

Correspondence.

POTTSVILLE, Schuylkill Co., Penn.
 December 2nd, 1886.
 Editor Deseret News.—Dear Brother,
 For some time past I have desired to write you. Brother D. M. Stewart and myself landed in this country ten days ago, in the enjoyment of good health and buoyant spirits, on a travelling mission through the Middle and South-eastern States.

I left Missouri, June 29th. Of the progress of the work there and in Alabama, your readers have previously been apprised through the publication of President John Brown's communications, and my own to President Geo. A. Smith. Since I left the South I have seen the revival of the Ku Klux with other remnants of slavery. While there I was often reminded of the Scripture, which says, "They shall reap the whirlwind." The people of this land commenced the disfiguring of their countenances by blacking their faces, June 27th, 1844, when they killed the Prophet, through whom God offered this nation salvation from the fangs that now threaten its destruction.

I remained in Southern Ill. from July 1st until Aug. 6th, preaching in several neighborhoods, where large congregations with good attention were ever present. Then went to St. Louis, where I awaited the arrival from Omaha, of President Brown and Bro. Stuart, who had been there looking after our emigration. Soon after their arrival Bro. Stuart and myself were appointed to travel and labor in our present field. Through the teachings and example of Bro. Stuart a good work had been done in the branch at St. Louis; some fifty emigrants the present year, and a number of good, faithful Saints were, and are still, there, now under the watch care of President J. Brown. While in that city and in the society of the Saints I enjoyed myself much, otherwise but few days would have sufficed to give me a desire to again seek the country where less of man's and more of God's works meet our gaze.

When we are in the rural districts, and solitude has become to us monotonous, we desire a change and our fancy is tickled with a contemplated visit to the city. We love the country, for there as our vision extends over the varied scenery of undulating landscape we see Godliness in the order displayed by the Great Architect. We hear the ripple of the winged songsters, the rippling brook and the roaring cataract. In fact, our thoughts run in a channel enabling us to see majesty in the towering trees, beauty in nature's fields, sublimity in the towering hills and in all one grand panorama of order, harmony and love.

There is likewise a measure of joy in the association of a great city. We are awakened, at first, with a feeling of security, and amidst the countless thousands of our fellow men we throw off all feelings of gloom and take joy in being fostered along by the mass of animated beings anxiously plodding, with nervous tread; the fancied high road to happiness. In the panorama of a city in this 19th century, we are pleased most when we scrutinize least. Our admiration is awakened in viewing the magnificent edifices, towering steeples, and great receptacles of the "fine arts." But a few "turns around town" change our admiration into sorrow, because we find on every hand traces of vice and iniquity.

On the morning of Sept. 25th, Brother Stuart and myself crossed the "Father of Waters" to East St. Louis, and got aboard the cars for our present field of labor. Our mission is to visit localities from whence calls had come for Gospel messengers. Our first halt was in Knox county, Indiana, where we labored for about two weeks with a welcome reception. After organizing a small branch of church, and appointing Brother James Hooper, (an ex-Baptist minister) President, we traveled southeast through the country, preaching to anxious and hospitable people, whom we found on every hand. We arrived at Cannelton, on the Ohio River, and found a family of Saints, with whom we spent four days pleasantly. At the end of that time we embarked on a steamer for Cincinnati, where we landed Oct. 27th. There we sojourned six days, visiting and teaching a number of old Saints, who had lost much of their former warm feeling for the truth. However, they had a free testimony to bear of the restoration of the Gospel to this generation. We started from Cincinnati feeling thankful that we were, by the blessing of God, permitted to travel and disseminate blessings among scattered Israel.

Our next halt, of any length, was made on the line of Ohio and Pennsylvania, in the counties of Trumbull and Mercer, where we labored for more than two weeks. During this time we held four meetings, organized a branch of some nineteen Saints, and took our leave for this place where we found a family of Saints, over about fifteen miles of country. They gathered here on last Sabbath, when after baptizing six persons we organized them, and entitled this the Pottsville Branch. Ten more are to be baptized this evening. We depart from here to-morrow, leaving some forty Saints united as one, in feeling, as Saints ever are. They all rejoice at our visit and have spared nothing in administering to our wants. We go to Shenandoah to hold a meeting, and then to Scranton, where we hear, there is a few Saints. The brethren generally think of emigrating next summer.

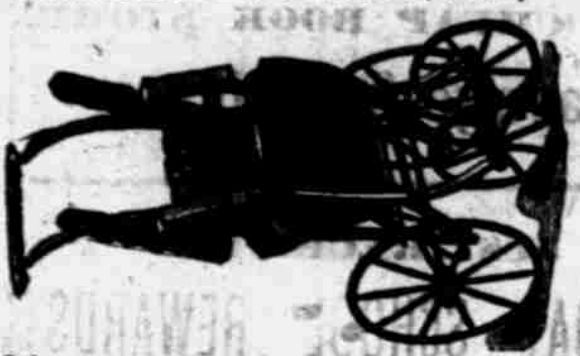
We expect, by invitation of Pres. Miller, to spend a few days visiting the Saints in New York. Then our way will be south through Philadelphia and Washington, into Virginia and the Carolinas. The blessings of the Almighty have attended me all the time upon my mission since I left home in May 1867, in a degree far surpassing my most sanguine hopes, and I believe they will continue.

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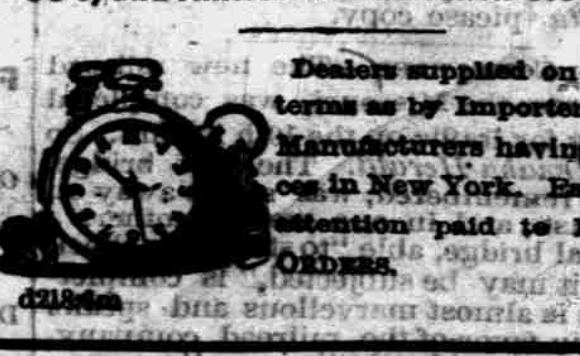
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