

LETTER FROM MANILA.

The following letter, written on paper torn from an old Spanish book, and bearing the Spanish seal, was received by C. E. Hudson from his son Lindsey a day or two ago:

Manila, Philippine Islands,

August 22, 1898.

Dear Folks:—I will try and write you a full account of the taking of this place, our camp life, trials, etc.

We arrived in the harbor on the 18th of July after a long but fairly pleasant voyage, and landed on the 21st. Our method of landing was very crude. We packed everything except our mess kits, one suit of underwear, blue shirts, brown canvas suits and rubber blankets, and sent them to Cavite with a guard of three men. Then the rest of us, with rations, our four field guns, tentage and camp paraphernalia were loaded on native scows and towed to the shore, where the scows were beached and we waded ashore, chose a camping ground about one-fourth mile from the beach and pitched camp. That sounds easy, but let me tell you handling the equipage with 117 men, our total enlisted strength, after deducting for those at Cavite and the sergeant at Salt Lake, is no snap, but by the 22nd we were fairly in camp about three miles south of Malate and the Spanish entrenchments, and four miles south of Manila. Then it was wait until forces were landed, the third expedition arrived and General Merritt and Rear Admiral Dewey had made their plans, and a weary old wait it was. But finally the Third landed and our infantry who had been stationed at outposts near the insurgent entrenchments were ordered in the entrenchments of the insurgents, who moved to the east or extreme right of Manila. Our boys at once began strengthening the old entrenchments, and on the 28th a detachment of our artillery went up and began the construction of gun pits. They were occasionally fired at by sharpshooters but kept on working while the Spanish and insurgents were pegging away all the time but only wasting lead.

On the 30th our gun detachment moved the pieces into the new gun pits, and were then relieved by Lieutenant Gibbs and two gun crews from his platoon. That night—the night of the 31st of July—the Spanish tried to take our men, who were only 600 strong, by surprise and force our position, but were repulsed by the fine volleys which the infantry poured into them and the terrible fire which our two gun detachments and two of "B's" gave them. While some twenty infantrymen were killed and forty wounded not one Utah man was killed and only one slightly wounded. That was our first real engagement and our boys did nobly, and we are now simply idolized by the whole army for we afterwards found out that our fire killed some 300 to 400 of them and wounded 700 to 1,000, and it was mostly done by our cannon shots, although the infantry, especially the Tenth Pennsylvania and Batteries H and K, regular artillery, who are acting as infantry, did their share which was a lion's share, for you can imagine the peril of a body of 600 to 700 men being charged by a superior, much superior, body of Spanish and shelled by the cannon of the old fort, and the reserve two miles in the rear. They exhausted all but 5 or 10 rounds of ammunition and then quietly fixed bayonets and waited. Our guns fired all but three shells, then drew their pistols and stood fast and this was the position when the reserve and fresh ammunition arrived.

From this on it was strengthen our

position and while the infantry sharpshooters replied to the Spanish firing occasionally, we were held under orders not to fire a shell unless the Spanish fired upon us and so until the 13th we were in turn "every third day" in the trenches, lying in water and fighting mosquitoes, while all day long Mauser balls were firing over our heads and at night the Spanish shells flying.

On the 13th, we having positioned our guns, were ordered to the front to commence the bombardment in connection with Dewey of Manila and a subsequent assault if thought best. This was my first chance for actual action for while I had been through some of the hottest nights in the trenches, I had never got a chance to fire back. My experience under fire was perfect indifference after the first five minutes, for that period my legs trembled, but I think more from inaction than anything else, for I have had the same sensation waiting for my signal in a football game. We were marched up at 6:00 a. m. on the morning of the 13th and the fun was to begin about 10:00 o'clock. We quietly took our positions and waited. At 9:30 the fleet opened up and we followed suit in a few minutes. The Spanish fired a couple of shots at the fleet but more at us. We fired away at their fort and breastworks and hit them every shot. Then, no reply being given, the infantry went over the top of our works and charged. They fired a shot or so at them and run. This was the capture of Malate and by two o'clock we were in quarters and Manila had surrendered.

The seeming easy victory had been a little hotter on the right where some 40 men were killed or wounded by running into an ambuscade early in the morning. The surrender was caused by the third shot from the fleet going half way through their fort, our first one taking off the corner and the rest following so fast that they couldn't remain, you know. Brig. Gen. Greene says not one of our shots went wild but all took effect, and when we came over into the trenches and found three dead mangled to pieces, one leaning back against the works with half his head shot off, it certainly had done execution, to the amount of 300 more, we are told.

Now we have moved into nice barracks in New Manila and are all safe and sound. So goodbye.

LINDSEY.

REUNION OF EAST TENNESSEE ELDERS.

The second annual reunion of the returned Elders of the East Tennessee conference was held at Grantsville, in Tooele county, Saturday and Sunday, September 17th and 18th. There were present the following Elders, most of whom were accompanied by their families:

Thomas W. Sloan, J. Golden Kimball and Moses W. Taylor of Salt Lake City; Wm. L. Hays and John R. Halliday, of Pleasant Grove; Wm. Spry, Robert R. Judd and Albert Barrus of Grantsville; John A. Bevan, Joseph C. Orme, Tooele; Byron W. Brown, Lehi; John C. Ber-toch, Rite; J. B. Woodward, Wells-ville; Nathan Tanner Jr., and John V. Bluth, Ogden; A. W. Ensign, Brigham City; George B. Williams and Andrew D. Helm, Mill Creek.

The Elders outside of Tooele county had gathered in Salt Lake City the evening before, and early Saturday morning took the westbound train for Half-Way-House. At that point they were met by Elders Wm. Spry, Robert R. Judd and a number of their friends, with teams, to take the visitors to Grantsville, where they were soon located among mutual friends.

At 2 p.m. the first meeting of the reunion was held in the Grantsville meeting house. Here the Elders sang and related missionary experiences to those assembled, while they in turn furnished brass band music, choir and solo singing. After meeting an adjournment was taken to the pleasant and commodious home of Elder Spry. There, on the lawn, under gigantic weeping willows where refreshments were served, the Elders were strongly reminded of their conference gatherings on the green and in the woods of the South. In the evening the people of Grantsville had prepared a party in their large hall, where all joined in making the Elders feel that they were welcome. All restraint was thrown off, all felt that they were brothers and sisters, and, in innocent enjoyment, all learned to feel that it was good to be there.

Sunday morning was passed in visiting the Grantsville Sunday school, ably presided over by Assistant Superintendent Albert Erickson, after which a hurried drive took the visitors to Tooele, where meetings were held at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. The Elders related many of their experiences, some amusing, others faith-promoting. The Spirit of God was poured out in abundance and words of comfort and inspiration flowed from the lips of those who addressed the assembled Saints. A visit to the vineyards of Tooele was a pleasing feature of the afternoon.

Monday morning the Elders met at the residence of Elder Joseph C. Orme, and held a business meeting. The officers of the past year were re-elected, they being Thos. W. Sloan, president; Wm. L. Hays, vice-president; John R. Halliday, secretary and treasurer. A committee was appointed to draw up a letter from the reunion of Elders to their friends and acquaintances in East Tennessee and North Carolina, expressing appreciation of kindness shown in years past when these Elders traveled through the hills and hollows of the Cumberland mountains. Letters of regret and well wishes were read from a number of brethren living in various parts of the State. The gathering then merged into a testimony meeting in which a rich portion of the Holy Spirit was enjoyed. Some of the testimonies borne, particularly those of the sisters, left not a dry eye among those present. The joy and happiness of this reunion can scarcely be described. Love and affection beamed from the eye of every brother as each clasped hands and joined in singing the songs of Zion, the songs that had often won him a meal and bed in the South. Truly it was a feast of spiritual refreshment, one that no East Tennessee Elder can afford to miss in the future.

Nor can too much be said of the hospitality of the Saints of Grantsville and Tooele. As one sister expressed it: "Had we been kings and queens they could have treated us no better." To Elders Wm. Spry and R. R. Judd of Grantsville and Joseph C. Orme and John A. Bevan of Tooele, as well as to the officers, is due much of the credit for the success of the reunion. It was unanimously voted to hold a third reunion next year, time and place to be named by the officers.

The investigation of the official accounts of George W. Hall, treasurer of the grand lodge of Washington I. O. O. F., culminated Saturday in the filing of a suit to compel the Seattle State Deposit company to disclose whether the treasure-box rented by Mr. Hall contains the funds shown by the lodge books. The complaint alleges that the box should contain nearly \$4,000 in money and state warrants. Mr. Hall is at present in Alaska.