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## EVENING NEWS.

Saturday. May 18, 1875.

### Correspondence.

A Dance—No Bound Dances—Adieu—Final Sicknes.

WELLSVILLE, Cache Co., May 10, 1875.

Editor Deseret News:

Our dance, occasioned by Bishop Maughan's early departure, came off according to appointment on Friday evening, and was a truly enjoyable affair, although our girls have taken a very bold stand, in having, at their last relief meeting, at the suggestion of the Bishop, unanimously voted down round dancing of every description. Let me come what may, they have decided to obey command, and abide the consequences. The weaker vessels are certainly taking the lead, for what they do they do with might and main. For example, their surprise party, on Saturday evening, was a surprise to all, not to Bishop Maughan only. I think about a dozen were able to keep a secret ball! When tables can be spread and supper laid in the public hall for three or four hundred people, consisting of all the delicacies of the season, and no one any the wiser, it is time that the old adage holds true, that next adieu, at least it should go far towards exploding it. Take it all in, it was a grand affair—speeches, congratulations, singing and dancing—all went off with the greatest eclat.

On Sunday the bishop preached his farewell address, and in shape of counseling with Salins in various ways, admonishing them above all things to be one, and hold together.

Bro. John Jardine was appointed to act as bishop in the absence of Bishop Maughan. Bro. Jardine is a good man, so all believe. May he magnify his calling in the Church, and prove a friend and father to the people. He commences his duties with the prayer of the saints, May God enable him to merit them.

The brass band serenaded the bishop last evening, and this morning (Monday) he rode out to house and friends, and took his departure for Mendon, accompanied by numerous friends. There the last home link was severed, and amid tears and blessings, good-bye was said, a lingering look at beautiful "Cache" and away on route.

We had a long but mild winter here, but the longest night has a morning, and now we have glorious Spring, pleasant showers of rain and the prospect for a bountiful harvest are cheering.

There has been a great deal of sickness of a very fatal character among children this winter, especially.

It is a sort of natural epidemic threat. It has carried off a great many in this settlement. Whether it has been prevalent or not in other portions, I am not posted.

The horses are shambling on their bits, the plow is motionless in the furrow, an empty bin, duty calls.

Respectfully,

W. K. R.

Decrease of Population in France.

At the late Congress of Roman Catholic Bishops, held at Lourdes, the Order of Jesus, and a remarkable paper upon the causes of decreasing population in France. The subject is one which at the present moment is obviously of the utmost consequence to the nation. The Abbe Sambin agrees with Napoleon I. in his maxim, that "the ratio of a state is to measure itself by the number of men it can arm and bring into the field." And now that both France and Germany are enforcing pretty rigidly the law of universal military service, it becomes a serious difficulty to reconcile the principles involved with the idea of recovering her lost position in Europe. The reality of the mischief is not a matter of vague assertion; it is testified unmistakably by the statistics of the census. These show that the population of France does not at the present time exceed itself in less than 100 years, whereas that of Austria is doubled in 100 years, those of England and Germany in about 57, and that of Russia in 50. Nor is the cause of the difference less alarming than the fact. The rate of increase of France is in direct proportion to its greater unhealthiness of the country. A like cause would tell the same tale in Russia, but the large families there more than compensate for the losses by death. In France the death rate is lower than in any other European country. Consequently the annual stagnation of the population is due solely to the scarcity of birth. The statistics given above of course taken with every allowance for the loss of territory, and also for the losses in the actual war. Even thus, many states still contest that the rate of French increase is even slower, or, in short, that there is no increase at all. But the practical question is—how can such an exceptional inferiority in the national growth be remedied or counteracted? This is the first necessity to determine to what cause it is due. The Abbe Sambin attributes it to the French law of compulsory partition of property on the death of the owner. This principle is, of course, founded on the Roman law of intestate succession. But it is not only the law of inheritance that increases it a long way in his view. It is, however, a noticeable fact that the decline of Imperial Rome is attributed by able historians to the same phenomenon of which the French complain—a preponderance of deaths over births throughout the nation.

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