

LETTER FROM GEORGE A. SMITH.

Cedar City, Iron county, }
April 29, 1851. }

To the Editor of the News.

DEAR SIR:—The mail not having arrived to this date, and an opportunity presenting, I send you a few lines regarding the progress of our subduing the elements in this quarter of the country, the travel through this place, &c. The company of P. P. Pratt and Gen. Rich's division arrived at this point on Friday, the 11th inst., and they kept arriving until the 19th in companies of different sizes, and camped in this vicinity (some companies departing in the mean time, however,) until yesterday, when the last company left L—— creek. None could be induced to remain at this point, though the circumstances of some regarding health and the state of teams would seem to warrant such a course. Some children had been born on the way, and some after their arrival; the health of the parents would not justify pursuing the journey at the moment, but the anxiety (I presume) of persons to taste the fruits of the sunny climes of California, was so great that not a moment was to be lost.—Health, happiness, and every other consideration to a reasonable man, was to be sacrificed to obtain these much desired blessings; and if they should be as eager to follow the counsel of those appointed to lead them hereafter, as they pretended they were in passing this place by counsel, much good will result from their operations.

The wheat is pretty well sown, and the other labors of fencing and preparing for watering our land already sown, is fast progressing, and in a few days the most will be done. The grain sown early is looking fine, and the prospect looks favorable for an early crop, and a good one. All are in good spirits, and are doing the best they can; a few discontented spirits, however, who are quite anxious to see their families, and are praying for the way to open for their return.

We have suffered no harm from the Indians; they have committed no known depredations upon our stock, which are in good condition; the feed is fast improving, and the past week we have had some fine showers, which have made glad the hearts of man and beast.

We are looking anxiously for the President with the brethren of our express, and hope we shall see him among us speedily. By the arrival of the brethren who stop with us, we received a good supply of potatoes and some other seeds. We also received some from the company passing, who added to our stock.

It is a time of health with us, and occasionally we receive a rich treat in the shape of speckled trout, brought in by the Indians fresh from the lake across the mountain a few miles, which we as yet have not had time to explore.

Since our last communication, two more children have been added to our number, and are doing well.

We have the finest quality of clay for brick or adobies, far better than in the valley of the Great Salt Lake; and the country abounds with it, with plenty of the finest quality of white clay; also lime; and if we do not build good houses, it will be because we have no disposition to do so.

Four individuals, identified with our company in coming to this point, have left us for

California with the company passing; they did well while here, but were gold diggers and pursued their way. Bro. Philip B. Lewis left us with Br. Parley to go to the islands; he was in fine spirits, and seemed to enjoy the prospect before him very much. Nothing further at present.

Respectfully, I remain yours, &c.,
GEORGE A. SMITH.

LIVE POSTS—WIRE FENCES, ETC.

Under the caption of "wire fences," in the June number of the *Agriculturist*, I see a statement that a wire fence has been built for \$200 per mile, sufficient to turn cattle, horses, &c. Cheap as this may appear, I think I can offer a plan of constructing a fence sufficient to turn cattle, at a far less cost, say \$10 or \$12 per mile, which, if it prove practicable, would be some saving.

The plan I propose, is, to procure about eight quarts of long-leaved pine seed, and sow them on a breadth of land where the fence is wanted, not exceeding two feet in width. There is no danger of getting them too thick, the thicker the better—say as thick as you would sow buckwheat, I should think might answer. They will require the cattle and other stock to be kept from them for about four years, but will need neither cultivation nor attention of any kind, except to destroy the worms which will be likely to attack some of them, in the month of June, in the second, third and fourth years, after which, they will be out of danger of worms and stock; and, by the sixth or seventh years, cattle could not force their way through them, and if they come thick enough, there will be but little danger to be apprehended from animals of the smaller kind.

I have a pine thicket now growing, not sown, however, with design of fence, in many places of which a sucking pig of a few weeks old could not pass between them, and I infer, if the pines will grow so close without arrangement, they would do the same with. The above is a theory based upon observation. You can take it for what it is worth; but I intend to put it into practice the coming winter, to some extent. Should it prove practicable to make a fence of this description, large farms could be enclosed with it without much loss, especially when land is cheap, and a great deal of waste land, or commons might be enclosed.

In regard to live posts for wire fence, it occurs to me that pines would be much better adapted than any other kind of wood, as they would grow large enough in a few years; and I think the turpentine would prevent corrosion of the wire. Should this prove correct, I think there could be nothing more suitable; for they are rather more a fertiliser than exhauster of poor land, at least, and I think they would add to the beauty of the farm. Fancy to yourself a farm handsomely laid off with rows of evergreens at intervals of 40 or fifty feet in a row. Do you not think it would be an improvement on the zig-zag fence of the present day? As for the ground occupied, wheat, I think, would grow up to the very roots of the tree. I have just harvested wheat five feet high, within the distance of a common cart-track from a row of pines, in places thick enough for fence themselves. Corn is growing on the opposite side, and looks quite healthy within a few feet of the trees. This row is about one eighth of a mile in length, sowed

with the design of seeding an old field, which the introduction of guano has saved the trouble. I now intend to thin it out on the plan above proposed, and insert wires with a handsaw, and hope to make a formidable fence.
Z * * *

Delaware.


[American Agriculturist.]

TO RESTORE PEAR TREES.—The doyen or vergouleuse is worthless here. The fruit commences cracking when a little more than half grown, becomes woody, and in some years very few or none ripen. Our soil appears to need some compound to bring the fruit to maturity. I had two seedling trees more than thirty years old, which never produced any fruit. About seven or eight years ago, as an experiment to make them bear, I cut on three sides of each of their trunks, with an axe, about an inch and a half deep. This had the desired effect; they have produced fruit more or less ever since.

Pear trees may be set out near buildings, so that their roots may extend under them, where the soil is generally light and moist, and contains more or less saltpetre.

HAWLEY B. ROGERS.

Huntington, L. I., May, 1850. [Ag.]

 **Preservation of Pumpkins** through the greater part of the winter, if sound and well ripened, is easily attained, by stowing them in a mow of dry hay or straw, or placing the same on a barn floor and covering them with any light forage. A dry cellar will frequently keep them sound; but these are usually too moist for this purpose. They ought occasionally to be looked after, and any showing evidence of incipient decay, should be immediately used. All the partially ripe, small, and imperfect should be fed soon after taken from the field.—[Ag.]

Who can be surprised that the masses of Great Britain are in a state of destitution and misery? With a population of 27,000,000 in England, Ireland, and Scotland, Great Britain paid in 1847, £56,000,000, or \$280,000,000 taxes. Of this, \$45,000,000 was derived from property—the tax of aristocracy and gentry—while 235,000,000 was derived from trade and industry, or rather from the sweat and blood of the masses. William, the Norman, who founded in the tenth century a system of English taxation, is generally called a robber, but in the period of 6 centuries, from his conquest to 1600, English taxes never rose in a single year above \$3,000,000. George I. raised them to \$30,000,000; George III., the odious tyrant who sought to strangle our liberty, raised them to \$270,000,000, while in 1847, they were increased to \$280,000,000; which, divided among the population of Britain, is \$10.30 to every man, woman, and child.

The population of Europe is about 220,000,000. Of these, no more than 55,000,000 are men of mature age, of their number at least 15,000,000 are idlers, paupers, or criminals, so that 40,000,000 of industrious men are left to support their families, and pay an annual tax of from \$50 to \$60 each.

BUGS ON VINES.—Sprinkle them well with urine. If too strong, it will kill the vines as well as the bugs. A moderate dose, diluted with water, will drive off the bugs, and make the vines grow rapidly.