

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

LAHAINA, Island of MAUI, Ap. 29, 1864.

At the present time I am alone upon this island, so far as the foreign Elders are concerned. Mrs. J. F. Smith and W. W. Cluff have gone to the Island of Kanai; some 200 miles distant, to set in order the branches of the Church there—they were well when I last saw them, some three weeks since.

I have recently returned from a tour around this island, which is the second largest island of this group. The most of the way it is a very rough, rocky, broken, mountainous country, which makes it very fatiguing to travel over. I took a native Elder with me as a guide and assistant. I held eight meetings, and organized seven branches of the Church. I found the Saints in a very low and sunken condition, both spiritually and temporally. There were no meetings held on the island, no family prayers attended to. They said the reason for this was that Gibson had not only instructed, but actually forbid them to hold meetings, preach the gospel, read the Scriptures, or attend to family prayers, &c., &c. He told them that there had been enough of those spiritual works, it was now time to dispense with them and go to work physically. This they had complied with, all except the physical portion. Almost every thing they had in shape of property, such as horses, oxen, sheep, goats, hogs, fowls, houses, lands, farming utensils, &c., &c. he had prevailed upon them to turn over to him in behalf of the Church, promising them to buy a tract of land for the Saints upon these islands to gather unto. This tract of land, you will have learned ere this reaches you, he bought with the Saints' means, had it deeded over to him, in his own name, and unto his heirs and assigns, and not, as he had promised them he would, in behalf of the Church. The Saints feel quite discouraged and worked up about it. They even, by his order, sold their meeting houses, so that now they have no place to meet in. One good meeting house, 25ft. by 40ft. was sold for the paltry sum of two dollars, so as to send the money to him.

In ordaining the different officers of the Church, he would ordain a man to all of the lesser offices before he could be ordained to the office of an Elder, Seventy, or one of the Twelve, and make him pay for a separate certificate for each ordination; this money he pocketed.

I had some conversation yesterday with a gentleman who said that Mr. Gibson was over from Lanai the other day and had some conversation with him, and that Gibson positively denied ever having any connection whatever with the "Mormon" Church, and told him that he was never baptized into the Church, nor held any office whatever. Gibson had some talk the same day with another gentleman, and told him that he had withdrawn from the "Mormon" Church four months previous to our arrival here, so that our cutting him off did not amount to anything. This acknowledged the fact of his once having been a "Mormon," which was in contradiction to what he had just told the gentleman first mentioned, therefore they both saw the character of the man.

The Saints wish to enter a suit against Gibson, to try and recover some of their property. How matters will shape themselves here I am not prepared to say, but feel that God is at the head, and all things will come out right. To look at things naturally, our prospects ahead upon these lands are not overly flattering.

ALMA L. SMITH.

Some of those who questioned the professions and motives of Capt. Gibson while he was here may, upon reading the foregoing letter from Mr. Smith, also feel to question the propriety of the courteous reception and kind and liberal treatment invariably extended to him from the day of his first introduction in Utah. Such persons forget that there is a certain consideration due to strangers as such, and that baptism, laying on of hands, ordination and a mission are accorded to those who ask them with apparent good faith and candor, unless more than impressions can be adduced for denial. This must needs be, that each one, in the free exercise of his agency, may have full opportunity for the merit or demerit that pertains to his acts. And the greater the facilities, opportunities and blessings rejected, the greater will be the regret.

Ever wishing the welfare of all, we hoped that Mr. Gibson would, by a constantly upright and righteous course, live down the unfavorable impressions he made upon some while here; but he has seen fit to make shipwreck of his faith, and for so doing has no one but himself to blame.

GREAT STRAWBERRIES.

G. S. L. CITY, June 20, 1864.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

SIR—A few days ago we paid a visit to the garden of Mr. George D. Watt. The object of our visit was to learn further particulars in relation to the extent to which the Excellent Strawberry had been cultivated the present year. We were informed that the family had been picking every day for over two weeks; but notwithstanding the best were gone, we saw the crop was a very abundant one, and

the berries a tolerable good size; we, therefore, selected four berries of that variety, measured and weighed them. One measured six inches in circumference, the others four and a half inches each, and the four weighed two and a half ounces. We are of opinion that if we had visited this garden one week sooner we could have found twenty strawberries that would have weighed a pound.

More anon.

L. S. HEMENWAY,
LEVI RICAARDS,
JOHN V. LONG,
Fruit Committee.

DESERET AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING SOCIETY.—The Board of Directors of this Society met on Saturday at 4 p.m., in the Historian's office—President Woodruff in the chair.

Director Wallace reported that the Imphee cane seed sown at the gardens was backward; that planted lately, which had been scalded and soaked before planting, was now up and ahead of the previous planting in appearance; the gardens generally looked favorable.

Messrs. S. L. Sprague, Thomas Bullock, Thomas Maycock, of this city, and Joseph E. Johnson, of Spring Lake Villa, were appointed the flower committee for 1864.

The house for the Gardener in course of erection at the gardens was reported nearly finished; the roof having been put on during the past week. Sundry bills were read and allowed.

The Secretary was instructed to write to A. M. Musser, Esq., general agent, and solicit his attention to the list of names of those who had intimated their willingness to become life members, and to furnish said agent with life membership certificates that he might present the same and collect the means at his earliest convenience.

Board adjourned for two weeks.

Attest ROBT. L. CAMPBELL,
Secretary.

GETTING WATER TO ST. GEORGE.—We are pleased to learn that the agricultural prospects of the citizens of St. George are this season much improved. They have cut a tunnel through a point of the Black Ridge on the east side of the city, by which means they have carried the water of the Rio Virgin on to about four hundred acres of good land, which is thereby brought into cultivation. We are glad of their success, for the people of St. George, last year, suffered a severe loss by the failure of water from the Santa Clara. The high price of grain, also, for the last six months has told severely upon them, as they were dependent on other settlements for their breadstuffs. We hear of stout determination to raise cotton as much and more than before, if possible, and with it an addenda, that the wheat and corn, this year, must be looked to also.

THE MILITIA NORTH.—A correspondent sends us a report of the muster and inspection of the cavalry of Davis county on last Saturday week, and the same of Weber and Box Elder counties on the Monday following. Col. Merrill of Davis, and Brig. Gen. C. W. West, commanding Weber and Box Elder were present on these occasions. Col. Burton is getting a thorough system of tactics introduced, and a commendable pride in military efficiency is developing itself in the settlements.

THE RADICAL DEMOCRACY.

The supporters of John C. Fremont in his aspirations to the Presidential chair, adopted the following resolutions, at the Cleveland Convention, as the platform on which the "Radical Democracy" are willing to run their candidate in the Presidential campaign. There was one dissentient vote to the last resolution; it was, however, submitted for the consideration of the convention, and for all practical purposes accepted or rejected, exhibits clear enough the complexion of the Radical Democracy:

1. The Federal Union must be preserved.
2. The Constitution and laws of the United States must be observed and obeyed.
3. The rebellion must be suppressed by force of arms, and without compromise.
4. The rights of free speech, free press, and habeas corpus must be held inviolate, save in districts under martial law.
5. The rebellion has destroyed slavery, and the Federal Constitution should be so amended as to prohibit its re-establishment and secure to all men absolute equality before the law.
6. Integrity and economy are at all times demanded in the administration of the Government; in time of war, the want of them is criminal.
7. The right of asylum, except for crime, subject to law, is the recognized principle of American liberty; any violation of it cannot be overlooked, and must not go unrebuked.
8. The National policy known as the Monroe Doctrine, has become a recognized principle; the establishment of anti-republican governments on this Continent by foreign powers cannot be tolerated.
9. Gratitude and support of the nation is

due to the brave soldiers and leaders of the Army and Navy for heroic achievements in defence of an imperilled country.

10. In favor of one-term policy for the Presidency.

11. The Constitution should be so amended that the President and Vice-President shall be elected by the direct vote of the people.

12. Reconstruction of the rebellious States belongs to the people through their Representatives in Congress, and not to the Executive.

13. That the confiscation of the lands of the rebels, and their distribution among the soldiers and actual settlers is a measure of justice.

The prospects of the Pathfinder are painted in glowing colors by the press in his interest, and nothing is more certain, according to that authority, than John and "Jesse" taking possession of the White House next March. The press of the other Democracy, though violently bitter to the very distinctive features of the Radical wing, view with particular pleasure the advent of Fremont as an important division in the Republican camp.

The tone and temper of the Fremonters may be judged by the following article:

[From the New Nation, (Fremont's Organ,) May 28.]

FOR CLEVELAND.

The time has come—in the language of the call for the Cleveland Convention—for all independent men, all who are jealous of the national liberty and greatness, to unite in a common effort to oppose an insurmountable barrier against the flood of shame and ruin which is pouring over the country from Washington, and threatens to bury even the American name. Inaugurated in error and cowardice, the present administration tended inevitably to the painful end which we have before our eyes. Error as to the true bearing and character of the contest; error as to its probable duration; looking only upon compromise as a possible solution of the struggle, and protecting in slavery the very source of the conflict, the administration of Mr. Lincoln could only and inevitably terminate in the half measures which prolong crises and never conclude them; cowardice in dealing with foreign powers, which did not blush to assimilate themselves to revolted criminals under the name of belligerents; cowardice in dealing with England imperiously demanding the Trent prisoners, notwithstanding the open manifestation of the popular will; cowardice in dealing with Louis Napoleon, who insolently treads the Monroe doctrine under foot and slaps us in the face with its fragments, stained with Mexican blood; cowardice toward the whole world, in suffering, without reprisals, our commerce and our flag to be insulted in every sea by pirates issuing from the ports of powers which make war upon us under the shelter of neutrality; everywhere cowardice. Americans! Is this the device which our fathers left to us? Is it this which we shall leave to our children? Without energy for good, without force against evil, and without intelligence to foresee and to direct, what has become of our liberties, and what has become of the immense resources of our executives? Our liberties! we have seen them succumb, one by one, without a murmur, without a single popular protest to vindicate right and justice outraged.

In fighting for universal liberty, are we going to surrender our own? Our national wealth is following in the wake of our liberties. The resources heaped up by a century of persevering labor, that prosperity which was the envy of the world and our great and just pride, is flowing off at the rate of four millions of dollars a day, into the pockets of contractors, scattered and wasted by incapacity on the battle-field, and by corruption in public transactions. Prostrate, ruined, and dishonored, have we at least the consolation to see all these sacrifices crowned by victory over our enemies? Judge for yourselves. After three years of voluntary impotence, after having steadily drained our wealth and our blood in such way as just to carry our existence along far enough to bring us exhausted to the moment of a presidential election, the administration drawing together for a supreme last effort all the force of the nation, stakes its existence on a last card in order to perpetuate itself in power, or, if it fails, to leave with its successor only a ruin and the remembrance of a greatness destroyed forever. Shades of Washington, of Jefferson, of Monroe and Jackson, of Adams, of Clay, of Webster and of Benton, tell our countrymen if you recognize that republic which you knew how to make so great! Bloody shades of the heroes of independence, you who founded the republic by heroism and suffering against the numbers and the treasures of England, rise up and tell us if you recognize your battles of giants where energy and valor supplied the place of numbers, in these human leviathans where patriotism succumbs under incompetence! Come forward! Touch with your finger the bodies of these contractors swollen with the people's gold, mocking at the devastation and smiling over the national ruin; touch and tell us if your antique virtue realizes the existence of these human vultures! People! there is yet time for you to rise up. There is yet time for you to pass in review the acts of a guilty administration, which has betrayed your confidence, and to arrest its course.

—A bad cold makes a man supercilious. He sneezes at everything.

[Correspondence of Philadelphia Inquirer.]

FORT SUMTER AND CHARLESTON AS THEY ARE.

Fort Sumter was associated with the rebellion in its insipidity, and promises to remain the bulwark and defence of the pestilent metropolis of treason to the termination of hostilities. The rebels have defended it with great sacrifice, immense life-offering, with extraordinary tenacity and desperation. Its external appearance, as seen from Gregg's Point is but little changed since November last. On the sea-face, oblique from Morris Island, not a wall, rampart, parapet, or anything resembling them, can be distinguished; nothing is there but a ragged mass of mortar, pounded into dust by the thousands of projectiles fired from our guns and mortars. The berme or base, the sides and top, are a mere ruin to the eye, looking like a bluff or steep hillside, covered with broken shot, shell, iron beams, fragments of guns, splintered gun carriages, and other debris of war. Yet the rebel flag floats defiantly over the ruins, and the hateful red cross, dots and bars, flaunt and dance on every breeze that sweeps across the bay. Looking on Sumter to day does not confirm the announcement by our Chief of artillery, in January last, that "Sumter is now untenable and of no defensive value to the confederates." Our operations were abandoned too soon, and its present strength and defensive character confirms that belief. It is still the citadel of Charleston, notwithstanding its helpless appearance. From the parapet of Fort Putnam, on Gregg's Point, I looked into Charleston (through a field glass), and although the lower portions of the city appeared dull and dilapidated, yet it was far from being deserted. A blockade steamer, which ran up the Swash channel the night previous (past the entire fleet and in front of our batteries), was blowing off steam at the wharf, on the Ashley side of the city. Said steamer was observed by our gunners in Wagner, and several shots were fired at her, but without effect. Two other blockade runners got into Charleston a fortnight since. So Charleston is not thoroughly blockaded by the fleet, nor was it ever half besieged by the army. Immense volumes of smoke were rolling out of some tall chimneys located in the north east section of the city, where it is said the confederacy have a large foundry and ordnance manufactory. Three iron-clad rams have been constructed there within the past eighteen months, and now defend the harbor above Castle Pinckney. Blackened walls and skeletons of buildings can be seen in different parts of the city, evidences of bombardment, siege and conflagration. The bombardment of Charleston, though unsuccessful in its capture, has demonstrated a great idea in war—the astonishing destructiveness of artillery at long range, a greater range than ever before realized. The batteries at Gregg's Point are over four miles from Charleston, and yet we have thrown shells into the city, from thirty and one hundred-pounder Parrott guns, daily and nightly, for months past. The accuracy of our fire has also been remarkable and unprecedented. Of course, that is due to rifled cannon, an improvement that Vauban and Montalembert never dreamed of, but which are as superior to smooth-bore guns as were the arms of the first Napoleon over the leather guns of Gustavus Adolphus.

GREEK FIRE BURNED OUT.

People at the North, unfamiliar with this siege, have heard a great deal about "Greek fire," which, it was said, was thrown into Charleston; and that fiery mixture was reported to have been terribly destructive. I will rob the siege of that barbarity, for not a drop or a particle of Greek fire ever reached that city from our batteries. That invention was tried, but would not work; it always fell short, often exploding at the muzzle of the guns. We used another invention, called rock-fire by the soldiers, and which did better. The ingredients of both of these "villainous compounds" was kept a secret, but phosphorus, dissolved in bisulphate of carbon composed a part. They possessed an abominable odor, a chemical stench, rebellious smell, but agreeable enough had they met the expectations of the inventors, for they were got up expressly for the fire-eaters of the confederacy.

DR. BEECHER'S NEW CARPET.—There was not a store in town, and all our purchases were made in New York by a small schooner that ran once a week. We had no carpets; there was no carpet from end to end of the town. All had sanded floors, some of them worn through. Your mother introduced the first carpet. Uncle Lot gave me some money, and I had an itch to spend it. Went to a vendor and bought a ball of cotton. She spun it and had it woven; then she laid it down, sized it, and painted it in oils, with a border all around it, and bunches of roses and other flowers over the centre. She sent to New York for her colors, and ground and mixed them herself. The carpet was laid down on the garret floor, and she used to go up there and paint. She also took some common wooden chairs and painted them, and cut out figures of gilt paper, and glued them on and varnished them. They were really quite pretty. Old Deacon Tallmadge came to see me. He stopped at the parlor door and seemed afraid to come in. "Walk in, deacon, walk in," said I. "Why I can't," said he, "thout stepin' on't." Then after surveying it awhile in admiration, "D'ye think ye can have all that and heaven too?" Perhaps he thought we were getting too splendid and feared we should make an idol of our fine things.—[Life of Dr. Lyman Beecher.]