

young settlements have performed; and if I am not wrong in my judgment, I would conclude that the Legislative appropriation for these improvements has been well expended.

#### THE FAIR.

We arrived in St. George about 4 p.m., and drove up to the City Hall, where the citizens were holding a fair. This building is entirely built of red sandstone, and so constructed as to serve for a theatre and dancing hall; it has also a good basement story for school purposes. We had a good view of the roof, for the ceiling is not yet up, nor the walls plastered, and for strength and durability it is second to none in the Territory according to its size. This hall measures 50 by 28. In the middle of the floor, ranging through the length of the hall, tables were arranged, which presented for inspection stuffs of cotton, wool and linen, and we noticed a skein of yarn, evenly spun, and of a soft and exceedingly agreeable texture, manufactured from dog wool. We were shown gingham manufactured here, colored with madder grown here, made of cotton grown here and spun at Pres. Young's mill, that cannot be excelled anywhere for evenness and beauty of design. Pres. Young has conferred a temporal blessing upon this people of incalculable worth in importing, it is true at an immense expense, cotton machinery to this country, and no people in the Territory feel its worth more sensibly than do the people in these cotton growing regions. At the south end of this table our enterprising nurseryman and fruit raiser, br. Dodge, occupied a small space for the exhibition of grapes, figs, peaches and other fruits. He gave us wine to drink from his vintage, which I consider excellent. We noticed particularly a small cutting from a grapevine, not to exceed a yard and a half in length, which supported fifteen pounds of grapes of the Black Hamburg variety. Ranging around the hall, against the walls, were tables covered with boots and shoes, machinery, and vegetables of various kinds, Tutt-Si-Gayet, Indian Chief, took the first prize on corn. The walls were hung with coverlids of pleasing variety and design; and furniture and curiosities were among the things to be seen and wondered at. I forward you a list of prizes which will give your readers a more correct understanding of the articles presented at this fair.\*

The fair over, the hall was cleared, and in the evening the President and company attended a party which lasted about two hours.

This evening Elders F. D. Richards, and A. M. Musser joined us. They report having had a pleasant visit among the settlements on the Sevier. The early wheat, corn and sugar cane has been destroyed by frost.

The artesian well at St. George has reached a depth of over 200 feet and the rock is becoming softer and easier worked. A new flag staff has been planted on the public square over one hundred feet high. We notice also the foundation of a new tabernacle 100 by 50 feet in the clear. The improvement in this city is marked, and far exceeds our expectations.

#### MEETINGS AT ST. GEORGE,

Sep. 16, 10 a. m.

We met under the substantial bowery which I described through your columns a year ago. Meeting opened by Bishop E. D. Woolley.

Elder G. Q. Cannon spoke of the industry and energy which were manifested in the progress of the southern settlements, better understood when the great difficulties with which the people there have had to contend, were considered. Nothing but a desire to do the will of God would ever induce any people to do as we do, and have done. Nothing short of the power of God could have sustained us under the adverse circumstances which we have been subjected to; and the enemies of the truth, who would seek to destroy us, have to learn that it is not man nor the power of man, but the might of the Lord of Hosts with which they have to contend.

Elder Charles C. Rich remarked that this was the first time he had visited this place since any settlement had been made here. When he last passed through this valley he would have thought of anything sooner than that a city like this should spring up in such a desert. He spoke at length on the nature of the work which we have to perform in building up the kingdom of God, and the blessings we are daily receiving.

Elder F. D. Richards gave an account of his trip among the settlements, up the Sevier.

Elder George A. Smith referred to efforts made by the enemies of truth to

destroy the work of God ever since the time that Joseph took the plates from Hill of Cumorah; saying that whenever they let go it was only that they might try to take a firmer hold. But they had been disappointed and would be, for under the blessing of God and by indomitable and eternal perseverance we will continue and bear off the kingdom.

Meeting dismissed by Elder Amasa M. Lyman until 2 p. m.

#### Afternoon:

Singing by a Swiss choir from Santa Clara. Prayer by Bishop John Hess.

Elder Robert T. Burton spoke briefly on the reason why this people for the last thirty years have been persecuted by their enemies, proving that they were persecuted before polygamy was revealed and practiced by them.

Elder D. J. Ross gave a military lecture applicable to the members of the militia present.

Pres. B. Young spoke nearly an hour. Meeting adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow morning; benediction by Elder E. T. Benson.

Sunday, 17th, 10 a. m.

Singing: Prayer by Elder G. D. Watt.

Elder Lorenzo Snow reasoned on the power of the Priesthood to govern and control, showing that a continual conflict will be maintained between truth and error, until the Priesthood exercises universal sway and the power of God is known and recognized by all. He alluded to the glorious prospects that Abraham had before him in all his wanderings on the earth, pointing out that we have the same bright prospects ahead while we are struggling with and subduing the earth around us, for the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob have been sealed upon us. He referred to the influence of the wicked that has to be contended with, and exhorted the people to be faithful to their covenants and their God and they should overcome every opposing influence, while their sphere of usefulness and field of operations would be widened and extended beyond their utmost thoughts or conceptions.

Elder Ezra T. Benson spoke of the faith and energy that had been exercised in forming the settlements in the South; complimented the people on the hearty reception that had been accorded by them to the President and company; pointed out that they already realized many of the blessings which had been promised to them, and assured them they should realize them all to the full extent if they would continue as they had begun.

Elder John R. Winder encouraged the Saints to train up their children to have faith in God and in His servants.

Elder W. Woodruff spoke of the variety of subjects that had been treated upon during the meetings, and reasoned that the Lord had chosen the best elements he could find of which to build his kingdom, and had sent forth the best spirits to lead its progress. He alluded to the work that had been done by the Prophet Joseph, by President Young and others, and expressed himself that the Saints in "Dixie" had done well, the blessing of God having been with them, and exhorted them to be the friends of God.

Meeting adjourned till 2 p.m., was dismissed by Elder Geo. A. Smith.

During intermission a beautiful shower fell, which laid the dust and cooled the atmosphere.

#### Afternoon, 2 p.m.

Meeting opened by Elder F. D. Richards.

Bishop E. D. Woolley gave an expression of his gratitude for what his eyes beheld around him.

Elder A. M. Lyman expressed a desire and prayer that the beginning which had been made here would increase until all we desire is anticipated.

Elder W. Woodruff spoke of the difficulties which the kingdom of God has had to contend with and which have still to be met; advised the Saints to abide the counsels of the servants of God in all things, being prepared to maintain the principles of righteousness under all circumstances, and the Lord would bear them off in safety in the future as He had done in the past.

Bishop John Hess addressed the congregation for a short time, and was followed by

Elder Geo. A. Smith, who referred to the active part he had taken in the settlement of the southern country, stating that as he had participated in their struggles he now rejoiced with them in their prosperity. He advised them to husband their breadstuffs with economy that none might lack bread before another harvest, and by reference to ancient Roman history showed the force and power of habit, reasoning on the importance of our watching care-

fully to avoid the acquirement of habits that would rob the people of their correct and simple tastes.

Elder Erastus Snow, in behalf of the people, thanked the President and company for the kind interest they had taken in the establishment of these southern settlements, and stated that with frugality and care they have breadstuffs to do them until another harvest.

Pres. B. Young spoke a short time, blessed the people and dismissed them.

The Twelve will visit the various settlements in these regions, and the President will explore the streams for a suitable mill site on which to place a cotton factory; and it is expected that we will meet again at Cedar City on Thursday evening, 21st inst.

Respectfully,

G. D. WATT.

\* The list alluded to by br. Watt is, we presume, in the letter which has not yet reached us.

ST. JOSEPH, ARIZONA,  
Aug. 25, 1865.

#### EDITOR DESERET NEWS:-

The general health continues good, contrary to what might naturally be expected considering the sudden change of climate and the extra labor experienced by those forming new settlements in this latitude.

Cotton and sugar-cane are growing remarkably well, promising a yield not inferior in quantity or quality to any cotton district in Utah. Soil containing too much mineral for producing wheat or corn, has proved to be especially adapted to cotton. Early corn was attacked by worm at the time ears were forming, and many pieces were destroyed that promised an extra yield. That planted later was injured much less, and the main crop, which was planted the last of July, we hope will entirely escape.

The natives in many places use water from our ditches to irrigate with, in consequence of their's having become obstructed by a heavy growth of flags and willows. They have been compelled to abandon many of their farms for the same cause.

The manner in which the Indians farm is a novelty. A piece of bottom land, as level as possible, and containing from one-half to seven or eight acres, according to the number wishing to farm, is selected, and the soil thrown out, forming ridges three feet apart and corresponding furrows one foot deep; which, instead of being straight or uniform in length, are a copy of every angle and curve known to geometry. They plant wheat in hills eighteen inches apart, near the bottom of these furrows, which are closed to prevent the water from escaping. Corn, beans, melons, sunflowers and broom corn are planted in a similar manner, and grown in great abundance for food. Those near this place have been furnished with cane seed to plant, instead of broom corn, which will produce a better article for food, besides furnishing them with molasses, an article they are particularly fond of. Their farms, once prepared, remain stereotyped. The implements used are a flat piece of iron set in a willow handle and a turtle shell, but some have been fortunate enough to procure a fire shovel or a worn out spade.

Several years ago they received some spades from government, through some Indian Agent in Utah, which are now worn out; a few stubs now only remain which they still feel very proud of. If they could receive a few more from the same or some other quarter, also some grubbing hoes, the present would be joyfully received and fully appreciated, and do more towards civilizing and feeding them than all the guns, butcher knives and blankets that could be transported down the Rio Virgen or up the Colorado, or than all the cattle we have got.

The people are well satisfied with their location, and a large majority have gone to bring their families. Some few have become dissatisfied and left. There is still room for good men who will be satisfied with good land, good water, a good climate and a good country in every particular.

Yours respectfully,

J. J. FULLER.

#### NEWS ITEMS.

THE track of the Pacific Railroad has been completed to the new town of Colfax, the track-layers having reached that point at about 6 o'clock on the evening of Sept. 1. This addition adds twelve more miles to the road, and makes its entire present length from Front street, (Sacramento), fifty-five miles, leaving some seventy miles yet to build before reaching the eastern

boundary of the State. The regular passenger trains will commence running to and from the new town to-day, and about Thursday next the first freight will be delivered at that point. —[*Sacramento Union*, Sep. 4.]

NEW WESTMINSTER, V. I. Sep. 6.

AT eight o'clock last evening the Episcopal Church, a large strong wooden structure, caught fire and in a short time was almost entirely destroyed. The valuable chime of bells attached to the church was saved. The loss is estimated at \$6,000. The insurance is doubtful.

ROUTES OF THE NEW TELEGRAPH LINES.—One line will begin at Chicago and run by way of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to Clinton, Iowa, and thence westerly by way of the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad and the Cedar Rapids and Missouri Railroads, to the present termination of that road (Boonesboro, Missouri), and thence by the most practicable route to Omaha, in Kansas, and from thence to Fort Kearny. From Fort Kearny it will follow the main route of travel by Julesburg and Denver, and from Denver on the new road now being built by Ben Holladay through the Middle Park and Provo Valley regions to Great Salt Lake City, and from the latter place by the route of the Overland Mail Company through Ruby Valley, Reese River, Virginia City, Gold Hill, Silver City, Carson, Placerville, Folsom, Sacramento, Stockton and San Jose to San Francisco.

The other line will begin at Atchison, Kansas (to which point the United States Telegraph Company have already nearly completed a line from St. Louis), and run from thence by the present Overland route to Fort Kearny, at which point it will join the route of the first-mentioned line and continue from thence a double wire line to San Francisco.

The new lines are to be built in the most thorough and substantial manner, and completed with all possible dispatch; and in furtherance of these ends no expense is to be spared. The line from Chicago, by the terms of the contract, is to be finished in October, 1866, and the other by next July. —[*Cor. in Sacramento Union*.]

THE Ellsworth (Me.) *American* says the potatoe rot is doing much mischief in that region.

OUT of 25,000 applications for pardon received from ex-rebels, it is stated that the President has actually pardoned less than 100.

TWENTY-FIVE planters are at present under arrest, at Vicksburg, charged with either maltreating or wilfully killing their former slaves.

THE long continued dry weather in Mississippi and Louisiana is exciting grave apprehensions for the safety of the crops.

THE population of Wisconsin is 855,000. That of Iowa is 770,000. There are 170,000 inhabitants in Chicago, a gain in five years of 60,000, or 55 per cent.

THE freedmen of Wharton County, Texas, are at work for wages, and everything is peaceable. The army-worm, however, is destroying the fruits of their labors, so that only a fourth of the crop will be saved.

THE French Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the prefects expressing the satisfaction of the Government at the result of the recent municipal elections in France, and congratulates them that no disturbances occurred during the voting.

DYSENTERY is said to prevail in Troy, N. Y., and the country around, of a most distinct malignant type. In many cases, says the *Troy Press*, it resembles the cholera. The patient seems at once struck with the pallor of death—his skin blue and cold, and pulse almost gone. Several cases have proved fatal. Malignant dysentery is said to be very prevalent in other parts of the country.

THE Secretary of the Treasury has lately received intelligence of extensive smuggling operations on the Canada border. Silks, sugars, drugs, and other importations on which there is a high rate of duties, have lately come into the country, evading all duty, in large quantities. The detectives are on the track of a large number of suspected parties.

THE 258th anniversary of the landing of the first English colony on the New England coast was observed yesterday at Fort Popham, Maine, at the mouth of the Kennebec river, with appropriate exercises. Some two thousand people were present.