

CORRESPONDENCE.

Social Party—Preaching.

ELK RIVER CITY,

Sheerborn Co., Minn.,

March 28, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Brother—This place is built on both sides of the Mississippi River and contains a population of from 800 to 1,200, also large grist and lumber mills and good school-houses, but the schools are not as well attended as I expected them to be.

I came here yesterday and desired a place where I could talk to the people, and I visited the trustees for the School-house. They were willing, but one Mr. H. told me the M. E. Church would be more convenient, and that I could have that by seeing the minister. He was not at home. I spoke to his wife. She was quite a lady, and she told me there would be no objection, so I went back to Mr. H. and he told me that he would be responsible and I could appoint my meeting, which I did at seven p. m.

I wrote a few posters, and then went and visited the schools, and was well received by the school mistress, and I talked to the scholars. She introduced me to the principal, and I was invited by him to the upper room, containing the larger scholars, young gentlemen and ladies. He was a well informed gentleman and he wished me to talk to his pupils, which I did. He thanked me very politely and gave out my appointment and told me to call again.

Seven o'clock came, and there were no fires and no light in the church. The house of the minister close by was shut up, and I was alone in the church, a stranger in the place. I waited half an hour, some persons came and left again and I was left alone, and without money. I went to several places and all would be glad to have me stay, but circumstances would not permit. At last Mr. Benjamin Bithew made me welcome. He had been in Utah, in Cache Co. two years. After a few minutes I was invited to go up to the residence of Mr. H., where a party of ladies and gentlemen of this place had gathered together to spend the evening in social entertainment, the number of fifty or upward. I was introduced to them as a reverend from Utah, and was told that they would be glad to hear from me.

I opened my meeting with prayer, and read part of the 24th chapter of Matthew, and the 14th verse for my text. I spoke a short time of the Gospel of the kingdom of God, and they all listened very attentively, and after the close many questions were put to me, which, with the assistance of the Spirit of the Lord, I answered. Some of the reverend gentlemen were very urgent, but the lady of the house told them to remember that I was a stranger, and that had a wonderful effect. Then came plates of ice cream and cakes for the whole company. I believe I was served first. Then Miss H. went to the pianoforte and we sang for awhile and enjoyed ourselves. One lady said I had made a good sermon and she endorsed it all. But she did not like me mixing Brigham in with it. She was a Catholic. But her husband spoke kindly to her and said that I believed that Brigham Young was a Prophet of God, and I told him that he was right. The M. E. minister dismissed with prayer, and I was invited to stay and was shown to a room and bed. I enjoyed a good night's rest, and this evening I shall have my meeting.

I am well, so are Brothers Swenson and Hendrickson, who two travel together.

Brother Petterson and his companion are holding meetings in the southern part of this State.

The Saints are all well. Bro. J. B. Judkins and family left here last Monday morning, bound for Zion. It looks like spring now, and the grass will soon commence to grow, and I believe the gospel of the Son of God will advance.

Thanking you for sending me regularly my highly estimated and welcome friend, the DESERET NEWS,

I am respectfully, your brother in the Gospel of Christ.

B. P. WULFFENSTEIN.

Weather and Fruit—Improvements Horticulture and Floriculture—Odd-Fellows—Schools—A Mystery.

OGDEN CITY, April 22, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The weather has been very changeable here during the past week. At the beginning it was very hot, but the wind set in and blew strongly from the south; subsequently it got cooler, until it became very cold. On Wednesday the clouds lowered, and at night it began to rain; before morning the wind changed to the north, and at daylight, Thursday, the ground was coated over with snow. The fruit trees, which are in bloom, were bent downward with the weight of their white drapery. It has continued to rain and snow ever since Thursday until this morning, when all things around were again clothed with the "beautiful." It was feared that the fruit had suffered much damage by the late cold storms and sharp frosts, which have prevailed. Yesterday morning the water in tubs, &c., was covered with a sheet of rather thick ice, but I am pleased to learn that with the exception of some of the apricots so far the fruit has not been damaged.

The season is very forward. There is but little snow in the mountains. The rivers here are very low and fordable, which is something quite unusual at this time of the year.

Ogden City is improving. Quite a number of new buildings, including dwellings, stores, and other places of business, are in course of erection. Besides this, some of the business men and property owners are contributing means to be expended for the purpose of putting down plank side walks on several streets in the city. Our roads are good, and the road supervisor is still at work making them better. The Bench part of the city, which was always the pleasantest place on which to locate residences, is becoming more beautiful and more desirable every year. The public squares are neatly and attractively laid out and are surrounded with shade trees; the streets are lengthy, laid off at right angles, are in good order, and make delightful drives or promenades for the equestrian or pedestrian; while the little forests of fruit trees give it the appearance of a city of orchards. Mr. John Chipp has built a neat, good sized greenhouse, in which he is propagating many thousands of house and bedding plants, trees, &c., of great variety, from which our citizens are supplying themselves with horticultural adornments for beautifying their homes and their gardens. Mr. Chipp is an enterprising, go-ahead man, and has, at a very great outlay of money and hard labor, placed within the reach of all here the means of beautifying their homes at a small outlay.

During the past week Mr. H. Barnes, Esq., editor of the New York *Heart and Hand*, and Prof. J. J. Alexander, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, visited this city and held several meetings, giving instructions to the members of the order. Last night by special request they gave a drawing room entertainment in the City Hall, which was well filled with an appreciative audience. The entertainment commenced with a brief but interesting address by Mr. Barnes, on the history, object, present standing and practical operations of the Order of Odd Fellows. This was followed by songs, recitations, imitations and anecdotes, &c., among which were "The Vagabonds," "Wreck of Hesperis," "Village Blacksmith," "Violin and Piano solos," etc. The entertainment lasted about three hours and was highly interesting.

Our day and Sabbath schools are in session. This morning Elders Goddard, Willes and Evans addressed the people in the Second Ward School-house, on Sabbath Schools, their importance and utility, and urged parents to exert all their influence and powers to encourage the children to attend those most excellent institutions. This afternoon they addressed the scholars in the Seventies' Hall.

On Thursday the passenger train, which was due here at half-past five p. m., did not arrive until half-past nine p. m. On board the train was a German, light complexioned. He had light hair, moustache and goatee. Towards midnight he asked for a bed at the Union Depot Hotel. He was shown to his room and retired. About one o'clock in the morning the porter was aroused by the above-named gentleman rush-

ing down stairs. He was dressed, except that he had on his shoes, but not his socks. He carried his valise in his hand and a coat on his arm. He bounded out of the hotel, exclaiming, "She's after me! She's after me!" The porter inquired, "Who's after you?" The reply was, "She was by my bedside! She's after me!" and away the man went. He was out of sight immediately. The night was dark and stormy, and the unfortunate man has not been seen since. Yesterday morning Mr. Thomas Morley found (a little east of the Central Pacific Railroad track and near the switch which runs up to the Iron Works,) a drab colored valise. Thinking it might contain something which he would not like to handle, Mr. Morley left it, and went to the depot where he found Marshal M. Brown, who returned with Morley and brought the valise to the office of the U. C. R. R., where it was opened and found to contain a coat, vest and hat, a pocket knife, a second class ticket, from Milwaukee to San Francisco, forty-two dollars and ninety cents in money, and a baggage check; also two receipts for the Milwaukee Herald. The receipts were in favor of John Welber. Also a printed envelope addressed "Luxemburger Gazette, Dubuque, Iowa." The valise and check were identified by the baggage master at the C. P. R. R. station—he having seen the missing man with the valise, and having now the number of the check in his book at the office. Tracks were discovered leading from the place where the valise was found to the edge of the patch of willows, where they were lost, but the man was not found. This morning the city marshal took a posse of men and made a thorough search through the brush, in several fields, along the banks of the Ogden river, and a canal that empties into the river. But up to the present time the search has been fruitless. The affair is a very mysterious one. No one here knows the missing person. It is well known to the train men that he did not leave by the out going train. The general theory in relation to the disappearance is that, after putting down the valise, he went into the thick brush and committed suicide. Yet it is strange that the body cannot be found.

Yours truly,

OCCASIONAL.

Council Bluffs—Neolu—Union Grove—Various Meetings—Opposition.

DES MOINES, Iowa,

April 10th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Having been called at the late October Conference, with many others, as a missionary to the United States, on March 1st I left my home, in Salt Lake City, by rail, for my field of labor. Fifty-six hours' travel brought me to Council Bluffs, where I was met and welcomed by Elders James A. Little and Eli Pierce, in whose district I shall labor for the present. The first ten days after my arrival I spent in company with Brother Little in visiting from house to house many families of the Saints and strangers, in the Bluffs and vicinity, conversing freely with them in regard to the truth, during which time we also held three meetings, at one of which some strangers present, after hearing a good gospel discourse of over one hour from Prest. Little, desired us to explain to them, in a few moments' time, all about the mysteries of "Mormonism," saying if we were able to give them a sign or perform a miracle they would believe. As their only object was to cavil and make a disturbance, Brother Little soon silenced them.

Sister Powers, who lives on Broadway, where I first put up on my arrival, is an old Nauvoo Saint, and a good one too. She was acquainted with me when a small boy, playing on the steps of the Temple in Nauvoo. She has been very kind to me, and in fact to all the Elders. They are always entertained by her and made welcome at her house. Her husband, though not a member of the Church, is a generous and liberal-minded man. Such people will receive their reward.

Elder Nels Madsen, Jr., a young missionary from Brigham City, has been appointed by Prest. Little to travel and labor with me in the ministry. On the 18th of March we held our first meeting in a small district school-house in the little town of Neolu, some three Saints

and about thirty strangers being present. We delivered two addresses.

By request of Prest. Little we visited Union Grove, and on Sunday forenoon of the 25th, by pressing invitation, we attended another meeting. We also held a meeting in the afternoon, when I spoke to the audience with great freedom and power. One man and his wife, who were present, I felt confident were convinced of the truth, and I trust they will yet be baptized for the remission of their sins.

On Tuesday evening, the 27th, we held another meeting at Lelan's Grove, a hotbed of apostasy. Some seventy-five persons were present, most of whom at sometime have been connected with the Church, who, having once put their hands to the gospel plow, have turned back, through lack of faith, integrity, and good works, to the beggarly elements of the world. I spoke the truth to them with much assurance. After the meeting, the feelings of some were much softened, and I believe that three or four who were present will yet receive the truth.

Since the above meetings, we have held five other evening meetings, in some small towns and villages where the gospel has never before been preached. The people in certain places, will open, light and warm their school-houses for us to preach in. On such occasions we have from fifty to one hundred attentive listeners. We speak and testify to them of the truth with much assurance and power under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Some few are friendly and are convinced of the truth, while others rage, and cry out at the close of our meetings, "Mormon delusion," "false prophets," &c.

Brother Madsen, Jr., is a good, faithful young Elder, and, as he is a good singer, he is a great help to me.

Your brother in the Gospel covenant,
P. P. PRATT.

Rain—Snow—Frost—Fruit Killed—Schools, etc.

SPRING LAKE,

April 23, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The storm still continues. Last Friday night, after a long drizzling rain, it cleared up, and a heavy frost followed, resulting in killing all the fruit in this place and neighboring towns. Johnson & Sons alone, who have in previous years done quite a large business in the fruit canning line, have lost from \$1,000 to \$1,500 worth of fruit. Now they are making preparations to do a large business in molasses and broom making, which they have carried on before very successfully.

On Saturday night the dark clouds arose again, and relieved themselves of their burden of snow, which fell to the depth of one foot.

Sunday came and brought with it a fine and beautiful morning, though somewhat chilly, but not so much as to prevent our Sunday school from being well attended. Samuel Openshaw is our superintendent, and he makes it cheerful, interesting and lively. In the afternoon, Bishop Halliday, from Santaquin, visited our meeting, who gave us a very lively and interesting sermon.

Monday morning finds nearly all gone and more coming. Wheat crops look well.

Yours truly,

J.

Baptizing—Inquiry.

SPENCER BROOK,

Isanti Co., Minn.,

April 7, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Brother—The work of the Lord is still progressing in this part of the world. Last Monday I baptized Mr. Joseph Nokes and wife and Mr. Brooks, a Hollander, and I blessed their children. The ice here in Osbow Lake was about two feet thick, but none of us felt cold at all.

It looks as if spring would come at last, for to-day I have seen a few robins and heard the partridges drumming. Still it is cold weather. I am well and holding meetings nearly all the time, and so do the brethren that are with me here. The Saints all feel well and long for Zion. Times commence to look hard here now.

I had a good time yesterday. A man sent for me to inquire of me after his uncle, Joseph Kelly, an old "Mormon." He was in Ohio in

the year 1831. James Iliff, Spencer Brooks, Isanti Co., Minn., will be glad to hear from him or his relatives. I also found a man, Mr. Calvin Chapman, who was acquainted with Bro. Levi Hancock.

I feel well and with the help of the Lord am trying to fulfil my mission.

I am respectfully your brother in the Gospel.

B. P. WULFFENSTEIN.

Living in Style—Agriculture—New Enterprise—Redeeming the Desert—Grasshoppers.

TOOELE CITY, April 20, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The political situation in this county remains unchanged. By a systematic course of unblushing fraud, at the last local election, the minority obtained the mastery, and they are now "ruling the roast" to suit their own minds. The members of the county court, prosecuting attorney, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, etc., board at the best hotel, keep fine horses and carriages, sport flash jewelry, and indulge in billiards *ad libitum*. All this is done ostensibly on what was to the former officials a mere pittance. What will be the outcome no man can tell, but certain it is somebody will have these luxuries to pay for. Presumably it will be the tax-payers. In the meantime the people, the real bone and sinew of the county, mind their own business, and only ask to be let alone in their efforts to sustain their families and beautify the earth, and notwithstanding that two or three would be wise men, in a mining camp, sustained and endorsed the resolutions of a huge mass meeting (composed of a few starvelings) in your city, asking for extraneous aid in the solving of a problem which none of them understand, the real residents of this county think they can solve their own problems, and at least know that former efforts in that way by their would-be guides have resulted in ruin and misery to the bodies and souls of such as deserted the truth and undertook to aid the self-styled regenerators to break up and dispossess a peaceful and industrious community.

Owing to the unusually early season which the country in general has been blessed with, there has been a greater breadth of land sown this spring than ever before, and the prospects for an abundant harvest are uncommonly good. At one time, owing to the absence of the usual snow and rain storms which generally occur in April, much anxiety was felt, and many persons predicted that irrigation, which at this season is accounted a detriment to the future crop, would have to be resorted to for the purpose of causing the seed in the ground to sprout, but the late heavy show and rain storms have obviated that difficulty, and unless some unforeseen accident befall the growing crop, the harvest will be unparalleled in abundance.

Quite a noticeable feature, in the way of improvement, is the pre-emption and cultivation of those large tracts of land lying below and north of Tooele City, and which, owing to the limited supply of water for irrigating purposes, have heretofore lain idle, or only been used as a range for sheep, cattle, and the numerous bands of small, inferior horses, commonly known as "mustangs," which have too long been a curse instead of a benefit to their owners. The theory which formerly obtained was that only such land as could be irrigated was of any use to the agriculturist, and the balance, of which there is a vast area, could only be valuable for the production of wild or native grasses for the subsistence of the farmers' surplus stock. But late experiments in this vicinity, and in the vicinity of Kaysville, in Davis County, have effectually exploded this theory, and the fact has been clearly and conclusively demonstrated that any land which has a clay sub-soil can be made, by fall planting and proper cultivation, to produce large and profitable crops of wheat, rye, lucern, etc., and it is even claimed by many competent judges that the grain grown on this land is of a better quality than that grown on irrigated land. The consequence of this new theory is that a large area of agricultural land is being brought into subjection in this valley, affording homes and sustenance for many hundreds of families. Artesian wells are being sunk, and windmills are being erected there-

The Belfast Journal heartlessly insinuates that it is about time for the young man of the period to lay aside Uster overcoat and put on pantaloons.