

then took a last look at their departed comrade, when they again formed in line and fired three volleys over his grave. Captain Nystrom sounded "taps," and the boys in blue sadly marched from the last resting place of their respected associate.

### RETURNED ELDERS.

Sunday morning's Union Pacific train, which arrived in this city at 4 o'clock, had among its passengers Elder Joseph A. Buttle of the Sixth ward of this city, who has been on a mission to Great Britain for more than two years past. He left this city March 10, 1894, and on arrival at Liverpool was assigned to the Leeds conference, laboring there as a traveling Elder in opening up a new field. Later he was appointed to preside over the conference, and remained in that calling till released to return home. He met with good success in his labors, finding many people who were desirous of hearing the Gospel. The treatment accorded him generally by the inhabitants of the localities he labored in was very kind, and he made many warm friends. The feeling toward the Latter-day Saints has improved greatly the past few years, and notwithstanding the general indifference to religious investigation, a more inquiring spirit is shown toward the Mormons than formerly. The results of the recent part in the Leeds conference and elsewhere in the British mission show considerable advance and are of the most encouraging character, and the outlook for the future is brighter than for many years. Elder Buttle enjoyed good health in his labors. He visited different parts of England, Wales and Scotland, and sailed from Glasgow on the Furnessia, leaving the Clyde on April 30. The ocean voyage was pleasant, as was also the railway trip from Norfolk to this city. The route followed was via New York, the journey from the latter place to Norfolk being by steamer.

Elder William F. Pratt, whose home is in Huckleby, Millard county, Utah, also returned Sunday morning from Great Britain. Elder Pratt left for the missionary field on April 14, 1894, and upon arriving at his destination was assigned to labor in the Croydon conference, England, in which part of the vineyard he spent his whole time during his absence. He reports the conference in good condition and in fact the outlook there seems to be more encouraging at present than it has been for some time past. Numbers of honest souls are being added to the Church membership and the Elders in their visits are treated with respect and hospitality. Elder Pratt was released to return home on April 30th, at which time there were eight Elders laboring in the Chesham conference, all of whom were in the enjoyment of good health.

The body of Peter Pecarty, the man who, two months ago, put seventy-six sticks of dynamite under the hull of the old smuggling steamer *Isabo* at Port Townsend, Wash., and then stood on an improvised scow almost immediately over to watch the result, was found floating Saturday 150 yards from the scene of the explosion. The corpse still wore all the diving paraphernalia when found.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### ANCESTRY OF HEBER C. KIMBALL.

The News willingly gives space for the following document, not only because it relates to the ancestral history of one of the greatest leaders ever raised up among the Latter-day Saints, but because of the incidental suggestions that tend to show how genealogies are traced in the United States.

MAY, 12th, 1896.

Elder Solomon F. Kimball:

Dear Brother:—To you, as the representative of the family of Heber C. Kimball, I respectfully submit the following report of my efforts to trace the ancestry of the Kimball family of Utah, and the results so far accomplished.

I began researches about three years ago, in the usual way. I had searches made at Sheldon, Franklin Co., Vt., where Heber C. Kimball was born, and at St. Albans, the county seat, but not the faintest clue resulted. I afterwards wrote and sent remittances to expert genealogists in Boston, who are familiar with the records and genealogical literature of New England, but still no clue was found to the antecedents of Solomon Farnham Kimball, the father of Heber C. Kimball.

In the course of my genealogical work in New England during the last eighteen years, I have often met with the name Kimball, and have long been convinced that all bearing the name in that region descended from two brothers named Henry and Richard, who were among the early settlers of Massachusetts. But members of your father's family told me with much apparent confidence that Heber C. Kimball's grandfather came from Scotland to Canada, and that the family came thence to northern Vermont where Heber C. was born.

This theory was in contradiction to the deductions naturally to be drawn from history, for no tide of emigration took such a course; yet it might possibly be true. Again the biography of Heber C. Kimball states that his "grandfather and a brother came from England, in time to assist in gaining the independence of the colonies."

Notwithstanding the high esteem in which I hold this work, I have always believed this statement to be erroneous also, and that an ancestor much more remote than his grandfather founded in America the line from which Heber C. Kimball descended. But every effort to correct or confirm either this statement, or the other respecting the alleged migration from Scotland to Canada and thence to Vermont, failed completely, as did every attempt made by me, in Utah and in the east, to learn even the name of Heber C. Kimball's grandfather. A member of the family in Utah told me he believed it was Thomas, and that the latter, besides Solomon F. had a son Charles; but this information was apocryphal, and, as later developments proved, utterly without foundation in fact.

I had been pursuing my investigations about a year when I learned that Professor S. P. Sharples of Boston was compiling a genealogy of the Kimball family descended from Richard and Henry. I corresponded with him, but he could

give me no information tending to show the line of descent of Solomon F., father of Heber C. Kimball. About a year ago, when in Boston, I called on the Professor, and examined his manuscript with his assistance, but our combined efforts failed to bridge the gap that intervened in the line I sought to connect with his material. I found him an expert genealogist of extensive experience and scrupulous conscientiousness. He, like myself, was confident that the Utah Kimballs descended from the family he was compiling, but the trouble was to establish the exact connection.

During my travels in New England I made thorough searches in the libraries of Boston, and among records in many different towns in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, but totally without success. I did not get a clue to the missing link I was in search of. I next went to Mendon, Monroe Co., New York, where Heber C. Kimball's parents, Solomon F. and Anna (Spaulding) Kimball died, and where their grandson Homer Kimball resides. The latter received me with much kindness, but was totally unable to aid me in closing the gap in his ancestral line. My efforts at Monroe, like all others I had made, were utterly futile so far as supplying the hiatus was concerned, but I came home from there more convinced than ever that my theory of the descent of Heber C. Kimball from one of the two brothers, named above, was correct, and that I would ultimately verify it.

In November last I again left Utah for the eastern states, partly on business and partly to get genealogical records. On arriving in Boston I again visited Professor Sharples, who had, since my former visit, greatly augmented his Kimball collections, but still he could give no clue to the missing link. I spent about a week in Boston making a thorough search of works in print likely to contain a clue, but found not the slightest one. Never before in all my experience had I been so completely baffled.

Notwithstanding that I had repeatedly written to Sheldon, Vt., the birth place of Heber C. Kimball, and to St. Albans, the seat of the county embracing Sheldon, and had been answered by the town clerk of the former, and probate judge of the latter town that their respective records did not give the information I sought, I decided to visit those towns and make a personal search. I left Boston in the fore part of last month and a few days later arrived in Sheldon, having stopped to make searches on the way. The earliest church record in Sheldon dates back to about 1835, and the earliest town records of births, marriages and deaths are some years later. These are all too recent to contain what I wanted, and were mere fragments until a few years ago. The village cemetery did not contain a Kimball grave, marked as such, and several aged people, life long residents of the place, on whom I called, could give me no aid.

The land records were my only resources. These I searched thoroughly, taking full notes. Putting together such facts and reasonable deductions as these records afforded, I constructed the