DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, December 31, 1895.

FROM OLD KENTUCKY.

New Year's Greeting From a Utah Boy in the Blue Grass State.

Reminiscences of War Times—Christmas and New Year in the South—Missionary Experiences.

BOWLING GREEN, Kentucky,
Dec. 29, 1895.

To the Editor:

Perhaps a few lines from one of the old states of the Union would be of some interest to the many readers of your paper. It is now going on nine months since I left dear old Utah for my labors here, and when I look back the time seems to have flown swiftly. My work has been in four counties—Marshall, Barren, Simpson and Warren—of Kentucky, and in the last named Elder N. T. Curtis and I are still working. Warren is one of the richer counties of Kentucky, and there are many rich farmers in it who own from five to twelve hundred acres of good land for raising corn and tobacco, of which there has been a superabundance raised this year, so that corn has been selling as low as one dollar a barrel. The pretty little town of Bowling Green with its ten thousand inhabitants; its fine school situated upon the hill; the reservoir on another hill; the winding river Barren, with its white painted steamboats, gaily encircling the town;—this picturesque place is the county seat of Warren.

My companion and I have been treated well in many parts of Warren county. We have made friends out of many of the well-to-do farmers—in fact we could spend over a month visiting the one and yet not stop over night at the house of the same friend twice. Elder Kimball, president of the Southern States mission, has arranged the labors here so that our work is done in a systematic and thorough manner. Two Elders are sent to labor in a county, and we visit from farmhouse to farmhouse in the country, leaving a tract and conversing with the people and spending night at the houses of different individuals, and in working a city every house is visited and a tract left, and we try and hold meetings everywhere in the county in the differ- was thirteen and, scientific men, we that before leaving a county it is thoroughly canvassed. Many houses are warmly-clad as hospitable—the Kentuckians call them "clever" people, and we have slept over night with many of these "clever people" in our labors. Just a short time back we slept over night at the house of a rich farmer who owned over twelve hundred acres of fine river land, and there in his influence we were able to hold three good meetings, and by affording made one of friends. It seemed as if the people couldn't do too much for us. Three families invited us to go and spend the day and night with them, and, when not holding meeting, we sat around big log fires telling the people about our mountain home and some of the experiences of the pioneers in crossing the Plains. The people asked all kinds of questions, and how we irrigate the land, as the Kentucky farmer depends upon nature to supply him with sufficient water to grow a crop. It seems strange to him that our farmers in Utah can make a fair living off twenty acres of land while here one man scarcely ever thinks of tending less than seventy or eighty acres of land.

Often we stop over night at the houses of the old soldiers of '61-65, and as we sit around a huge big fire they tell us some of their thrilling experiences. One old soldier after relating some of his experiences raised his belt, which was touched rather low over his forehead, showed us an indenture in it and said: "Boys, this time of a bullet, and said: 'It was an inch or a slightly spent ball and had it pulled out and here it is,'" and he showed us the bullet which he was using as a charm on his watch chain. Rather a grim charm, I thought. Another old soldier said that in the regiment he was in, he had a companion whom he thought a good deal of, and they fought side by side in many a battle and shared the same blankets at night. This companion had a younger brother who had joined the Confederate army. One day they were in an engagement with the Southern army and the regiment the old soldier and companion belonged to was ordered to the front. The regiment poured three volleys of shot into the ranks of the enemy, when suddenly the old soldier's companion fell on his knees and let his gun drop, while deep convulsive sobs shook his frame. As the old soldier stooped to raise his gun he asked him if he was wounded. He answered:

"No. But look! look! There is my brother!"

And as the smoke cleared a little he looked and there saw the younger brother firing into their regiment. It was brother against brother!

Christmas of '95 has come and gone. Here in the southern states on Christmas and New Year holidays, guns and pistols, fire crackers, Roman candles and skyrockets are discharged by the younger people, the same as in Salt Lake City on the Fourth of July, and no customs are placed in the way by the municipal authorities. The young people are full of mischief and plan all kinds of jokes. At the house we are staying, on Christmas night, about midnight, after all has gone to bed and were asleep, "the boy" of the family, a mischievous chap about sixteen years old, let drop from the top of a flight of stairs into a room where three young men, his cousins, were sleeping, about twenty milk pans at once. You can imagine the sensation.

In southern cities the turkey dinner is enjoyed by almost everybody on Christmas and New Year; and at night negroes with their fiddles and banjos go around serenading; and if a crowd gathers round them one of their number will commence to hit the floor with the heel and toe to the time of the music and the clapping of hands of the watchers, or all must join in, for the people of the South are a warm-hearted people.

In the country the people burn mostly wood, and on Christmas and New Years an extra large log, which will burn for two or three days, is placed in the spacious fireplace and by its cheerful blaze all kinds of games are played. One person stands near the fire making popcorn for the merry crowd while the nuts are brought out, of which all kinds grow wild here in the woods—the chestnut, hazel nut and various kinds of hickory nuts and walnuts. So the merry days of the old year pass off quickly and joyously, in the cheerful and warm-hearted people of the South; and with the general good feeling the Elders are treated better as fathers and mothers. You may rejoice as their sons are trying to do their duty, and to the conformation of Israel being blessed with many kind friends among those who are sons of our religious home.

I hope the New Year may be a bright and auspicious one for all in the new State of Utah.

JOHN C. CUTLER JR.

UTAH'S ART SOCIETY.

Its Members Very Much Pleased With the Result of This Year's Exhibition—Pratt's New Pictures.

Members of the Society of Utah Artists are congratulating themselves on the unexpected and unprecedented success of their exhibition this year. While all of their pictures have not been sold, many of them have and some of them for very fair prices.

Should next year's exhibition eclipse that of this, as it easily can, then the artists will be in high feather for a few such advances on the part of the public means very much for art. Citizens who never before visited the art gallery, had their interest so aroused this time that they went, saw and were captivated. In some instances they became purchasers. Hereafter they will be depended upon as regular patrons, and as their numbers increase there will be fewer demands for imported paintings, not nearly so meritorious as those produced by the genius and untiring efforts of home talent.

Mr. Lorenzo Pratt yesterday had an exhibition at the gallery a large painting which he calls "At the Close of Harvest," and which is without doubt his masterpiece. It represents a realistic scene south of Liberty Park on the farm of Bishop Sheets with a threshing machine in motion. The harvest hands, the stacks of grain, the shocks that stand in parallel rows, the majestic Wasatch range, the farm house, barn and orchard off in the distance to the left, an almost ripened patch of red top, another of lawn mower blades which manufacture the canvas to the right in a field of matured wheat separated by a skirmish of shade trees along the bank of a mountain stream, are the principal features. Compared as they are with wonderful accuracy and illuminated by rays of afternoon sunlight almost as natural as the rarely surpassing rays of this valley hereabouts, it cannot do otherwise than challenge the admiration of art judges. And what a story of painstaking care, patience and determination on the part of the painter it tells! For early two years he worked upon it with a zeal and devotion to the ultimate success. And now that his task is finished his brother artists generously congratulate him on what is universally regarded the greatest effort of his chosen profession.

Your friend's cake was most humorous when raised it with Price's Baking Powder.

Y. L. M. I. A. Notice.

The Y. L. M. I. A. officers' meeting will be held in the Fourteenth Ward Relief society hall on next Saturday, Jan. 4th, at 11 a. m. It is earnestly desired that each association be represented. An invitation is extended to all interested.

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ANOTHER RAMBLER DAY.

The Rambler boys made a great showing in the Opera house. The first event of the day was the ten mile race, won by Whitney, Bishop finished third, in the third heat and third time prize. Time within the limit was for the first second in the series. Fowler first, Wells second, and Thatcher third in the second scratch, class B, all "Ramblers" and all men. In the half mile class A, Max took second, Cutler second, Hall third, class B, Thatcher second, Fowler third. Five mile, class B, Fowler second. In this race a mule in a parlor car cut his head out of his car window and Wells leaping immediately behind him, made such a split for these parties and for each to Evans. The five mile, class A, was another Rambler event, Hall taking first, Joe Bass second, and Max another third. Fourteen prizes in one day is glory enough for any one.

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