

## Correspondence.

## Killing the Indian's Meat.

PAYSON, Jan. 12, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

Indian Tabby, chief of the Utes, came over to Spanish Fork a few days since, to make a request of the "Mormons" to quit killing his deer. He says that parties of whites go into the mountains and kill wagon loads of these animals and thus deprive the Indians of their only resource for getting a living. He claims that, inasmuch as his people not only do not steal our cattle, but actually protect them from being stolen by other Indians, we ought to be willing for them to have the deer. He does not object to our killing one or two once in a while for our own eating; but when it comes to killing them wholesale to make merchandise of, he thinks it is not right. The "Mormons," he says, have a great many ways to make money: they have the best of the land to cultivate; they have the best ranges on which to raise cattle and horses; they have the rocks and the mineral in the mountains, &c. All these are sources of wealth that we have at command; the Indians have nothing but the deer. Should not the "Mormons" be content with all the other resources of the country and leave the deer for the poor Indians?

To my mind this is a pertinent question and one that deserves consideration. The Indians, as the original proprietors of the soil, as well as human beings, have rights that we can not ignore, and that we should respect. I know that the NEWS has often called the attention of its readers to this subject; will it do so once more? I am persuaded that wrongs are often committed thoughtlessly by good men, and that when their wrong doing is pointed out to them they turn away from it.

Very truly yours,  
I. M. COOMBS.

## Fatal Accident.

FRANKLIN, Oneida Co., I. T., Jan. 13, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

On January 4th, William J. Lee and William Chadwick went to the cañon five miles from Weston, Idaho, called Five Mile Creek. Lee was driving the team and Chadwick sitting on the hind end of the sled, with his gun lying across his knees. The boys were looking for deer tracks, and did not notice the team turn out of the road till they came in contact with some brush. Chadwick then threw up his hands to guard his face from the brush, and he supposed the brush caught the hammer, and the gun was accidentally discharged, the bullet passing through Lee's arm, breaking it, and entering his body, tearing it badly. He lingered until two o'clock p.m. the next day, when he expired, after suffering acutely from his injuries twenty-seven hours. The funeral services were held in the School-house Franklin, on Sunday, at eleven o'clock a.m., the 7th inst. He was the son of George and Sarah Lee, of Franklin, Idaho; aged 16 years, 4 months, and 2 days. He leaves a widowed mother to mourn his loss. He was a faithful Latter-day Saint.

Yours truly,  
CHARLES W. FOX.

## Box Elder Canal—Pleasant Weather—Logan Tabernacle.

LOGAN, Jan. 15, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

The canal which has been under construction for the past two months for the purpose of draining Box Elder Lake, north of Brigham City, was so far completed on the 10th inst. that the water was turned in. It proves a complete success. It carries the waters of the large springs near Honeyville, which principally form the lake, westward into Bear River. The work was undertaken by the Utah Northern, on account of the injury which the railroad track sustained from the action of the waves in warm weather and frost in winter, the distance across the lake being about two miles. Col. Martineau, engineer of the road, made an examination of the lake and the surrounding country, to ascertain the practicability of draining the lake, and after running several

lines of levels, reported in favor of the present plan, of which the canal just completed is the most important item. To entirely carry off all the waters that come in from the eastern side and from Box Elder Creek requires some improvement in the course of Box Elder slough, the natural outlet of the lake into the Great Salt Lake, straightening the channel to give it more fall and swifter current. The greater portion of Box Elder creek should be conducted directly west into the lower part of the slough, and will complete the undertaking.

The canal just made is one and a quarter miles long, ten feet wide in the bottom at the upper end, and averages four to six feet deep, through a soil completely saturated with water, making the work very heavy and tedious. The Brigham Co-operative Institution took the contract for the work, with Mr. Alexander Baird as foreman.

This work will bring several thousand acres of land into use, so soon as the salt is washed out of the soil, as it doubtless will be in a few years.

The weather has thus far been very pleasant, no snow to speak of, only two or three inches at the deepest, most of the time none at all.

The magnificent new Tabernacle is so far done that it is intended to hold a two days' meeting in the lower story in about two weeks. The work on the building is steadily pushed by its efficient manager, Mr. Charles O. Card, assisted by the committee. The building, when completed, will be an honor to the Territory.

SCRIBBLER.

## Morgan City—New Meeting-house—Court House and City Hall—Education—Weather—Health, Etc.

N. MORGAN CITY, Jan. 13, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

I have taken the NEWS for a number of years, and have long since regarded it with the affection of an old friend. Although we are not quite isolated, having the U.P. Railroad through our little town, still there is not sufficient news to furnish material for conversation and thought through these long winter evenings.

Morgan City, situated in a little valley called Weber, which lies to the northwest from Salt Lake, was the first incorporated city through which that great line of travel passed through.

Morgan as yet is not noted for its public buildings, but an interest in them has been taken of late which speaks well for its aspirations. Being the central part of the valley, it has been selected as the site of the general meeting-house for the ward. A portion of the building materials is now on the ground, and our intentions are to make a good start on the building next summer.

The foundation of a building is laid on the same block as that of the site of the ward house. This building when finished will be apportioned off for the use of the county and city, or in other words will be Court House and City Hall combined. The expenses will be equally borne by county and city. The bricks are on the ground, the calculations are to lay them next spring.

The Weber River divides the city into two sections, these are called, respectively, North Morgan and South Morgan. Each section has a separate school district. North Morgan has a substantial rock school-house, well finished inside and out. The school-house on the other side of the river is not so good, having been built many years ago.

Of late, a great interest has been taken by the people in regard to education; the people are waking up to the necessity of having better schools, and more of them. On both sides of the river school is in session the greater part of the year. Here in North Morgan we have had school for the last seven months, and want to keep it up three months longer. The names of ninety pupils have been enrolled this last quarter, being a large school considering the number of inhabitants.

We are having a mild open winter, not having had at any time over nine inches of snow. Last week the ground was nearly bare; at present the snow is but little over an inch on the level.

The winter of 1876 was a hard

one on the stock, but this winter, to a thanks plentiful season and the mild weather, cattle will fare well. More hay was cut in Weber this year than any other year previous.

The health of the people in general is good, with the exception of a few cases of diphtheria, appearing mostly among the young, and proving fatal in some cases.

Yours in the Gospel,

MARTIN HEINER.

## Preaching—Discussion—A Hundred Usurers—Stevens and Buchanan—Political Epizootic—Reducing Expenses—At Zero—The Country, Etc.

LANCASTER CITY AND COUNTY, Pa., Jan'y 8th, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

Since my last writing we have held several public meetings in Strasburg, which were well attended, and good order prevailed. At our first there happened to be a Presbyterian parson present, just from Ohio. He was so full he asked, after Elder Whitney and I had concluded, permission to speak. I granted it, and by my invitation he came to the stand. He fought the air for nearly an hour, and it was with difficulty he could restrain his tongue from wagging. His friends, members of his church, demanded a further exposition of our views in discussion, with their champion, John Wynne Martin, D. D. We accepted the challenge. Next day we selected umpires and arranged subjects, reducing matters to writing. I took the affirmative and Dr. Martin the negative on subjects agreed upon. One evening not affording enough time, we had two nights from 7 to 10 p.m. Our verdict is that the Lord gave us a most signal victory, and through the interference of this pseudo apostle of Christianity(?) opened the way to the ears of hundreds of people that under other circumstances would not come out to hear us.

By invitation next Wednesday evening we hold a meeting in a new hall, some twelve miles south of this, at a place not far from where I lived many years ago.

Several of my old schoolmates have come to see me and some have recognized me without an introduction.

In the directory of this county, I find recorded the names of 102 Mussers, heads of families, occupying social positions in life, from the laborer and farmer down to the merchants and doctors of divinity and physic. They are classed as follows—laborers, farmers, surveyors, butchers, drovers, coopers, masons, railroaders, lime-burners, saddlers, furniture, hardware and dry goods dealers, grocers, doctors of medicine and divinity, gentlemen and retired. I find also in the same directory thirty-six Barrs on my mother's side of the house.

In this city abide the mortal remains of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens and James Buchanan, fifteenth president of these United States. Mr. Stevens, the great friend of the negro and the poor generally, lies in a private cemetery, founded by Martin Shriener, Sen., situated not very far from the centre of the city on the corner of Chestnut and Mulberry Streets. This distinguished citizen, like his enemy, Mr. Buchanan, lived and died a bachelor. He owned property in the public cemeteries of the city, but for reasons explained in the following epitaph, inscribed on his sepulchre, he selected the spot where he now rests from his earthly labors—"I repose in this quiet, secluded spot, not from any natural preference for solitude, but finding other cemeteries limited as to race, by charter rules, I have chosen this that I might illustrate in my death the principles which I advocated through a long life—equality of man before his Creator."

In consequence of the friendship shown our people and cause while he was Senator from this State I have entered his name on my memorandum for future reference and use.

The political epizootic still hangs like a pall over this great republic. There seems to be no light anywhere, and to one who does understand the portentous signs of the times the stolid indifference of the masses excites wonder and amazement. A young man in the custom house at New Orleans, who of course was obliged to vote the republican ticket, writes me as follows in regard to the exactions levied on himself and others—

"Since the first of July they reduced our salaries from \$90 to \$60 per month, taking \$30 for political purposes, at least that is my version of the reduction, but as they have it it is to curtail the expenses of the custom house."

The ice harvest has been almost gathered. The snow is now deep and sleighing good, except where the snow is drifted. In going twenty miles the other day, Elder Whitney and I upset only twice. The mercury here, like the atmospheric electricity is supposed to deport itself in midsummer around that central telegraph pole, opposite your office, keeps waiting around zero at an interesting rate, especially to those who are obliged to be travelling.

This city was founded in 1730—146 years ago, and, at the instance of a man from Lancashire, England, it was named Lancaster. It has now about 27,000 inhabitants, with its quota of public buildings, fine edifices, street railroad, water, gas, etc. The principal streets are respectively named King, Queen, Duke and Prince, plainly indicating that there were so named before the country wore stars and stripes for its vesture. Barring the fine improvements everywhere to be seen, the country does not please me very much. The hills and woods prevent my seeing out in any direction. The roads are all very narrow and most everything seems pinched up and dwarfed. The streams seem not so wide as they used to be, and the buildings have grown much smaller. In fact the country seems to have attained its majority and growth and is now in its decadency, unlike the great West, where everything is undergoing rapid adolescence and development. Wages are very low here; men are hired for \$16 and board during the summer per month, and boys from \$3 to \$8 the year round. Respectfully, etc.,

A. MILTON MUSSER.

## Is Alcohol Poison?

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 13, 1876.

## Editor Deseret News:

With your permission we will assume the ground that *alcohol, except when taken in quite restricted doses, is poisonous to a person in health.* To substantiate this statement we will not use our own arguments, but will present to your readers the ideas, reasonings and conclusions of a few of the acknowledged highest authorities in the world, some of whom, by interest and tradition, are no especial friends of the teetotal cause.

One of the most able English scientific critics, in an article in the *Cornhill Magazine* of September, 1862, says—

"And first as to the long continued habits of alcoholic excess upon the general health of the body, these may be summed up in brief by one word—degeneration. Degeneration of structure and chemical composition is the inevitable fate of the tissues of the drunkard. Apart from moral influences, all that we see of physical misery, of weakened intellect, of shortened life in the habitual drunkard, is due to this degeneration of tissue, which is gradually but infallibly brought about by alcoholic excess. Even the very blood, the beginning of all tissues, is affected in a similar way, as we might expect."

"There is no doubt that in excessive doses alcohol if it be a food at all, is a very bad one, and we must remember that the drunkard does in fact test its capacity to act as food, for by his habits he so impairs his appetite that he can take very little if any ordinary food."

So far as alcohol being a food to the healthy body, it was reported at the last session of the International Medical Congress, probably the highest medical authority in the world, that "alcohol is not shown to have a definite food value by any of the usual methods of chemical analysis or physiological investigation," and "as a medicine it is not well fitted for self-prescription by the laity, and the medical profession is not accountable for such administration or for the enormous evils resulting therefrom."

In yet stronger terms the eminent Dr. Willard Parker writes, "Alcohol has no place in the healthy system, but is an 'irritant poison,' producing a diseased condition of body and mind." Again he says, "Alcohol is the one evil genius, whether in wine, or ale, or

whiskey, and is killing the race of men. Stay the ravages of this one poison, alcohol, that king of poisons, the mightiest weapon of the devil, and the millennium will soon dawn."

Let us now view the matter from another point. We will all acknowledge that life insurance companies are not given to sentimentality. Here is the generally accepted comparison of the chances of life possessed by a temperate and an intemperate person, upon which is based the business calculations of life insurance.

A temperate person's chance of living is about

44	1-5	years at 20
36½	"	" 30
28½	"	" 40
21½	"	" 50
14½	"	" 60

whilst the chance of the intemperate is about

15½	years at 20
13½	" " 30
11½	" " 40
10½	" " 50
8½	" " 60

How great the difference, especially to the young and those who should be in the prime of life.

Add to this calculation the statement of Dr. Hitchcock, President of the Michigan State Board of Health, and we shall be able to form some slight idea of the fearful effects of poisoning by alcohol. He estimates "the annual loss [in the U. S.] of productive life by reason of premature deaths produced by alcohol at 1,127,000 years, and that there are constantly sick or disabled from its use 98,000 persons in this country."

Nor does the evil rest with the drunkard himself; he entails disease and misery on his offspring. Dr. Storer of Boston especially refers to "the dire effects so often seen by medical men in the persons of the children of those addicted to habits of intoxication—epilepsy, idiocy and insanity, congenital or subsequently developing themselves with or without any apparent exciting cause."

The report of the Massachusetts board of State charities for 1866 states, "The use of alcohol materially modifies a man's bodily condition; and, so far as it affects him individually it is his own affair, but if it affects also the number and condition of his offspring, that affects society." \* \* \* Any morbid condition of the body frequently repeated becomes established by habit and makes him more liable to certain diseases, as gout, scrofula, insanity and the like. This liability of tendency he transmits to his children just as surely as he transmits likeness in form or feature. Now the use of alcohol certainly does induce a morbid condition of body."

Add to these arguments the following statement, which has not been refuted, "that one-third of all the deaths in the city of New York are the result, directly or indirectly, of the use of alcohol; and that within the last thirty-eight years 100,000 persons in that city have died of its use, either by themselves or their parents," and yet another, "Attributing the fact largely to intoxicating liquors primarily and indirectly the board of State charities of Pennsylvania state that in careful breeding of cattle at least 96 per cent come to maturity, and of horses 95 per cent. in our northern climate, while of the infinitely more precious race of men at least 33 per cent. perish in the bud of infancy or the blossom of early youth;" and who shall say that alcohol is not a deadly poison, the use of which all who love their fellow-men should discountenance and contend against with all the strength and ability God has given them?

It may be here asked if alcohol is so deadly in its nature, why has it not extinguished the race of men long ago? Simply because alcohol in the shape of those strong drinks called spirits is an invention of comparatively late date. Brandy is a late term in European literature. Gin was unknown two hundred years ago. Whiskey, a Celtic word, has not been anglicised more than a century and a half. "Neither rum, brandy, gin, nor whiskey has been in common use as spirituous drinks, nor any alcoholic drinks of anything like similar destructive power, until comparatively recent modern times." Give them but the time and they will assuredly effect their most fatal work. Y.