

Correspondence.

PROVO, Dec. 25th, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother—I have been retrospectively the period since the year '47. On the first Christmas after we came to these valleys our greatest luxuries were the wild thistle and a little beef, well pounded in coming over the plains. Comparing those days with our present comforts, who cannot see that the hand of the Lord has been over us and that His voice has dictated every move of our leaders for the good of His people, and now in the year 1869 is it likely He will turn a deaf ear to his many faithful children? I think not.

As the labor of making farms, building cities and subduing the climate has been measurably overcome, the people are in a condition to give greater attention to the improvement of our schools. I am proud to say that we have a number of good schools in Provo, conducted by able and efficient teachers, who are performing a good work because they are of the true faith. This has not always been the case with us here.

I commenced teaching school in the days of the Prophet Joseph, in Nauvoo, and have always advocated the early instruction of children in correct principles—that children do not attend school simply to learn what is contained in their books, but they should also be taught good manners, morals, truth, integrity, and everything that is calculated to fit them for usefulness. Teachers should understand how to smoothe the way to the head through the heart, and if the heart be good all the other good qualities will manifest themselves if taught to them. Meekness is also a beautiful virtue of Christian modesty; in fact it is the most commendable.

This is a great age and we are all students in a great school, if we can only live according to the rules laid down and be diligent, the gain will be ours, and it will be well for us when our term is expired.

PAROWAN, Dec. 22d, 1869.

Dear Brother Cannon:—On the 16th instant, we had a big visit from Black Hawk, his brother, Mountain, and quite a number of his band. Black Hawk and Mountain talked to the people in the meeting house in the evening, bro. Shelton, from Beaver, being the interpreter. Black Hawk made great declarations of friendship and said he wanted a big peace, a strong peace and a long peace. The day before his arrival, the Navajoes had made a raid on our horses, and a company of men were in pursuit. Black Hawk offered to go and bring the horses back, if we would furnish him and his men fresh horses to ride, but it was not seen fit to accept his generous offer. He told us to catch the Navajoes, if we could, when they came to steal, and not kill them, but talk to them and show that we do not desire to shed blood; send them back to their home and friends to tell what was said to them. This he said, would do far more good than killing them. This is very good advice, but comes with rather a bad grace from such a quarter. He said that he wished to see the settlements on the Sevier River established again, and promised that they should not be disturbed by the Ute Indians.—Black Hawk's consumptive look and hollow cough indicate that he cannot last long.

His brother Mountain, a thoughtful and intelligent looking Indian, then addressed the meeting, and said that he had always told the Indians, when they wanted him to join their raids, that he would not go, for he had horses to ride, and when he wanted anything to eat he could kill deer and rabbits, and always advised the Indians to stay at home. The Indians present testified to the truth of what he said. He told them that they had stolen hundreds of cattle and horses, and they were poorer now than ever, and they always would be poor while they continued to steal.—Now they had no chief—they were all under ground, and they would all die, if they did not do better. He says he does not want to shed the blood of any body, but wants all to live till God wants them to die.

This Indian I believe to be no coward, has a great influence among the tribe, and will likely be the chief at Black Hawk's death. The people had to furnish them the usual amount of beef, biscuits and flour, and they went on their way rejoicing.

The general health of the settlement is good, things move on peaceably, as usual, with the exception of our Indian troubles. A great many of the brethren have been quite successful in securing their next year's bread and seed wheat, by laboring and trading in other settlements, and are preparing to farm extensively next season, and hope to make up the loss caused by the grasshoppers the past season.

For the past week, the weather has been very severe, freezing much harder than it has before for several years. I remain, most respectfully yours, W. C. MCGREGOR.

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