

ELDERS' CORRESPONDENCE.

[From a letter to Elder Geo. A. Smith from Elder James Ferguson.]

IRELAND.

BELFAST, Feb. 20, '55.

I arrived in this town (where I was born, Feb. 23, 1825) on the 1st of last August, and here I commenced the business of my mission. My time, so far, has been occupied principally in Dublin and here. In both places on my arrival I found things looking rather gloomy. One elder (Patrick Lynch) was all that could be sustained in Ireland, and he had but scanty fare. Since then he has been relieved, and has emigrated.

Thro' the assistance of the Spirit of God, the mission has taken quite a good start, and there are now six elders in the field, viz:—McAllister, Bond, Cowley, and myself, of the Valley, and Croston and Samuel Kerr, of these countries.

The saints (good and indifferent) number about 100 in the whole country. Of these 22 have been added since I came.

I need not tell you that the opposition we encounter is strong and bitter—not from the Catholics, but the Protestants. I inclose you an account of a trial held lately in Dublin on the occasion of a riot held in one of our meetings by these good people. They smashed our windows, and made some sharp attempts at personal violence on the brethren. It occurred during my absence, but I was present at the trial. I tried to get a chance to speak on the case, or even ask a question, but was prohibited. After the vindictive decision of the magistrate, the bystanders gave him 'unbounded applause.' The result was, we were obliged for the present to give up our place of meeting in Dublin.

I am well persuaded however, that the matter will result in good. Mormonism is talked of the more; and the brethren now feel obligated to try the fireside and more private meetings, which in this country, will prove the best manner of preaching. Considerable inquiry is out among the people about our principles, and some stand trembling at the water's edge.

In this country it is quite a venture to embark in Mormonism. Persecution, loss of employment, and bitter poverty, all stare them too plainly in the face as the results of their temerity. I still feel encouraged however, that much good will be done.

The mission is pretty hard on the boys. Br. McAllister has suffered much from fever and an occasional shake since he came over; but he shakes himself every time, and goes into it brisker than ever. He is most truly my better half here. The poor saints do all they can for us, and it would be worse than cruel to complain. Those that are with us would, and indeed do, deprive themselves of food to minister to our necessities.

The brethren too,—George, William, Joseph, Dunbar, Glover, and Martin are kind. When they can, they give us something; and when they cannot, they give us what is still better, their cheering letters, and their prayers.—As for Franklin, he has been as a father to me. I should have suffered but for him. Having seen hard times himself, he knows how to feel for the brethren, and he does feel, in the right way. He has a heavy load to carry; but he bears it like a man, and has the love and esteem of all the Elders, and saints of the British mission.

While I have room, let me say a word for my little flock. A number of saints have gone from this country. Some have left friends behind them, and all have left their brethren and sisters here. Will you ask them for Jim, if they know of such a thing as the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, and then in connection with that, if they know of the distresses that surround their poor countrymen, who love God as well as they do. If they do, I am sure they cannot rest in peace, and enjoy the comforts of Zion, while the poor saints that are suffering here, can see nothing before them but closed doors, and no release from their Babylonish confinements.

Heretofore, all have left who were the most able to support the work here, and left the burden of it on the poor strugglers. Let them now stretch out their hands and help them. Let them not do it either, as is too commonly the case, by remembering only blood relations, but let them give their means and their obligations, (faithfully to be met) to be at the disposal of those whom they have entrusted to take charge thereof, and who know the best whom to send, and who are the most needy.

I am aware that your preaching is loud and long, and effectual on this subject; but a voice from Ireland will not, I am sure, injure, if it cannot help the influence.

I am aware there are to be found among the many who are thus assisted, some that, like thankless curs, will bite the hand that helps them. But old there are good, honest souls here, who would toil for years, and pray forever, for those who would help them out to their only hope, their home among the saints. And I am sure God will more than make up to them for what they give, and Jim will add his simple prayer to those that are more influential, that they may be received into everlasting habitations.

Your letter cheered me greatly, brother George, and I will try and take your advice, to "live humble." I am doing the best I can, and I am glad I have come. No one ever looked forward to a mission with greater dread than I did; but I have never wished myself back; nor do I now pine for my release, rough tho' my task may be, until I have honorably filled my mission; and to this end may God assist me.

I had a visit in this country last November from brs. Daniel Spencer and Fuller, from whom I received much comfort. Since then I have visited the Scottish, and some of the North-English Conferences, and find all things right; and the cry everywhere among the saints is, 'Zion.' This was a kind of recruiting trip to me, as I found myself rather sinking, tho' I am all right now.

OHIO.

Nelson, April 15, 1855.

BR. CARRINGTON:

I left Great Salt Lake for my mission to the States, Sept. 4, 1854, with a company of elders, among whom was br. John Taylor, and br. Preston Thomas was our captain across the plains. We had a pleasant journey, and fine weather.

My field of labor was in Ohio, in company with br. Elisha Edwards. Br. Edwards and myself have preached in five different counties, namely, Portage, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Summit, and Lorain. There is much opposition to the gospel. Where the people will hear us, they come out of curiosity, and say they have got religion enough.

We have found some few brethren that are scattered in the land, and have preached to them and strengthened them all we could. Some say they will go to the mountains, and will, if they do not lose their faith. A few are believing, but they have not moral courage enough to come out and obey the truth. Spirit rappers are plenty, and on the increase. We see the light shining in darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not.

I do not expect to stay in Ohio much longer, unless our President should direct us so to do. The people here will believe any and everything but the truth. We have borne our testimony to them, in the name of Lord, that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Lord, and that the work which he commenced, and lived and died for, will roll on until it fills the whole earth. When we have borne this testimony to the people, it made them quake and fear, but they prefer to live on in their wickedness.

EDWIN WHITING.

[Millennial Star.]

ITALY.

PRASSUIT, Angrogna, Valle de Luserne, Piedmont, }
December 14, 1854. }

DEAR PRESIDENT RICHARDS:—

As it is now six months since anything definite from Italy reached the office, and two months have passed since my arrival here, I make the attempt to furnish you with a few items relative to our position and prospects.

On my arrival, I received welcome and happy greetings from the Saints, which made me feel at home. After my long and tedious journey across the Alps, it seemed like finding a heaven below, to find the sons and daughters of God in this dark and benighted land.

I shall never forget my feelings and thoughts on entering my present field of labor. The great responsibilities that weighed upon my mind at that moment, made me feel the weakness and littleness of man, more than ever I realized them before. Earnestly I lifted up my voice to that God who had sent me hither, to supply me with wisdom and knowledge to conduct His church in Italy in a way that should redound to his honor and glory, and the salvation of many of his creatures. The darkness was such that I could feel it, and while in the plains my mind and body seemed to be imprisoned. As I neared the valleys I felt more free, and as I mingled with the saints by day I was very happy.

We have, besides myself, two traveling elders here, who are faithful in disseminating the gospel. Officers and members number altogether about 70. Over a hundred have been baptized here since the commencement of the work, some of whom have emigrated, and a few have been excommunicated.

Since Elder Keaton's departure in June last, the brethren have been baptized twelve. Two have died, and three have been cut off. My little flock, and I assure you, I feel myself honored to be their shepherd, are as happy and faithful as any who have presumed to tread the narrow way. You might see them, tho' they have two or three miles to go over rugged mountains, waiting more than an hour before the meeting time, for the arrival of the brethren.

It was so the first Sunday I met with them, tho' some had eight miles to come. I have stopped their long journeys, by having meetings in each Branch. We have three branches, and have very good meetings in each of them, and little ones in the week.

We have but few friends who visit us at present, and those are favorable, and promise soon to unite with us.—Within these last two weeks, we have extended our labors to two new places, and prospects are favorable. We meet in peace in our stables, kitchens, and wood-houses, and enjoy ourselves much with the truth.

The brethren who are more known, cannot venture out at night in some places without receiving a few stones, but it is only from the lower class, I mean in morals. I hope, by a prudent course, to keep our present liberty, and to extend the work in all these valleys; and if we get an increase of that blessing, to commence in the plains.—From our present position and prospects, I am full of faith for Italy.

I have received three letters from President Tyler, but was sorry to learn, by his last, of his ill health. I trust our prayers to the God of power, have prevailed on his behalf, and that I shall receive his promised visit in the spring.

The brethren and sisters wish me to send you their salutations, which please accept with my own, and give my love to Elder Spencer.

I subscribe myself your humble servant in the truth,
SAMUEL FRANCIS.

[Millennial Star.]

FRANCE.

7 LLOYD'S COTTAGES, St. Helier, Jersey, }
Dec. 23, 1854. }

PRESIDENT F. D. RICHARDS:—

Beloved Brother:—Having just returned from a short visit to France, among the few but faithful saints in that country, I write you a few lines to inform you of their welfare, and also of my safe return to Jersey.

I left Jersey on Monday, the 10th instant, and after a beautiful passage of about 25 hours, including a stay of 4 hours in Southampton, I arrived in Havre with Elder Thomas Liez. I found the saints in good health and spirits, rejoicing in the blessings of the gospel.

On Wednesday, we accompanied Elder May to the water, where he baptized one woman, and in the evening we held a meeting and confirmed her. We had a good time. I spoke to the saints for some time with rather unusual liberty, being much aided by the Holy Spirit. It was truly a time of refreshing.

Thursday, 13th, I left at 7 a.m., by rail for Paris, where I arrived about 1 p.m. I found the saints at the station to receive me, altho' they had but one hour's notice. I was conducted to the house of Elder Alexis Metzger, whom I found almost overjoyed to see me, as also was sister Metzger, who is truly worthy of the name of a Latter Day Saint. She soon gave me an evidence of a welcome reception, by putting some of the good things of Paris in an eatable condition.

After dinner we were conducted by young brother Metzger, to the house of Elder Hubert, a good, zealous, faithful man, who feels that he and all that he has are in the kingdom of God. Also we found Elder Fonteneau and family in good spirits, altho' sister Fonteneau's health was not the best.

On Sunday, the 16th, we held a meeting. I think that I can say it was as good a meeting as I have attended on this side of the Atlantic. The power of God was mani-

fest in a very potent manner in the gifts of healing, and also of prophecying. I was much pleased with the spirit they manifested, and the union and faith that they possessed.

They cannot help but win the honest in heart to join their ranks. Two very worthy persons, a young man of about 25 years, and his wife, have been lately baptized into the church, and bid fair for doing much good.

I left Elder T. Liez in Paris, by request of the saints.—They voluntarily proposed supporting him there, and entered into an arrangement for that purpose.

On Monday, the 17th inst., at about 11 p.m., I left by train for Havre, and arrived at 6 on the morning of the 18th, feeling myself much pleased. I staid with the saints till Friday, when I left per steamer for Southampton, and arrived next day about 2 p.m., and found my old friend, Elder James G. Willie, at that place. I remained with him till Monday evening, when I left for Jersey, and arrived about 4 p.m.

I feel truly thankful to God that I found the condition of the saints in France so much improved, and I think that under the wise direction of Elder Dunbar, it will be well. The saints wished to be kindly remembered to you, and pray earnestly for your prosperity and happiness.

The brethren here join me in love to you. Elder Oakley will start for his new field of labor on Friday next, the 29th. He is in good health and spirits.

I remain yours in the gospel of Jesus Christ,
A. L. LAMOREAUX.

[Millennial Star.]

EAST INDIA MISSION.

107 FINCH STREET, Liverpool, }
March 3, 1855. }

PRESIDENT F. D. RICHARDS:—

Beloved Brother:—In obedience to the dictates of the Spirit of truth, and the counsel of the authorities, I am speeding my way to Zion, (after an absence from this land of nearly four years) where I hope shortly to arrive, and know for myself those privileges and blessings which the saints are permitted to enjoy in the bosom of the church, and which are realized by all the faithful, but which cannot be described thro' the imperfect medium of speech.

As it has not been my privilege to forward you any communications for some months past, owing to my traveling engagements, it may not be out of place to furnish you with some items connected with my movements since leaving the first scene of my labors in the Bengal Presidency, from whence I took my departure for Rangoon in Burmah in March, 1854. My kind brethren who had been spreading the work in Burmah, sent me several pressing invitations to labor among them for a time, which induced President Jones to acquiesce, altho' he had made arrangements in part for my immediate return to the Valley.

I staid during a period of six months, and had the pleasure of seeing nearly 20 added to the church. I opened a school, the fees of which, added to the blessings of the brethren, enabled me to reach Liverpool, where I arrived on the 1st instant, all well, on board the bark Gazelle.—Captain George Leslie, who behaved with much kindness, and permitted me to testify, and distribute the word among the crew during the voyage of four and a half months from Singapore.

But it may not be amiss to relate some of the intermediate circumstances which occurred.

From Rangoon, on the Irrawaddy, the late scene of the war, I took ship for Palo Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, situated in the Straits of Malacca, the land of nutmegs, mace, sugar, and "eternal verdure," as br. Parley would say, where I staid four days; during which time I had the pleasure of bearing my testimony and distributing tracts among a few inquirers, who stated their determination to send for the works of the church and "sift Mormonism to the bottom."

The American Consul tried to get me a passage to America on board the Plymouth, U. S. frigate, lying in the roads, but the captain refused, giving, as his reason, that it was contrary to the regulations; altho' I offered to become useful in proportion to my capability. After repeated and ineffectual attempts to obtain a passage direct for California, or the eastern ports of America, a providential and gratuitous offer was made me by a ship-master to take me to Singapore, where, he stated, I should be able to get a passage to England or America; but I discovered, when on board, and sails set, that he had offered me the passage that I might assist him and his crew in defending them from the piratical Malays, who infest the Straits of Malacca. This did not deter me from continuing the voyage, as I felt more confidence in things connected with the "effectual fervent prayer," than in the bright and bristling display of small arms and small cannon with which he was furnished.

All ended harmlessly. Arrived at Singapore, after six days' delightful sailing, surrounded by the most enchanting scenery among the thousands of beautiful islands, I had the pleasure to meet with Elder Ludington, who was laboring at Singapore, and who introduced me to several of his acquaintances, to whom I had the pleasure of bearing my testimony.

The captain of the Gazelle, on the passage to Liverpool, kindly took me on shore at the island of St. Helena, where he introduced me to several of the leading merchants, &c.—with whom I left the Book of Mormon, Voice of Warning, Joseph Smith the Prophet, and five pamphlets. A young gentleman, with my consent, sent the bellman round to announce an address to be delivered by me in the main street, where about four or five hundred of all ages and complexions, assembled to hear me read the Testimonies of the Witnesses, and direct them regarding the way to gain an entrance into the kingdom of God.

They stood for upwards of an hour, listening with respect and attention; and I afterwards gave replies to questions on emigration, organization, and doctrine. During the time I was speaking, under the influence of a vertical sun, a kind young gentleman came forward with a glass of pure water and presented it to me. I felt to ask a thousand blessings upon his head—to which I believe all the saints will heartily respond their loud amen.

From the eagerness manifested by several to obtain the printed word, and the remark which escaped them, that they had heard of Mormonism only thro' the medium of the public prints, which being, as they admitted, of a conflicting and uncharitable character, they were glad of the opportunity of discovering the merits or demerits of Mormonism from our own statements. I am in hopes some of my audience will be corresponding with the of-

fice in Liverpool, for they seemed anxious to get the Star.

During my residence in the east, it was my pleasing lot to visit upwards of 20 places, in all of which, many Europeans and Eurasians received me with much kindness, fed, clothed, and blessed me with means for traveling thro' that wide-extended and broiling climate, chiefly out of kindness to a countryman, partly out of curiosity, and but slightly out of love for the truth, for which at present, there seems to be very little space.

No less than nine different newspapers contained articles, philippics, and letters, pro and con; so that it may be reasonably concluded, that nearly all the Europeans, and also the educated natives, have been fully apprised of Mormonism.

In Burmah, the natives follow the patriarchal order of plurality; and until they were corrupted by Christians, incestuousness was almost unknown among the female sex. Any violation of social sanctity is followed by condign punishment of the offender, by the injured husband, who, in one instance during my stay, sent an adulterer to his long account, by despatching him with a "daah," a huge kind of razor, which is used for miscellaneous purposes in the arts and in war.

The Burmese are a jocular, social kind of people, but live in a primitive sort of style, altho' weaving and some few simple and ornamental arts are in vogue. Every woman, nearly, can weave cloth; their plaids are very good, and strongly resemble the Scottish ones. They are a people unfettered by caste; freely eating with Europeans and others, but not at all choice whether it happen to be animal or vegetable, decomposed or otherwise; in short, they have starved out the jackals, (which swarm in India) but I believe there are none in Burmah.

The Burmese are particularly fond of children, and quite worship those of Europeans, exclaiming with great emotion when they see them—"tay slaarra,"—very handsome.

The priests, or "poongees," profess celibacy, refuse money, wear flowing yellow garments, and always keep their heads and faces shaved. They are held in great veneration during their lifetime, and when dead, lie in state, and are kept above ground in honey for sometimes a whole year—the length of time they keep them unburied being in proportion to the estimation in which they are held.—They act in the capacity of teachers to the male population, all of whom, I believe, are able to read, write, and cipher.

No individual can with impunity either injure or insult a poongee, while habited in his robes; not even the king; but an anecdote is related of one of the kings, who wished to punish a poongee, and effected his object, by having a splendid new dress prepared, and the luckless wight, having denuded himself of his sacerdotal toggery, and substituted the king's present, was must unmercifully beaten by several stout fellows who were lying in ambush for that purpose.

The Burmese are very liberal, and even profuse in their offerings at their temples or pagodas; and after they have deposited them, it matters not whether they are allowed to remain, or are taken away; they have done their part, and with that are quite contented.

For instance, on one occasion it is related that the king being about to erect a pagoda at Ava which should be adorned with golden images, each of which was to weigh as much as the giver, a great many came forward and deposited their images, which are said to have been placed inside the pagoda, and formed the subject of animated conversation among the British troops in Burmah, who were expected to be sent to Ava (the capital) in case the king refused to reimburse John Company for the expenses of the war. Hundreds of pagodas were destroyed in Rangoon, Prome, and other places, and the bricks were used for making new roads, by the British since the late war, which was followed by a famine, when many parents sold their children for food.

It may not be uninteresting to mention that many thousands of idols of gold, silver, brass, &c., were found in the solid masonry of the pagodas, and were taken away by Europeans and scattered to almost every part of civilization. I have two in my possession, intending them as presents to the Deseret Museum.

Among the singular practices in vogue among the people of India, is that which prevails among many of the agriculturists in the Himalach mountains, who, while they are at work in the field, (if small patches on the sides of the mountains may be considered to be fields) place the heads of their young children under the trickling of water, which operates as a soporific, and it is asserted that the little creatures continue to sleep as long as the operation is carried on, and like all mountaineers, are a very hardy and athletic race.

Again, in Burmah, as soon as a child is weaned, as smoking cigars is much practised, it takes to the cigar, so that it is quite general to see little ones of a year old, puffing away with the greatest zest imaginable. In India I have frequently seen children of three years old, smoking with all the nonchalance of old folks.

It affords me much pleasure at all times to communicate to my brethren the many interesting items connected with those parts in which I have been honored to labor, and it is my intention to do so from time to time, as opportunity offers.

With the most fervent prayers for the success of the great cause of truth, in which we are unitedly engaged, I remain most affectionately, yours in the holy covenant,
WILLIAM WILLES.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN PETE COAL, IRON WORKS, &c.

G. S. L. City, June 11, 1855.

EDITOR OF DESERET NEWS:

In compliance with your request, I write this communication on a few subjects of interest which came under my notice during a recent tour through the southern settlements of Utah, in company with Governor Young and suite.

Familiar with the Alleghany coal mines, I was favorably impressed with the flattering prospect which recently discovered coal bed in San Pete valley presents in richness and quality. It is clean, bituminous, and very similar to the best Alleghany coal in Maryland.

The Deseret Iron Works, in Iron county, though in their infancy, interested me very much in displaying the enterprise, perseverance, and industry of a people so recently settled in this mountain wilderness. With no capital but the labor of their hands, and with almost insurmountable difficulties to contend with, they are now