

[From the Western Standard.]

**The Work in Upper California.**

SALMON FALLS, Feb. 29th, 1856.

DEAR BR. CANNON:—

This morning br. David M. Stuart and myself arrived at this place, and were cordially welcomed by the generous and hospitable proprietor of the American Hotel, br. Thos. Orr, and his agreeable and warm hearted family whose kindness we are enabled to appreciate as none can but those who like ourselves have no abiding place or home, and have been traveling for weeks and months among strangers, without purse or scrip, and with scarcely a single friend to whose hospitality we could feel we were truly welcome. Here we found a pleasant retreat from the toils, trials and anxieties inseparably connected with the life of an itinerant Mormon Elder; and for the first time had the pleasure of perusing the first number of the 'Western Standard,' the issue of which we have waited with so much anxiety.

We hail with delight the rearing of this new standard of the Great King on the Pacific Coast, around which may rally all the faithful soldiers of the cross, the armies of the God of Israel; and may it continue to wave triumphantly until Truth is victorious, and its enemies confounded and abashed, are put to silence, and exposed to the just scorn of all honest hearted lovers of Truth.

Perhaps a brief account of our travels may not be entirely uninteresting to some of your readers, and I subjoin the following to be disposed of as your wisdom shall direct.

Since we left Sacramento, the 27th of last November, we have visited upwards of forty towns, including the County seats of Amador, Eldorado and Placer counties, at which places through the courtesy of some of the officials, we obtained the use of the Court Houses.

We have had but little difficulty in obtaining places to preach in, as we speak in Court Houses, Theatres, Temperance Halls, Churches, Ball rooms and Bar rooms.

We find the people generally very willing to hear us, which after they do once, they frequently invite us to stay and speak to them again, and we have preached as often as five times in one place.

The miners are, generally speaking, an intellectual, independent, and generous hearted set of men, who are accustomed to think as well as act for themselves, but who care very little about any religious faith.

They however listen to us with attention and respect, with but few exceptions, and we draw larger audiences than do the ministers of any other church. The most of them know but very little about the true principles of Mormonism, and are surprised when they hear us teach the principles of the gospel of Christ.

Many of them will examine our books to see if we have not a new and different Bible, and when they can find no other objection, they will say, that we do not really believe the principles we teach here, and that we only advance them as a bait to induce them to swallow the 'ridiculous and blasphemous features of Mormonism.'

We have of course not been without trials and some opposition, but hitherto personal violence has been withheld, and we have found all the promises of God verified, for we have not gone hungry, nor have we been once without lodging, although our way has sometimes appeared very dark; but we have great reason to be grateful to our Heavenly Father for softening the hearts of the people to provide for our wants, and the darkest hour has always been just before day.

We have no wish, however, to leave a false impression on the minds of any with regard to this State, nor that Elders should imagine that their presence will be hailed with delight and enthusiasm, and that they will have nothing to do but ride from town to town, finding houses thrown open to receive them, and churches ready for them to preach in. It is undoubtedly in many respects a difficult country in which to fill a mission, and requires Elders possessed of a great deal of wisdom, prudence and charity.

We find a great number of persons belonging to a certain class, for whom it is difficult to find an appropriate name. They are those who have been Mormons, who will still, to us, acknowledge the principles to be true, but are afraid to own—or perhaps it would be nearer the truth to say, they are afraid to live up to—their religion.

For if a Latter Day Saint lives up to his privileges, I do not believe he will ever be afraid or ashamed of his religion. For my part, it is my glory; my only fear is lest it should not be sufficiently known, and I wish all my friends and acquaintances to know that I am, at home or abroad, in private and in public, in poverty or in wealth, a Mormon.

There are also numbers of them scattered through the mines, who are too fearful even to make themselves known to us; and strangers both to ourselves and the Truth, will receive us into their houses, and associate with us, while those who ought to be brothers and friends are ashamed to own us.

What must be the feelings of such sunshine saints in the day when Christ shall say, 'Ye were ashamed of me, and my cause before men, now I am ashamed of you before my Father and his holy angels?'

But I do not see what they gain by pursuing such a course, for I have yet to see one of this class who has acquired wealth, or even a comfortable home, while those who openly avow and act up to their principles are universally respected, and generally have been prospered in their business.

There are, however, some honorable excep-

tions, some who are not ashamed of the name, and who receive us with that cordial greeting, that friendly grasp, which none but the generous soul possessing a portion of the Spirit of Truth can give.

We have also met with much kindness from some members of other churches, and from many of those who adhere to no particular religion; and we pray God our heavenly Father to bless all those who show any favor to His cause or His servants, and to return their kindness into their own bosoms a hundred fold.

We have not yet baptized any, nor organized any branches, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing some good, and that God is blessing our humble efforts to build up His Kingdom.

Several have confessed to us that they believed our message, and that they intended to hold fast to the truth; but it requires a great degree of moral courage to come out openly and boldly now; and go down to the waters of baptism.

I send you the following fact, not because it is anything wonderful, but simply as an evidence that God is in some degree blessing our labors.

On the 17th of January, we were called upon by brother and sister Goodwin, residing at Coloma, to administer to their little girl about five years old, who was very sick. We went up to the house, and found the mother weeping, holding the child in her lap, and fearful it was about to die. Elders D. M. Stuart, John Harris and myself laid hands on her, and in the name of Jesus Christ rebuked the disease—the child immediately arose from her mother's lap, commenced to play, and soon asked for something to eat, nor has she been sick since.

A general spirit of gathering seems to prevail, and we find many who regret that they ever left the Valley, and most of them intend to return either to San Bernardino or Salt Lake as soon as possible.

You speak in your first number of organizing the scattering members into branches. This is a very difficult matter, and in most cases almost impracticable; for the few who would unite and form a branch, are separated so widely from each other, and by such a rugged country, that it would be almost impossible for them to meet together. Under these circumstances we concluded the best counsel we could give them, was, to gather to the body of the Church as fast as practicable, which duty we urge upon them whenever we find them.

There are many honest hearted men and inquiring minds in this State, and we believe there is a good work to be done here yet, if the right kind of men are sent out. We have taken considerable trouble to ascertain all the information we could, respecting the best manner of spreading the gospel in this State, and we believe the only way in which the work can be established here, is by dividing the State into circuits, somewhat after the plan adopted by the Methodists, and having men full of the Spirit of Truth and an ardent desire for the salvation of their fellow men, stationed at these various points, to work and support themselves, and preach at stated times on Sabbaths and in the evenings.

It would certainly be a self-denying and arduous undertaking, but I believe those who would engage in the work in the spirit of meekness and love, with a determination not to be discouraged, and a firm reliance on the overruling providence of our Heavenly Father, would finally reap the reward of their labors, and return, bringing their sheaves with them.

I think it would not be a very difficult matter for energetic, faithful men to find employment which would enable them to support themselves, although it might be of an humble nature.

Notwithstanding the flattering and exaggerated reports of newspapers, &c., the mines are becoming poorer and poorer every day, and thousands of the miners in various portions of the State can scarcely make a living.

There are many men who will never be able to return to their homes; and we meet with hundreds of men, who at home were useful members to society, who have given up the hope of ever being able to return, and have yielded to the recklessness of ruin and despair; and we honestly believe that in five years there will be more destitution and poverty in the mines than in any other part of the Union. But some men will not believe our testimony, nothing but actual knowledge will satisfy them. Let such come and learn by experience.

We shall feel it a privilege to do all in our power to assist you in your endeavors to advance in the interests of Truth; and be assured you will receive our hearty co-operation in your efforts to sustain your present position, by obtaining you as many subscribers as we can.

Though but one 'Cannon,' may you prove an effective, invincible and powerful 'Battery,' which the enemies of the kingdom shall find it impossible to silence or captivate; and may God bless you and yours, in all your efforts to advance His Kingdom, supply all your wants, and endow you richly with the spirit of wisdom, so that you may be able to confound and silence all the adversaries of Truth.

Your humble brother in the New and Everlasting Covenant,

WM. H. SHEARMAN.

From the Mormon.

**Pennsylvania Correspondence.**

QUINCY, Franklin Co., Pa.

DEAR UNCLE:—Having deferred writing to you for some time, I ask your pardon, and hope you will attribute my negligence not to any want of respect, but to a sense of my own incompetency,

which I always feel in attempting to commit my thoughts to paper. Although, as George was communicating regularly with you, I deemed my doing so of no importance. As you request it, however, I shall give you an epitome of our labors since I left you in Philadelphia.

After parting with you I visited the saints in Centerville, Delaware, being invited to do so by br. Woolley. The saints in that district of country appeared to feel well. During my stay I preached twice, and br. Woolley baptized five new members and re-baptized two; on my return to Philadelphia, I found George Taylor awaiting my arrival with whom I left on 26th of October, for Chambersburg, 155 miles distant from Philadelphia; we were then met by a brother who conveyed us in a buggy to this place, where we met with a hearty reception from the assembled saints.

We hold council meetings semi-monthly, and have Sacrament administered every Sunday. We also set apart the first Monday in every month as a day to fast. We have baptized seven who have supplied the places of four, who have gone to Iowa preparatory to their valley trip next spring. We have met with considerable opposition; but the Lord has been with us. We lately took a short trip into Maryland; our mission resulted however in little with the exception of confounding several sectarian demagogues with their own scriptures, which is an event so common that it scarce deserves attention. We only preached once while there and calculated to return; but the weather has been so severe that it rendered it impossible. The snow commenced falling the first of this month and has continued doing so, at intervals, until the present; it now averages 20 or 22 inches in depth.

I was very much amused to witness the excitement raised among the inhabitants of the Pennsylvania mountains last November upon reading an article published in one of our Western papers, giving a startling account of the utter overthrow of the Mormon City, of which the following is an extract:

"HORRIBLE EARTHQUAKE! THE SALT LAKE CITY SUNK!! And the waters of the lake having supplied its place, now leaves the Mormons, its inhabitants, in truly a deplorable condition; some of whom were so lucky as to escape the perils of the gulf to enjoy imprisonment, in the upper stories of their houses (adobe ones) while others were floating about over the ruins of the other part, upon rafts, logs, barrels, &c., not knowing how soon their time might come."

The reason I mention this is, I was so astonished to see the feelings of the people manifested upon such an occasion; one would have thought, as the greater part of the inhabitants here, hold to being Christians, that they would have manifested a little sympathy for the loss of so many of their fellow creatures; inasmuch as they had gone there for the purpose of worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences, not being permitted to do so while in the States, on account of the rottenness of the hearts of a great number of the children of this generation. But instead of manifesting a spirit of sympathy for the situation of the saints, when the news came of the earthquake it was carried through towns, villages and counties, as tidings of great joy; in this county ministers were engaged in announcing it to their hearers from the pulpit with great enthusiasm (the reason why, I suppose is that they considered their craft no longer in danger from that source) while class-leaders and members of the most popular churches were engaged in carrying it from house to house, with as much joy as Satan could possibly be expected to manifest, in having been successful in the overthrow of God's holy city. One tavernkeeper in a small town near this place was known to treat a whole house full of ruffians upon the arrival of such "glorious news" as they have been pleased to term it, for indeed it was a sweet morsel to them.

[Wonder if the priests and class-leaders treated? They ought to have done. Such things do not occur every day to the Mormons: a horrible earthquake! How romantic! Salt Lake City sunk! Delightful! Charming!! when some thought they had luckily escaped to find themselves enjoying imprisonment in the upper stories of adobe houses. Better and better! others floating upon rafts, logs, barrels, not knowing how soon their time would come. Exquisite! Delightful! was there ever anything so fortunate? Why Christians ought to have a jubilee, and double their subscriptions to the missionaries. Sympathy for Mormons!—Pshaw! we rob, drive and kill them too, and gloat over their miseries that our sympathetic fountains may flow more freely over the awful condition of negroes and heathens. Proclaim the tidings!—Pasa around the rum bottle! Sing psalms ye Christians: and ye drunkards rejoice! Hurrah! three lazy cheers—the Mormon city's destroyed!! Let class-leaders, ministers and tavernkeepers, priests and people rejoice and join in the general saturnalia, for two boys have been here preaching among us; we could not refute them; but the earthquake has. Three cheers again! Merrily, Merrily, ho! Hip, hip!! hur!! HURRAH!!!!—Ed.]

But O! the mortification they had to endure, and the disappointment they had to put up with, in finding that their boasting had been vain, inasmuch as it had been but a trick of their captain (Satan) to inspire his subjects with new hope, and successful he was for a length of time, until he was detected, when his soldiers began to look rather dejected through being ashamed of their captain's treachery, so much so, that not one of his subjects dares to come out to say a word to us, although there is one or two of his pious ministers and class-leaders breaks loose once in a while and exclaims, "the Mormons ought all to be exterminated forthwith, for if they are let alone they will overrun our country, and take away our place and nation."

The saints in these parts feel well, and although they are poor, at present, yet they live in hopes,

that our Father will soon hear their prayers, and deliver them from the yoke of bondage. There have been several who thought they might get away to the valley this spring; but how certain their prospect is I am not aware.

Since we have been here, we have ordained six to the ministry, one elder, three teachers, and two deacons, who appear to enjoy the spirit of their calling bountifully. We have introduced the "Word of Wisdom" amongst the saints, and most of them live up to it, which makes them to enjoy the Spirit of God to a greater extent, and a merchant in their vicinity to become not a little enraged at us for introducing such principles into their midst; the introduction of which has prevented him from selling them his tea, coffee, snuff, and tobacco, as they all more or less used it.

We hold meetings now in this vicinity three and four times a week, but have been prevented from traveling a great deal on account of the severity of the weather, which prevents the people from coming to meeting as they would otherwise do.

Your affectionate nephew,  
ANGUS M. CANNON.

**THE DESERET NEWS.**

TRUTH &amp; LIBERTY.



Wednesday-----May 7, 1856.

WANTED FORTHWITH!—About six loads of poles, not less than 17 1-2 feet long; also a few loads of wood, for which a good price will be allowed on the "News."

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Prest. Joseph Young, Bishop L. D. Young, Elders Fernmor Little and Isaac Chase, with several others, on the 6th inst., left the city on a short excursion to the north. They will be present at the launching of the new boats in Bear river, and design returning by way of Cache valley. They will probably be absent ten or twelve days.

**Government.**

Most truthfully is it written that "righteousness exalteth a nation," it therefore follows that it is idle, vain, and useless to expect lasting permanency for any government, whether individual, family, or national, unless it is founded and conducted upon the immutable principles of justice. All history, aside from reason and revelation, proves the invariable truthfulness of this position, and still the minds of the human family are so prone, under various allurements, to travel in every path but the one that leadeth unto life, and to build up and sustain systems which are not of the Lord, that at times one would be led to fancy that nearly all mankind are given over to that blindness which leadeth unto death.

This self-conceited generation, wrapped in the pride of their vain philosophies, are apt to imagine that they are exceedingly wise, and that the prophets and patriarchs of old were singular old fogies, entirely unenlightened by steam and telegraph. True, they had not the present facilities for rapid locomotion and transmission of information, yet Father Adam walked and talked with Jehovah, and the priesthood continued in an unbroken chain to Noah, and all who held it were preachers of righteousness, even of that "righteousness which exalteth a nation." And was there no benefit and enlightenment in those teachings and preachings? All must admit there was, for Enoch, after laboring faithfully during 360 years, so sanctified himself and his associates that they had faith to step aside for awhile, and to take with them their city, property and all necessary appurtenances. Can this generation, with its steam-boats, locomotives, telegraph wires, pomp, splendor and vain imaginations, accomplish such a feat? They cannot even tell where Enoch and his city are.

But how about the hosts whom Enoch left? O, they were the philosophical, they were the learned, they were the fanciedly enlightened, and pursued the tenor of their way, seeking out many inventions, until Noah had also preached righteousness for the term of 120 years. And what were the world's enlightened about during that long period? Setting Noah's preaching at naught, and pointing the finger of scorn at his operations in boat building.

But what was again the result? Noah and only seven other persons, from all the myriads then on the earth, were privileged with a berth and temporal salvation in that ark whose building had been so much ridiculed, while those enlightened myriads werewhelmed in the overflowing waters.

Thus has it ever been, and thus will it ever be, with the different courses, and the results thereof, taken by the truly wise and the fanciedly enlightened, until He reigns whose right it is to reign. In the mean time, none need deem it