

ing them. The purchase was made for the purpose of drying them by evaporation.

About two miles from Palmyra the farm of Tim Sanders was pointed out—the general appearance gave the impressions that the weeds had got a good mortgage on the farm. A splendid crop of golden rod and other wild flowers covered the fields. Tim is a character. He saluted us by asking if we were Mormons, having been announced as coming from Salt Lake. When asked about the stone slabs, "couldn't say—there might have been some but the general opposition to Joe Smith made them so that they could not believe anything about the matter."

Mr. Sanders is an intelligent man of pleasant manner and quite entertaining. He gave Martin Harris a scoring for raising money to help publish the Book of Mormon; knew most of the old people that had passed away; asked if I knew Mr. Lyman—a very fine man whom he said stopped with him a few years ago. Tim had the sharp, curt manner of speaking characteristic of Brother Brigham Young. Tim's farmhouse was sadly in need of repair—as well as himself; but I shall not easily forget his gentlemanly manner and his pleasant goodbye.

The hill Cumorah is about three and a half miles from Palmyra. It is on the left hand side of the road going south. It is higher than the surrounding hills and at present nearly the north end is devoid of trees. It is on the farm of Mr. Sampson, whose farm house and buildings are close to the base of it. There is a bald spot on top of it. The east side of the hill is cultivated. The west side, where the plates were found, is left untouched. There were four trees standing upon it a few years ago but they were cut down. One of the trunks is now lying on the hill side.

Mr. Sampson, the owner, kindly showed me the place where the plates were discovered. It is now somewhat barren but mostly covered with grass. He seemed much amused at our interest in the spot, but I had to tell him as an excuse that what the manager was to the birth of Christ so was that spot and the plates revealed there to the great movement whose devotees enfold the earth. I also told him that thousands would visit this shrine and look upon the place that was the cradle of Mormonism. I gathered some pebbles and soil from the spot and left it; but the incidents and the marvelous results that had been reached through the labors and work of that much abused boy, for whom no one in the whole region had a good word, caused a number of strange thoughts to pass through my mind.

This letter is long enough, but before I close I wish to propose that a popular subscription be started to purchase the sacred spot, erect upon it a stone monument, surround this with an iron fence, have the story in brief upon the stone and a pathway made up to it from the road, and pay Mr. Sampson something annually to keep an eye upon it so that vandals hands may not damage the monument or chip it and carry it away as a relic. Thus will the birthplace of the great latter-day work be an object of permanent interest when this generation has passed away. C. R. SAVAGE.

FROM LEWISTON, IDAHO.

LEWISTON, Nez Perce Co., Idaho,
September 10th, 1896.

While peregrinating the hills of this part of Washington, we find, so far as we have passed over it, a very fertile soil but very hilly. Spokane Falls, as well as Post Falls, have very interesting sights.

A few statistics may be interesting: Number of farms in the county 4,658; acres in cultivation, 421,653.

We are told that the country is rather wild. Preachers make very little success. People do not think of praying except when they get mad.

Near here, lately, a man shot his wife and then shot himself, jealousy was the cause. Some time before a man shot his wife and children, and then himself. These are, however, almost common occurrences in America. It appears as if there will be no more peace and safety except where the Priesthood and Saints of God are, for the angels [with their sickles] are set at liberty to reap their harvest.

As to the people here, so far as we have met them, we consider there are many good, honest hearts, and that it is very necessary to obey the message of John the Revelator, that no people shall have an excuse in the day when all men shall be judged according to their works.

Palouse has a population of about 1,200. Two newspapers are published here. The Palouse Republican announced our arrival and also our appointments for meetings, together with about one column of historical matter relating to Utah and the Mormons. It concluded thus: "The Republican acknowledges a pleasant call from the gentlemen on Thursday."

Considering the very busy times of harvesting and threshing we were satisfied with the turnout to our meetings. This was the first time Mormonism, they said, held forth in their country. We received excellent treatment.

On Monday, September 7th, we took the train on the Northern Pacific for Union town, 38 miles; then by stage 12 miles, to Lewiston, which is on the Snake river. It is said that we took a drop of 2,800 feet from Union Town to Lewiston, and with the fall a bad cold. The population of this place is about 2,000. Here we concluded to make a stand for a short time. We have made some friends here and one of the two papers has already announced our arrival and still another will advertise us and our meeting.

This county is named Nez Perce county after the Indians of that name many of whom we have met and spoken to some of them regarding their forefathers coming to America 600 years B. C. and of the Book of Mormon as their history. Several of them took breakfast in an eating house where we availed ourselves of talking to them. They spoke good English. It is not uncommon we were told by the landlord of the Indians to put down a \$20 gold piece to pay their 25 cent breakfast bill. The government paid this tribe \$1,500,000 for their land and they have a reservation.

The town of Lapwai is on their reservation twelve miles out from Lewiston. The Indians look and dress well.

We learn of one of them having \$1,500 out on interest.

EDWARD STEVENSON,
M. F. COWLEY.
Address: Baker City, Oregon.

The following day after our last communication to your paper we held our first meeting in Lewiston, Idaho. It was in a large church, which has been converted into a Grand Army hall and was very comfortably fitted up.

The Teller, one of two newspapers published by Stanton & Company in this city, said to contain over 2,000 inhabitants, was very courteous.

During our waiting to fill the three meetings appointed we visited ministers, officers of the law, school teachers and mingled with the people spreading the Gospel tidings. We were told on every hand that the people of Lewiston cared very little for religion. One of the ministers said, "You will find crowded meetings, especially in these political times, many efforts have been made with but poor success." However, we had a message to deliver. Our first meeting began on time with empty seats excepting three persons. In a new hall, as yet without windows, was a Methodist priest. We looked in after our meeting. Only three or four were therein except those who were serving coffee at 15 cents a cup. There was a carpeted bench or a table, three empty nail kegs and a board for seats, also plenty of hot coffee but few to drink it. There was to be no dancing, or we were told there would have been a full house. Our singing on a loud key brought our audience up from three to eight souls, just to make a text of Noah's eight souls. Our meeting hall was in the heart of town and close to the sidewalk. The audience by and by swelled to about thirty and the meeting was turned over to Elder Cowley, who delivered a Gospel sermon of much power. The other meetings, especially the last, was quite largely attended. We were treated kindly.

After eight days' labor and the good wishes of many of the people we felt as though our time had come to sail on the steamer Lewiston to Riparia, eighty miles down Snake river. The sun shone on the junction of Clear Water and Snake rivers, reflecting its rays on the tall rows of poplars and buildings nestling under the mountains and banks of the river; it was not without emotions of a heaving bosom that we took the last look of one of the fields of our earnest labors, prayers, cares and responsibilities belonging to humble ambassadors of so important a message as the restored Gospel of salvation.

There is a pleasant recollection of a gentleman, 80 years old, who was baptized 40 years ago. He came up to the stand and expressed great joy. He said he had not enjoyed such a feast or many years. He said he picked up one of the city papers informing him of the meeting. Old as he was, he walked nearly a mile to all of the meetings. He said he lived at Walla Walla, or near there, eight miles out, at Hadley's station, which was named after him, Joseph Hadley. He says he will entertain the Elders may they chance to come that way.

A Mr. Charles Humphries also ex-