

CORRESPONDENCE.

Extra Judicial Proceedings.

Editor Deseret News:

The Second Judicial District Court met on Monday, the 5th of March, its regular sitting. As you will be posted as to the usual proceedings, I will only present what to me seems extra judicial.

The petit jury were in session ten days, or at least received certificates for that time. The only case tried was Stokes, assignee for J. H. Dupais, vs. the Lincoln Mining Smelting Company, a case in bankruptcy, in which the plaintiff obtained judgment for over twenty-five thousand dollars. To accommodate this and another mining suit, in which a receiver was appointed, the court continued from day to day until the 15th inst., when the trial jury was discharged. No criminal business was brought before said jury, yet they received each man his certificate for full pay for criminal business for ten days' service, except such as served a less time. No mileage allowed, as one day and full mileage had been allowed on United States business. That day was also, as I understand, allowed on territorial business, being one of the ten. I am also informed that one man, drawn and subpoenaed expressly for said mining suit too late for United States business, served three days, got certificate for five and mileage on territorial criminal business, including one day after he was discharged. Whether this be correct or not, it is certain that after the panel was partly exhausted others were drawn expressly for said mining suit and no other, and received certificate for criminal business.

At the first glance it would seem that the court was very kind to our mining population to hear and try civil causes without cost to the losing party, but I do not so understand this little game. The parties are bound, as I understand, as in other cases, for costs. Should the question arise as to who gets these costs after they go from the parties to the court, which has already paid the expenses out of the people's pockets, I could not answer from the simple fact that I do not know. I am equally at a loss to determine why the Territory should be dragged in and made a party to civil actions in which it has no interest. Utonians are usually very liberal and kind to strangers, and it may be that the various county courts in this district will honor those certificates, not, however, as a legal demand, but as a charity; but to whom is not quite clear. The faith of the people, however, seems rather weak, as the certificates are selling at fifty percent discount. The law of the case is that parties litigant in civil actions shall pay costs of their own proceedings. (See compiled laws of Utah, title 14, page 529, "of costs," page 686, fees "of jurors," do., page 688, of "witnesses.") I might quote other acts to the same effect, but these are sufficient for my purpose. Had the Court ascertained at the earliest moment that no criminal cases would be tried, and dismissed the jury, instead of continuing them especially for civil business, no fault would probably have been found, as it might reasonably be held that they were summoned for criminal business, or, in case of a continuance, had he required the litigating parties to pay costs to jurors and witnesses, and give certificates for the time actually consumed for the Territory, but to require the people to pay for the whole time when nothing was done in their interest is too much of a good thing. I understand Judge Boreman charges the blame to the territorial legislature for not making suitable provision; but on examining the law this court finds that honorable body "not guilty" as charged, ample provision being made. Where is the law or the equity of the proceeding? Echo answers, Where? And the people ask, Where does it come in?

DANIEL TYLER.

Travelling—Meetings at Scipio and Holden.

FILLMORE, Saturday,

March 17, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

From Nephi, where I last wrote you, on the Friday morning, the Twelve and the company traveling

with Elder Taylor, started at 9 o'clock, reaching Scipio in the evening, a distance of thirty-eight miles. Presidents John W. Young and wife, and B. Young, Jr., and son made an earlier start, traveling to Holden the same evening. They intend to make long drives in order to reach St. George as soon as possible.

At Scipio a meeting was held on the Friday evening. The following are the minutes—

Elder C. C. Rich, who spoke first, said in consequence of temporal affairs, which received so much of our time and attention, the Latter-day Saints had become more or less forgetful of the weightier and more important matters. The Lord required his people to first seek the interests of the kingdom, and to acknowledge his hand in all things. If we were doing the former, it would afford us the greatest pleasure and delight to do the latter. All real and enduring blessings, joys and pleasures, were to be realized only through the plan foreordained from before the foundation of the world; all others were fleeting and transitory.

We had enlisted into the service of God. He therefore had the right to dictate the kind of work we should perform. The history of all people with whom he had any dealings demonstrated this fact, that the performance of any other kind of work from that given them to do could not have been accepted of him. Enoch and his people built up a city to the acceptance of God and according to divine instruction. Noah, according to the commands of the same God, built not a city, but an ark, while Abraham did neither, but obeyed God in leaving his own native land and going he knew not where. Moses had his peculiar work, and the Saviour and his apostles had theirs. The nature of the work that the Lord required at the hands of these men differed from each other, yet had either of them turned his attention to the performance of anything different from that given him to do, the Lord would not have accepted his labors, and, further, he would have stood condemned before God.

The Latter-day Saints had received a commission from God to do a work peculiar in itself from all others which had preceded it. The fact of this community already numbering 150,000, composed of people from nearly every civilized nation, who had gathered here by the express command of God, indicated the nature of it. We had now reached that stage of our work when unity in all things temporal, as well as spiritual, was absolutely necessary to our further progress. God was an independent being, and he was going to have a people entirely independent from the world, whose God should be the Lord. We had often prayed that the will of God might be done on earth as in heaven. It was now in order to prove to God that we were truly honest in doing so, and thus be in contradistinction from the religious world who, the Lord told the prophet Joseph, drew near to him with their lips, but their hearts were far from him.

The speaker hoped that the Saints at Scipio would keep pace with the onward march of the kingdom, continually growing in faith and good works and ever be resolved to do right and conquer the enemy as he should approach, and never submit to or recognize wrong.

Bishop Budge followed at some length, and President Taylor offered a few closing remarks.

At this place the company staid one night, receiving the same welcome and kindness that are always extended to the servants of God in such preaching tours.

The morning again found us moving on in our usual order, all following our highly esteemed Brother Taylor, whose countenance reminds us of a scriptural saying, We know we have come from darkness to light, because we love the brethren.

We reached Holden at noon. After dinner we held a short meeting. Elder F. D. Richards and Bishops Roskelly and Preston occupying the time. The people here, who could make it convenient, were invited by Elder Taylor to meet on the morrow at Fillmore, affording them an opportunity to hear further from the brethren, as well as a pleasant ten-mile ride.

We reached this place this evening, all enjoying good health and spirits, and having been favored with good roads and most delightful weather. Here again the Bishop and kind friends were waiting our

arrival, ready to receive us and take care of our teams.

This evening the young people met to hold their regular meeting, to which we were invited. The regular exercises, however, were deferred, and Brother Joseph F. Smith delivered a discourse on repentance, which I apprehend will not soon be forgotten. One significant feature of it was that in order to manifest true repentance, all wrong done should be repaired as far as possible before forgiveness is sought. Elders B. M. Young, Geo. F. Gibbs and Charles W. Nibley also spoke.

The young people of both sexes meet together here, and it is said that the sisters at least evince as great an interest in matters pertaining to mutual improvement as the boys. Brother James Melville presides, to the satisfaction of the members. President Taylor intends to hold a two-days' meeting at this place. G. F. G.

Travelling and Preaching—Want Letters—Circulate the "News" and Books and Tracts.

ROOD HOUSE, Green Co., Ill.

March 5th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

I arrived in Beverly, Adams Co., Illinois, Dec. 3, and commenced preaching the next evening. I usually obtain a house for two meetings. Sometimes after I have held the second meeting I am invited to hold forth again, which I accept; in this way I sometimes hold as high as five meetings in a week.

My labor was through Adams and Pike counties while I was alone. Brother P. Hurst joined with me the 12th of February. Since that time we have been at work in Pike and Green counties.

We meet with many people who have relatives and friends in Utah and they are anxious to hear from them, but do not know where to write to them. Bishop Edward Tadlock would confer a favor if he would write to Robert Hall, at Bee Creek, Pike County, Illinois. John Williams, of Tooele County, has many friends here, who are very anxious to hear from him. Clark Orton, of Clayton, Adams County, would like to hear from some of his friends. Their names were Clark before they were married. He thinks they married into H. C. Kimball's and B. Young's families. He lives on a farm that Phineas Young used to own in Adams County.

Prejudice is very strong against our people in this county, because of the many accusations that are circulated to the world, and I do think, if our people would write to their friends in the States and send back the NEWS and other home papers, after they have read them, instead of using them for waste paper, that it would remove a great deal of prejudice. Wherever there has by chance been a copy of the DESERET NEWS come into this county, the paper has been worn out by reading. The world is anxious to hear something about the "Mormons." Our enemies are vigilant in selling works against us for speculative purposes, consequently the world gets hold of the adverse side of the subject first. False impressions are thus made upon their minds, and those impressions are hard to remove. There can be no better method of preaching the Gospel than by circulating our publications among friends back here. I do heartily wish that our people would wake up to the importance of this means, that is in easy reach of every one who takes the Church papers, to assist in preaching the Gospel. There are many good people here, and all they want is to know that we are the people that we profess to be, and they will be with us. The majority of the world are ignorant, and do not know for themselves, but are led by their fancies and prejudices. They do not investigate for themselves, but are whirled along by the tide of popularity, both of men and theories. If a man rises to popularity, he leads the minds of a portion of his fellows with him. If a theory or a dogma becomes popular, it also leads the minds of the masses, whether right or wrong, truth or error. Then how important it is that the Latter-day Saints be diligent in spreading the truth in every legitimate means within their reach. May the Lord bless the endeavors of his faithful Saints to spread the truth, that all may be saved that will.

Respectfully,

S. J. WING,
PHILIP HURST, Jr.

Old and New.

PROVO CITY, March 12, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

I wish to trouble you with a few lines which may interest your thoughtful readers who inhabit the rocks and sand beds in the Rocky Mountains. Of them I say, let them lift up their voice and sing, and give glory unto the Lord.

In the 42nd chapter of Isaiah and 16th verse, we read that the Saints have not traveled by chance nor wandered without a guide. But who or what am I, that I should take upon myself the right to speak of what God has wrought to establish his people in the valleys of the mountains? Permit me, sir, to say, that I have read the Scriptures in more tongues than one, and also the literature of the Church of "Latter-day Saints" with more than ordinary care, and I feel willing to show my opinion relative to what I have seen and proved in the Rocky Mountains within the last twelve months. It was in the month of June, 1876, that we as a family turned our backs on the State of Illinois and held our way through the States of Iowa and Nebraska, and the Territory of Wyoming, to Salt Lake City. Crossing the plains was to us a long and trying journey, and we felt thankful to God, when we found ourselves all safe in the City of the Saints and in the full enjoyment of the very kind and most generous hospitality of Elder Amos Milton Musser, whose excellent wife did all she could to make us feel at home and happy. We felt very much at home in the city, and thoroughly enjoyed the kindness of the Saints. We were very much surprised by the great American wonders, the "Mormon" Tabernacle, organ and Temple. They are buildings wondered at. The "Mormons" are doing what they can to promote the prosperity of their far-famed city, and I am not surprised that strangers from all nations pay a visit, when in the city, to the great organ, the largest but one on the continent of America, and also to the Tabernacle, which seats twelve thousand persons at one time.

The "Mormons" are a most remarkable and enterprising people. Their works praise them in the gate. They have turned sand pits into fruitful fields, and rocks from the Rocky Mountains into fine commodious stores, school-houses, good dwellings, houses, factory buildings, barns, and other useful buildings, and all that within forty years! The population of Salt Lake City and of the valley, from the City of the Saints to Provo, cannot be less than forty thousand persons, including the city of Salt Lake and that of Provo, and yet there was not a white man settled in the whole district forty years ago! To that wonderful man, President Brigham Young, and his helpers in Christ, and the patience and endurance of the Saints, the praise, under God, must be ascribed.

President Young and his aids have done far more in forty years to save the poor and degraded peasantry of Europe than all the sects and parties in the world have done during the last three hundred years! Let an impartial man visit the Territory of Utah and look at what has been accomplished by the Church of "Latter-day Saints," and say by what other nation, government, or church, has so great a work been achieved in so short a time. I venture to assert, right here, that there is not another nation or kingdom on the face of the earth which can point out such a marvel of human progress as we behold in the Territory of Utah, where we have a race of people from many nations gathered into one fold under one shepherd, and all united in one mind, and of one heart, living in peace and harmony, owners of the soil they cultivate, and able and willing to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless stranger in the hour of need. I may call attention to the charming and beautiful settlements which the "Mormon" Saints can justly and legally call their own. As a man of the people, and as one who has for very many years acted as a consulting and practising physician among the sons and daughters of toil, laboring late and early to promote the elevation and education of the working classes in the old country, I feel that I have a just right to give my testimony in reference to the great work wrought by President Young and his devoted and excellent coadjutors. I know what

the poor laborers were and had to endure in the old country, and also know now what they are in their adopted country. They were once poor and degraded, half fed, and not half paid for their labor in the fields and ditches. Now they are well fed and better paid, better housed, and respected.

WM. FERGUSON.

Provo City, 12th March, 1877.

Baptizing—Interest in the Work—Results of the War—Poverty and Despair—Emigrating.

ROME, Georgia,

March 9, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The work in this part of the southern mission is progressing as well as could be expected under the circumstances. Since my last note to the NEWS I have baptized nine in one locality and five in another, most of whom never heard the sound of the gospel until recently. We shall probably have baptizing to-morrow or Sunday again in this neighborhood. I generally aim to hold three or four meetings per week, and I find them usually well attended. We had a meeting last night three miles below here. We have meeting to-night across the mountain in an adjoining valley, and to-morrow night at a house near the foot of the mountain. When at our last meeting some of our pious (?) opposers fired into the building, luckily doing no injury. On Sunday afternoon I preach in Rome, in the City Hall, which has been opened free to me. I have held one meeting, which was well attended, some sixteen hundred of the Romans being present. My text was the 15th and 18th verses of the 1st chapter of Romans. Many expressed themselves anxious to hear again, and I am in hopes that a way will open up for a good work to be done in this city. It is a place of some four thousand inhabitants, and previous to the war was a wealthy place, many of its citizens ranking among the wealthiest and leading men of the State. It lay almost directly in the line of Sherman's march, and the armies fought back and forward over the country surrounding the city seven times. The principal part of the city was burned on the evacuation of the federal army, and at the close of the war many, who previous to its commencement were counted wealthy, were forced to labor of the most menial character to enable them to obtain food to prevent starvation. Men labored night and day almost, women left their house-work undone and went into the fields as common field hands, while thousands of families were broken up, drifted here and there, the daughters to ruin and the sons to drunkenness. To-day the situation is not more cheering than it was eight years ago. Some of the largest planters cannot raise enough to supply their families with the bare necessities of life, but are forced to annually dispose of small tracts of their land to enable them to live from year to year, while the poverty-stricken condition of the poor is terrible to contemplate, and day by day it grows steadily worse. The taxes are high and the people dispirited. Broken in feelings and fortune, they seem to be drifting along regardless of consequences, caring little or nothing as to what befalls the general government, and this is an almost universal feeling. The negro element is a fruitful source of trouble and likely to continue so. The negroes are generally idle and vicious, congregating in towns and cities, where great swarms of them can be seen sunning themselves on the street corners, having become corrupted to the lowest degree, physically and morally. In case of a war they would be a terrible element for the South to contend with, as there is no particular love between the two classes, black and white, and should it come to a struggle woe betide this people, for it would be a war of extermination between race and race. The stock of cattle, horses and hogs seems almost exhausted. It is very seldom that one sees a good horse, and I have not seen one single fat beef animal in the State. The hogs are a small, inferior grade, and there appears very little disposition to improve the stock. Under such circumstances as these it is impossible for a people to prosper. Much of the land is good and under ordinary circumstances would yield a good return, but its strength appears to be exhausted, and refuses to longer yield its fruits for man's sustenance.