

CORRESPONDENCE.

How to Kill the Grasshoppers.

PLATTVILLE, Col.,
January 28, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The people of this State have discovered a plan by which they can master the young grasshoppers, and one I believe that should be universally known, so I hope you will pardon me for the liberty I take in communicating it to you. If you think it of sufficient value to publish, perhaps your people will reap some benefit from it the coming season.

Take a can or keg that will hold say from one to ten gallons of kerosene oil, and punch a small hole in the bottom. Fasten firmly on a plank laid across a water ditch, made especially for this purpose, and cause the oil to drip from the can very slowly, which forms an oil scum on the top of the water. Drive the 'hoppers off the land, and all that can be got into the ditch will die in a very short time. Those hatched outside the farm in striving to get over the water will all perish in the attempt. It is a good plan to make the ditch about two to two and a half feet wide, and not necessarily more than eight to ten inches deep. Some so arrange their ditches as to allow the water to form a sort of pool or pond at some point, and allow the water to pass under a board at the bottom. Any way to get the 'hoppers in contact with the oil. One gallon will last about five or six days and destroy billions of 'hoppers. If any oil should by accident get into the irrigating ditch and run on the grain, it will do it no damage.

Very truly yours,
A TRAVELLER.Uncommon Sickness and Mortality
—Y. M. M. I. A.—Schools—Jumpers—
etc.

ALPINE CITY, Jan. 28, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

As we have experienced such a change of things since the year 1877 came in, I think a few words about our situation would not be out of place. It will be seen by the number of deaths I have enclosed, that quite a sudden change has come over our quiet little place, which is situated in the northeast corner of Utah County.

For a number of years past, there have been but few deaths in this place. But with the year 1877 there has come a wonderful change, for, instead of the inhabitants enjoying themselves as they usually do at this season of the year, they have had that terrible disease known as the scarlet fever and diphtheria combined.

Brother Ephraim Nash has lost three very intelligent girls in about two weeks. At the death of the first two more were taken sick, after which one of them died in a few days, and in a few hours after they had returned from the funeral of the second the third one passed away. Thus death has taken three of the healthiest members of their family, which of course is a severe trial for Brother and Sister Nash.

I am glad to say that everybody was on hand to render them all the assistance they possibly could from the commencement, for which this evening Brother Nash publicly returned his thanks.

On the 21st an infant child of Bro. and Sister Lewis Peterson died, and on the 28th death deprived them of their only son. These, with the death of the youngest daughter of Brother George and Alice Freestone, the mother being dead and the father in Cache Valley, and a large number of others that have been and are sick at the present time with the same disease, has caused a feeling of sorrow to be in our midst, which each and every one feel to a certain extent. The choir has been in attendance at all of the funeral services and rendered such pieces as were appropriate for the occasion.

Doctor Christianson, of American Fork, has done all in his power to help those suffering with the disease.

Our Young Men's M. I. A. should not be forgotten, as it is in good working order, with an attendance of about thirty members, who are beginning to realize the responsibilities that will certainly rest upon them if they keep up with the Kingdom of God.

Our Sabbath School is in good condition, and will compare very

favorably with other schools of the County.

Other things are about as usual, only that we have got a number of land-jumpers come to jump all the land they possibly can on the outskirts of this place.

We have plenty of snow, good sleigh-riding, plenty of water about the streets, and freezing hard most of the time.

Yours truly,
J. DEVEY.

Room for More Farmers.

GROUSE CREEK,
Tecoma Station,
C. P. R. R., Nevada,
Jan. 20, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Please permit me to occupy a small space in the NEWS, as we are out of sight and hearing, located in the north-west corner of Utah, on what is called Grouse Creek, in Box Elder County.

We number about twenty at present, all farmers and law-abiding citizens, and without a bishop or officers of any name or nature, and as this is a new settled country we have not had as yet any use for them. We assist the poor and build up new comers, and are all peaceable and connected in the cause of truth, and all well and hearty.

We have pleasant weather with ten inches of snow on the level.

This is a great country for feed and water, the best in the west for cattle and horses, but a bad country for sheep, as there are plenty of large gray wolves and mountain lions and wild cats. Besides, the sheep get poisoned on wild parsnip. A great number have died this season.

There is lots of room for farmers yet, but none for stock raisers. We have petitioned for a survey. Our principal men are the sons of Bishop Rowberry of Tooele, and one of Philemon Merrill's sons, Henry Merrill.

Yours respectfully,
ISAAC A. KIMBALL,
Son of Heber C. Kimball.Crops and Health—Preaching—
Schools—R. S. Building—Stock
Raising.PARAGONAH, Iron Co.,
Jan. 29th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

This is a small town of some forty families, presided over by Bishop Silas S. Smith, who is found in the front ranks trying to lead the people in the principles of truth. The brethren here make farming their principal occupation, which is paying them well, raising an average of 20 to 25 bushels of grain per acre yearly. Our little stream of water, that twenty-five years ago was thought to be only sufficient to irrigate twenty acres, is now spread over a breadth of six or seven hundred. The present winter has been fine and pleasant, and with the exception of colds but little sickness has prevailed.

We had a pleasant visit by Bros. Bentley, Johnson, and Judd from St. George, who held meetings on Saturday evening and Sunday morning last, at which much good instruction was given, also extending an invitation to those of the Saints that are worthy, to go down to the Temple and receive their blessings, baptism for the dead being particularly urged upon the Saints. On the same Sunday evening, Elders McBride and Wilson, of Richfield, Sevier County, traveling through the Territory as missionaries, addressed the congregation on the redemption of Zion. A good spirit prevailed.

We have a good day school, which is just beginning the second quarter this winter. The school is conducted by Mr. Guy Becker, who appears to be up to the business. We also have a Sunday School, D. Stones superintendent, at which the young are taught Bible lessons and general reading.

Our Relief Society, with Sister Eliza Barton at their head, have just finished a commendable work in the shape of a frame house, 20 x 30 feet, which they expect to open in a few days for business. Regular meetings are held by the Society. Young Men's Improvement meetings are held once a week, with very good attendance.

Owing to poor range, cold winters, and the ravages of thieves, the stock business in this locality has almost proved a failure, and we are continually reminded that to raise

feed and keep our stock at home is the best plan.

Your Brother in the Gospel covenant,
B.

St. Louis District—Anxious to Hear—
Preaching—Politics—New Branch,
etc.CANTON, Fulton Co., Ill.,
Jan. 15th, 1877.

Bishop L. Farr:

Dear Brother—Elder C. F. Middleton is here with me. We are well in health, with the exception of a slight cold I have had for some time. We are doing well in the ministry, and the Lord is opening our way in a wonderful manner.

There are twenty-six elders called to labor in the St. Louis district, over which your fellow-servant has been called to preside. The district embraces the following named States—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. I have appointed elders to take charge of each State, and direct the labors of the elders in their respective states, so as to lighten the burden off my shoulders and mind, and facilitate the work of the ministry. Our mutual friend, Bro. Middleton, has charge of the State of Illinois, his headquarters being at this place. I came here to install him in that calling. Last year at this time we had no Saints here. Now we have a fine, live branch grafted into the true vine.

The elders with me are energetic and out among the people, bearing a faithful testimony, and report that they have openings to preach in almost all places where they travel. Prejudice is fast breaking down. There has been so much said and written about plural marriage, by our enemies, that the people are anxious to know of our elders the facts in the case, and we are called upon to teach and expound the Scriptures pertaining to the heavenly order of matrimony, in public and in private, everywhere we go, and the people as a general thing listen with marked attention.

I have been delivering lectures here to crowded houses on the divine mission of Joseph Smith the Prophet, and Brigham Young as his lawful successor.

As to politics the nation is about equally divided, and it is written that a nation divided against itself cannot stand. We find, everywhere we go, men's hearts are failing them for fear of some overt act being committed by the party in power, or the party seeking the power. Our business is to save the honest in heart, if possible, like brands from the burning, not to stand still and speculate how the trouble is coming.

We expect to organize another branch of the church this week, about a hundred miles from here, in a place called Bradwood.

New places have been opened up by our Elders, and I travel and preach all the time, and correspond with the brethren in relation to their duties and how to approach the people. I have joy in my labors, for the Spirit of God is with me, and with my fellow laborers in the ministry.

Your fellow laborer in the kingdom of God,

D. M. STUART.

An Address to the Young—Useful
Also for Others.STANTON, Macoupin Co., Ill.,
December 31, 1876.Members of the Providence Mass
Quorum:

Dear Brethren—Although I am a great many miles from home, I often think of you, and wonder how you are spending these long winter evenings. Whether you spend them sitting by the fire, with your parents and brothers and sisters, reading good books and studying your school lessons, and when there are meetings, attend them, and learn all you can, or whether you spend most of your time running about the streets, and getting into mischief of different kinds. But I believe there are none of the members of the Mass Quorum that belong to the latter class, and I hope that you all strive with your presidents to make your meetings interesting and instructive, for I know that Brother Bullock and Brother Ramell will do all in their power to make your meetings instructive.

Now is the time, my young brethren, for you to take hold and qualify yourselves for future usefulness. None of you know how

soon you will be called to proclaim the everlasting truths of God's kingdom to the nations of the earth. So you should prepare yourselves while you have the privilege of doing so. Study the Bible, Book of Mormon and other church books, for they are books that there is no danger of your knowing too much about. The young people are too apt to lay the Bible and other good books aside, and read dime novels, love stories, and such trash, that is of no use and has a tendency to do more harm than good. You should be very careful in selecting the books you read and the company you choose. Always be found in good society, for a person is very apt to be judged from the company he keeps, and if you allow yourselves to mingle with the roughs you are sure to partake of their ways and feelings to a certain extent, for the human mind is so constructed that it is always at work, learning either good or bad. We very often hear young men say that they are just sowing their wild oats and are going to reform in a few years and do better, but the Bible tells us that whatever we sow, that we will have to reap. So we should be very careful in what we do and always try to do right, for straight is the way and narrow the path that leadeth to life eternal and few there be that find it. But broad is the way that leads to destruction and many there are that walk therein. Is it not just as easy to do right as wrong, and when our neighbor or playmate injures us to return them good for evil? I say it is if we could only think so. But we are apt to be selfish. We are too apt to think that we are a little better than our neighbor or playmate. We forget one of the ten commandments—Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. We are too apt to see our neighbor's faults and talk about them before we think of our own faults, for there are none of us that do not have our little faults, and if we are not willing to forgive each other, how can we expect our heavenly Father to forgive us? God has established his kingdom on the earth again, never to be thrown down or given to another people. How happy we should be for the privilege we have of living in this dispensation, when God has established his gospel in fulness on the earth and has promised us everlasting life in the world to come if we will only be faithful. Is that not something worth living for? Yet what a great many we see in the dark, that are grappling after the riches of this world, instead of God's kingdom.

If you wish to become strong and healthy men you must observe the Word of Wisdom. Since I left home I have seen little boys with their knees sticking through their breeches and their toes out hunting for green grass, puffing up and down the streets with cigars in their mouths, as though there was something smart in using the nasty, filthy weed. There are thousands of just such boys and men, who will spend the last cent for tobacco or whisky, and bring themselves down lower than the brute creation. I am sure that if you could see the misery, trouble and bloodshed that whiskey causes every day, you would never touch a drop of the poisonous liquid. Many a poor mother with her little children is turned out of house and home from the use of whisky.

Almost every house that I visit the people have some long story to tell about the "Mormons." They say we are a set of murderers and thieves and some of them cannot think of anything mean enough to call us. But this is no more than we can expect, for Christ said that his people should be hated for his name's sake, and we can see that has always been the case. Whenever God's kingdom has been on the earth the wicked are all united against it. Now the whole world are united against the church, although they are divided into so many different denominations, each one contending that it is right and all the rest are wrong. Yet they are all ready and willing to unite against the kingdom of God, for there are but two kingdoms—the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the devil. Jesus said, "Those that are not for me are against me," so we shall have to be either on one side or the other.

We should each and every one of us try to live so that we can become instruments in helping to carry on God's great work here upon the earth, for it is bound to roll on, whether we help or not; and what

are the riches of this world compared with the eternal life and great glory that are laid up for the faithful. You, my young brethren, are blessed with good parents, good schools, and good teachers, and if you do not improve the time while you are young, you will see the day when you will regret it. Always obey your parents and teachers, for they are older than you and know what is best. Attend to your prayers regularly, and keep the Sabbath day holy, and God will bless you for so doing.

May God bless you all, is the prayer of your brother in the gospel.

MILTON M. HAMMOND.

Moody and Sankey—Winona—Mendota—Toulon—Canton—Meeting—
Rising Sun—Divers Churches and
Societies in a Bad Way.EAST BEND, Kentucky,
January 19, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Your correspondent left Black Oak on the 12th ult., en route for Winona, Ills., by way of Chicago. Moody and Sankey were still to be heard, calling on the wayward, "Come to Christ." During my previous visit to Chicago, Brother Eggleston accompanying, I visited the Tabernacle, and heard these modern revivalists deal out in their own peculiar manner. Mr. Moody is purely original in gesture and speech, without an effort at oratory. Sankey's singing is always appreciated by the audience. It may be said that Moody talks scriptural lessons, but Sankey sings them.

Upon being asked to whom the converted sinners should apply for baptism, Mr. Moody replied it was his business to catch them, other people might string them.

I arrived at the destined place on the 14th following, and "put up" at the "Elmo," a restaurant kept by my cousin, Wm. P. Wixom; was well received, and during my two weeks' sojourn in the vicinity was engaged in talking with doctors, lawyers, clergymen and friends on the principles of the gospel.

I went to Toulon, Stark Co., Ills., on the 2nd inst., having lain over a few days at Mendota, visiting among friends. I met Brother Joel Parish and joined him in visiting his people. This mode of preaching the gospel seems to be the principal one, and in many instances the most effectual.

I left Toulon on the 5th inst., for Canton, by way of Peoria, arriving next day at 11.30 a. m.

At the residence of Bro. Williams we found Brothers Stuart, Middleton and Bennion. Our meeting was a surprise, our joy a blessing. Prest. Stuart has completed the organization of this branch of the church. A female relief society and Sunday school are in operation. Bro. N. V. Jones joined us in the evening in council meeting. For the benefit of the Saints Stuart delivered an interesting discourse on the divine authority of Presidents Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, which was one of the most powerful and instructive discourses we have been privileged to hear.

I left Canton, accompanied by Brother John Ford, on the 11th inst., and came to Rising Sun, Ind., via Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati. We enjoyed many private conversations with all classes, thus scattering the good seed by the way side, which peradventure may spring up and grow and in days of other years we may see the fruit. Wherever we cross the paths made by the Elders, good is noticeable.

In Rising Sun we made an effort to preach, but were unsuccessful in obtaining a house. We formed ourselves into a visiting committee, were formally received, but warmly entreated to call again.

There are four "white" and one "colored" churches in Rising Sun, all out of order, except the Methodists'. Steam is being added both day and night to this one, by the local and circuit preachers, who have raised the order of the day to a confused mingling of preaching, praying, shouting, wringing of hands, groaning and weeping. Among this class we find prophets, one of them, as a "dernier ressort," said, "There are just six persons present who will die during this year; we want you just six. Oh do come to Christ."

Through tears of sorrow the members of the other sects tell us mismanagement threw their churches into debt, and hard times threw the people into poverty, necessitating the preachers to seek