

as an immense zone of it intervened between him and his vessel, it was impossible for him to prosecute his investigation farther northward.—For two winters the Advance was completely hemmed in; and as it became evident to him, from the condition of his men, that they could not survive another winter, he determined to leave her and make the best of his way to the nearest settlement. He discovered about eighty new capes and twenty bays, and found land up as far as he was enabled to penetrate. The extreme northern boundary of this he named Grinnell's Land, in honor of Mr. Henry Grinnell. The hardships they endured were of a fearful character, and at one time six out of their party of nineteen were so low that it was thought they could not survive. Of these three died, and the rest were saved, after the most unremitting care and attention.—One of these was Mr. Alston, the carpenter, who died, while crossing over the ice, of lockjaw, superinduced by the intense cold. The other two were frostbitten. The lockjaw, Dr. Kane said, was very prevalent. The party, after making their way over thirteen hundred miles of ice, arrived at Leviely or Godhaven, and had taken passage in a Danish brig, named the Maria, when the release made her appearance. Their joy at meeting their countrymen here can better be imagined than described.

They lost no time, it is almost needless to state, in taking their departure, and after a favorable voyage arrived within sight of our shores, where they were hailed by the steamship Union about sixty miles east of Sandy Hook.

THE ESQUIMAUX INDIANS AND THEIR HABITS OF LIFE—CURIOUS HOSPITALITY OF THEIR WOMEN—MORE INTERESTING PARTICULARS.

One of our reporters has had a further talk with one of the officers of the Kane expedition, and has learned the following facts relating to the Esquimaux Indians and other matters:—

The first time that the party came in connection with the Esquimaux was in March, 1854, about the time when the long winter night comes to a close, and when there are two or three hours of natural light in the twenty-four. The ship was visited by nine of these Indians, each driving a sledge drawn by eight or ten Esquimaux dogs. These sledges are of a peculiar construction. They are between four and five feet long and fourteen inches wide. The body is made of pieces of the walrus tusks and of the horn of the narvahl or unicorn, cut into pieces of about an inch long, and lashed together by sinews. The runners are faced with the ivory of the narvahl's horn. The Esquimaux are very ingenious, and manage to bore holes by means of a drill worked in a hole in the front tooth. The sledges are thus, on account of the labor bestowed on them, very valuable, and are bequeathed from father to son as a most precious legacy. It is no uncommon circumstance, when the community want to get rid of a bad and lazy member who has a good sledge and team of dogs, to induce him to go out on a hunting expedition, and when at a great distance, from land to take away his sledge and spear him.

These Indians who visited the Advance had some walrus meat to dispose of, which they did for jackknives. They were, however, very shy and timid; but Dr. Kane and Mr. Peterson, the interpreter, went out to meet them, and at length overcame their timidity, and induced them to come on board.

The Esquimaux settlements are some forty miles apart, and generally consist of but two or three huts, containing a population of some eighteen or twenty. These huts are generally built of massive stones, some of them several tons weight, and it is a matter of surprise how they could have possibly got them up. Like the sledges, the huts are handed down as most valuable property. Some of them have been built of whale-bone—probably from a fish taken by them after being killed by whalers. In summer they form tents of skins, and, at a pinch, of snow. They are hospitable, and fond of visiting, and so these settlements keep up an interchange of communication and live very happily. Their huts are heated by means of stone lamps, cut by themselves out of a sort of soapstone, fed with blubber, and with wick of ground moss. By this means they manage to keep up a temperature of sixty degrees Fahrenheit, while the temperature out of doors is as many degrees below zero. They usually eat raw meats—the flesh of walrus and seal; but when they do cook any thing or make any soup—which they make very good—it is by means of these lamps.

Their sleeping places are platforms, built of stone, raised some eighteen inches from the floor—so as to keep in the warm atmosphere—and covered with grass taken from islands at a distance. Their clothing consists of fox skin jumpers or coat, with an inner jumper of bird skin the feathers inward; bearskin trousers, bearskin boots and bear skin gloves. The dress of the women is similar to that of the men, except that the former wear boots extending half way up the thigh while those of the men do not extend to the knee; and that the ladies also wear a sack to their hoods, in which they carry their children. The men are of a medium size and stoutly built, while the women are smaller. They do not practice the Mormon habits of polygamy, but are on the contrary, extremely particular about their matrimonial relations. This has been the universal testimony of travelers who have visited them.

As with all savage nations, the onus of the labor devolves upon the women. The men come in from the hunt, throw down the prey they have secured, walrus or seal, and the women have then to go to work, skin the animals, prepare the flesh for food, extract the bones and prepare the sinews for sewing purposes. One of the ordinary acts of hospitality or civility on the part of the ladies is to take a fowl, or piece of meat, chew it up very nicely and hand it to the

visitor, who is expected to be overcome with gratitude and to finish the operation of chewing. It would give them dire offence if there should be any failure to do due honor to this act of hospitality. In all other respects they exercise to a remarkable degree the same virtue.

The Esquimaux of the Northern regions profess to have a dread of going to the Danish settlements, lest they should be eaten up by their Southern brethren, while these last entertain the same dread, and with more reason, of the Northern tribes. Those tribes, however, which live as high up as the expedition penetrated, seem to be becoming gradually extinguished, and we understand that Dr. Kane has formed the philanthropic scheme of collecting these people together. He proposes we are told, to gather them from the most Northern regions and bring them down to the Danish settlements, where they can enjoy more comforts and be subject to less vicissitudes.

The Esquimaux have a priest, whom they call Anjekek, who performs marriages and burial services, and is supposed to have some influence over the heart. When a couple is married, their friends have imposed upon them, for a certain length of time, abstinence from certain kinds of meats; and when a young man or a young woman dies, all the young men and young women of the settlement are condemned to the same sort of abstinence. The priest is believed to have power over the walrus and seal, and in a time of pressing scarcity to be able to call them up to the surface of the water. Their faith in the Anjekek is the only approach they have to religious belief. They spend their long winter of four months, total darkness, in sleeping and eating, never going out to hunt unless pressed by necessity. They have no sort of amusement except singing and an accompanying motion of the body, which can hardly be designated dancing.

They do not use tobacco in any shape, nor do they smoke any other weed or root for the purpose of stimulants, nor would they allow any smoking in their huts. The children always get a name selected from whatever subject happens to be on the tapis in the paternal hut when they are born.

In Leavely or Godhavn, island of Disco, the population of 250 or 300 is composed principally of Esquimaux, pure and half blood. They manage to keep up a good deal of social enjoyment by means of dancing, singing, and music. They have a peculiarly good ear for music, and can manage to play on the jewsharp or violin, any air they hear. The women are said to be great rogues, if not in stealing gentlemen's hearts at least in pilfering tin pots and plates, and anything of that kind. We saw one young gentleman connected with the expedition, who had no less than three specimens of the hair of young ladies of Leavely. One of them is dark as the raven's wing, of the sikkest texture, and came from the locks of a full blooded Esquimaux; another is dark brown, very fine and belonged to a half blood; and the third, of golden color, and of equally fine texture, showed unmistakably the Danish blood of the lady's sire. We presume these love tokens will be duly treasured, though not in the National Museum at Washington. This same gentleman has a quantity of skins and furs which he has brought home with him as reminiscences of Greenland. But they will have to be fumigated or to undergo some other process of purification, for the Esquimaux ladies who have the tanning operation in charge, not being able to procure bark, have recourse to a liquid which answers as well, but which careful chambermaids do not tolerate the presence of in a room.

The Esquimaux never resort to the barbarous mode of cutting off frost bitten limbs. They apply to them a piece of rabbit skin, and always with good effect. We are sorry to see that one of the expedition lost his life by the amputation of a frost bitten foot, and that three others have had to suffer amputation.

It may be a fact worthy of notice that Dr. Kane went to the Arctic regions provided with daguerreotype apparatus and plates, but that from the peculiar nature of the atmosphere no impression could be taken. These, and a valuable collection of specimens of natural history, geology, and casts of the Esquimaux, with the libraries of Capt. Kane and officers, had to be left behind; but the drawings, reports, instruments and documents of the expedition were preserved.

CORRESPONDENCE.

G. S. L. CITY, Jan. 6, 1856.

MR. EDITOR:—SIR:

You will observe, by my advertisement in your paper that I am about to introduce into the Valley a new and profitable branch of female industry, whereby the wealthy may exercise their artistic ingenuity, and others not only decorate themselves, but work for their neighbors, and thereby gain a comfortable living at their own firesides and under the eye of their parents.

There is one valuable quality in this employment, viz., a strict attention to a new object every minute; hence, to be successful, they cannot enter into a long discussion on the good and bad traits in their neighbor's character, but mind their own business.

I will provide cloth, cotton and silk used during the time the classes are receiving instructions, and trust females will afterwards ornament themselves with the work of their own hands, rather than having it brought them some hundred miles, and pay the enormous prices demanded in cash.

I propose commencing the classes on Monday, the 15th inst.; and in order that I may have a sufficient supply of collars and patterns printed for beginners, I request that those who wish to embrace this opportunity will give me their names on or before Friday, the 11th inst.

I may mention that upwards of forty years of my life have been devoted very much to the manufacturing of silk and cotton fabrics, and the embroidering thereof.

In the year 1836 I was engaged by the town council of Edinburgh to teach 400 females gratis, who provided me with ample accommodation for carrying on the work; I refused no applicants of character, and at much labor and expense to myself taught in the public rooms, and in private families, fourteen hundred.

My exertions for the welfare of the females of the Valley shall be put forth on very moderate terms; and by giving this a place in your valuable paper, you will oblige

Yours most respectfully,

JAS. G. BROWN.

FILLMORE, Dec. 29, 1855.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:—SIR:—

I left G. S. L. City on the 3rd inst. along with the Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly from the north. When we left, some of the company were indisposed, but gradually regained their health on the journey, and were all well when they arrived here. During that night, however, Jacob F. Hutchinson was taken sick, and in the space of 48 hours he had seven fits, in one of which he fell into the fire and burnt his mouth. By the prayer of faith and mild nursing, according to the priesthood, he has recovered, and is now attending to his duties as messenger to the House of Representatives.

Several of the brethren have also been unwell, but have all recovered with the exception of Mr. John Stoker, who is now sick of a fever, but is fast recovering, and will soon be about.

Mr. George A. Smith is suffering from an inflamed eye, but is well in every other respect.

I have been called upon to administer professionally to several of the citizens of this place, who were dangerously ill, and they have recovered.

With the exceptions of a few colds, the health of the place is good. I have been called upon by Kanosh, the Indian chief, to visit the wick-a-ups of his people, who are camped about a mile from here; they are in a degraded, miserable condition, and are chiefly dependent upon the charity of the citizens for food. Several of them are sick owing to exposure and cold, their huts being miserably constructed of a little brushwood and cedar limbs. I administered to their necessities and wants to the best of my ability, giving them suitable medicine and advice; and some of them are recovering.

Yours respectfully,

SAM. L. SPRAGUE,

Physician, and Messenger of the Council.

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH & LIBERTY.



ALBERT CARRINGTON:.....EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY:

Wednesday---January 9, 1856.

TO THE BRETHREN WHO HOLD OR ARE ENTITLED TO LAND WARRANTS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—Ever solicitous for your welfare, as well as to promote the cause of Zion, we feel to counsel you in regard to your land warrants. It is wisdom for all who are entitled to them to make applications therefor at such times and in such manner as will incur the least expense. Lawyers and speculators are to be avoided. The Hon. James W. Cummings, Clerk of G. S. L. County, and Judge Phelps and Robert Campbell, Notaries Public, will make out the papers and give the necessary certificates, for a just and honorable remuneration for the time occupied therewith. They can easily attend to all claimants, and any person can ascertain whether he is entitled to a land warrant, by application at the Adjutant General's office. Obtain your land warrants and then keep them, until the lands in the valleys of Utah are surveyed and brought into market, then you can secure your firesides and other improvements to yourselves and friends. Hundreds who were in the Battalion have sorely regretted the manner in which they suffered themselves to be fooled out of their warrants, back pay, mileage, &c.

Brethren, be wiser now and keep the staff in your hands while you have it, that it may sustain yourselves and this people in time to come. Those warrants are as good as money, dollar for dollar, in the Land Office; therefore do not let land jobbers, speculators, &c., whose only study is to subvert individual interest and get rich by oppressing and swindling the community, re-enact with you the ever memorable transactions pertaining to the disposal of the land warrants of the Mormon Battalion.

Let the spirit of wisdom dictate your course, and you will follow in the counsel of God.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,

HEBER C. KIMBALL,

J. M. GRANT.

THE EASTERN MAIL, which left on the 1st inst.

for Independence, in charge of Mr. J. C. Dotson, returned on the evening of the 4th, not having succeeded in the attempt to get over the Big Mountain. That was anticipated at the time the party started out, but they were sanguine that if any men could make their way through the snow and get over the Wasatch range, they could, and we believe that if there had been any possibility of getting out, they would not have returned. They succeeded in getting up the mountain about one mile, at which point the snow was five feet deep in the track made by T. S. Williams & Co's. train, and considering it impracticable and even dangerous to proceed further, they reluctantly turned about on the morning of the 3rd, and with difficulty retraced their track to the Birch springs that day, snow falling all the time there, though it was one of the most clear and pleasant days in the Valley that we have had this winter.—E.S.

William Bell, Esq. has been appointed postmaster at Salt Lake City, in place of "ourselves" removed, and we have retired from the responsible duties devolved upon us during the last eighteen months with no material addition to our purse, but with "X" attached to our late official cognomen.—E.S.

IRON COUNTY.—By letter from elder James Lewis, dated at Parowan Dec. 5, we learn that the southern division of the Home Missionarie had begun preaching there, and were arousing quite a spirit of reformation among those who were becoming somewhat drowsy. Cedar city is improving rapidly, though the iron works are not operating so successfully as could be wished, owing to the irregular and uncertain supply of water from Coal creek, for which reason the company purpose constructing a steam engine. The inhabitants have been quite prompt in paying their taxes, notwithstanding the scarcity of money, which indicates a healthy tone of public spirit.—[Ed.]

LOS VEGAS.—Elder William Bringham writes from the Vegas, under date Dec. 10, that the brethren in that region continue to enjoy peace, health, union and plenty, and have nearly finished their fort walls to the height of eight feet. The letter enclosed a specimen of cotton of very good quality, planted on the first of July and gathered on the first of November, affording a fair indication that any required staple and quality can be raised in that locality.

The settlers are quite spirited in planting peach stones and other fruit seeds, and are making arrangements to procure grape cuttings, figtrees, &c., from Lower California, and there is no doubt but their soil and climate will prove well adapted to raising almost every desirable variety of the products of warm climates.—[Ed.]

We have again to request, that all advertisements designed for insertion in the "News" be written with ink, and in as plain style as possible.

AFFAIRS AT THE CAPITAL.

ARRIVAL OF ELDER E. SNOW AND COMPANY.

FILLMORE, Dec. 30, 1855.

HON. ELIAS SMITH:—Dear Sir:—Half the allotted 40 days are now past, and still no highly thrilling or peculiarly interesting event has occurred in the proceedings of the Assembly.

During the past week grants for herding purposes have occupied most of the time of the Council and House, though other questions were agitated, and they passed "An act appropriating money for educational purposes, and defining certain duties of the Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University of the State of Deseret," and "An act granting and confirming unto the University of the State of Deseret certain land claims therein mentioned," which claims had been granted by the provisional government, but through accident the grant had been omitted in the different publications of the laws of Utah.

The "Act appropriating money for educational purposes," &c., provides for the purchase of fonts of Deseret Alphabet type, and for publishing school books and other works with said type, the copy to be furnished under the direction of the Chancellor and Board of Regents, who are also authorized and required to direct and pay for the services of the superintendent of common schools.

In joint session, on the 28th, an animated discussion arose upon a proposition to create and define Box Elder and Maind counties within the present boundaries of Weber county, during which the joint session adjourned until 10 1-2 a.m. of the 31st.

Christmas was not celebrated with the festivities usually attending it, a dance in the Representatives' Hall being the only variation from the business routine of our temporary sojourn.

On the 28th, Elders Erastus Snow, Joseph B. Nobles, Jacob Gates and George B. Wallace (home missionaries) arrived from Iron county, where they have been successfully laboring, and on the 29th commenced a protracted meeting in this city, according to previous appointment. Elder Snow brings a favorable report concerning the condition, feelings, general health and prospects of our brethren in the southern settlements. Elder J. C. L. Smith, president in Iron county, was dangerously ill when the missionaries left Parowan on the 26th.

There was about the same depth of snow at Parowan as there is here, not far from six inches, and from six to twelve inches on the summit of the cross range south of Beaver.

Governor Young, the members and officers of the Assembly and the citizens are in the enjoyment of good health, with but few exceptions. Hons. George A. Smith and John Stoker, counselors from Iron and Davis counties, are slightly indisposed, but will doubtless soon be able to look after the interests of their constituents, with that zeal and ability which have thus far characterized their efforts.—Yours truly,

ALBERT CARRINGTON.

A SUPPOSED DIAMOND.—There has recently been found, in Lancaster county, Pa., a supposed diamond of extraordinary size. It is colorless, perfectly crystalline, resembling a drop of clear water, in the middle of which you will perceive a strong light playing with a good deal of spirit.—Nothing like it, it is supposed, was ever discovered before in the United States.

ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE.—The pressure of the wind increases according to the square of the velocity. It amounts to 12 1-2 lbs. on the square foot in a storm moving at the rate of 50 miles per hour, and 50 lbs. on the square foot in a gale of 100 miles per hour.