

CORRESPONDENCE.

Defective Mail Arrangements.

HEBER CITY,
County of Wasatch,
January 9th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

We do not wish to be classed among the grumblers, but an old saying, that forbearance sometimes ceases to be a virtue, we think applicable in our case. If things continue in the future as they have been in the past, we might as well stop trying to get the News at all. Last week the mail carrier came from Provo here, and instead of going on to Kamas and bringing the mail from there, as his contract requires him to do, he turned about and went back toward Provo. Then our next expectation was news by the way of Provo this week, but no, the mail carrier comes back, but brings no mail. His story was that he went part way down Provo Cañon to where, we have been informed, he usually finds the mail sack. He did not get the mail, and returned without it. He has now gone to Kamas and may perhaps bring us something from there. In the meantime we can wait and think or dream of what might be the news from abroad.

If we are obliged to submit to every species of excuse and neglect that contractors choose to make, we would like to know it. But first we propose to ask the Postmaster General about it, and if he says all is right we will say no more. The winter thus far has been very favorable, and no excuse can be made, such as sometimes can be, of deep snow, snowslides and avalanches. We will wait a few weeks longer and see what our carrier will do, and then perhaps complain again, and hope that our mail will come directly to us, as we have every right to expect.

Respectfully yours,
WASATCH.

Fall - Winter - Theatricals - Social Parties - Holiday Amusements, etc.

MORONI, Jan. 6, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

We had a very nice and pleasant fall and winter until Friday night before Christmas, when Old Bores made his appearance in the shape of a snow storm, and we have had snow ever since. We hear the merry jingle of sleigh bells almost continually. Our holiday recreations opened with a performance by the Moroni Dramatic Troupe on Saturday night previous to Christmas, in the drama of "Robert Macaire" and the farce of the "Green Mountain Boy." The performance was very good and the night passed off pleasantly to all.

Christmas night the Relief Society of Moroni gave a ball, the proceeds to go towards erecting a fund for the Temple at Manti. The hall was crowded and all seemed to vie with each other in making the occasion one long to be remembered. During the evening a sumptuous supper was served, of which all partook heartily. At the close of the dance Sister Jane Bailey thanked those present for their kind patronage and gave a brief statement of the financial condition of the society, from which it would appear that much good had been done and many a poor sufferer had been relieved by the society. Sister Bailey also called upon the gentlemen to assist them in building a granary in which to store grain, so that, should the crops ever fail, they might be prepared to help the poor through the winter of want.

The Relief Society is under the control of Sister Jane Bailey and Deborah Irons, Mrs. Bishop Bailey, and Mrs. Nells Christensen, who are laboring diligently to gather and store grain.

On Saturday night before New Year, the young ladies of Moroni got up what is called a beau dance.

On New Year's night there was a ball given for the benefit of the Sabbath School, from which was realized about \$30.

So ended our holiday sports. Everything went off quietly and peaceably and our centennial holiday will long be remembered with pleasure by all who participated in our sports.

We have two good schools, well attended and conducted by old and

experienced teachers. Our algebra and history classes cannot be beaten in Sanpete county.

Most respectfully,
R. H. B.

Dedication Services, Improvements, Etc.

St. GEORGE, January 4th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

Monday, the first day of the year 1877, dawned upon us clear and bright, and the sun and all nature seemed to smile upon us, as if pleased at the work to be performed in St. George on this memorable day.

At 12 m. the doors of the Temple were opened to the people, who had gathered to participate in the Dedication ceremonies, and at 12.45 about 1,300 people had been admitted, some having come from as far north as Parowan. The prayers were offered by Elders W. Woodruff, E. Snow, and B. Young, Jun., after which President B. Young arose and addressed the people with great earnestness and power, and, though he was in feeble health, I never heard him speak with greater power than on this occasion. His words will long be remembered by the Saints who were present on this long looked for, glorious day; a great day in the history of the people; a day that many of the faithful veterans of times gone by longed to live to see; an event that gives joy to the aged who now live, that they may minister for their dead before laying their bodies in the grave to moulder and decay; joy to the young, that they may properly enter upon the journey of life that is before them; joy to the angels, that they may visit and minister in a house of God on earth, that is holy and pure; joy to the dead that their prison doors may be unlocked. For these blessings let the Latter-day Saints give thanks and glory to God.

Wm. Ward, of Council Bluffs, is here visiting friends. He starts north to-morrow.

The finishing touches of white-wash and paint are in operation on the President's office. The furniture will be of home production.

Robert Gardner has commenced a neat house, east of the Tabernacle, and will no doubt make a marked improvement on his centrally located and beautiful corner lot.

Quite a company of northern people are camped here, waiting for others and organization, when they intend proceeding to New Mexico.

Sleighting Carnival—The Rival Presidents Elect.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

The first day of 1877 was remarkable for such a snow as has been rarely seen in this latitude, and, during the week, sleighs have almost universally taken the place of wheeled vehicles. Yesterday there was an impromptu sleighing carnival on Pennsylvania Avenue. The district commissioners had given their consent to the sport, and a division of the police had been detailed to keep order. Those taking part in the procession were expected to be in masquerade costume, but their part of the programme was not strictly adhered to. Indeed it was not to be supposed that our Washington belles would forego such an opportunity to display their artistic faces and bleached hair. Many of them were out, panoplied in all their dazzling beauty. About three o'clock the masqueraders began to make their appearance, and as sleigh after sleigh dashed past, each with its freight of grotesque and rainbow hued humanity, the avenue presented an appearance of great gaiety, and fun and merriment prevailed everywhere. The sides of the streets were thronged with pedestrians, who seemed to derive almost as much pleasure, in the role of spectators, as the masquers themselves. From the Treasury to the Capitol the avenue was crowded with sleighs of every description, from the graceful swan-like cutter to the barrel or dry goods box mounted on clumsy runners. Conspicuous among the devices resorted to by the masqueraders to create laughter was a *tableaux vivant* caricaturing the Louisiana returning board. This consisted of a primitive sled, in which were seated four men, their faces blackened with cork, busily engaged with the returns. But the most

laughable rig was a tandem team, consisting of a superannuated mule and a venerable horse, drawing a log of wood mounted on four slanting hickory sticks fixed in a pair of wooden runners. Astride the mule was a ragamuffin, who wore a plug hat, a pair of spectacles and hoop skirt, nothing else in his grotesque make-up was desirable. Under the sad eyed mule was hung a large dinner-bell. The philosophic beast trudged along "with no pride of ancestry or hope of posterity," followed by an unhappy specimen of his nobler relation, upon whose back was seated another curious nondescript. Two ridiculous specimens of humanity bestrode the log, with their feet scraping the snow. The one in the rear represented a fat woman hugging her companion in front, in order to keep an equilibrium, or perhaps from affection. Shouts of laughter greeted this most absurd of turnouts as it moved slowly along the avenue.

The many handsome equipages were objects of surprise to those who saw them, for it was not known that Washington could afford so fine a display of sleighs. One or two four-horse cutters were noticeable, though the smaller ones, more beautiful in design and more graceful in structure, attracted fully as much attention and comment. Later in the day, when the department poured forth their living streams of tired government clerks, the avenue was crowded as it has not been since the last presidential inauguration.

It is said that ex-Governor Tilden will soon make his permanent residence in this city, occupying a suite of rooms in one of the large hotels. It is also reported that Governor Hayes will, before the 4th of March, become the guest of President Grant at the White House, and that after the 4th of March he will have the vantage of possession, and be maintained there, if need be, by force.

The Liquor Business.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Jan. 12, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

The right of any authorities or governmental bodies to legislate with regard to the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors has in times past been strongly denied, but the absolute necessity of the prohibition or regulation of the traffic in "strong drinks" has by this time been demonstrated in every civilized country where their use has unfortunately become general. It is now too late to deny the power, the right and the necessity of such legislation. The question on which there is a difference of opinion is the extent to which legislation on this subject can and should be carried for the general good. There are some who think that no liquor should be distilled for any purpose whatever, whilst extremists on the other side claim that you assault a man's manhood, rob him of his personal liberty, and take away his free agency when you deprive him of his whiskey or other spirits, when you interfere with his right to get drunk, and to help others to get drunk also. They claim the right to destroy themselves by strong drink if they have the mind to, as their own individual business and not that of the government, be it national or local. To extinguish these assumptions and fully justify legislation, we think it is only necessary to maintain the following propositions—

First—That it is the duty of society, through the agency of those elected to make its laws, to enact and enforce all laws which, while protecting the individual in the full possession of his inalienable rights, tend to promote the general welfare, and especially whenever that welfare is impaired and threatened by any impending or existing evil it is the duty of society to enact laws to restrict or destroy that evil. On the other hand it is obvious that no law can promote the general welfare which deprives the individual of his individual rights, whether of life liberty or happiness. But the community has rights as well as the individual, and the right to enact laws for the general welfare is one of them.

Second—While society has no right to prevent or restrict the use of an article for purposes which are beneficial only, yet if it be found that an article can be put to uses that are greatly injurious to individuals or the community, then it

becomes the duty of those vested with authority, in the exercise of their duty to promote the general welfare and in self defense to social life, to prohibit, restrict or regulate the use of that article, as the case may require. The laws which control the manufacture of gunpowder, dynamite, &c., are examples of this principle. It is a common principle of law that every man must so enjoy his own rights as neither to destroy nor impair those of another, and it is the great end for which government is instituted among men to compel them to do so.

Third—No person has a right to do that to himself which impairs or prevents his own powers to such extent as to become a burden or a source of danger to others, or to incapacitate him to discharge his duties to himself or the world at large, or that disposes him to commit criminal acts. When he places himself in this position, society should by law protect both him and itself. As an example that laws for such purposes are often enacted we will refer to that which punishes attempted self murder.

Fourth—The use of alcoholic liquors to the extent of intoxication is an injury to the individual, is destructive to the general welfare, is a prolific source of crime, is a tax upon all good citizens, is an immense loss to the production and development of a nation, and in every respect an unmitigated evil; as such it is a fit subject for legislation and should be restricted if not destroyed by the enforcement of appropriate and constitutional laws; consequently such laws should be enacted and enforced, by all branches of the government, whether national or local, within the limits of their respective powers. As such the City Council of this city is in duty bound to the citizens, who have elected its members, to use every legal means to stem the tide of intemperance which, just now, threatens to engulf and destroy so many of her promising sons. It is an act of duty, of charity, of righteousness, of economy and of self preservation, and should be performed without delay.

New Year—Improvements—Progress Desirable and Undesirable—Prospects, etc.

SILVER REEF, Utah,
January, 8, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Last Monday was a stirring day in St. George, the basement and lower hall of the Temple being dedicated. The day passed without any accident or farther stirring event. Citizens generally went in for a good old fashioned New Year's supper.

The new road to the Colorado, via the Grand Wash, is nearly completed, which will save at least 100 miles of the distance to the new settlements in Arizona. Quite a number of families are waiting to try the new road.

The weather is generally sunny and fine for business, no snow in sight. Lumber for the bridge across the Virgin is being brought to place. Our Court House is being finished. Business here is much the same as of late, buildings going up at the rate of six or seven a week. The company's mill is now going rapidly up and is expected to be in operation by first of February. There is great increase of thefts here, of horses, tools, provisions, bedding, and even of lumber, and one case of highway robbery has recently occurred in the street here. We have now an express office here and expect soon daily coaches with mail, and hope for the convenience of a post office. Prospects are still very encouraging for the biggest camp here that has been made in the Rocky Mountains.

Yours, CACTI.

Distribution and Labors of Elders—Write and Send Papers—Hard Winter—Dull Times.

DES ARC, Prairie Co., Ark.,
January 9th, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Most of the Elders called and set apart at the last conference for the Southern States district have arrived at their destination and entered upon their labors. They are distributed as follows—Elders J. W. Sharp and William Calder are laboring in Tennessee, where there is a branch of the church of seventeen members. Their address

is Shady Grove, Hickman Co., Tenn. Elders J. P. Wimmer and J. S. Page, jr., are at Bloomer, Sebastian Co., Ark., west of here, near the line of the Indian Territory. There is a new field of labor. Elders Samuel Worsencroft and Samuel Douglass will leave here in a few days for their new field of labor in Van Buren and Independence counties, north of here. Their address will be Ark. Bayou, Independence Co., Ark. Elders Charles Brewerton and Wm. C. Wightman, jr., are laboring here for the present, but will shortly join Elder J. T. Lisonbee, who is laboring at Oak Grove, De Kalb County, Ala. Elders Joseph Argyle and J. W. Thomas are preaching at Dixon, Neshoba Co., Miss. Elders John C. Harper and Franklin Haymore are laboring in Virginia and North Carolina, their address being Mount Airy, Surry Co., N. C. In Surry County there is a branch of the Church. Elder John Morgan is doing a good work at Dirt Town, Chattahoochee Co., Ga., having baptized seventeen members and organized them into a branch of the church. Elder J. D. H. McAllister and myself are laboring in this county, several of the other Elders having assisted us for some weeks past. Our address is Box 34, Des Arc, Prairie Co., Ark.

I have been thus particular in giving the addresses of the Elders, that the Saints in Utah who may have relatives and friends at or near where we are at work can send us their names and address, and we will try to do them good as best we can. Again, I would remind the Saints to write to their relatives and friends and send the papers to them. The Saints can do a great deal of good in this way. I left this branch of the Church last July, with eighty members in good standing, three of whom have since become deceased, namely, sisters Martha Golding, Sarah White, and Emeline Octavia Pipkin. All three of these were faithful members of the Church to the last, dying in the fullest confidence in the religion of Christ.

Since my return to this place eleven members from Alabama have joined this branch of the Church, which now numbers eighty-eight members, a large portion of whom intend in the spring to emigrate to New Mexico or Arizona. Those that joined this branch were here for that purpose.

Times are fearfully dull here, no money in circulation and scarcely any business being done. Snow is ten inches deep, and colder than in Utah. But, worst of all, about one-half of the people of this part of the country are sick, and no wonder. The country produces scarcely any vegetables, and very seldom any fruit, consequently the diet here is corn bread, made of coarse meal, and swine's flesh, and the variety is made up of calomel, quinine and other drugs.

All of us are well, and join in love to you and all the Saints. Hoping all will remember us in their prayers. Respectfully yours in the Gospel.

HENRY G. BOYLE.

Unusual Storms and Floods in Britain.

LONDON, Jan. 6.

During the first week of the year 1877 the wrath of the storm king was poured out over the British islands with terrible results. The coasts and neighboring seas were swept by extraordinary and devastating gales, and wrecks strewn the shores from Land's End to the Hebrides. From the incessant rains that accompanied the storms the country was inundated, and disastrous floods are reported from all the river valleys throughout the islands.

Owing to the effect of the storm winds on the tidal waves, causing them to flow with extraordinary force and to a great height, the valley of the Thames has been fairly drowned. The freshets meeting the advancing tides have distributed their waters over all the low-lying metropolitan districts. The lands particularly affected by the disastrous inundations extend along the banks of the river Thames, above and below London.

The municipal authorities are censured by the thousands of sufferers because of the effect produced by the northern Thames embankment on the river currents. It is claimed that such inundations were unknown before the embankment was built, and that they are