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EVENING NEWS.

Friday, March 1, 1878.

Correspondence.

Missionary Labors.

ELYRIA, Ohio, Feb. 21, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Some time having elapsed since a message from this part of the vineyard made its appearance in the columns of your paper, and not wishing to remain silent long enough to be esteemed forgetful of or deem myself forgotten by the old folks at home, I take the present opportunity of acquainting your readers with what is being done for the good cause in this region. Before this, however, let me say a few words about your excellent paper. It is acknowledged everywhere as a powerful motor of truth—an active influence for good. Not only as an evangelistic agent among those who hear of us but through the vilifying representations of our enemies, but as an ever welcome messenger to us missionaries who are so far away from home and friends, that it seems like a herald from paradise with glad tidings of great joy, to cheer us on our lonely way. Now these are important considerations, and such as it behooves all who are interested in the progress of the kingdom of God to ponder in their hearts. You Saints, who are at home in comfort and peace, surrounded by the conveniences of life, should remember that your traveling brethren, fathers and sons are not so situated—that your comforts are not theirs—your lot not their lot—and the blessings which familiarity has made commonplace and unnoticeable to you, would be accounted as invaluable to your absent friends who are deprived of them by circumstances of a less favorable character, circumstances which may some day be yours to experience, and which will then bring forcibly to your minds the golden value of the precept, "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you."

You who take the NEWS, after reading it, should not throw it aside to be lost or otherwise wasted, but put it inside of a one cent wrapper and send it to a father, brother, son or other relative who is traveling among strangers and enemies, preaching the gospel of salvation without purse or scrip or even a home newspaper to comfort his loneliness. You, who have no relatives out in the missionary field, don't imagine you are exempt from this what should be a requirement of every Saint's conscience, but send your papers to any friend or acquaintance whose name you see mentioned as traveling and preaching or who resides among the Gentiles in the outer world. Rest assured your offering will be welcome and productive of good. I take good care after reading mine to retrail it where they will do the most service, and have received gratifying assurance that such care was not exercised in vain. I respectfully recommend this course to all who take the NEWS—and to those who do not take it and are able to do so I include that preliminary in the suggestion. Send it to your friends, send it to your enemies. Every little helps, and you may be sure God sees and will reward your efforts to further his cause, no matter how insignificant they may seem to be in your estimation or in the eyes of those who would mock at such unworthy purposes.

I have recently returned from Journeys to Akron, Thomastown, Sodom and Cleveland, preaching and exhorting in public and in private, whenever opportunity offered, and meeting with success, which, though meagre, is still gratifying. At the first named place I baptized a woman and blessed her three children. Several others were converted by my preaching, and they knowledged it candidly, but from motives of fear or policy hung back and decided to wait until they got to Utah before being baptized, risking their soul's exaltation on such a hazard, despite my warning that they might be summoned to eternity ere they were in Utah, and the invalidity of such an excuse as the fear of worldly opinion at the bar of God for not obeying the gospel when the opportunity was within reach. Wherever I preached I was listened to with profound attention and treated with courtesy by the majority, though a few of the more piously inclined expressed themselves to the effect that I ought to be turned out of the meeting-house and drummed out of town. These were "Christians" though, so I do not condemn the whole on their account.

In Cleveland I converted a very intelligent lady, a widow, who was first attracted to our doctrines by that of baptism for the dead, and the blessed privilege of officiating for her dead husband and being sealed to him for eternity. A young man of this place is also convinced of the truth, as he said by a vision which he had one night, wherein a voice declared to him that "Mormonism" was true, and unless he was baptised for the remission of sins he could never enter the kingdom of God. He says he had been praying for a testimony of the truth of this work, and received one that he could not doubt. Both these parties are only waiting for the weather to permit, when they will be baptized. Thus is literally fulfilled, "One of a city," etc. The children of Ephraim are indeed the salt of the earth, and sprinkled widely over its surface.

In this district, which comprises the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, I believe I am the only Elder remaining of those who left home in the fall of 1876, or others who have come out since within that time. This fact furnishes fair reason for an attenuated report of proceedings in these quarters, though to attribute it to this entirely would be inconsistent with the whole truth of the matter. One person, if he is faithful and diligent and treats freely in his purchase of God, can achieve marvelous results in the missionary field, when there are such things waiting to be achieved; but no man, however hard he may labor, can do much when much is not at hand to be done. This might seem to some a discouraging representation of affairs, but not to those who know for themselves the patience and labor it requires to teach the gospel to those who require prayers with curses, exhortings with threats, counsels with condemnation—how slights and insults must be borne in patience and meekness, and though the heart swell to bursting with its fulness the tongue must preserve its silence—how disappointments and fruitless endeavors are the distinguishing features of the "Mormon" preacher's lot, and the conversion of one soul to the truth is esteemed a rich recompense for the toil of months, yes, years spent in its accomplishment.

The apathy which rests upon the minds of the majority of the people among whom I am laboring, concerning the true principles of eternal life, is indeed discouraging to souls, and the malicious actions of those, whom the hearing of the word "Mormon" transforms into bitter enemies to the cause and its advocates, is another source of trial for which nothing but the controlling influence of the spirit of God and the assurances that there is something better in the future could make amends. But this we are certain of, nothing can prevent the Almighty from pouring out his spirit upon his servants who are suffering for Christ's sake. No, though all the fiends of the infernal regions array themselves to thwart his plans and cause the feet of the righteous and innocent, they will be baffled and brought to shame and confusion. The wisdom of God, much as some doubt it, is greater than the cunning of the devil, as the sons of Belial will someday realize to their sorrow, and the Saints can well afford to bide the time which is surely and swiftly coming to effect their deliverance from the powers of satan, and to institute an everlasting reign of virtue, happiness and peace over the whole earth.

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SANPETE STAKE.

Sanpete County.

BISHOPS.

L S Anderson, Ephraim (North)
G C N Dorius, Ephraim (South)
Wm T Reid, Mayfield (Manti)
H Jensen, Manti, (South)
M P Madsen & P M Peel acting, Mount Pleasant, (North
Wm S Seeley, Mount Pleasant, (South
F Olsen, Spring City
R L Johnson, Fountain Green
George Jensen, Freedom
Wm G Petty, Pettyville
C A Madsen, Gunnison
Canute Seeley, Castle Valley
Amasa Tuckler, Fairview
John W Irons, Moroni
John R Reese, Wales
R N Allred, Chester
O O Olsen, Mayfield
J Bartholomew, Fayette

CANUTE PETERSON,
President of Stake.

TOOELE STAKE.

Tooele County.

BISHOPS.

Norton S Tuttle, Tooele City
Edward Hunter, Grantsville
William F Moss, E T City
Moses Martin, Lake View
George W Burridge, St John
John C Sharp, Vernon

F. M. LYMAN,
President of Stake.

UTAH STAKE.

Utah County.

BISHOPS.

John P R Johnson, 1st ward, Provo City
James W Loveless, 2d ward, "
Morris Thomas, 3d ward, "
John H Booth, 4th ward, "
Peter Madsen, 5th Ward, "
William Bringhurst, Springville
George D Snell, Spanish Fork
Robert H Davis, Salem
Joseph B Tanner, Payson
Benjamin F Johnson, Spring Lake
George Halliday, Santaquin
William Price, Goshen
Henry F Cook, Cedar Fort
David Evans, Lehi
Thomas J McCullough, Alpine
Leonard E Harrington, American Fork
John Brown, Pleasant Grove

A. O. SMOOT.
President of Stake.

WASATCH STAKE

Wasatch County.

BISHOPS.

Thomas Rasmussen, East Heber
William Empson, West Heber
David Van Wagenen, Midway
Nicholas C Mousley, Charleston
Wm E Nuttall, Wallsburg
Samuel Olsen, Centre
John Moss, *Presiding Elder*, Sunrise

ABRAM HATCH,
President of Stake.

WEBER STAKE

Weber County.

BISHOPS.

T A Brown, 1st ward, Ogden City
Robert McQuarrie, 2d ward, "
Winslow Farr, 3d ward, "
T O Tyngare, 4th Ward, "
Jens Mayson, Harrisville
T A Hammond, Eastman
Peter P Pierson, Huntsville
G W Sutton, Marriottsville
L W Shurtliff, Salt City
John A Alford, Kintyville
Joseph Hodges, Marriott
Henry Moore, Ward and Fort
D H Evans, Lynn
Robert Payne, West Weber
Joseph Thompson, Hooper
Richard Richards, Riverdale
Jos H Richards, Pres't, Eastern District

D. H. PEERY,
President.