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EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, April 11, 1877.

Correspondence.

The Desert—Dry Ocean—Meetings at Harrisburg and Washington—St. George and the Temple.

ST. GEORGE, Utah,
April 3rd, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Leaving Toquerville we at once strike the desert, and the teams may now be seen leisurely ascending a long road through deep sand. The whole of this part of the country is sandy and rocky, but the sand is of that nature only requiring the dews and rains from heaven, and the toil of industry, to cause the entire wilderness to blossom as the rose. Indeed the very boulders, whose charred and blackened appearance bespeaks the fiery ordeal they have undergone, seem to be impregnated with the properties of life, for on their bare surface the cactus may be seen to flourish and bloom.

When we reached Harrisburg, where we dined and held a meeting, we thought that the tediousness of the drive had been amply offset by the wild yet magnificent scenery of this desert country.

The proportions of America never fail to impress the traveller with the idea of vastness and extent and especially is this noticeable to those who come here from the smaller countries of Europe. As a matter of course America exhibits a great variety of scenery. That sameness, however, which many think is characteristic of much of the scenery of the west, is totally unknown in our "Dixie." Here the eye is continually feasting on something almost entirely new, marvelous, and grand. The whole country seems to have undergone wonderful changes, presenting a very unfinished appearance, as if it had been thrown together by a combination of forces, or as though there would have been no country had there been no volcanic eruptions. While one is admiring the wild, unfinished grandeur of the scenery, there is associated with it a feeling of astonishment and wonder which creates a craving desire to *know* something about it. Notwithstanding the extent of the travels, both at home and abroad, of part of our company, I believe I can safely state that never did we experience so overwhelmingly this feeling as when gazing upon what is called the "dry ocean," situated some five miles beyond Harrisburg.

As I have attempted to describe but very little, if any, of the scenery of this truly wonderful country, I surely would not attempt to portray the scene before us. The whole of the company here alighted, and, after ascending about sixty feet of sandstone rock, which appeared to be the base of what once was a mountain of almost semi-circular form, we looked down about 250 feet upon a bed of rock of some miles in length and width, whose surface, in shape and color, has all the appearance of ocean swells and waves; while beyond and all around, tower up parts of lofty mountains of a variety of shapes and hues, the very picture of chaotic grandeur. While gazing, one might have been heard to say, "Wonderful and grand are thy works, O Lord! Truly the God of nature is God the Creator!"

Washington was reached in the evening, looking fresh and green, in fact particularly green. A meeting was held here, which was crowded, and addressed by Elders Smith, Pratt and Taylor. We remained over night and proceeded to St. George the next morning.

On reaching the curve of the mountain under which lies the city, the first thing that arrests the attention is the Temple. I cannot describe to you the feeling one experiences, which prompts him intuitively to uncover his head on first looking upon that building. But having read of the temple which Solomon built to the name of the Most High, which he accepted in so marvelous a manner, and having read and heard of the temples built to his holy name in the early stages of this the latter-day work, and how the Lord and sanctified beings appeared within their walls to some of the pure in heart; having too a faint idea of the nature and importance of the rites and ordinances to be performed in such buildings, and knowing that it is the House of God, there naturally well up from the heart feelings perhaps best expressed in the words, Reverence and Gratitude. Reverence because of its sacredness and because of its chaste appearance, looking as it does like a monument of purity; gratitude, because of the privilege of beholding the only place on earth in which the hearts of the living can be bound to the honored and beloved dead, and which brings us again into direct communication with God our Father, and with him who has proved himself worthy of standing at the head of this the dispensation of the fullness of times.

These were the kind of feelings that pervaded our bosoms as we drove into this beautiful city; and I am satisfied that I express, though perhaps partially and imperfectly, the feelings of all the Latter-day Saints who may come here after us.

We were met by President Erastus Snow, who extended to President Taylor and the company his kindly greeting, after which he directed us to proceed to the Temple, which is situated on the western suburb of the city. At the door of the building stood President Brigham Young, looking hale and hearty; and we were privileged once more, under the most favorable circumstances, to shake hands with him.

The President himself and Elder Erastus Snow showed us through the Temple.

The weather is delightfully pleasant. The country has been favored with rains and cloudy skies, which makes the atmosphere very grateful, especially to our northern visitors.

President Wells, Elder Cannon, President Hunter, and many other brethren from the north have arrived, all enjoying good health. With others, from the south, we have Elders Lot Smith and Ballenger, who have charge of colonies which are being settled on Sunset Crossing, on the Little Colorado River. They look the picture of health and pioneer hardihood, as though they were abundantly able to cope with the many difficulties attending the settlement of a new country. They report the health of their camps to be good, some of their grain already up and favorable prospects for harvest, and the best of feelings existing between the Navajoes and the new settlers.

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MARY D. FALCONBRIDGE,
Administratrix of the estate of Keziah D. Pratt, deceased. d106

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Henefer ville, Chas. Rickens.
Echo, Elias Asper.
*Coalville, W. W. Cluff.
Unionville, Alonzo Winters.
Upton, Joseph Huff, sen.

WM. W. CLUFF presides over Morgan County and the above five Wards in Summit Co.

SAMUEL F. ATWOOD, Presiding Bishop.

Wanship, Jared C. Round.
Rockport, Edwin Bryant.
Peoa, Abraham Marchant.
Morell, John K. Leach.
Kamas, W. Harder.
Parley's Park, Ephraim Snyder.

TOOELE COUNTY.

JOHN ROWBERRY, Presiding Bishop.

E. T. City, W. F. Moss.
Pine Canyon, Moses Martin.
*Tooele City, John Rowberry.
Grantsville, William Jeffries.
St. Johns, G. W. Burrier.
Centreville, James Jordan.
Vernon, John C Sharp.
Deep Creek, Edwin Hudson.
Skull Valley, B. F. Knowlton.

WASATCH COUNTY.

ABRAHAM HATCH, Presiding Bishop.

*Hebar City, Abraham Hatch.
Midway, Henry S. Alexander.
Charleston, John Watkins.
Wallsburgh, Wm. E. Nuttall.

SALT LAKE COUNTY.

1st Ward, S. L. City, Jos. Warren.
2d " James Leach.
3d " Jacob Weller.
4th " Harrison Sperry.
5th & 6th, W. H. Rickenbacker
7th " Wm. Thorn.
8th " E. F. Sheets.
9th " S. A. Woolley.
10th " A Speirs.
11th " Alex. McRae.
12th " L. W. Hardy.
13th " E. D. Woolley.
14th " Thomas Taylor.
15th " R. T. Burton.
16th " Frederick Kesler.
17th " John Henry Smith.
18th " L. D. Young.
19th " A. H. Raleigh.
20th " John Sharp.
Sugar House Ward, W. C. A. Smoot.
Brighton, A. H. Raleigh.
Big Cottonwood, Wm G Young.
Mill Creek, Reuben Miller.
South Cottonwood, J. S. Rawlins.
West Jordan, Archibald Gardner.
South Willow Creek, I. M. Stewart.

UTAH COUNTY.

A. O. SMOOT, Presiding Bishop, *Provo.

First Ward, J. Fr. Johnson.
Second Ward, James W. Lovesy.
Third Ward, Myron Tanner.
Fourth Ward, H. H. Cluff.
Lehi, David Evans.
Cedar Fort, H. P. Cook.
Fairfield, John Carson.

DAVID EVANS, Presiding Bishop over the three last named places.

American Fork, J. E. Harrington.
Alpine, T. J. McCullough.

L. E. HARRINGTON, Presiding Bishop over the two last named places.

Pleasant Grove, John Brown.
Springville, Wm. Dougherty.
Spanish Fork, Geo. D Snow.
Salem, Chas. Sudweeks, Sen.
Payson, J. S. Tanner.
Santaquin Ward, George Halls.

J. S. TANNER is Presiding Bishop over Payson and Salem.

Goshen, Wm. Price.

SANPETE COUNTY.

Fountain Green, R. L. Johnson.
Moroni, G. W. Bradley.
Fairview, Amasa Tucker.
Mount Pleasant, W. R. Seeley.
Spring City, Frederick Olsen.
Ephraim, Kanute Peterson.
*Manti, John H. Mallett.
Gunnison, J. S. Horne.
Fayette, John Barlow.
Wales, John E. Rees.

JUAB COUNTY.

GEO. L. GROVER, Presiding Bishop.

Mona, John W. Hays.
*Nephi, Alma Smith, Jun. Greek.
Levan, C Christensen.

SEVIER COUNTY.

A. K. THURBER and W. SEEGMILLER, Presiding Bishops.

Salina, Franklin Spencer.
*Richfield, W H Seegmiller.
Monroe, J T Lisenbee.
Annabelle Springs, R D Lisenbee.
Joseph, A. L. Farnsworth.
Prattville, Jos. H. Rogers.
Glenwood, P. T. Olsen.
New London, O. C. Olsen.

MILLARD COUNTY.

THOMAS CALLISTER, Presiding Bishop.

Scipio, Daniel Thompson.
Cedar Springs, Silas Holden, Jun.
Stephens.
*Fillmore, Edward Fairbridge.
Meadow Creek, W. H. Rees.
Oak Creek, P. D. Lyman.
Kanosh, Culbert King.

BEAVER COUNTY.

JOHN R. MURDOCK, Presiding Bishop.

*Beaver, John R. Murdock.
Minersville, James McKnight.

IRON COUNTY.

Paragonah, S. S. Smith.
*Parowan, W. H. Dame.
Summit, R O Hulet.

W. H. DAME, Presiding Bishop over the three last named places.

Paragonah, G. W. Gary.
Cedar City, Henry Lunt.

KANE COUNTY.

Kanarra, L. W. Roundy.
Harmony, W. D. Pace.
Believe, J. R. Johnson.
*Toker, Wm A Bringhurst.
Virgen, John Parker.
Duncan's Retreat, Noah Dodge.
Rockville, C. K. Smith.
Long Valley, Howard O Spencer.
Glendale, George Sutter, Branching site.
Mt Carmel, Israel Roy.
Kanab, E. John Nuttall.
Johnson, Sexus E Johnson.
Paria, A P Smithson

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Leeds, Grant Horsley, acting bishop.
Harrisburg, Milton Daley, acting bishop.
Washington, J. W. Freeman.
St. George, B. W. McArthur.
Santa Clara, Mark A Blair, acting bishop.
Pine Valley, A. O. Terry, acting bishop.
Pinto, Richard Robinson.
Hebron, G. H. Crosby.

LINCOLN COUNTY, NEVADA.

Clover, L L Wood.
Panaca, Luke Syphus.
County Seat.