

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS.

Another Interesting Correspondence from Elders Jensen, Stevenson and Black—A Visit to Richmond—The Whitmerites and Whitmerites—Manuscript of the Book of Mormon—Testimonies of the Divine Authenticity of the Work—Where the Prophet and Others were Imprisoned.

RICHMOND, Ray County, Mo. Sept. 13, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

We (Elders Jensen, Black and Stevenson) left Kansas City yesterday morning, taking the Chicago, St. Paul and California Railway en route to Lexington Junction, 42 miles, where we arrived about 11:30 a. m. There being no train going to Richmond until late in the afternoon, we concluded to walk, the distance being only about five miles. In passing through the country on foot we stopped to converse with a number of the inhabitants and learned from them many things of interest in regard to the country. This is truly a delightful country. Near the Missouri it is quite richly timbered, but as we recede from the river the openings and clearings become more extensive, and finally the prairie extends to the landscape. The various sorts of timber growing on the north side of the river we noted the oak, elm, ash, walnut, hickory, locust, tamarac and others. Besides the pawpaw and numerous kinds of underwood and vines. Some of the farms are kept in a thrifty condition, while others are seemingly neglected, so that most healthy growths of weeds have got the best of the cultivated crops. Small grain does not grow well, but the soil seems to be particularly adapted for raising Indian corn, which in some instances yields at 100 bushels to the acre.

We also saw some of the finest milk cows we have ever beheld in our life, the facilities for pasturage here being second to none in the United States. Having arrived at Richmond about 4 p. m. we went directly to the residence of late David Whitmer, and received somewhat cool reception from his daughter, Mrs. Schleich, who keeps the house for her brother David, at the homestead. Elder Stevenson remarked that he found altogether a different influence in the house to that he experienced on his former visit when David was alive, and the place no longer any attractions. We visited the new cemetery, situated at a short distance west of town, where the mortal remains of the last witness of the Book of Mormon now slumber in the dust. We also visited the old cemetery about half a mile south of Richmond centre, where rest the remains of the senior Peter Whitmer (in whose house the Church was organized) and his wife together with Jacob (one of the eight witnesses) and Oliver Cowdery. A fine marble tomb stone designates the resting place of Jacob Whitmer, but the grave of Oliver was entirely hidden and overgrown with weeds. While we found the new cemetery in a better condition we found the old one entirely neglected and marble monuments, head stones and fences scattered promiscuously on the ground. The cyclone left it ten years ago. Heading over the graves of Oliver and Jacob we instinctively uncovered our heads, uttered a silent prayer and passed on with heavy hearts. How we could have appreciated a short interview with him who was blessed with the ministrations of angels, the Savior, Moses, Elias, the Prophet, and other holy beings!

Toward evening we went on foot about one and a half miles south of Richmond to the house of John C. Whitmer, the only living son of Jacob Whitmer. He is the presiding Elder of the so-called Whitmerites, and is a respectable farmer, fifty-three years of age. He received us kindly and gave some information that is highly appreciated in regard to the Eight Witnesses of the Book of Mormon and others. His uncles Christian and Peter Whitmer both died as faithful Elders of the Church in Clay County, Mo., the first named Nov. 27, 1835, and the latter Sept. 22, 1836. Both bore faithful and unflinching testimonies to the truth of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon. Jacob Whitmer died in Richmond, April 31, 1856, aged 72 years, 2 months and 20 days. John Whitmer died in Far West, Caldwell County, Mo., in 1878, and Hiram Page died on a farm about fourteen miles west of Richmond, near the boundary of Clay County, Aug. 12, 1852.

John C. Whitmer testified as follows concerning the witnesses: "I was closely connected with Hiram Page in business transactions and other matters, he being married to my aunt. I knew him at all times and under all circumstances to be true to his testimony concerning the divinity of the Book of Mormon. I was also at the death of Oliver Cowdery in 1830, and I heard him speak to my uncle David (Whitmer) and say: 'Brother David, be faithful to our testimony to the Book of Mormon, for we know that it is of God and that it is truly true.' He then closed his eyes in death. My father, Jacob Whitmer, was always faithful and true to his testimony to the Book of Mormon, and confirmed it on his deathbed. Of my uncle John (Whitmer) I will say that I was with him a short time before he died at Far West, Missouri, when he confirmed to me what he had done many times previously that he knew

the Book of Mormon was true. I was also with Uncle David (Whitmer), who died here in January last, and heard him bear his last testimony in the presence of many witnesses whom he had called together for the occasion. He solemnly declared that the record of the Nephites, as he always called the Book of Mormon, was of God, and his testimony concerning it true."

John C. Whitmer then gave us substance the following particulars in regard to the church over which he presided: He was baptized by his uncle, David Whitmer, Sept. 15, 1835, and by him also ordained an Elder January 28, 1836, receiving instructions to go forth and preach the Gospel as it had been taught by Joseph the Prophet and organize a new church according to the original pattern, in which he (John C.) was to be the first Elder. In obedience to this he immediately commenced his labors and succeeded in baptizing the first three individuals on the following Feb. 17, 1836. Others followed and soon the new church commenced to hold meetings and completed their organization as far as their numbers would permit them. They now claim to have about one hundred members, all told. Some of these reside in and around Richmond, others in Independence, Jackson County, while the remainder live in a more scattered condition in Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, Tennessee, California and other states. The few around Richmond and as many of the others who can conveniently come together hold meetings every third Sunday in a small schoolhouse situated about a mile and a half south of Richmond in the school district where John C. Whitmer, their president, resides.

The Whitmerites or as they call themselves the Church of Christ, believe only a part of the revelations given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, but they take the Book of Mormon and the New Testament as their standard and rule of faith. Anything that agrees with the teachings of these two books they accept, and everything that conflicts therewith they reject. They have no High Priests in their church as they do not believe in that order of the Priesthood, but they have a few Elders, Priests and Teachers. They have no Deacons, but believe in the order, and would also ordain Apostles and Seventies, if the number of their members would allow it, but there being so few of them they could not possibly find element enough to ordain twelve Apostles, say nothing about seventy men wherewith to make a quorum of Seventies. Elder Stevenson suggested that the Whitmerites and Hendrickites unite so as to make a stronger body; whereupon Mr. Whitmer said he expected to visit Independence in a few weeks, when he hoped to be able to baptize all the Hendrickites into his church. This morning we visited a number of old settlers trying to gather information in regard to circumstances transpiring fifty years ago. We visited the site of the old jail where Parley P. Pratt, Morris Phelps and others were imprisoned from November, 1833, to May 1835. An old resident told us that he remembered many years afterwards seeing the name of P. P. Pratt on the ceiling of the jail, which was finally torn down and the site is now occupied by a large wagon repairing and blacksmith shop owned by Messrs. Powell & Sons. On the identical spot where the jail stood is a well from which we drew and drank water in memory of the past. The jail site is a little more than half a block east of the northeast corner of the court house square, on the north side of the street. We made several inquiries about the old log house where Joseph the Prophet and his fellow-prisoners were guarded during Judge Austin A. King's mock trial in November, 1838, and where Joseph rebuked the guard; but we were unable to find any who could give us the necessary information. One old settler, Mr. B. H. Quesenberry, who acted as county clerk of Ray County in 1838, told us that there were a number of old log houses on the north side of the court house square at that time, and it was no doubt into one of these that the Prophet and his brethren were ushered on that memorable occasion. This afternoon we visited Mrs. Blsbee, a daughter of the late Jacob Whitmer, and Philander Page, son of the late Hiram Page, and from them and documents in their possession we gained all the information desired in regard to the eight witnesses of the Book of Mormon. This evening we examined the manuscript of the Book of Mormon in the possession of David J. Whitmer, son of the late David Whitmer. We satisfied ourselves beyond a doubt that it was the copy from which the book was printed—a copy of the original manuscript afterwards deposited by Joseph in the foundation of the Nauvoo House. We discerned between at least three different handwritings, the most of it, however, being written by Oliver Cowdery, whose handwriting is well known. It is supposed that Emma Smith and perhaps Christian and Peter Whitmer wrote the balance. The signatures of the witnesses were all written by the same scribe, which is another proof that this is not the original manuscript on which each witness signed his own name. There was 464 closely-written pages, each sheet being written on both sides. We have also learned that General John B. Clark, the notorious mobocrat, died as a drunkard in Fayette, Howard County, about the year 1880, forsaken by his political friends at least. The notorious Austin A. King also died years ago. He

was taken sick very suddenly at St. Louis and died almost immediately. His remains were brought to Ray County for burial.

Richmond is a fine town of nearly three thousand inhabitants. The court house, around which the principal stores and business houses are clustered, is beautifully situated on rising ground, while on another gently sloping hill a little southward, stands the Richmond College, said to be a first class institution of learning. Two weekly newspapers the Democrat and the Conservator are published. About seven hundred men are engaged in coal mining around Richmond, a number of profitable mines having been opened recently. During the present season about one hundred new residences have been erected.

We start for the Crooked River battle-ground tomorrow morning.

ANDREW JENSON,
EDWARD STEVENSON,
JOSEPH S. BLACK.

RANDOLPH.

A Newsy Letter From The Town of Rich County.

Deputy Marshals Steele and Whetstone very quietly slipped into our town about noon on September 3d and drove direct to the residence of Bishop McKinnon, and arrested that gentleman on a charge of unlawful cohabitation. There being no commissioner in Rich County the Bishop was taken before David Johnson, our justice of the peace, and bound over in the sum of \$1,000. Jane Brough, supposed to be Bishop McKinnon's second wife, was subpoenaed to appear as a witness and put under \$200 bonds. Each was to appear September 11th before Commissioner Goodwin, of Logan. Wesley K. Walton and John Snowball signed the bonds of each.

This has been the best and most prolific year

Randolph ever had. Last year it will be remembered we lost our grain crop by a hail storm. Nature this year seems to be paying us back. Our crops are splendid. We boast this year of not only heavy fields of wheat and oats, but of green corn, string beans, cucumbers and potatoes, the latter in abundance. I mention these tender vines for the reason that some time ago a correspondent of the News, writing from Woodruff, in this county, and signing himself "Here and there," gave our valley rather a hard blow; in fact, too hard for this day, and the great change our climate has taken in the last three or four years. His correspondence has the smack of years ago, when Jack Frost paid us visits almost every month in the year, leaving his mark behind in the shape of frozen grain and vegetables. But that time has passed or is passing very fast.

SOME FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO, when President John Taylor and party paid Randolph a visit in their tour through Bear Lake State, after dismissing the meeting and when the people were on their feet and leaving the building, President Taylor stood up and called the people back, and blessed them and their lands in the name of Israel's God, and prophesied in the name of the Lord, that we would raise grain for our sustenance.

Just think of a whole settlement buying bread and potatoes for fourteen years, or till this prophecy was given. We had to do this, but our bright day is dawning. President Taylor's prophecy is being fulfilled; we can see it, and can see it more and more as the years roll on.

Trees, both fruit and shade, are being planted. Real estate is taking a boom (a natural boom). The much-talked of Randolph and Woodruff canal, running a distance of 12 miles and covering thousands of acres of good land, is an established fact. It is incorporated. The canal is now 20 feet wide on the bottom, and will be made one foot deeper this fall.

Rich County is building a two-story brick court house. Our commissioners have secured one of the best locations in town for its seat. They deserve much credit for the pluck and energy they have shown in erecting such a building, considering we have not railroads in our county. But they are live men in the right place.

It is now reported we are to have two railroads, one down Bear River Valley, the other crossing the valley and making for Ogden City. It is said men are now at work on the last named road in Ogden Canon.

OUR MAIL SERVICE

has been increased to six times a week. This makes our merchants and business men smile, and others talk of taking a daily paper.

A swarm of bees made their appearance in Randolph one day last week on the wing. Mr. Wm. Rex espied them and by the use of an old tin pan and stick, he soon had the whole lot settled down on a currant bush. He now claims the honor of having the first hive of bees in Bear River Valley.

Rich County politics seem to be considerably mixed this year. Some of our People's party men looked rather surprised to see their names in print as candidates for office, without their knowledge or consent, and called "Independents."

Our enterprising citizen, George A. Peart, has put up a saw mill this summer within six miles of town, and is doing quite a business. A grist mill is now in order; we need one greatly. The nearest to us now is sixteen miles away. Respectfully,
J. S.

THE SALVATION ARMY.

An Interesting Description of Their Doings in England.

Editor Deseret News:

We have had in our city for some time past a small detachment of the Salvation Army. I hardly think they can congratulate themselves on achieving a brilliant success.

Those who have only seen the Army here, can form no idea of the extraordinary enthusiasm they exhibit when they meet on a large scale. I have not attended any of their meetings in London, but have been present at some of their grandest gatherings in Liverpool, when their general and several of his sons have been present.

For the information of your readers I will try to describe one of those meetings, which are, very much alike. The meeting I am about to describe took place in their central hall, Hardman Street, Liverpool. It was on the occasion of the departure of Col. Booth (son of the General) and his wife for America. Every branch of the Army for twenty miles round attended in full force, so that there were present at least twelve bands and some fifty officers and about six hundred soldiers, all dressed in their peculiar uniform. The central hall is an old Church of England edifice which has been converted into a barracks and will hold nearly 3000 people. Three meetings were held on the Sunday, and they were all crowded to excess. When I had got over the effect of the tremendous din and discord of the dozen bands, what struck me as the most extraordinary feature was manner in which they beg money. Strangers coming here and attending our meetings in the Tabernacle or at any of the wards have been very much surprised that we have absolutely no collections, whereas in the majority of places of worship in this country there is a collection at every service. The Salvation army, however, are seldom satisfied with one. On the occasion I am referring to the attendance was so large in the morning that they announced that a charge of a penny would be made for admission in the afternoon and sixpence for reserved seats. I arrived at the hall half an hour before the service in the afternoon to find some forty or fifty girls perambulating the streets in all directions offering reserved seat tickets for sale. Some of the lasses held their tickets in their hands as some people do playing-cards and shouted at the very top of their voices for passers to purchase. It was a most extraordinary scene, particularly as it took place in a very quiet part of the city upon a Sunday afternoon.

As I approached the corner of the street where the hall was situated four or five of the lasses (as they are called) came quickly towards me, offering tickets. One of them came close to me and said, "Will you buy a ticket, sir?" I replied "Yes, if you will answer me a question." She said "What is it?" "Are there any reserved seats in heaven which can be purchased with silver?" She looked fixedly at me for a second and then walked away without effecting a sale.

I went to the hall, however, and obtained a good seat. I noticed a large number of girls selling hymn books, "War Cries," etc.; also a number carrying cards and pins. The cards contained a number of printed squares and every person who gave a penny punctured a hole with a pin. This was a kind of receipt. I inquired what the cards were for and ascertained that some were to buy uniforms, some musical instruments, and one girl told me it was to buy blankets for their captain.

Punctually at 3 o'clock the Colonel and Mrs. Booth took their seats and the meeting commenced.

The colonel is a tall, handsome young man, with a very pleasant face; his wife is very small but appeared to me to be very good-looking. This was all the more apparent as the Army lasses are generally very homely.

The meeting commenced with one of their hymns. The noise made by the united bands, however, was so great that the colonel ordered them all to be quiet except one. Then followed a scene of wild enthusiasm. The last verse of the hymn was sung eight or nine times over and, to give greater effect to the enthusiasm, the colonel pulled out of his pocket two large handkerchiefs which he waved in all directions. This was followed by the whole audience frantically waving three or four thousand handkerchiefs, a most extraordinary scene. Prayer was then offered by three of the officers. There was an utter absence of all reverence, but each in turn tried to shout, yell at, and command the Delty in a most excited and frantic manner. Singing again followed and then the colonel spoke for a short time.

Apart from the shouting, hand-clapping and other noises, which were incessant throughout the whole meeting, there was nothing exciting or uncommon in his address. His wife followed him and received a perfect ovation. After speaking for a minute or two she said, "Some of you have paid sixpence for reserved seats, but I am sure you can afford a great deal more. Now, I and my husband are going away and I am coming down to walk amongst you and if any of you will give me half a sovereign I will shake hands with him." She then left the stand and walked about. Half sovereigns, however, did not seem to be forthcoming, so she reduced the price to half a crown and ultimately to a shilling, of which latter coin she seemed to get a

considerable number. Going back to the stand she spoke a little while. After she had resumed her seat the Colonel arose and said, "now we will have a collection," and the plates went around. He then spoke for about half an hour. After sitting down he noticed quite a number of the audience going towards the doors, when he again arose and shouted, "let some of the soldiers take boxes to the doors and see if some of our friends will drop something into them," and as the audience passed out two boxes were held before them and shaken in their faces.

Efforts of this kind to make money are made continually and it is really surprising how very successful they are. In Great Britain alone the army has nearly 5,000 paid officers. Each of these receive about \$300 a year as salary, and the expenses of their meetings will be quite as much more, making three million dollars a year that has to be gathered in their various barrack rooms and in the streets. As far as possible every captain is required to make his district self-supporting, but every penny, beyond the bare expenses must be sent to London.

A short time ago one of the captains collected a quantity of clothing, which he gave to the very poor during a bitter winter; he also collected some money and gave quite a large number one "square meal" every day. A number of the inhabitants were so pleased with his efforts that they presented him with a watch. A few days afterwards he received a letter from headquarters requiring him to discontinue his efforts in the food and clothing line and confine himself to the work of the Army, and that alone; and as no captain is permitted to receive presents of any kind for himself, he was instructed to send on the watch. He did not comply with this request but called a meeting of his corps, gave up his captaincy and severed his connection with the Army. He formed a new association called "the Birkenhead mission."

The General sent some of his ablest captains to Birkenhead, but they failed to make any impression on the inhabitants. Some rather disgraceful proceedings were indulged in by the rival hosts. Both had bands and both held their principal meetings in the open air. I was several times present at these meetings and have seen the rival band marching round three or four times playing as loudly as they possibly could, completely drowning the voices of the singers and the speakers.

If the poor people of Great Britain would cease to give money to the army it would collapse in three months. Many persons contend that they do a large amount of good and there can be no doubt but that they have gathered into their army quite a number of drunken and degraded characters, who, at all events, for a time have led reformed lives, only getting rid, however, of one excitement for another. It is astonishing to what lengths the army has gone. Stores have been opened up all over the country for the sale of merchandise all specially prepared with the colors of the army. Red (blood) and yellow (fire). In addition to their clothes, they must sleep under a cover of fire and blood. The handles of their knives were blood red; their combs, brushes, earthenware, pots, dishes, etc., are also fire and blood colored. Many of their members were so enthusiastic that they were nuisances in the neighborhoods where they lived. The Army frequently holds meetings until after midnight and sometimes all night.

I am personally acquainted with one of the captains who received a deputation of six women, who came to complain that one of the soldiers who lived in that neighborhood insisted upon keeping his bedroom window open all night, and frequently getting on his knees to pray he would shout for a long time and so loudly that a rooster was nothing to him and their husbands could not sleep. Then it is well known that in playing at the street corners or marching they have paid no regard to other meetings or to the sick or dying. I remarked to an extensive owner of cottage property that I thought the Army was doing considerable good. He quite excitedly said, "You know nothing about it," and went on to say that he could prove by scores of people in his houses, that it made idle men and lazy women. When they became possessed of the excitement and delirium of the Army they would do no work; they all, imagined that they were called to be captains or lieutenants. And as these officers are all paid they worked to this end and this only. Certainly not three per cent of their converts remain with them or with any church, and when the tremendous excitement dies out of the ninety-seven per cent they became possessed of seven devils worse than the first.

There must be many good and earnest men amongst them, but I am afraid that this ranting, shouting and delirium disgusts and drives away from all religious inquiry very large numbers of our fellow men and women who, by this means, fall an easy prey to the sophistries of the sceptic and the atheist. AMICUS.

Salt Lake City, Sept. 17.

Let our object be our country, our whole country and nothing but our country. And by the blessing of God, may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom, of peace and of liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever.—Daniel Webster.