and sail vessels, throughout the entire distances of their subterranean courses. Those that are not, can be made so with comparatively small trouble and little expense. The same writer also says, that the number of mineral and thermal springs in Florida is more than two thousand. Their principal solid ingredients are the sulphates of lime, magnesia and soda, oxide of iron, and some iodine. Their volatile ingredients consist of sulphuretted hydrogen, carbonic acid and nitrogen gases.

These gases soon evaporate if the water be exposed in an open vessel to the atmosphere; its taste then becomes insipid, in some cases either magnesian or acrid.

If Florida be so thickly imbedded with mineral ores, will it not clash with the theory of Professor Agassiz, who says that Florida was built by the coral worm, and other marine ani-

malculae, and that it took them upwards of one hundred thousand years to accomplish it?—[Home Journal.]

STRANGE AND STARTLING PHENOMENON.—Saturday evening about half past seven o'clock, or within fifteen or twenty minutes after sundown, a meteor first visible within a short distance of the zenith fell to a point in the heavens to the westward about three hours above the horizon. It was the size and apparent brilliancy of a large rocket. At that point luminous sparks and light passed from it, which it left in its wake as it passed about the distance the sun would measure in half an hour, when a final explosion took place fiery particles passing off in different directions and the main body of light disappeared. The luminous appearance, or trail from where the first partial explosion took place, remained as did also a brilliant light at the point of its final disappearance.

The display at this time was that of two highly lustrous clouds, the one about two hours and the other about two hours and a half high.—They were connected together by a fainter luminous streak, that was in form like a chain of lightning, and waved to and fro with a gentle undulating motion. The two more brilliant portions changed to two indistinct forms, and finally, as they faded, the upper resolved into the shape of a figure three and afterwards of an inverted crescent. The lower took almost any form the imagination suggested, once that of an inverted figure 5, then of the head and shoulders of a horse, then, as many asserted, of a bear.—At the end of half or three quarters of an hour the whole pageant finally disappeared.

The appearance was more strange than anything we ever saw, and unlike anything of which we ever read. Meteors, and very bright meteors, are frequently seen, but the trail left by this hung in the western sky like a steamer from a battleship, from shortly after sundown till after 8 o'clock, and was witnessed by large numbers of our citizens, some of whom asserted that in its shining crescent and dislimning bear, it forbode Turkish triumphs and Russian disasters by sea and land.—[Madison (Wis.) Democrat, 1854.]

THE late Sharon Turner, author of the 'History of the Anglo-Saxons,' who received three hundred a-year from Government as a literary pension, says the London Court Journal, 'wrote the third volume of his 'Sacred History of the World' upon paper which did not cost him a farthing. The copy consisted of torn and angular fragments of letters and notes, of covers of periodicals, gray, drab, or green, written in thick round hand over a small print; of shreds of curling-paper, unctuous with pom-tum or bear's grease, and of the white wrappers in which his proof were sent from the printer. The paper, sometimes as thin as a bank-note, was written on both sides, and was so sodden with ink, plastered on with a pen worn to a stump, that hours were frequently wasted in discovering on which side of it certain sentences were written. Men condemned to work on it, saw their dinner vanishing in illimitable perspective, and first-rate hands groaned over it a whole day for tenpence. One poor fellow assured the writer of this paper that he could not earn enough upon it to pay his rent, and that he had seven mouths to fill besides his own.

In the hope of mending matters in some degree, slips of stout white paper were sent frequently with the proofs; but the good gentleman could not afford to use them, and they never came back as copy.'

SPANNING THE MISSISSIPPI.—The North Western Democrat (Minnesota) of the 9th, announces the completion of the Minneapolis Suspension Bridge.

About eleven o'clock in the morning of 5th inst, the last floor beam of this beautiful structure having been suspended and secured, we crossed upon the first spans that have ever united the opposite banks of the Mississippi. The occasion was one of interest and pride.

The length of span is 620 feet; vertical deflection of cables, 47 feet, which are four in number, and each comprised of 500 strands of No. 10 charcoal iron wire; the width of the platform, inside of parapets, 17 feet; distance between suspending rods, 3 feet 9 inches. The anchorage being a peculiar feature in the construction, it will not be amiss to repeat that tunnels have been driven into the clay, underlying strata of limestone rock of about twelve feet in depth, through which holes have been drilled to receive the irons of the anchorage, which are secured by heavy plates underneath the rock, thus making security doubly sure.

The 'John O'Groat Journal' says, "within the last few weeks two very important and highly interesting discoveries have been made in the lower old red sandstone beds of Wick and Thurso, by Mr. Peach, of this place, the well-known naturalist and zoologist.

Fossil wood and shells, the existence of which in Caithness was hitherto unknown, have been abundantly found in situ; the former at Thurso, and both wood and shells at Wick and in the vicinity; the shells have undergone considerable abrasion.

These are facts extremely interesting to geologists, and will give new life to the explorers of the old red sandstone formation, bestowing as they do, positive evidence of what has formerly been considered, at best but doubtful—the existence of vegetable organisms in the land of the old red period.—[Ex.]

A wise MAN never grows old in spirit; he marches with the age.