

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Four Hours in Nauvoo.

KEOKUK, March 15, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

On the morning of the 14th inst. I met (by accident) at the Keokuk depot Elders D. M. Stuart and J. F. Wells. We were all bound for Nauvoo. Our meeting was of that character that a "Mormon" Elder only can appreciate when away from home.

Upon our arrival in Nauvoo we repaired at once to the "Nauvoo House," now the "River Side Mansion," and kept by L. C. Bidaeman. That part of the building facing the river has been roofed in, one story above the basement, and five rooms have been finished. The unfinished part has resisted the fury of storms and the ravages of thirty years of time, and stands firm and solid. The "Mansion House" proper is now occupied by Alexander Smith and family, and presents a faded appearance. The "Lord's Store House" is unoccupied, but in good condition. The "Masonic Hall" is decaying and has a German occupant. The "Arsenal" is not defaced, but has been turned into a dwelling and presents a fine appearance. The "Printing Office" is a little shabby, the upper part is used as a dwelling. Patriarch Hyrum Smith's house was burned down some years ago. The lot upon which it stood is now cultivated entire as a garden.

## THE TEMPLE

was, but is not, the only trace remaining of this ever-to-be-remembered edifice being the "well," that has been walled to the surface of the ground and curbed. This well furnishes water for the residents who occupy houses and stores that have been built on every side of the Temple Block. Each of us drank of this water. The ground upon which the Temple stood is now a garden. There is a two story dwelling standing upon the south-west corner of the block; the lower part is used for a drug store, the upper part for a dwelling, the walls of which are built entirely of the blocks of stone that once stood in the walls of the Temple. President B. Young's four square residence is in a good state of preservation. We could not find any place that had given way, but it looks as if it might stand for a century to come. It is now occupied by a family named Slade. President H. C. Kimball's dwelling is well preserved; the block of stone over the porch upon which was cut "H. C. K. 1845," will remain as long as the building stands, but the letters are disappearing. President Willard Richards' house was rebuilt and greatly enlarged four years ago. While the men were engaged digging a cellar at the west end, they found, about five feet below the surface, a slab bearing the following inscription—

JENNETTA RICHARDS,  
Born at Walkerfield, England,  
August 21st, 1817.  
Married to Willard Richards,  
September 24th, 1838.  
Died July 9th, 1845.

This was taken up, also the body under it and found to be unchanged, with the exception of the nose, a portion of one cheek and one hand. It is supposed that the body had been preserved in alcohol, though the parties were not certain. The body was removed to the south-east corner of the lot, carefully buried, and the stone slab placed over it on a level with the surface of the ground. The following houses are in tolerably good condition—P. P. Pratt's, John Taylor's, Lorenzo Snow's, Bishop Hunter's, Samuel Smith's, Jonathan Browning's, —Ivins', —Lyon's, and are all occupied.

The "New York Store" has been converted into a Lutheran church. A very handsome Catholic church has been built along side and on the south of P. P. Pratt's property. There is also a Methodist and Presbyterian church east of the Temple Block. "Foster's row" still stands, but "Foster's brick" near the Temple will soon fall, unless it is taken down. Capt. Anderson's house remains; but has not recovered from the effects of "the battle," when its gables were demolished. The blacksmith's shop is gone. The old grave yard remains intact and has lately been fixed up under the direction of Alexander Smith.

We visited President Wells' former home. Very little remains of the buildings. The present proprietor (a German) has built a two

story brick building close to the old house. He thinks that the apple trees now standing were planted by "the Squire." William and Wilson Law's mill down by the river is still running, but the brick dwelling close by is very dilapidated.

Nauvoo boasts 2,500 inhabitants, mostly German, there being only about forty American families in the town. There are also a few French. Considerable attention is paid to grape culture.

We are largely indebted to Christopher E. Yates for the names of the original owners of the above mentioned properties and would notice a great many more if we could obtain the names. He kindly furnished us a team and wagon and himself and son escorted us around this desolated but beautifully located city. He has built a large house upon the spot once occupied by Father Smith. He has a complete copy of the *Times and Seasons*, well bound, in six volumes, has refused fifty dollars for them and says no amount of money could tempt him to part with them.

We took dinner at the "River Side Mansion." Emma Smith (now Mrs. Bidaeman) presided at the table and engaged us in an interesting conversation for half an hour.

We next visited Montrose, found two of the old stock, full of faith who gladly welcomed us.

Returned to Keokuk at 9.45 p. m., very tired, but highly pleased with our day's work.

JOSEPH E. TAYLOR.

## Short of Hay—Stock Arrangements—Schools—Retrenchment Society—Meetings.

PARIS, March 12th, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

Our Winter set in very early. We had to commence feeding some of our stock in November and will, I think, have to feed nearly another month, unless we have a sudden change in the weather, as we have about two feet of snow on the level. I presume there will be a scarcity of hay, as there are a great many complaining, but by digging out their straw and chaff piles I think we will all get through without losing much stock.

Notwithstanding the long Winter, the people all seem to feel well and enjoy themselves, and are taking measures for taking care of their stock during the coming summer, so that the grain will not be destroyed, as it has been in years past. There were three delegates appointed from each settlement, who met in Paris, and it was unanimously agreed that the young stock should be driven away from the settlements and the cows be herded, so now we anticipate raising large crops.

The Paris co-operative store has moved into the new store, and is doing a good business; measures are going to be taken forthwith to start a dairy in connection with the store.

We have two day schools well attended, the First Ward being taught by Mr. Elijah Pomeroy and his sister, the Second Ward by Mr. Joseph Lewis. We have an excellent Sabbath school, superintended by Bro's Hoge and Price. I think the average attendance is about 150 scholars. We also have a tannery that is nearly completed, and it is the intention of the shareholders to start it as soon as possible and thereby produce their own leather and save the money that would otherwise have to be sent off for an inferior article.

We had a retrenchment society organized here a short time ago, by Sister Horne from Salt Lake City, which, I have no doubt, will be of great benefit to all those concerned.

We have very good meetings, well attended. Prest. Rich and Bishop Bu ge are laboring hard to unite the people, and giving good counsel, which, if carried out, will be of great benefit in days to come. A great many have renewed their covenants, and others will as soon as circumstances will permit. Our home missionaries are laboring diligently in the cause of truth and are doing good. Elders Osmond and Hart, of Bloomington, addressed the Saints in Paris last Sunday-morning and gave good instruction. In the evening Elder Philemon Merrill, of Bennington, gave an excellent discourse on the history of the church at Nauvoo, and exhorted the Saints to be ready to receive every good principle and put it in practice.

FELIX.

## Corruption in High Places.

PROVO, March 24, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

How very mortifying and humiliating it must be to the feelings and pride of every honest American citizen, whether he be religious or irreligious, to think that the leaders and rulers of this great nation cannot be satisfied with very liberal salaries for services rendered to the people, but must conspire to divert the channels of revenue from the treasury into their own private pockets. It seems that our Government, good and glorious, is in the hands of swindlers, thieves and robbers, who are not slow to take the advantages which their high positions give them. They are bringing shame and disgrace upon themselves, upon the Government, and upon the whole nation, in the eyes of all the honorable nations of the earth.

Singular are the ways of Providence to bring shame and disgrace upon a nation who will consent and are eager to accomplish special and proscriptive legislation against the dictates of conscience, against the constitution of our country, and against the laws and requirements of heaven.

Which is the greater cause of reproach to a nation, the existence of honorable marriage, though plural, yet both expedient and necessary, or to be ruled by a dynasty of swindlers, thieves and robbers—a dynasty of its own election and choice?

The conduct of our political rulers and their satellites may bring as severe a storm about their own ears, as their untiring but misguided zeal and natural hate have sought to bring upon the "Mormons" of Utah. Strange are the acts of men; but stronger still, under Providence, are the results of their acts.

GAD.

## Y. M. M. I. A.

SPANISH FORK, March 23, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

We desire to have published through the columns of your paper a report of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of Spanish Fork, which was organized October 23d, 1875, by the young men of this city, the officers consisting of a president, two vice presidents, a secretary and treasurer. It was a success up to March 15, 1876, when it was reorganized by Brethren Milton Hardy and Morris Young. Pursuant to an appointment made by them, a well attended meeting of the people was held on that evening. After some remarks upon the management of and good results that might be derived from such associations the following named brethren were appointed by the people as officers of the same—George H. Brimhall, president; Nicholas Smith, first counselor; Samuel Brockbank, second counselor; Ervin A. Wilson, secretary.

The regular weekly meeting of our association was held on Saturday evening, March 18th, when a goodly number of our young men joined in mutual improvement.

E. A. WILSON, Sec.

## Plenty of Snow—Hay Short—Leap Year—Land Troubles—Whipping &amp;c.

FAIRVIEW, SANPETE, March, 24, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

We have plenty of snow, about two feet, and it is still snowing. We have small hay stacks and little woodpiles. Plenty of stock is dying here and prospect of more going on the same list. The ladies here are taking the opportunity of leap year. They have made several parties, for which we as a community feel very thankful to Mrs. Terry and Miss Hellen Tucker of this place. At a neighboring city, Mount Pleasant, there is considerable lawing over land matters, jumping one another's claims, etc. One man got blacksnaked at that place, which cost the man that used the whip \$57 for breaking the peace. Further proceedings are contemplated. We have a calaboose, one store, three blacksmith shops, several carpenters, and one mill.

The health of the people is good at present.

How is it that the people cannot get to pay for their lands when they go to the land office? Is this on account of that Salt Lake ring?

Yours truly, T. C. H.

## Improvements—Schools—Y. M. M. I. A.—The Drama, &amp;c.

MANTI CITY, Sanpete Co.

March 24th, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

We have not had much time to rest, since Brother J. B. Maiben was appointed bishop here, for he seems to have a genius for creating and planning as much labor as the people are able to perform. He evidently believes that to keep us constantly at work is the best way to keep us out of mischief, but then again let me say, to his credit, that he is by no means idle, but sets us an example of industry himself, and I sometimes think that he is too busy for his own good. His conduct evidently proves that he considers himself the servant of the people.

About the first thing he proposed to do was to go to work and finish our old, dilapidated meeting-house, which we in a short time very successfully accomplished, and we have now a decent and respectable place to meet and worship in, only it is too small, for it seems that the finishing of the house, together with other reasons perhaps, has created a greater taste and desire among the people to go to meeting than formerly. To make our meetings interesting, our lively choir, under the able leadership of Professor J. C. Brown and H. Westenskow, are doing their part well. For the benefit of the choir we have also lately purchased a fine organ.

The next thing to which Bishop Maiben called our attention was our old tithing office, which in a few months assumed a new shape, and a fine and very respectable appearance, both inside and outside.

The next presented to us, as a thing of necessity to be done, was the building of a baptismal font at the warm springs south of Manti. This was soon accomplished, and a great many of the Saints have there had opportunity to renew their covenants.

The next thing that took our attention was a call from headquarters to furnish five missionaries, well equipped, for Arizona. Five young men were selected, who nobly responded to the call, and are now on their way.

While we have been striving to build up the kingdom temporally, we have not neglected the culture of the intellectual man. We have had one high school, two common schools and a couple of private schools in session all winter and spring, with an average daily attendance of about 300 pupils. The high school, under the tuition of Messrs. R. W. Young and A. C. Young, has done a noble work, and our young men and maidens are getting quite interested in the matter of education. Mr. R. W. Young, who has been the principal of the school, is certainly a model teacher, thoroughly qualified for his profession. We have also a Young Men's M. I. A., the members of which, under the able leadership of Prof. F. R. Kenner, have had some very interesting times this past winter. They are publishing a weekly paper called the *Phoenix*. Our Sunday school, in which Bishop Maiben is taking a lively interest, is also in a flourishing and progressive condition. We have a Sunday school library of about 300 selected volumes, in which the youths are much interested; in fact, it has created quite a desire and taste for reading and study among them.

But let me not forget to make honorable mention of our Dramatic Association, which has been making the public laugh or shed tears, at pleasure, by the comical and dramatic performances of the members during the winter months. The great attractions which they have created at the Theatre have made the people feel in their pockets for the cash, which however the Association have not devoted for their own benefit, but have appropriated towards paying off the expenses incurred in repairing and finishing the Meeting-house and Theatre Hall.

The News is always a welcome visitor to Manti.

I remain yours respectfully,  
JOHN H. HOUGAARD.

## Snow—Hay Scarce—Cattle Famishing.

BRIDGEPORT, Bear River, Oneida Co., March 21, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

Bridgeport contains just five families and a station keeper, and

these are situated from half a mile to a mile and a half apart.

We have not done much farming here yet, but have plenty of hay land, which, when properly fenced and watered, will produce an abundance of hay.

Spring delays her coming, snow is from a foot and a half to two feet deep, and hay is getting very scarce. We have had several fine prospects for Spring, and when going to bed at night have indulged in high anticipation of better days, but have awoke in the morning to find our hopes blighted and our troubles increased by two or three more inches of snow on the ground.

I see hereabouts a good many cattle that appear to have no owners, but the truth is the owners have forgotten to heed the old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines," consequently they have to turn their stock on the range to winter. People will find this kind of policy won't pay, and that one cow well fed and sheltered is worth two or three tottering skeletons. Judging from the number of hides I see going to market, they form quite an item of trade. When a man has to skin his cattle in order to make something out of them by getting their hides to sell, I think times are getting pretty hard.

The health of the people is pretty good; better among the children than it was last winter.

Yours respectfully,  
G. FREESTONE.

## Preaching—Scurrilous Publications—Good Attention and Kind Treatment.

TOM'S CREEK, Surry Co., N.C., March 9th, 1876.

## William C. Dunbar, Esq.:

Dear Brother—We have invitations to Virginia and may go there before we go back to Burke Co. We have many calls to fill here before we can leave. It may be one or two months before we can leave here. You know what this preaching out in the world is. We try to obtain the guidance of the Holy Spirit where we shall go and what we shall say. I can assure you we have been much blessed on this mission, in a remarkable manner. Our prayers have been answered and our administrations remarkably blessed, certainly increasing our testimony as to the truth of the gospel of the Son of God being restored and the power of God manifested through the holy priesthood. Of course we find much prejudice and opposition in the minds of the people, but God has blessed us with much boldness and plainness of speech, has raised up friends for us on all hands and has manifested his kindness and mercy towards us, so that we have been protected in the midst of wicked men who would run us out of the country in their blind zeal. Scurrilous publications, in various forms, to poison the minds of the people, are scattered here. But these things are so overdrawn, that when the people hear us preach under the influence of the Holy Ghost and feel of our spirit in their every day associations with us and the influence our Heavenly Father gives us, we have their sympathies and their friendship, and they do not know how to be kind enough to us. We are preaching all the time; that is, every opportunity we can get. On Sunday last we held a meeting out of doors, the school-house being too small to hold the congregation. We had a splendid time. On Monday evening we held another meeting, house crowded. Then on Tuesday at 11 o'clock, Wednesday evening at 7, Thursday morning at 11, and in the evening at about 7. Br. Jno. R. read a chapter in the Bible, and I preached about what I thought three quarters of an hour, sat down, and told him to occupy the rest of the time, as there was still time, the congregation sitting so quiet and orderly. Brother John, however, gave out a hymn and closed the meeting. "Do you know how long you were preaching?" said Bro. John to me. "No," I said, rather surprised. "One hour and a half," said he. I was rather taken down, I confess; as that was about the length of the meeting altogether I thought. We had a crowded house and a splendid time. I am never in favor of long meetings, and confess it seemed a very short meeting to me. I thought I had given Bro. John ample time to say all he wished. I merely relate this circumstance to show you about how we feel.

On Sunday next we expect to