

DESERET NEWS.

BY W. RICHARDS.

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LINES,

FOUND IN A LADY'S ALBUM OF THIS CITY.
In this life, one truth the saint derives,
That more bliss comes next, by many wives.
W. W. PHELPS.

The couplet sign'd above may be a fact,—
But much of bliss depends on how they act.
P. P. PRATT.

Well, "acts" and "facts" are stubborn things,
And yet they fill the courts of kings.
W. W. PHELPS.

I question still, with more surprise,
Where the "king's jester" keeps his lies.
P. P. PRATT.

Why, bless my soul! (and pardon meek wit,)
He keeps them where God keeps his secret.
[Never tells them.] W. W. PHELPS

Written on the death of Brother John Bills,
who died on the 19th day of February,
1850, in the San Joaquin Valley.

BY JOSEPH CAIN.

The sun shone bright on the snowy peaks,*
The ground lark's song was melody;
But the day seemed dark as the stormy
breaks—

Our theme was sad and melancholy.

A brother died on the Indian path,
Which crossed the Joaquin mountain
range,
The Saints were called to a task which hath
No joyful sound in a land so strange.

A grave to dig on the mountain brow,
Was a task which was sad indeed,
To lay a brother in a tomb which now
Is the way-mark, which travellers lead.†

A stone we raised and carved his name,
That strangers the white man's grave
might see;
His age it told, and from whence he came,
And the day he sought eternity.

Few were the white men who passed that
way,
From the golden rivers to the west;
No sound was heard but the wild horse
neigh—§
It seemed fit for a Saint to rest.

Let him rest in the tomb his friends made,
For 'tis placed on a lonely spot:
His form from our minds will never fade—
May our last be as happy a lot.

*From the coast range of mountains, the
Sierra Nevada range can be seen at a dis-
tance of 100 miles; their tops cap't with per-
petual snow.

†The pronunciation of Joaquin is Wakeen.
‡Bro. Bills' grave is on the right hand of
the trail which crosses the coast range from
the Pacheco ranche on the west to the San
Joaquin on the east, and travellers know
they are on the right track when they come
to this grave.

§The wild horses are in droves in this val-
ley, and on the mountain side.

LETTER FROM ERASTUS SNOW.

Copenhagen, Denmark, }
August 17, 1850. }

To the First Presidency of the Church of Je-
sus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Greeting!

BELOVED BRETHREN:—Knowing your
anxiety, and your prayers and unceasing dil-
igence for Zion at home, and for the welfare
of the cause of God in all the world, I take
great pleasure in writing to you at this time,
to communicate to you a statement of the
condition and prospect of affairs in this part of
the vineyard, in which it has pleased God
and my brethren to assign my labors for a
season.

I shall forward this immediately to Pres't.
Orson Hyde at Kanesville, in hopes that it
may reach you by some late mail, that by the
next spring's mail you may give me such
counsel as your wisdom shall direct.

By the advice and consent of those of the
Twelve that were in England, I concluded
to take with me Elder George P. Dykes.—
He having preached much among the Nor-
wegians in Illinois, and having a little knowl-
edge of their language as well as manners
and customs; I thought, if the Lord opened
the way, to send him into that country, to
open the door of the gospel among them.

The spirit of the Lord has seemed to lead
me to this city to commence our labors.—
From my first appointment, my mind rested
upon Copenhagen, as the best place in all
"Scandinavia" to commence the work, and
every thing has since strengthened my con-
victions. It is the Capital of Denmark; and
was, at one time, the Capital of the United
Kingdoms of Denmark, Norway, and Swe-
den. It is a beautiful city, strongly fortified,
numbering about 190,000 inhabitants; and is
by far the largest and most influential town
in the kingdom; and from its central position,
on the east side of the Island of Zealand,
within four miles of the Swedish shore, it af-
fords an easy communication by steamboat
to the principal places of Norway, Sweden,
and Denmark. It is the seat of learning for
all the north of Europe; and, I might add, of
priestcraft, infidelity, and politics; and in my
opinion, it possesses more of the spirit of
freedom than any other place in this part of
the world notwithstanding.

After the revolt of Sweden, Norway still
continued under the Danish government un-
til the fall of Napoleon, when the "Allied
Powers," as a sort of punishment upon Den-
mark for her alliance with France, gave Nor-
way to the king of Sweden; since which
time Norway, though nominally subject to
the Swedish king, has had her domestic leg-
islature, and enjoyed a greater degree of po-
litical freedom than either of the other two
countries.

The government of Denmark, until re-
cently, was an "absolute monarchy." The
king and his ministry both made and execu-
ted the law, and the Lutheran clergy had
the superintendence and control of all the
primary schools and public instruction of the
country, with the exception of certain special
privileges granted to the Jews, and to for-
eign mechanics who had been invited into
the country. But no foreigner was permit-
ted to attempt to proselyte from the "Evan-
gelical Lutheran Church," or preach against
her doctrines, on pain of being expelled from
the country; which has been enforced against
several foreign missionaries, within the last
ten or fifteen years; and would have been
against us in all probability, if we had come
a little sooner. Mr. Peter C. Monster, the
Baptist reformer, introduced immersion, and
now the Baptists number in Denmark about
three hundred and sixty only. At first he
was fined, afterwards imprisoned, and when
he had served out one term in prison, he
would preach until the priests would cause
him to be arrested and imprisoned again; and
so continued, until he was imprisoned six
times, and three years in all. Meanwhile,
French philosophy, infidelity, and republican
principles have been increasing in this city
and throughout the country, until about the
time of the late revolution in France, the
death of the old king of Denmark, afforded
the Danish people an opportunity to reform
their government.

The heir to the throne was kept at bay un-
til a constitution or "ground law" was agreed
upon, signed, and proclaimed, June 5, 1849.
This secures to the people a "Rigsdagen"
or legislature, to be elected by the people;
and quite as much POLITICAL FREEDOM as is
enjoyed in England. The press is suffic-
iently free and untrammelled for all purposes
for which we wish to use it; and while it pro-
tects and supports the Lutheran Church as
the State Church, it secures to the citizens
the right to dissent and organize other soci-
eties. But the rights and privileges of such
societies are to be defined by law. The old
laws are to be enforced until the legislature
shall organize the different departments of
government, and provide all the necessary
laws and regulations for carrying into effect
the new constitution.

Lutheranism is protected by similar laws
in Norway and Sweden. Not long ago
some Methodists were expelled from Swe-
den, and quite recently some Baptists near
Gottesburgh, were arrested and sentenced to
leave the country; and an appeal was taken
to the king, and petitions sent in demanding
the repeal of those laws; and quite a war is
going on in the Swedish papers about it; and
I pray that it may be increased, until Nor-
way and Sweden shall follow the example of
Denmark. I feel quite willing that the Lord
should use the Methodists and Baptists to
prepare the way for the fulness of the gos-
pel; for their systems are less exceptionable
to the wicked, and they have more sympa-
thy to sustain them. How truly can we be-
hold in these things, as in every other move
among the nations, the fulfillment of the
words of Jesus in the Book of Mormon, that