

## REMARKS

BY

## ELDER ERASTUS SNOW

At Logan, Sunday Afternoon, February 5th, 1882.

REPORTED BY G. F. GIBBS.

I AM asked to occupy the few minutes yet remaining; If the Spirit gives me liberty I will pursue the train of thought that has passed through my mind while Brother Richards has been speaking upon the spirit that has gone abroad upon the remnants of the house of Israel who occupy this land, the American Indians whom we understand to be the descendants of the Nephites, the Lamanites, the Lemuelites and the Ishmaelites who formerly possessed this land, whose fathers we have an account of in the Book of Mormon. Those who are most familiar with their history and with the history of our settlements in these mountains for the last 30 years—the manner in which we have sent out our colonies to locate upon the land of the Lamanites: the manner in which we have treated with them to obtain their consent and approval to occupy and improve the land which they claim; the manner in which we have moved among them to maintain ourselves and to build the towns and cities which are now inhabited by our people throughout this mountain region; the manner in which we have sent out missionaries in advance of our colonies to open up the way, carrying with them the spirit of the holy Gospel, the spirit of peace, the spirit of love and brotherhood, to endeavor to impress them with the belief that we were not men of blood, but that we were a people who cherished and cultivated the spirit of peace. The course we have taken when difficulties would arise between them and our settlements, which occasionally would arise through the indiscretion of thoughtless and selfish men, to settle the same in a friendly, peaceful way, thereby avoiding bloodshed and war; and the spirit in which we have chastised them when it became necessary to do so, not in malice nor revenge, but as a father would chastise his wayward child, and then as soon as possible pour into their wounds the oil and the wine to heal them up again—those, I say, who are best acquainted with our labors in this direction will best appreciate the results.

I have had much experience during the last 20 years in this direction; and have, by means of the spirit of the gospel, averted much war and bloodshed.

Wherever our colonies have been sent in advance, their influence has been felt for good—not alone to them, not only has it tended to establish confidence and a bond of friendship between the natives and our colonies, but it has also tended to restrain the uprising in their hearts to war against the white race, and has thus promoted peace to our General Government, the misrepresentations and the lying of our enemies to the contrary notwithstanding.

We know there are to-day, as there always have been, men who are suspicious and full of green-eyed jealousy, ever ready to misrepresent the purest motives of the best people on the earth; and acts of loyalty and honesty and commendation are construed to be those of conspiracy and wickedness. And we know too that among this class of villifiers and defamers are many of the clergy, some of whom have come among us as followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, to bring to us glad tidings; but being wolves in sheep's clothing they do the work of their master, and, therefore, they scatter broadcast lies and defamation. And many newspaper scribblers, who are ever ready to pander to popular sentiment, whether it be right or wrong, who know not the facts in the case, take up and republish to the world the untruths and misrepresentations of the wicked men who are seeking notoriety at the expense of truth and justice.

The history of Utah Territory gives the lie to all these misrepresentations. There is no part of the American continent that has been peopled and redeemed from its desolated condition with so little bloodshed as Utah. There is no other State or Territory where the general government has expended so little money or so little force, or where so few lives have been lost in settling

a country and maintaining peace with the Indians as Utah. To-day the American nation is indebted for the spirit of "Mormonism" that has been diffused through this mountainous country in the maintenance of peace, and the saving to the nation of millions of treasure as well as thousands of lives.

And the wisdom of the Lord, through His servant Brigham Young, in sending colonies into Arizona and on the several branches of the Colorado, also into the San Juan country, as well as on our eastward borders, may be witnessed to-day in the influence that is exerted by our people to check the spirit of war and bloodshed among the Navajos and the Utes and the Apaches. The wars that have troubled the country during the last four or five years in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona have been, to my certain knowledge, greatly mitigated by the presence of our colonies on their borders, and by the labors of our missionaries among the Indians. During those years I have spent considerable time in visiting those colonies, and have, therefore, been brought in contact with many of the nations of the different tribes when they have been visiting colonies and missionary stations. And so has Elder Woodruff and some others of the Quorum of the Twelve. And I am a witness to this fact, that in every instance where the influence of our missionaries and our colonies have been exerted upon these fallen people, their chiefs have been imbued with the spirit of peace, and they in turn have exerted their influence on the side of peace to allay the uprising of their more bloodthirsty brothers. And when they have been almost on the point of joining distant warlike bands engaged in hostilities against the Government, and have come to us to know our views and to seek our counsel, our advice has always been in the interest of peace, in the spirit of kindness; we have always taught them to restrain their hostile feelings, and have portrayed to them the benefits of peace, forbearance and long suffering, and advised them to endure what they considered wrong rather than to attempt to redress their wrongs in their feeble, helpless condition, by taking up arms against the strong and powerful government of the United States; and besides, that it was displeasing to God our heavenly Father that they should shed the blood of man. Such is the character of the teachings and counsels of our leading men of the various settlements to the Indians, and of our missionaries who are sent among them.

And I have had the testimony, during the last two years, of many of our presiding Elders and Indian missionaries—and they are men, I know, whose word may be relied upon, and who are themselves, I know, the true friends of the Indians, and are laboring for their welfare—they assured me that had it not been for this influence, the young men of the Navajos would have been fighting with the Utes in Colorado during the last war, and that many more of the Apaches would have been on the war path with the late Victorio in New Mexico.

And here let me say, the last outbreak of the Apaches last fall, was forced upon them by the foolish and ruthless procedure of some of the officers at Camp Apache, greatly to the disgust of every thinking man acquainted with the affairs of that country. It was no more nor less than an attempt to make a great national affair out of a little, harmless, religious enthusiasm that sprang up among that tribe. Once in a while the Indians become very much excited over some local prophet; and it was merely an event of this nature that led to the late Apache war; the interference of the troops to quell their religious enthusiasm. And I want to say that a general war all through these eastern mountains and Arizona was imminent last September and October, and have no doubt would have broken out, had it not been for the presence and influence of our colonies extended along their immediate borders, which are presided over by careful, wise men, and their intercourse and labors among the Indians; and for the conservative influence of those chiefs and leading Apaches that Brother Woodruff visited and preached the gospel to two years ago, and whom I and some half dozen of our brethren visited and labored with three years ago last summer, which had the tendency to restrain the uprising of their more hot-headed brethren and of quelling it. They did more than all the

troops from California, New Mexico and Eastern Arizona in bringing about peace.

The influence of those friendly Indians, who had listened to the counsels of our missionaries and our leading men in that country, and to Bro. Woodruff, who went through the mountains to hunt up the bands that had hidden, and who were procuring ammunition and otherwise preparing for war—I say, their influence was felt for good, as was fully attested by their success in bringing the hostilities in by hundreds in the vicinity of Cooley's ranch and elsewhere, and in allaying the warlike spirit among the Indians generally around Camp Apache; and thus in a quiet way bringing about peace and preventing a general war.

I know these things are true, I was posted every day, being at the time on the Little Colorado, and in company with President Jesse N. Smith, who was in communication with our brethren on the borders of those hostile Indians, who had messengers going and coming every day to and from them bearing counsels of peace; and I know that the prayers of our people ascended to the Father in the interest of peace, that the counsels of peace might prevail among them; and I know too that our prayers, together with the good influences that had been exerted, did prevail on behalf of the Saints of that region of country. And I know and can testify that the influence of our interpreters and discreet Indian men and missionaries, whom we have located on the San Juan River, between the Navajos and the Ute reservations, who have been there during the last three years, as also those on the south of the Navajo reservation, and between the Navajos and the Apaches on the various branches of the Little Colorado, I know that their influence and the effect of their teachings and counsels upon the Lamanites is in the interest of peace between the white race and the Indians of that country.

I feel it a pleasure to be able to speak knowingly of these things; and hope that this spirit of peace may extend throughout the land. Amen.

## Correspondence.

CASA GRANDA, Pima Co., A. T.  
January 7, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

In my last we were still at Smithville on the upper Gila, or the Valley of Pueblo, Veijo. On the evening of the 28th, we held meeting, when President Macdonald read the 84th sec. of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and spoke on that subject. Followed by Elder H. W. Brizze and Bishop Joseph Rogers. On the morning of the 27th we visited the Sunday School under the superintendency of Elder A. P. Newell with Alfred Cluff and Winfield Moody his assistants. There are in this school 90 scholars enrolled and twenty-six efficient teachers. After roll call and the administering of the Sacrament they dispensed with their other exercises when Elder C. I. Robson addressed the school, followed by John S. Merrill. In the afternoon the sacrament was administered by Elder John Taylor and George M. Hays, when Elders C. I. Robson, John S. Merrill, D. P. Kimball and President Macdonald addressed the meeting on the subjects of local government, union, obedience, etc.

In the evening we met, and after singing and prayer by Elder Wm. Johnston, the choir, which cannot be excelled in this Territory, and is under the direction of Elder Peter McBride, sang, "Speak gently to the erring one," etc. Pres. Macdonald read the first chapter of John to the Ephesians, first chapter of Galatians, eighth chapter of Romans, 28th verse, first chapter of St. John and the fifth chapter of John's first epistle and spoke upon the matter contained therein.

About 10 a.m. on the 30th we bid the Saints in Smithville good bye. The Saints in this place feel well, and expressed themselves as being well pleased with our visit, as this was the first they had had after three years' settlement.

From this place we travelled five miles up the river to Brother John M. Moody's, who has a beautiful ranch. After dinner we proceeded on three miles to Safford, the county seat of Graham County, thence six miles to Pueblo Viejo. At this point we leave the river, taking a southeast course into the San Samon Valley. After travelling 28 miles,

we came to Bowie station, S. P. R. R.; from here, 12 miles, brings us to Fort Bowie, in the Chiricahua Mountains, formerly one of the strongholds of Cochise, an Indian chief who had control of this part of the Territory for a long time. The graveyard here tells what it has taken to subdue him and his followers. We met Elders Wm. Teeples, Jas. McBride and five other young men working on a wood contract, who were pleased to meet us, and we spent the evening very agreeably.

On the morning of February 1st we left this place, Brothers Teeples, Eugene Holladay and Wm. Ransom accompanying us. Twenty-six miles across the east side of Sulphur Spring Valley brought us to Elder W. N. Pife's (ex-marshal of Ogden City). We found them all well and very busy making improvements. He is located on Oak Grove, which is situated on the west side of the Chiricahua Mountains 45 miles east of Tombstone and about 35 miles north of the Sonora line in a very beautiful grazing country with water enough for stock and garden vegetables with a saw mill six miles from his house which supplies a great deal of timber to Tombstone. In the evening we held meeting in Bro. Pife's house; there were four strangers present besides our company and Bro. Pife's family. Elders H. W. Brizze and D. P. Kimball encouraged those present to live up to their privileges. They were followed by President Macdonald on the first principles of the Gospel. During the night we had four inches of snow fall.

In the morning we left for Tombstone, arriving 8 p.m. we spent the evening very agreeably with Dr. Greer and wife, formerly of Payson. I also visited John Young, son of Elder E. R. Young, of Wanship, who is doing a commission business under the name of Armstrong and Young.

Leaving here in the morning, 16 miles travel brought us to St. David making a distance of 250 miles that we have traveled since leaving here. After refreshing ourselves we held meeting in the evening, when Pres. A. F. Macdonald and Elder P. C. Merrill addressed the meeting on the government of God through his Priesthood, when Elder Calvin Reed was voted in to take charge of this branch till D. P. Kimball returns.

February 4th was spent in council with the brethren. In the evening there was a picnic party gotten up by the sisters of this place which was a very agreeable affair. Presiding Elder, D. P. Kimball gave some good instructions to the young in carrying out the counsels of the Priesthood in regard to round dances.

About noon on the 5th we parted with our friends at this place, Bro. Joseph McRae bringing us eight miles to Benson, at which place we took cars for Tucson. On our reaching this point the train was boarded by a doctor, who enquired into our health, especially if there was any symptoms of small-pox. We laid off here for the night in order to do some business with the U. S. Land office. Took train on the afternoon of the 6th for Casa Granda arriving here at 6.45 p.m. all well, and 40 miles from home, which place we expect to reach to-morrow night, which will make a distance of 610 miles that we have traveled, visiting all of our people that we could hear of in our circuit. Trusting that we have been able to do some good.

I remain, your brother in the gospel,  
CHAS. I. ROBSON.

## News from Bear Lake.

PARIS, Idaho,  
February 13, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

Yesterday and Saturday we had a most enjoyable time, it being our Quarterly Conference. Our meeting house was packed, and although every seat obtainable was taken possession of, and all standing room was occupied, nearly 100 people had to remain outside. We had the doors open so that they could hear the speakers, and take an interest in the business that was transacted; but this did not suffice. Realizing that we want a large house to convene in, we unanimously voted to build a large tabernacle on our public square. A committee comprising the Presidency of the Stake and two of the Bishops, were appointed to make some calculations as to what would be the pro-

bable cost of erecting such a house, where to build it, what to build it of, etc.; and report their labors at our conference. The results are these, as taken from the report given in by the committee: Tabernacle to be built of rock, 50 feet wide by 95 feet long, and 25 feet high; with a vestry and council chamber attached, which latter is to be 20 x 25 feet. The building to be erected on the west centre of the square, 40 feet from the street. Approximate cost, \$12,000, which was apportioned equally, and according to circumstances, to the different settlements of this Stake.

Apostle Charles C. Rich expected to attend our Conference, but did not feel strong enough to venture out. He, however, wrote a spirited epistle to the Saints assembled in Conference. President Budge, after reading the letter, prayed God to bless Brother Rich, and desired all present who felt like endorsing his remarks, to say "Amen." Then a mighty "amen" ascended, which we are sure was ratified in the heavens.

Our Conference was truly a time of rejoicing, and the many blessings we received from those who ministered unto us, were appreciated by all.

We are having beautiful weather here the last few days; it seems as though spring was coming; to visit us earlier this year than usual. We have plenty of snow on the ground, however, and have had some terrible spells of frost; the mercury going down as low as 35 deg. below zero. Old settlers here say it is the worst winter they ever experienced.

The railroad is being vigorously pushed through this county, and has given plenty of work to many.

Diphtheria is prevalent among us; two deaths occurring in one small settlement in less than one week, but our brethren are taking all measures possible to prevent its spreading.

JAMES H. WALLIS.

## POWDER ACCIDENTS.

SALINA, Feb. 13, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

When will accidents with powder cease to occur in the midst of the people? Not certainly before parents as well as children have obtained sufficient wisdom to direct, in a proper and judicious manner, the knowledge they are in possession of in regard to this highly inflammable and explosive substance.

A most painful accident happened here yesterday, about 4 p.m., from which all should take warning and learn this once for all, that powder, in any of its forms and many of its conditions, is not a safe article for inexperienced persons to deal with.

It appears that a can containing about 20 lbs. of powder had been left in the street opposite the People's Store, by some travelers who camped there Friday night, as it was discovered by a small boy—Neph Sorenson—on Saturday, and by him carried home just before dark, upon which his mother compelled him to return the can to where he found it, where it remained until Sunday at 3 p.m., when Neph and his brother took the can and carried it to their father and asked him to keep it and use it.

Brother Sorenson, however, informed them the powder was useless as it had been wet; and further told them that if they wished to "touch it off," to carry it up in the lot away from the house and corral, lest the stack take fire, forgetting the imminent danger the boys were placed in. Accordingly three of his boys and four of Brother Crane's carried the can into the lot and began their "fun" by placing small quantities of the powder on a board and lighting it by means of a match; but as the combustion went on slowly, it seems not to have met the expectations of the wily youths and George Crane, by request of some of the others, picked up the can and commenced pouring the powder into the flame, which rose suddenly entered the can, and, of course, distributed its contents, with lightning speed among the horror-stricken spectators. The can was blown to pieces. The boys all fell to the earth, and the only wonder is that they ever rose again. The results, however, were as nothing compared with what would have followed an explosion of the same amount of good powder; as it was, three of the boys were burned very badly, presenting this morning a truly lamentable picture. Two were but slightly burned; while two escaped unhurt. Hopes are entertained that no permanent injury will follow the