

## Correspondence.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.,  
May 8, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Dear Brother, All is well with me here in St. Louis, and the Saints under my watch-care are rejoicing in the truth. The honest still continue to embrace the Gospel, and the spirit of gathering grows upon them more and more, so much so that all the faithful Saints in St. Louis would emigrate this season if they had the means to pay their fare. I can truly say that I have never labored anywhere, at home or abroad, with more satisfaction than here, notwithstanding the place and the wicked influences with which I am surrounded. The Lord has been with me by His Spirit, and crowned my labors with success. The Saints have caught the spirit of Zion, and many of them keep the Word of Wisdom. I feel free in speaking to the people on all the principles pertaining to our holy religion, so far as my knowledge extends, and I am treated with all due respect by outsiders, and beloved by the Saints.

Agreeable to appointment we met in Conference on the 19th of April, in the Broadway Hall, Broadway. The half-yearly report, financial and statistical, was read by Henry Crawshaw, Secretary of the Branch, and approved by the unanimous vote of the Saints present.

The authorities of the Church were respectively sustained by the unanimous vote of the Saints, after which, Elder George Alder, of the firm of Dunford & Sons, Salt Lake City, spoke very encouragingly of Utah and the "Mormons," and, in conclusion, bore a faithful testimony to the truth of the great Latter-day Work in which we are engaged. He is here on business, and busies himself in doing good among a large circle of relatives and acquaintances, who esteem him highly.

We are glad to see the Elders who come down here on business take this course. They counteract the false statements afloat, and confirm the truth, in the minds of many who are seeking everywhere but the right place to find it. The meetings during the day were attended with much pleasure and profit to all present, for the Spirit of the Lord was with us, bearing witness of the truth.

President John Brown is here, he arrived April 30. He is well and feeling well. All the Saints were rejoiced to see him and hear his fatherly counsel, and good teaching, and no one feels the benefit of his society and teaching more than myself. He is the right man in the right place, and all feel blessed under his guardian care. He will remain here until the 20th inst., when he intends going to Omaha, to organize the independent company which expects to start across the plains from that point on or about the first of June.

President Brown and myself attended to the baptism of four persons on the first of this month, three women and one man.

I have just received a letter from Br. Staines, dated New York, the 4th. He says he is well and will be with us on the 10th inst., to arrange about the emigration, &c.

Br. Heber John Richards writes me from New York occasionally. He says he is "down among the dead men" preaching the gospel every opportunity that offers. He is hale in body, cheerful in spirit, but says in conclusion, "there is no place like home."

Times continue perilous; business dull; all look to the future with fearful forebodings, but the faithful Latter-day Saints, who see at hand the good time promised, and are living nearer to God than they may participate in it.

DAVID M. STUART.

MALAD CITY, IDAHO,  
May 24, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Dear Brother, This morning we find ourselves in Malad city. We left Brigham city on Friday, at 7 a.m., L. Snow, J. E. Wright, S. Smith, C. Loveland, Bishop A. Cordon, G. W. Ward, of Willard city, and others, twelve in all. We arrived at Bear River Bridge at noon, and to our surprise we met with artists Savage & Ottinger at Mr. B. Hampton's hotel, on their way to Snake River Falls. Sister Hampton and Sister Grant gave us a fine dinner, and then we left for Portage, where we arrived all well and found President Green on hand to greet us with a warm reception. We held one meeting and stayed over night. Left Portage at 7 a.m. for Malad city, and arrived at 11 a.m. We held two meetings, and found Bro. Daniels and his little flock all in fine spirits,

and on hand to welcome us. We shall hold two meetings to-day, and then return home, staying at Portage over night.

A. NICHOLS.

PROVIDENCE, Cache Co.,  
May 23, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Our little town is in a prosperous condition, and everything is looking well, especially our crops. Our fields never looked so green at this season of the year, since this place has been settled, as they do now. Considerable more land has been farmed this year than any other. A great deal of sugar cane has been planted. We do not think the grasshoppers will hurt our crops, which, with the beautiful rain that we have received, makes the people feel good—that they have another opportunity to raise something for themselves, and also for those that are coming along. Losing our crops last year caused a number of the brethren to look out for work, to obtain breadstuffs, which made the spirit of improvement to stand still for a little season; but it has commenced afresh. Some are already building, and others are hauling and getting their materials together.

We are glad to see that a movement has been made in your city in relation to unadulterated seeds. We have been very particular in not having broom corn, &c., planted near sugar cane; but with all our care it is hardly worth anything, because it was not pure when it was first obtained. We ought to be more careful, also, in obtaining fruit trees. It is just as easy to raise good fruit as bad; and it pays better.

Our meetings during the winter and up to the present time have been well attended. President Benson and Bishop P. Maughan have visited us occasionally, which has tended to inspiring the people to live their religion.

Bishop Budge and his brethren have the spirit of the times, exhorting the people to faithfulness, to observe the Word of Wisdom and to refrain from eating swine's flesh, etc. They are setting good examples, worthy of imitation. A Female Relief Society was organized over a month ago. I received an invitation to be present at one of the meetings. It was well attended, and a good spirit prevailed. Several of the ladies expressed their feelings, and all seemed determined to go ahead to do their best in administering to the wants of the poor, and in promoting union and happiness among the Saints.

They are proposing to introduce a new style of head-dress, that will be more comfortable to wear. The good that these societies will do, cannot be over-estimated. As a general thing we usually wear home-made, and those that cannot get it to wear, are determined to get some sheep, so that they can obtain some in the future, instead of depending so much on store goods, that will last but a little time.

The call that was made upon the brethren to gather the Saints from foreign lands, was met in a very satisfactory manner. The brethren realized, in a measure, the condition of the brethren and sisters back in the old countries. Our teams and teamsters, etc., to go East, will be on hand at the specified time.

I must say a few words in regard to newspapers. Nearly every person that can read English takes two or three papers, and they intend to pay for them when harvest comes. We are blessed with regular mails. Great credit is due to the present contractors, for they give universal satisfaction. Our Sunday School is well attended every Sabbath morning.

Yours truly,  
J. F. M.

MEADOWS, Millard Co.,  
May 17, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—We held meetings at Holden on Thursday, and at Fillmore and this place yesterday.

Holden—Cedar Springs—received its name from the late Edward Holden, who perished in a storm in September, 1858, near this place, where he resided. The Post Office was named after him, in consequence of so many places being named "Cedar." It is a source of great annoyance to have two names for one place; but it is still a greater annoyance to have two or more Post Offices of the same name, in whole or part, as Cedar City matter is sometimes misdirected to Cedar Valley, and Meadow Valley matter is frequently sent to this place—Meadows—and vice versa.

The crops in all the settlements that we have visited in this county invariably look well—never better than now, at this time of the year. The people at Fillmore are engaged destroying the

"hoppers," which have not as yet done any material injury, although they are much larger than at other places, so far as we saw.

This place is improving rapidly, but still requires an increase of population. There are abundant facilities for an addition of fifty families. A blacksmith is much needed.

Mr. Salisbury brings the mails punctually within schedule time, but the daily line should be extended from Provo to St. George, tri-weeklies, semi-weeklies and weeklies being far too slow.

The inspection of arms in three towns in this county, shows a variety of arms, many of which are of superior qualities.

We have two appointments for to-day, accompanied to Kanosh by Bishop Callister, John L. Smith, G. Huntsman and others.

Yours truly,

GEO. A. SMITH.

ST. GEORGE, May 13, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Dear Brother Cannon, Bro. Snow and myself arrived here, on our return from the General Conference, on the 29th of April, when we found all well, and the Saints glad to see us.

On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd inst., was held the "Dixie" Semi-Annual Conference, the report of which I believe, has been forwarded to you by Bro. Bleak, the clerk, suffice it to say, we had a good time; good reports being given from the settlements on the Muddy, the Upper Rio Virgen, and other smaller settlements, along the "rim of the basin."

Much good counsel was given on a variety of subjects, the specialties being union in all things, home produce, sustaining our own business-men, observing the Word of Wisdom, and finally, for the Saints to be in good earnest in their faith and works.

On Friday the 4th we had a splendid rain storm, not one of those turbulent affairs, which sometimes descend in July coming in great fury upon the mountains, sending down torrents in every ravine and swelling all the streams into floods, thus doing more harm than good; but a gentle rain, lasting for some ten hours, and thoroughly soaking the ground. The effect of this unlooked for irrigation will be to ripen a good deal of the early wheat, without any further trouble.

The brethren say, that if the Lord in His goodness will continue this thing of sending rains in May and June, "Dixie" will be a glorious success. In that case, thousands of acres of good grain-growing land, that are now useless can be brought into cultivation. I reason upon it thus. This country "Dixie" is now very like what Palestine has been since the Lord withdrew from it the "former and latter rains," and should the Lord mercifully send us the rains, may we not look for this country to be like Palestine before it was cursed—the most fruitful spot on earth? At present everything looks promising, wheat is heading out, and vineyards are well set with fruit.

On the 5th, the schools of this city, both week-day and Sabbath schools, had a grand May frolic. Processions were formed, numbering about three hundred children, while quite as many more were seen on the sidewalks; and after marching through town for some time in the morning, they were formed in front of Pres. Snow's house, where an address was delivered and the May queen was crowned. After which all the little fellows and most of the big ones, were put into wagons provided for the purpose, and taken to a green lawn some two miles east, where a commodious bowery was provided, sheep were roasted, and other things too numerous to mention, prepared for the comfort of the company. They had a merry day and lots of fun was enjoyed.

On the 7th, Pres. Snow, Elder Jacob Gates and myself, started on a tour to visit the people of Kane County. At Tokerville we turned up Ash Creek, and visited the hands working on the new road in Ash Creek Canon. This road is made to avoid the Big Black Ridge, which has become almost impassable for teams. It will cost some four or five thousand dollars, one thousand of which was appropriated by the Legislature last winter. The remainder is being done in faith, with a large addition of works. Perhaps so great faith may prevail with the Legislature at its next session, and a little more means be appropriated. The people of Virgen City, Duncan's Retreat, and Rockville, are a little cast down over the loss of their farms, many of which, without any leave, quit claim or permit, stampeded last winter, and when last heard from

were making as great headway as the rapid current of the Rio Virgen would give them, toward the Colorado. However there is much good land left, and I trust that past experience will teach the people the force of the Savior's parable: that the wise man built his house on a rock, and when the winds blew and the floods came, that house stood!

We held meetings in Virgen City and Rockville, and after giving much good instruction, and making some changes in the organization of both places, we left the people feeling well.

Here let me say, that I have never seen as great union in the people in carrying out the counsel given them, in observing the Word of Wisdom, and trying to sustain one another, as at the present time. And there is a very lively interest manifest in gathering the poor. Surely the Lord has a blessing in store for this people, for He has said that when the people draw near unto Him, He will draw near unto them.

One other item I wish to notice, and that is this: the people are more eager for the DESERET NEWS, than I ever knew them before. This I say to the people's credit. I despise puffing a newspaper. A good one needs no puffing. God bless the good.

Jos. W. Young.

PAROWAN, May 20, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Our meeting on Sunday morning last was in the School-house at Petersburg, as there was no place to meet in at Kanosh; a great many listened from without.

Bishop Callister with a number of Elders came from Fillmore, bringing with them the Juvenile choir, who enlivened the congregation with their singing, and illustrated the preaching by their example, their beautiful hats being made of straw from the wheat fields.

In the evening we preached at Cove Creek Fort; the most substantially built fort in the Territory, and although the congregation was small, yet it comprised the entire settlement, and the meeting was very interesting.

The necessity of a permanent settlement at this place, for the protection of the road from Indian raids, as well as for the safety of travellers over these long stages during the storms of winter, and the preservation of the telegraph line, prompted President Young to erect this substantial enclosure, which, when completed, and the gates hung, will enable a few men to defend themselves against a host of savages.

There is but little business for the telegraph operator, but he makes up the time teaching school, which is a great advantage to the few families who reside here.

At 4 o'clock p.m., on Monday, we preached at Beaver meeting-house. Much improvement is going on at this place; several new burnt-brick houses are going up. The walls of a large and commodious brick school-house are being enclosed, and a number of good frame barns ornament the town.

Few signs of grasshoppers have yet appeared here. The prospect for an extensive wheat crop is flattering.

Tuesday morning, at 7 o'clock, an inspection of the militia disclosed the fact that an abundance of men, arms and means were on hand to protect the settlement, if effectually used; and that the Indian raids of last season upon this county, if repeated, will not go unpunished.

We traveled most of the day through rain, hail and snow, arriving at this place at 7 p.m.

More grain than usual has been sown in Iron county; the early grain looks well. Sowing still continues; the Spring has been remarkably wet.

There is now more water in Little Salt Lake than was ever known before since this place was settled; meadows in its immediate vicinity are submerged.

The county has appropriated means to open a road through the "Gap," once the outlet of Little Salt Lake; this will open a more direct road to the hay fields on Coal Creek bottom, and very much improve the road between here and Minersville, as it will avoid the crossing of one chain of mountains.

We held our twentieth meeting in the basement of the Church, to-day, after which Elders Joseph F. Smith, W. B. Pace and A. K. Thurber left on a visit to the Saints at Cedar, Kanarah, and Harmony. We have usually all four of us spoken at each meeting, giving counsel on the various subjects necessary for the protection, prosperity and further development of the settlements, and in every instance to very attentive audiences.

Thursday, 21st.—Parowan was origi-