

[From the *Millennial Star*.]

OBITUARY.

2, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil, Dec. 5, 1866.
Elder Orson Pratt.

Dear Brother,—It becomes our painful duty to record the departure of another faithful minister of the Gospel, Elder Abel Evans, late President of the Welsh District, who departed this life on Friday, November 30th, at about ten minutes past 7, p.m., of consumption. His first illness was contracted by standing guard over night, while the Saints were embarking on board the ship *John Bright*, at Liverpool, on or about the 1st of May last. He struggled against this cough and cold with apparent success, until some time in September last, while attending Conference in Birmingham, he got wet, which renewed the cold and coughing upon him.* His indomitable energy and courage would not allow him to yield before the influence of the destroyer, and he continued to travel and preach, out of doors and in, until he became too weak to stand, still unwilling that his afflictions should be even referred to by his friends, which was the reason that we had no correct information of his real condition, until hearing accidentally of his inability to be about. He gave us the facts in answer to our letter of particular inquiry, which reached us only within a week of his decease. At this time he was only able to be dressed daily, but not to sit up even for this. It is deeply to be regretted that we could not have known of his affliction in time, that means or changes in circumstances might have been employed to mitigate the severity of his complaint at least, if not permitted to prevail for his recovery. From the time of his confinement to the house, all that the country could afford, or that could be derived from the faithful attention and administration of affectionate Saints, was bestowed.

Brother Abel Evans has been a faithful pioneer of the Gospel into almost every part of the Principality. He was born June 24th, 1813, in the village of Llanboidy, county of Carmarthen, South Wales,—was baptized on or about the 1st of March, 1834, we are unable to state by whom; but he appears to have been the fruit of Elder William Henshaw's labors, who commenced the work here shortly before Elder Dan Jones' arrival in the Principality. On the arrival of brother Jones, brother Evans engaged with fresh ardor in the ministry, traveling and opening up Branches, that have grown to Conferences; indeed, his name has become like household words among all the Welsh Saints. But a few days before he died, he told Elder John Parry that he had baptized over seven hundred souls into the Church, in Merthyr alone, and Elders Morris and Wride say, that he had recorded more than two thousand that he had baptized in Wales, before he emigrated to Zion. He was an able minister of the Holy Ghost, and the Lord wrought many miracles, among this people, through his instrumentality, healing many of their maladies, among others, several cases of cancer and cholera. Brother Evans emigrated in 1850, and was first married during this journey; I think at St. Louis. Staid at Council Point two years, and was there chosen High Counselor. In 1852, removed to Utah, in the company of Captain Morgan, and was chosen Captain of the Guard; located in Lehi, Utah county, where he was chosen Captain of Militia, Marshal of the city, Deputy Sheriff of the county, and Counselor to Bishop David Evans, in which offices he continued to act, until April Conference of 1865, when he was called on his last mission to his native country. He arrived in Liverpool on the 28th of July, and labored as Travelling Elder in Wales, until soon after the Birmingham Council of January last, he was appointed President of the Welsh District, where he labored with unceasing diligence, so long as the powers of life were continued to him. Elders John Parry and John D. Rees were his faithful attendants, at the residence of brother Thomas James. The deep and abiding affection which he had won in the hearts of all the Saints around, secured for him more of kindly consideration, and tender manifestation, than he could accept. He was strong and unshaken to the hour of his death, that he should recover, and rebuked those who manifested any doubt. So great was his confidence of recovery, that it was not until the day of his decease, that he consented for brother Parry to write to his family in Utah, to inform them that he was sick of a cold, but that he expected to be well in a few days, and would write them himself. He did not seem to realize that he was very ill, and had no idea that he was dangerous, nor did he complain of any disease or pain, except the inconvenience and weariness of the cough. He died with the utmost quietude, as a person falling asleep. I assisted Elders J. W. Young, Parry, Morris, Rees, and Davies, to lay his body out, just as he and his family would wish to have it done, if they could have been present to direct; and by request, I spoke to those at the funeral, according to the measure of the Spirit given to me. All was conducted with great respect throughout, and only for the very stormy weather, a very numerous company would have been present.

The funeral was on Tuesday, the 4th inst., at 3 o'clock p.m. Several of the American Elders were present, namely, J. W. Young, John Parry, John Reese, Elias Morris, Richard S. Davis, Joseph Lawson, and myself.

F. D. RICHARDS.

* Just after his getting wet at Birmingham, during the second week of October, while traveling in the Carmarthen Conference, he slept in a damp place, which fastened his cold and confirmed his cough upon him, from which time he rapidly grew worse, until his death. This was the immediate cause of his death, added to his former exposures.

RUSSIAN CONCESSIONS TO THE PEOPLE.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg says: An imperial decree has been issued remitting the exceptional imposts, taxes and monopolies in force in four hundred and fifty towns in Russian Poland, and which had been established on the basis of ancient feudal laws, to the profit either of the government or of the individual proprietors on whose lands those towns were built. These rights are relinquished by the State without indemnity. The various landholders will receive compensation for the loss of their privileges.

It is computed that four hundred thousand citizens will thus become proprietors of their estates in consideration of the payment of the necessary indemnities.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM JAPAN.

The following letter is from General Van Valkenburgh, the American Minister in Japan, to his brother Frank Van Valkenburgh of Milwaukee. It is written from the city of Yeddo, the populous capital of the Empire:

DZEMPUJEE, YEDO, Sunday September 16, 1866.—For sixty hours up to this time the rain has been pouring down here in perfect torrents, so that the ground about my house is deep with mud and water. Yesterday we had an earthquake, the third within a month, and this morning a heavy typhoon or wind storm, which blew down one shanty in my yard, and unroofed my stable, it is still blowing at one o'clock p.m., but the sun has come out, and I think the worse of it is over.—I rode up from Yokohama, 22 miles on horseback, on Thursday last, and have not been around much since. *Dzempujee* is the name of the Temple within whose yard, or compound as they call it here, my house is situated, so I call my place by that name, which means the place of eternal happiness. There are over five hundred of these Temples in Yeddo, some of them very large and magnificent, the people all worship idols, and their temples are surrounded by very beautiful grounds, sometimes five or six hundred acres in extent, filled with fine old trees and kept in grand order. My house is built in Japanese style, one story high, with sliding screens all around it, so that it can be thrown all open or all closed up at pleasure. The windows are made of the white paper of the country—not a pane of glass in the house—and the entire floor is covered with soft thick matting, each mat being in fact a mattress. The natives sleep upon these mats, which make a very comfortable bed. My grounds, of about an acre and a half, are within forty feet of the temple, and surrounded by two high fences, between which the sentinels who guard us are continually walking up and down. Back of the house is a fish pond, fifty feet in length by twenty-five in width, filled with the largest gold-fish I have ever seen, and I take a great deal of pleasure in feeding and watching them. Immediately back of the fish pond is a hill about forty feet high and covered with large trees and beautiful shrubs. I have there a Japonica, thirty feet or more in height and twenty inches in circumference.

Two large chestnut trees full of nuts, several Cryptomerias, Ursteria vines, Altheas, Hebriscus, bamboos, pines, &c. &c. My retinue of servants is composed entirely of males—no females go out to service here. I have my butler—Jo—an East Indian, who has entire charge of everything—four table waiters, who attend to all our personal wants and wait on the table, one cook and an assistant cook, one waterman who carries water and attends the bath rooms—one washer-man who does the washing and ironing, one tailor, who makes, mends and hems, two Coolies to do chores generally, three *bettoes* to take care of my three horses, and finally one Comperdor, who makes all the purchases for the household.

In riding out, a *bettoe* accompanies you on foot, and no matter how far or how fast you ride, he is at your side to take care of your horse when you stop. I have purchased three very good horses and ride frequently. The highest monthly wages I pay any Japanese servant is about five dollars, and the lowest two dollars and sixty-six cents. They live on rice and fish, and dress very little. I just looked in at the kitchen and saw my three *bettoes* come in for their chow-chow, or lunch, entirely naked except a small strip of cloth about the loins. This is all the dress the working people wear, and every second man you meet in the street is dressed in this cheap and simple manner. The dress of the women is not quite so simple, but is far from elaborate.

This is a city of probably two millions or more of inhabitants, and yet within its bounds are vast forests of old trees, and from the busiest haunts you can, in ten minutes, be as much isolated, almost, as in the woods of Wisconsin. The streets are narrow, and the houses are small and much crowded together, yet they are kept cleaner than in any city in the world, and all the people bathe every day.

SEVEN-EIGHTHS of the teachers in the public schools of Massachusetts are females.

MARINE PHOTOGRAPH.—M. Bazine, well known for his photographic researches, has contrived a very ingenious submarine photographic studio, by which he is enabled to take photographs of sunken ships, rocks, &c. The chamber is provided with lens-shaped watertight windows, and by means of the electric light the objects to be photographed are highly illuminated. M. Bazine is able to remain about ten minutes in his submarine chamber, and has produced several clear and well defined photographic pictures of objects at the great depth of 300 feet.—[*Athenaeum*.]

BREECH-LOADING ARMS.—The War Department has published the final report of the board appointed to examine breech loading-arms. It is signed by General Halleck, and approved by General Grant. The conclusions of the board are as follows: First—That the 45-inch calibre ball has given the best result as to accuracy, penetration and range. Second—That all rifle muskets and single-loading carbines used in the military service should, if practicable, be fitted for the same cartridge. Third—That the charge for muskets should be from 65 to 70 grains of powder, and from 480 to 500 grains of lead. Fourth—That the board recommends the plan of alteration submitted by H. Berdan. This gives the stable breech-pin, secures the piece against premature discharges, and involves only a slight change of our present pattern of arms. The bore of our present barrel (as has been proved by experiments before the board) can be reduced to the desired calibre by reaming out the grooves and inserting a tube. The board is unable to recommend any of the new breech-loaders presented to it for examination. The Spencer magazine-carbine is recommended as the best cavalry arm.

DISGRACEFUL.—The *New York Times* says of the recent election in that State: From Rensselaer, Columbia, Saratoga and Albany counties the universal statement is that money flowed like water, and that if this practice is to continue the offices must be set up to the highest bidder. Electors marched up to the polls under the convoy of some well known ward politician, who placed tickets in hands as they reached the ballot-boxes, and after depositing their votes, took out his pocket-book and paid them one, two, three, five or ten dollars, as the case might be, before hundreds of people, without even the mock decency of retiring to one side. Party leaders had to buy up their own voters, who refused to exercise their privilege until a satisfactory sum of money was placed in their hands. At least one quarter of the voters of the city of Albany were bribed, or received compensation for their votes.

NEWS ITEMS.

In 1850 there was but eighty sheep in Minnesota, now there are over five hundred thousand.

It is a mistake to suppose that everybody in Kentucky is running for governor. There are thirteen men who are not. They are the candidates for lieutenant-governor. So says a Kentucky paper.

BROAD street in Philadelphia, is destined to be the finest street in any American city. It has been extended from Nicetown Lane to Fisher's Lane. It is now ten miles long, with a width of one hundred and thirteen feet, and straight as an arrow.

REV. DR. HALLOCK says the following is the best way to write for a newspaper: Say the most possible in the least space. Pitch right into your subject. Make the title and first sentence so that it must be read; and so of the second, no matter what has preceded or is to follow.

MR. JACOB LOUCKS, a respected citizen of Manchester Township, York county, Pennsylvania, and supposed to be the largest man in the country, died of apoplexy, at the age of fifty-seven years. He was exceedingly corpulent, and was supposed to weigh above five hundred pounds at the time of his death. His coffin measured thirty-five inches in breadth, by twenty-three in depth. His weight was not far from that of Daniel Lambert, of Leicestershire, England, which is given as five hundred and twenty-eight pounds, and who is said to have been the largest man in the world.

LATE arrivals from "across the plains" report large herds of buffalo in the Platte valley between Valley Station and Julesburg. It is thought that the Indians are driving them, and considerable alarm is felt among the settlers along the Platte.

THE Metropolitan Transit Company of New York proposes to submit to the Legislature a plan for a railroad which shall relieve Broadway with the least disturbance of public or private rights. The plan is to purchase the right of way through the blocks on that thoroughfare, paying by appraisal for the property taken; then to demolish the buildings, excavate a tunnel, and lay in it a double track for steam railway cars, to convey through passengers; build another railroad on the surface, for passengers desirous of going short distances; and construct another, elevated on pillars, fifteen feet or more above the ground, for freight.

AN attempt is being made in England to get up a fund for the purpose of putting down the Ritualists. Mr. Hanbury writes to the London times that £20,000 should be forthcoming, and says that he has £1,000 ready to contribute to it. Lord Ebury agrees as to the necessity, but doubts the success of the effort, because "the greater portion of our influential laity, besides a large majority of our Bishops and Clergy, are either in favor of the Tractarian movement, or are indifferent to it." Speaking of these two worthies, the *Church Times* rather discourteously says: "We are glad to make Balak and Balaam acquainted with each other," and it suggests that the fund be called "The Persecution Fund."

THE New York correspondent of the *Boston Journal* says:

One of the vilest places in the Fourth Ward, and one of the most popular of its class, is kept by a man 40 years of age. He has been eleven years in the business. He is very smart and talented, and has amassed a fortune of over \$100,000. He has built one of the most elegant and complete tenant houses in the city. He belongs to one of the best families in the State. His brother is an eminent minister of the Gospel. He was piously brought up, received a collegiate education, and graduated at the Union Theological Seminary of the city of New York. He took to this life, and has followed it for eleven years without blenching. He keeps religious books in his establishment, and when he can get a chance talks religion amid the dance and the drunkenness and the profanity of his den.

He has a genial wife who tends the bar and superintends the feminine portion of the concern. He has educated two of his brother's children for the ministry, and is said to be quite liberal in benevolent matters. Such a specimen of intelligent recklessness and educated depravity cannot probably be paralleled on the continent. Having seen this man and talked with him, I know what I write. He has changed his name so as not to disgrace his family.

A TOURIST in Italy discourses as follows as regard to the people of Florence, the national capital:

The people of Florence are the least interesting of all the Italians. They are less civil than the Romans; less energetic than Turinese, less intelligent than the citizens of Bologna, and far less handsome and courteous than the Venetians. They are often brusque, not to say rude, in their manners towards strangers. They are often very impudent in their way of staring at foreigners, make ill-bred remarks about any personal defect or peculiarity, and do not hesitate to jostle one off from the narrow sidewalks into the mud, (that is in the scanty situations where these conveniences are to be found) if he be in the way. Most of the Italian men are of gentlemanly manners and tender him the kindest attentions with an air that makes them doubly attractive. But that peculiarity does not exist in Florence. The Italians are generally remarkable for their good looks; by this I mean the male part of the population, and one rarely out of Tuscany meets with a man who has not some striking or interesting feature, that makes him an attractive object for the eye to rest upon. It is different, however in this part of Italy, and coming here directly from Venice I could not avoid noticing the strong contrast between the two sections, and in favor of the latter.