

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, May 15, 1855.

Correspondence.

Manti, Sanpete County,
May 13th, 1855.

Editor News.—Yesterday we held meetings in Springtown and Fort Ephraim, where we met Elder Hyde, who, though in feeble health, was returning from Manti, where he had preached on the Sabbath. He also preached at Fort Ephraim on Monday morning.

Most of the settlements have suffered severely by the hostilities of the Indians in the last three years, much more having been expended in herding, guarding, building forts and hunting Indian; and yet all the settlements bear unmistakable evidence of thrift and prosperity.

Mount Pleasant is the largest town in the country, was first settled by Madison D. Haarleton, Esq., who built a saw mill on Pleasant creek, in 1851. It was burned by the Utah Indians in 1853, and the settlers had to leave, losing their cattle, hogs, horses and even their chickens, their houses and a portion of their furniture sharing the fate of the mill. The following named enterprising musicians, with their limited means, have procured instruments for a Brass Band, costing over \$500, which will give additional life to the musical talent of the place:

Capt. James Hanson, Lieut. John Valdermarson, Charles Hampshire, Soren Jacobson, Peder Snydergaard, Svend Olson, Hans F. Hanson, Claudius Wheeler, Daniel Bekstrom, August Oman, Anders Bekstrom, Bent Hansen, Morten Rasmussen, Paul Dehlin, Lars Nielsen, Oscar Barton, Harvey Tidwell, Christian Jenson.

Bro. D. Candland informs us that there is an abundance of iron ore near the city. He showed us some fine specimens.

Springtown was settled as early as 1852 by Elder James Allred, with his numerous family and a few relatives, each one building in the vicinity of a spring, in a somewhat scattered condition. They were advised to gather together in a fort upon which they moved, some of their cabin doors together. Under orders of Government they were instructed to move their cattle out of the valley into a place of safety, but refused to do so, believing that they were able to take care of themselves. A few days after, Walker, with 200 Indians, made a descent upon their herd, driving off 200 head of cattle and 70 horses, the brethren, 15 in number, making the best attempt they could, on foot, to defend their stock. After this the settlement was abandoned until after peace was made with Walker and his Indians in 1854.

Fort Ephraim was settled in 1852 by Isaac Behunin alone. It now contains 500 families, 110 of whom were driven from Beaver and Bearcat canyons last year. An addition of 100 families has been surveyed for their accommodation, and large additions of farming land are placed under cultivation. Bishop Canute Peterson, formerly of Lehi, informs us that two years ago there were 60 apple trees in that town; last year there were 800 planted, purchased of Mr. Oliphant of S. L. City; this year, 2,000 trees, obtained at Fillmore, were planted at a cost of \$1,00 each delivered, and all reported to be doing well. Bro. D. Candland assures me that Mount Pleasant is far ahead of Ephraim in regard to trees, and that he has planted a nursery of mulberry, from seed imported from California.

Among the improvements in this county is the new canal for watering Moroni City plot. It is five and a half miles in length, nearly completed, and cost about \$6,000, but it will evidently have to be enlarged to supply the required amount of water.

To-day we held two meetings in this place. We called on Elder Freeborn De Mill, who is, I believe, the oldest member of the Church in this county, having been baptized in Sept., 1830. He bore testimony in our meeting that he helped to lay the foundation of the first log house built by the Saints in Jackson Co., Mo., and it was dedicated as the foundation of Zion. We accompanied him to his house, where he treated us to apples of his own raising, although it was for years believed that the altitude would prevent the culture of fruit. Peaches are in full bloom, also plums, and apple blossoms are coming out. Thousands of trees are being set out, and the spirit of cultivating fruit has become general. This city was settled in 1849, by Isaac Morley and about 40 families. They suffered severely during the winter in losing their stock, and were compelled to give a great portion of their provisions to the Indians. The snow was so deep that they had to go out of the valley on snow-shoes to Sevi Lake after farm-seeds, which was purchased by Elder Bishop N. K. Whitney. Some became discouraged and left, but many of the first settlers are here yet.

San Pitch Valley contains facilities for making great improvements. The soil is rich, capable of producing large crops of wheat, oats, barley, corn, sugar cane, broom corn, peas, hemp, potatoes, and all kinds of root crops. Hardy fruits are proving a success. Clinton, Concord, Delaware and other hardy grapes can be raised here without difficulty, and the spirit of grape raising will soon arise. Isabellas are already being cultivated. Gooseberries, currants and strawberries are produced in abundance.

There are here, building rock, abundance of cedar, stone, coal in the foot hills, and good timber in the mountains. "So mote it be."

GEO. A. SMITH.

St. Thomas, Utah, Arizona, April 26, 1855.

Editor Deseret News.—Your numerous readers will perhaps be interested enough in this distant outpost of Zion to read a few lines with patience. The few brethren who remained last Fall, in obedience to the call made, are materially increasing in the progress of the place in a progressive direction, although but few of the reinforcements stayed here, the most of them having preferred to live higher up the muddy stream. Those who remained here are now diligent at work, building themselves houses, mostly doing all the work themselves, with some Indian help. They are much disengaged, failing to see beauty and advantages in this country, they are good enough "Mormons" not to let their works show it. All those who have lived in other

portions of the "Dixie" country can see advantages here superior to most other of our southern settlements, can see the great brightening and increase in the progress of the country and prosperity.

At this date there is considerable wheat blossoming, and the prospect is good for an abundant harvest. It is supposed by many that fruit will be a doubtful crop in this valley, their opinion being based upon the fact that trees have not prospered heretofore; but when it is considered that hitherto many of the population have been accustomed to go up into the northern settlements immediately after wheat harvest, leaving their trees pretty much to their own care during the rest of the summer season, this matter may be readily understood. The climate is rather warm and the atmosphere arid, as many of those fruits that grow readily are the more northern varieties, yet with care they can all be produced; though this region is on the whole naturally best adapted to the culture of the grape, which will no doubt prove the most remunerative of our crops, and the one we will mainly produce, after the carrots for home consumption and the cotton for the Utah market. Here the Isabella and Catawba of frosty climates grow side by side with the Syrian of the Holy Land, and the perfumed Muscat of Egypt, with the raisin of Hungary, each taking kindly to the soil and thriving better than in their own land of home. St. George has no more of the best collection of varieties to be found on the Pacific slope, excepting, perhaps, one in Sonoma Co., California, and but one more season need to elapse ere the best grapes of Europe can all be seen in full bearing here. Your correspondent, after being washed out from the Beaver Dams, or defunct Millersburgh, last winter, and having orchard, vineyard and nursery partly freighted gratis to the gulf of California by the flood, and partly conveyed on wheels to this place, stands again erect with a better vineyard than he had before and in a better place, working with more zeal.

Col. Aiden A. M. Jackson, who has resided for many years in San Bernardino, has at last gathered with the Church. He left here on the 23d inst. on his way to St. George, where his family reside, who have preceded him in their immigration to this country one year. The Colonel feels like making up for lost time, though his absence from the land of Zion has not been without its fruits, as Southern Utah is largely indebted to him and his lady for the introduction of the choicest seeds and plants that could be procured in California for many years. Very material aid has been obtained from them, which shows its traces through the most of our settlements, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped to clothe the desert land with scenes of living beauty.

There is a prospect now of individual enterprise opening the river trade, as the progress of the southern branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, which crosses the Colorado on the 35th parallel, inspires outsiders with the belief that the navigation of the Colorado up to the mouth of the Virgin and the connection with the Utah settlements can actually be made "to pay."

If some one who has been called to this mission, to develop the resources of the land, could widen out his heart and his purse strings sufficiently to allow him to procure a portable steam saw mill, and to place it in the pines nearest to this valley, he would greatly assist in building up this country and earn the blessings of the brethren by relieving them of the trouble of carting every inch of lumber from Pine Valley, 130 miles, over the worst road in creation, besides making it "pay" him largely in dollars.

The best of feelings prevail here, and as the scope of our labor widen we expect to see compensating comforts accumulate, and look for the time when people will not only stay here and labor, because they have been required to do so, but because their feelings are centred on the homes which their hands have made, and which have been consecrated by their prayers and exalted by their presence from a desolation to a permanent abode of Saints, where the principles of truth are reverenced and the God of Israel is adored.

Yours truly, in the Gospel,
D. BONELLI.

JAMES HAGUE,
Gun and Locksmith,
At the Sign of the
HORN,
East Temple Street, Salt Lake City.
HAR for Sale Guns, Pistols, Ammunition,
Harness, Saddles, Bridles, and HUCKIN-
SON'S PREMIUM WHIPS.

STRAW SPLITTERS, for Braders, made to
order. Sewing Machines, and all articles in the
shop repaired.

Stock and Provisions taken in Exchange.

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