

## Correspondence.

PORT SAID, Egypt,  
February 22, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

We have now completed our tour in Egypt, which in many respects has proved the most agreeable and interesting of any country we have visited in regard to its physical appearance, the character, religion, customs and manners of its inhabitants. It occupies the north-eastern part of Africa and embraces nearly six millions of people—Egyptians, Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Syrians and Mamelukes. The great majority are husbandmen, and their social condition of a low grade, generally ignorant and uneducated and fond of frivolous amusements. The climate being warm, and their style of living cheap and simple, their habitations consisting chiefly of low mud huts, very little labor or expense is required for the maintenance of families. I noticed, in passing through many of their mud villages, they appeared to be swarming with children. We were told, and from personal observation believed it to be true, that in Egypt the practice of raising offspring is the general rule and is fashionable and popular, and that the estimation in which the wife is held by her husband, and even by her acquaintances, depends in a great measure upon her fruitfulness and the preservation of her children. By men and women, whether rich or poor, barrenness is considered a curse and a reproach, and it is regarded, also, disgraceful in a man to divorce, without some substantial reason, a wife who has borne him a child, especially while her child is living. If a woman desires a husband's love, or the respect of others her giving birth to a child is a source of great joy to her and him, making her own interest a sufficient motive for maternal tenderness. Children here appear to have great respect for their parents. We are informed that an undutiful child is scarcely known among the Egyptians or Arabs, and whenever such an instance does occur, being considered one of the greatest crimes, its punishment is very severe. It is said that cases are very rare in Egypt of wives being unfaithful to their husbands.

In visiting the Turkish Mosques, we observed that there were no pictures, images, statues or altars which universally decorate the cathedrals in Catholic countries. Friday is their day for worship. The public service commences about noon by reading portions of the Koran, and delivering sermons or addresses by the "Imens." They hold Moses in profound reverence, and also Jesus Christ, but Mahomet as God's last and greatest prophet. Their creed is, "There is no Deity but God, and Mahomet is God's Apostle." Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus Christ were all God's servants in their various ages, but the greatest and best is Mahomet.

The Copts are avowed Christians, the descendants of the ancient Egyptians, and are very numerous. They have regular convents, nunneries, monasteries and about two hundred churches. The other religions are the Greek Church and the Latin or Roman Catholic.

But little attention is paid to education. Parents generally content themselves with instilling into the minds of their children a few principles of religion. The child, as early as possible, is taught to say, "I testify that there is no Deity but God, and I testify that Mahomet is God's apostle." The boys are placed under a schoolmaster to be instructed in a few simple rudiments of education. The common manner of instruction is to sit upon the ground or floor, pupils and schoolmaster, each boy with his tablet in hand or a portion of the koran or a kind of desk of palm sticks. All the boys recite or chant this lesson aloud, at the same time rocking their heads and bodies incessantly backward and forward, this practice being thought to assist the memory.

While in this country I have not witnessed a single case of intoxication, though I have been in many places of large gatherings for general amusement. On every occasion the people were remarkably orderly—no boisterous speeches, loud talking or laughter. In these large crowds, and at hotels where only Egyptian servants and Arabs were employed, I considered my little effects more secure than at American or European establishments.

The dress of the men of the middle and higher classes, consists generally of the following articles—first, a pair of drawers of linen or cotton tied around the body by a draw string or band, the ends of which are embroidered with fancy colored silk. The drawers descend a little below the knees or to the ankles. Next is worn a shirt with full sleeves reaching to the wrists, which is made of linen or cotton, muslin or silk; over this is worn a garment of silk or cotton descending to the ankles, having long sleeves. The costume of men of the lower order is very simple. These, if not of the very poorest class, wear drawers, or shirt or gown with wide sleeves and a woolen girdle or broad red belt. Their turban is generally composed of a white, red or yellow woolen shawl, but we saw many different forms of turbans—the common style among the servants consists of several spiral twists, one above another like the threads of a screw. Those worn by the upper class are of a better style. The dress of the Egyptian ladies is much after the fashion of that of the men, but more handsome and elegant.

The Mahomedans, like the Christians, are divided into various religious societies, each having its peculiar tenets and practices. The Dervishes constitute an important sect—are very numerous and in many parts of Egypt are highly respected. Their customs and modes of worship are singular and curious. Sometimes they enter a solitary cell, remain forty days and nights, fasting from daybreak till sunset, employing their time in imploring forgiveness, praising God, &c. Their religious exercises consist chiefly in the performance of what is called "zikers." Sometimes standing in the form of a circular or an oblong ring, or in two rows facing each other, sometimes sitting, they exclaim or chant, "Lailah, Ella-llah" (there is no Deity but God); "Allah! Allah! Allah!" (God! God! God!); or repeat other invocations until their strength is nearly exhausted, accompanying their ejaculations or chants with a motion of the head, or of the whole body.

I felt a great curiosity to witness their manner of worship—fortunately an opportunity presented. We took carriages, accompanied by a Dervish guide of some distinction, and proceeded to one of their Mosques in Cairo. We were requested to take off our boots before entering the building—their places of worship being considered sacred and holy. About fifty Dervishes were standing in the form of a semi-circle—their head priest in the centre. They were bowing their heads and bodies nearly to the floor simultaneously and very rapidly, keeping time to miserably wretched music, their long, flowing hair and wild, fanatical expressions, together with their horrible ejaculations and howls, made them appear more like lunatics or demons than rational beings. They continued their exercises about fifteen minutes, until, becoming exhausted, they rested a few moments, then commenced repeating the ceremonies. One of them, either through a high state of religious enthusiasm or vehemence of exertion, with a terrible groan fell prostrate, foaming at the mouth, his eyes closed, his limbs convulsed and his fingers clenched. The Dervishes were pleased with this occurrence, considering it a divine manifestation, which increased their enthusiasm. At length the presiding Dervish raised the fallen man and placed him in the circle in charge of two of his companions. Another occurrence of similar character happened previously to our leaving the Mosque. While these exercises were going on, two Dervishes stepped inside the circle and commenced whirling around, using both feet to produce the motion, extending their arms, and spinning around like tops, with great velocity. I expected every moment to see them precipitated headlong upon the floor, but having continued nearly ten minutes they joined the circle, apparently but little exhausted.

We were pleased with our visit in Alexandria, and with our "Hotel de l'Europe," which nearly equals the first-class hotels in America. Pompey's Pillar, Cleopatra's Needle, the Catacombs, Museum of Antiquities, &c., received a due share of our attention. But little improvement is at present being made in Alexandria, compared with that of Cairo—it seems merely of importance as a maritime city.

In traveling in Egypt along the delta of the Nile, where its waters can reach by overflow or irrigation, the soil is remarkably rich, fertile and productive. Heavy growths of wheat, barley, clover, cane, cotton, with now and then a field of flax, also fields of beans, orange, lemon and fine vegetable gardens, with peach trees now in full bloom.

In passing from Cairo to Ismailia, we saw one steam plow in operation, but generally the ground is cultivated by rudely constructed plows drawn by oxen or an ox and camel yoked together—sometimes by two camels.

We have visited Suez and looked upon the beautiful waters of the famous "Red Sea," and enjoyed a delightful sail over a portion of the great Suez Canal.

This afternoon, we leave by steamer for Jaffa, where we arrange for our Palestine tour, which will occupy about four weeks, and be performed on horseback.

LORENZO SNOW.

TOOELE CITY, March 31st, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Our annual county conference was convened at Tooele City, Saturday and Sunday, the 29th and 30th inst. Saturday 2 p.m. The conference was called to order by President G. Atkin. Quite a number of branch presidents were on the stand.

The general routine of conference business was transacted. The First Presidency and Twelve were presented and fully sustained. Bishop Rowberry and other local authorities and organizations were presented and sustained.

The following names were presented and sustained as missionaries for the county: Elders Lee and Jefferies of Grantsville, and Elders Bryan, Lee, Ure, and Galloway of Tooele.

The spirit of the Conference was good, the teachings principally relating to tithing and general improvement. The Sunday school choir took part in the services of the Conference.

Our prospects for this season as a settlement, I believe, are good. Small grain is all sown. The orchards look healthy and bid fair for a good harvest of fruit. The mountains are well stored with snow, giving promise of water *ad libitum*.

The grocery and dry goods department of the co-operative establishment is doing a very fair business, as also the boot, shoe and harness manufactory, at which they make good articles. They have also in progress a substantial frame building for a blacksmith shop. Other improvements are in prospect.

Two months ago an agricultural society was organized in this town, and I am informed that a few days ago the society received a large supply of assorted seeds from Washington, D. C., for distribution.

RURAL.

TOOELE CITY,  
March 31, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Dear Sir:—The Saints in this City and representatives from other settlements in this county met last Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, in the meeting house in the capacity of a county conference. In all five meetings were held—two on Saturday and three on Sunday, in which the statistical and financial reports of the different branches in the county were read to the conference, representing the same in a lively and flourishing condition.

The First Presidency and quorum of the Twelve and all the local authorities were sustained unanimously.

Much valuable instruction was given by the different Elders who addressed the conference on the principles of the gospel, especially that of Tithing, and showing the necessity of the Saints to be more diligent in keeping and carrying out the counsel and instructions of the servants of God.

The meeting house and Sunday-school choir performed some excellent pieces during the conference, deserving much credit for their efficiency.

The health of the people in general is good and all are busily engaged in putting in their crops.

Respectfully,  
EDWIN BROAD,  
Clerk of Conference.

Women are like horses—the gay-  
er the harness they have on, the  
better they feel.

## A Letter from Salt Lake.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,  
Townsend House,  
Feb. 18, 1873.

DEAR PRESS—In the midst of a driving snow-storm, I find myself snugly ensconced at this famous hotel, an inn, whose hospitality is rarely equaled and never excelled. This house has a frontage of 300 feet, and three rear wings of near 150 feet each, and is two and three stories high—equipped with all the modern improvements, including suite of parlors, splendidly furnished, even to a Steinway grand piano in that styled the ladies' parlor. From host, hostess, steward, clerks, waiters, porters, down to the very "boots," you find gentlemanly deportment, with no fuss or beggarly hints, and all for the moderate price of \$3 per day. The hostess, Mrs. Townsend, an English lady, is noted for her urbanity, seeking constantly to know that her numerous guests are comfortable, not only, but if any are sick, she ministers medicine and consolation like a very humanitarian, supplying all the care and attention of a mother. Our host Townsend is constantly building and has been for four years, making additions to his house, seeking to supply rooms, and large ones at that, for his growing trade. We have called here for the past four years, and we judge in four years more he will have covered his acre lot, entire, with hotel appendages and be prepared for the largest abiding and transient family of any hotel in the Union. The rapid development of the mineral resources of this region is certain to require all the hotel accommodations of this growing city, now populated with 25,000 active people. Mr. Townsend has kept the leading hotel of Utah for the past twenty years.

The committees appointed to collect and forward specimens of the productions of Utah to the great exhibition to be held in Vienna, have completed their work, enclosed and filled three iron-bound barrels, handsomely marked and which were shipped East to-day. We had the pleasure of seeing them before they were packed. They consist in part, of cotton-yarn manufactured here from cotton grown in this Territory—a beautiful article; wheat flour, granite rock, such as is used by the Saints in building their temple; red sandstone, marble, gold, silver, lead and copper ores, with their respective assays; coal, sulphur, soda ash, fire clay, fire brick and fire stone, and the material clay from which they are made—said to be unequalled by any made in the United States, or imported, showing to foreign capital that Utah contains within itself all that is necessary to extract the ores after they are mined, without incurring the heavy cost heretofore made for transportation; rock salt from the Salt Mountain and coarse solar salt as it is shoveled up on the shores of Great Salt Lake; sulphite of arsenic, bars of silver and lead from the Germania Smelting and Refining Works; horn silver, bismuth, etc., etc., with perhaps 200 to 500 specimens of ores from twenty to forty mines, and the assays running from \$800 to \$1,800 to the ton of silver, and thirty to sixty per cent. of copper and lead, in addition. Your time and space will not allow of a "mere mention" of this variety of specimens. There is no doubt that Utah will be the best represented in minerals of any portion of the Union at the Vienna Exposition, or "World's Fair." Capt. Lawrence and Mr. Selby are entitled to our special thanks for showing us these once "hidden things," and to the general public regard for the energy and zeal manifested in selecting and forwarding this multitude of witnesses of the rich treasures of this developing Territory. South from this city about 100 miles, coal (the best varieties) and coal oil abound. Cities with 500 to 3,000 population abound on the entire route, away down to the Arizona line, with many highly improved farms, and a great extent of grazing lands well supplied with native Texas cattle and sheep.

This people—the Latter-day Saints, or Mormons—as they are more commonly styled by the Gentiles, are the most industrious, peaceable, and law and order people I have ever met in my travels, are most sincere and zealous in their religion, honest in their dealings, industrious and law-abiding, not given to litigation, and are quite untainted with King Alcohol. By a definite and organized system

of society all disagreements and everything likely to mature in a quarrel by and between citizens and neighbors, arbitrations are resorted to and nineteen-twentieths of all strifes are settled at the first instance of examination. If any or either party is still aggrieved and unsatisfied, a higher tribunal undertakes the settlement and long before any lawyers are consulted ninety-nine hundredths of these disagreements are satisfactorily settled. Hence very little time is wasted and no expense in money accrues and in no case do the Saints resort to the laws of the Territory to settle and become reconciled. The "Deseret Telegraph Company" has wires extended to all the principal towns and cities of the Territory and into Nevada and Idaho, nearly one thousand miles in extent. The mining interests are to be greatly extended the coming season; this is conceded to be the best and surest mining country on the continent and the railroads are being pushed in a near proximity to those mines most developed. The snows of the season have been most unusual; many of the valleys have three and four feet in depth. The Central and Union Pacific railroads meet at Ogden, some forty miles north of this city, and they are intersected by the Utah Central. All these roads have been bothered with the snow, but their snow ploughs have been kept moving and their roads open, so that in no instance has a blockade occurred and but few hours lost now and to the regular traffic and passage of the trains. The Central Pacific is making continual improvements by shortening curves, by straightening the road bed, building new bridges and snow sheds, and is in fact indefatigable in doing the best possible service to itself and the interest of the public. The Union Pacific also has a new equipment of snow tools; has in many instances raised its road bed and built additional snow sheds so as to overcome all possibility of future snow blockades.

The improvements in the lands, towns, villages and cities on the line of the Central Pacific road are continual, and we note from trip to trip for the past four years a great improvement along the entire line in everything that will subserve not only the interests of the inhabitants and incoming emigration, but the convenience of travellers and shippers overland to the West coast. It is now an easy and pleasant trip, and one of increasing interest to the patrons of this—the Central route—across the continent. This city is growing very fast, and great improvements are noticed from month to month. The Southern Utah railroad is now working with passengers 30 miles south, and the ores from the mines are being shipped daily East and West, and brought here also for smelting.

\* \* \* \* \* We notice far less of the ruffle-shirt in the demeanor of the officials and employees of these Western railroads, and more urbanity of manners towards their patrons, and more work than is commonly exhibited on those "Down East."

Nous verrons. X.

Troy (N. Y.) Daily Press.

THE PARVIN STEAM PLOW.—The *Prairie Farmer* has an illustrated description of the Parvin Steam Plow, a traction machine from which much is expected. It is a very simple machine, with an upright boiler, two steering wheels in front, and propelling feet behind, the "feet" or "shoes" being connected to an endless chain or band and running over, under, and around an oval or oblong bed or track. A gang of six plows is attached to the hind part of the engine or machine. The Motor has been greatly improved and simplified. The North Western Parvin Steam Manufacturing Company have purchased a large and costly manufacturing establishment at Farmington, Fulton County, Illinois, and have spared neither pains nor expense in their remodellings and improvements of the Motor. The company are now making the first Motor after the completion of their improvements, and the *Farmer* expresses great confidence in its ultimate success.

## DIED.

In American Fork City, March 27th, of inflammation of the bowels, ELLEN STEELE, daughter of Isaac and Ann Abel; aged 22 years, 7 months and 18 days.

Mill. Star, please copy.