

## Correspondence.

COALVILLE, Summit Co.,  
March 20, 1889.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Sir, On my arrival in this city last week, I found in custody four men accused of crimes; among whom were two accused of an assault with intent to rob, by garroting, one by the name of Hyrum Curtis. They were indicted for this offense, and Curtis plead guilty and was sentenced to two years imprisonment in the Penitentiary. The other plead not guilty, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment.

Day before yesterday the officers were preparing to start to the Penitentiary with these two, and one other also sentenced, but on Thursday evening Curtis attempted to escape and was shot by the guard.

Yesterday morning there was an investigation, which I attended. As I have now heard the evidence three times so far as it was appropriate to be given in the changes of circumstances I deem it my duty to give the facts to the public, through your paper, which are these.

Curtis came from Idaho to this Territory late last fall or early winter, and stopped at Echo. About three weeks ago, one evening, Curtis and his accomplice on the one part, and an Irishman, who gave his name as Edward Finnall on the other part, were seen gambling at a saloon in Echo by a young man with whom I am not acquainted, but who was twice examined as a witness by me and who appeared to be a young man of respectability. This young man from the appearance at the gambling scene, suspected the intent on the part of Curtis and his accomplice of robbing the Irishman, if they did not by gambling get all his money, and communicated his suspicions to the Sheriff, who immediately repaired to the place and watched the movement of things.

The Sheriff saw them play two games of cards for one dollar each, that were won by Curtis and his accomplice, which, however, were not paid in money, but were paid in drinks and liquor.

After this, but within a few minutes, Curtis, his accomplice, and the Irishman, at the request of Curtis and his accomplice, left the saloon and went out going towards the rise of land near the railroad. The Sheriff, as soon as consistent, without exciting suspicion, followed and overheard their talk, Curtis and his accomplice wanted the Irishman to let them have ten dollars each with which to go and visit some fast women that evening. The Irishman declined and said he had not that amount of money by him.

This talk took place at or near the rise of ground to the railroad where the three had come to a halt, while the officer passed by a little distance from them, and went up to the cut on the railroad and there concealed himself. In a short time the three went up the hill, near the place where the Sheriff was concealed, and where there was no person in sight. Here Curtis knocked the Irishman down, jumped on him, with his knees, garroting him, and with an oath demanded all the money he had. The officer emerged from his concealment, presented his pistol to Curtis' head and ordered him to stop or he was a dead man. Curtis stopped, then the sheriff ordered the three to go to the police station with him, (assisted by Mr. Reed's private Secretary, who happened to come that way a moment after), which they did.

The magistrate on examination ordered him to give bail in the sum of five hundred dollars for his appearance in Court to answer for an assault with intent to rob, and drew for him a bond, Curtis professing to have friends who would bail him, and requested the officers to go with him to get the bond executed, which they did, going to a goodly number of places but without success.

They then went to a saloon to which there was a back room; in that back room there were at the time several persons, strangers to the officers; supposing there was no chance of egress from this back room but through the front room, they permitted Curtis to go in unattended. Soon after this they perceived through a window, a back door opened and Curtis stepping out, which caused the officers to pass out another door. Curtis seeing the officers, returned to the back room. In a moment or two, Curtis, who was a large, stout built man, apparently about forty-five years of age, returned to the saloon, stripped off his coat, cursed and swore, and said he would be damned if he would go back to the station again. The officer not knowing what had been said in the back room, nor who was there, again drew his pistol and prepared to cock and to bring it to a level, when Crabbe, the saloon keeper, jumped between Curtis and the Sheriff, crying out, for God's sake don't shoot him in my house. The officer, instead of cocking and leveling it, drew the saloon keeper on one side and struck Curtis over the head twice with the pistol and ordered him to put on his coat again and go to the station. Here the officer learned that when Curtis first went into the back room he asked for a six shooter, which was refused him. Some of the men in the back room said to the officer, "Sheriff, you ought to have killed him."

Curtis obeyed the order of the Sheriff, and was soon in confinement with several other men accused of crime. It was ascertained at this time that Judge Wilson could not be back in time to hold Court in Salt Lake

City, and, therefore, it was thought best to take these prisoners to Coalville, the county seat, for trial before the Probate Court, and I was sent for to conduct the prosecution. Before taking them from Echo to Coalville, there was an attempt to break out of their temporary confinement and escape, which they very nearly accomplished. This induced greater care and vigilance on the part of the guard.

On Thursday, Curtis wanted to swap his clothes with a man who happened to see him, when on his way from his meal to the place of confinement, which, however, was not done. In the evening, about eight or nine o'clock, the Deputy Sheriff visited the prisoners and learned that Curtis professed to have frequent occasions to go out, and he put on the handcuffs, fastening them one notch tighter than usual, and left with the intention of changing the guard about midnight.

At half-past eleven one of the two guards was relieved, and a new one entered on duty. From the time the handcuffs were put on, to the time the new guard entered on duty, he had been out four times. In about twenty minutes afterward he wanted to go out again, and begged to have the cuffs taken off, which was not done. The new guard went out with him.

The house in which the prisoners were confined, there being no jail, was about thirty or forty feet from the road, but there was no front fence, the door opening towards the road. On their stepping out, he went between forty and fifty yards on the road, the guard remaining near the house. The night was hazy and the road very muddy. Curtis, without stopping, started off upon the run towards Echo; the guard called to him to stop, but received no answer. The guard started after him and called again, but still no answer; both ran, Curtis passing down the hill towards Chalk Creek, got out of sight of the officer; on ascending the hill he came again in sight, and again the officer hailed him to stop or he would shoot; still no answer; on getting near the top of the hill he called again to stop or he would shoot him, to this he answered that he would not; he would be damned if he would, he would die first. The officer fired, and Curtis cried out: "Damn you, I am not dead yet." The officer shot again, and he fell. The guard then went to him, found him speechless, and the blood oozing from his mouth. He then hastened back to the other prisoners, whom he found all right; he then reported to the Judge what had happened. Six men went to the place and found him dead, about eight or ten rods towards Echo, from the top of the hill. The balls took effect, one near the right shoulder, which lodged in the body; the other in the lower part of the back of the head and passed out near the left corner of the mouth.

On examination on Friday, there was found on his person a letter written in September last, dated at Boise City, Idaho, signed J. W. Porter, stating that the Governor had just signed his full pardon, but for what crime did not appear. Reports say for murder; also his photograph purporting to have been taken in Nevada, but at what date did not appear. On this was written in illegible hand, Thomas Curtis. There was also a printed slip cut from a newspaper, purporting to be an extract from an Idaho paper, showing that Mr. J. W. Foster was the private Secretary of the Governor of Idaho.

Previous to this crime he was fined at Echo, for resisting an officer.

Very respectfully, Z. SNOW.

## SERICULTURE—SILK WORMS' EGGS.

BY LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

XIV.

The question of eggs being of vast importance in sericulture, in order to elucidate it more fully, I intend to collect in a particular chapter the textual opinion of the French writers and most competent breeders who have most successfully discoursed on that subject. In the meantime, I will insert here a few rules to be observed in order to obtain the most vigorous and perfect insects for reproduction:

1st. For a brood of an ounce, you must hatch at least three ounces of eggs, in order that you may sacrifice all the worms which are to be rejected during the hatching or in raising them.

2nd. Keep a single division—it will be easier to take care of your worms and to manage them.

3rd. Place your insects in a room, where they will find most space and most air possible.

4th. Observe strictly the following items:—equality of the whole brood, equality of food, cleanness of the shelves and nursery.

5th. At every moulting you must reject unmercifully all late worms, all poorly or weak ones, preserving only the very best.

6th. Do not mind too much variations of temperature, but keep the ventilation of your nursery as uniform as possible.

## REELING OF THE COCOONS.

The implements, properly so called,

for reeling the cocoons are most simple in all countries of the world. They consist principally of a basin and a reel. The basin is used to receive the cocoons and some warm water to soften the gum of the silken envelope, so as to set free the threads forming the exterior silky layers. The union of a certain number of these threads form the thread of commerce, known by the name of *grege*, or raw silk.

The reel, by its rotary motion, winds off the cocoons. In large factories certain numbers of these winding machines are placed side by side, the impulsion being given to them by a single motive power. Of course the arrangement is such that the operator can at will stop any one of these little contrivances while the others continue to work. The entirety of the operation is automatic, except that in regard to each reel we find a basin and a woman to superintend the work. The labors of the superintendent consist:

First.—In the immersion of the cocoons in the warm water until the silky layers are sufficiently softened.

Second.—In the cleansing, with a species of brush or broom, of the first layers, until they become a pure and clean thread.

Third.—In the uniting, by pressure and twisting, a certain number of threads of the cocoons in proportion to the standard of raw silk intended to be produced.

The raw silk thus formed by the union of a greater or less number of cocoons is passed through an orifice or drawing frame, which acts on the winder, whose rotation determines the development of the threads of the cocoons which remain immersed on the surface of the water in the basin, so that in proportion as the cocoons are wound off the attendant is careful to add a new one, as much to keep up the supply of thread as to maintain the regularity of the standard.

The cocoons being conical from the commencement to the end of the winding, the raw silk would have the greatest irregularities if the workman did not conduct his work so as to connect the strongest—that is to say, the commencement of the thread of the new cocoon, with those which are just being exhausted.

The threads, issuing wet and gummy from the basin, would adhere and stick together in the skein if care were not taken to prevent it. The preventive consists first, in preserving a sufficient distance between the basin and the reel, to permit a partial drying; and second, in a "guide thread" so arranged that the transport takes place by a slow zig-zag movement, which prevents the threads from crossing each other at the same point at each turn, which latter causes the adhesion. Some suggestions will assist us to understand and to obviate the difficulties in this branch of the work. The degree of previous preparation should vary with the durability of the silky couches, having regard to the age, breed and origin of the cocoons. If prepared too much, the result would be that more silky matter would be yielded by the first layers than there should be. This superfluous matter would be only waste, and would possess a value much inferior to that of fine silk.

If the cocoons are, on the contrary, insufficiently prepared, they present a resistance to the winding off, which causes the breaking of the thread, and leads to a new source of waste. The workmen ought to possess great skill in joining a new thread to a thread in work. He should be competent to select the most opportune moment to assure the regularity of the product, so that the trace of the successive connections may be imperceptible to the eye, and thus avoid knots, coarseness, curls or dots. Nor will rare skill in these particulars produce the effect desired unless the wheel revolves with a fixed and steady velocity of at least five hundred meters per minute. Without this the thread, instead of being smooth and brilliant, would be rough and dull.

A too slow movement would not dress the thread sufficiently, clasped, as it is, very tightly by its peculiar position and fixed under the form of the figure 8 in the layers of the cocoons. A movement too slow causes those undulations which give the dull appearance, while the development of the thread in the straight line by the more rapid movement permits the reflection of the light in those perfect and determined conditions which give brilliancy to the finest silk.

The manufacture of silk, as it exists in countries the most advanced in the art, embraces seven special branches of industry, viz: First, the rearing of the silkworms; second, the filature or reel-

ing of the silk from the cocoons; third, the throwing or spinning of the silk thread; fourth, the dying of the silk; fifth, the preparation of the silk threads for the looms; sixth, the weaving of silk goods; seventh the spinning of waste silk.

These specialties, although consequent and dependent upon each other, like links in a chain, can nevertheless be practiced separately, as is the case now in France.

The above description will give to the readers of the NEWS an idea of the importance of the reeling business. The numerous able and interesting lectures delivered by Mr. George D. Watt and Mr. Edwin Rushton in this city and in our settlements, as well as the elementary notions written by myself and published in our daily press, are sufficient to guide beginners in the different branches of sericulture. Having been appointed by President Young to take charge of his fine cocoonery, I will keep a journal of my doings there. And I will perhaps retake my pen next winter to impart to the public the result of the next crop, and everything which shall be deemed interesting or worthy of publication.

COVE, CREEK FORT,

Millard Co., March 10, '89.

*Editor Deseret News:*—In company with the members of the Legislative Assembly of Washington county, Hons. Erastus and Wm. Snow, on their return southward and Elders Joseph F. Smith, Thomas Taylor, Amos Neff, and Angus M. Cannon, I have traveled and preached from Payson to this place, attending thirteen meetings and two previously at Lehi and Spanish Fork.

We attended a conference at Fillmore on the 8th and 9th. The county of Millard was organized into a stake of Zion. Thos. Calister was unanimously chosen President of the Stake; F. M. Lyman, T. R. King, J. E. Robinson, Lewis Brunson, Allen Russell, Ben. H. Robison, Jas. C. Owen, Wm. King, Chas. Hall, Hyrum B. Bennet, Jesse B. Martin and John L. Smith were chosen High Councilors. The President and councilors were then set apart to their respective offices. Daniel Thompson was ordained Bishop of Scipio; Cuthbert King, Bishop of Kanosh; and Edward Partridge, Bishop of Fillmore; the latter is the son of Edward Partridge, who was the first Bishop in the Church. John L. Smith was clerk of the conference. Elders Erastus and William Snow, and Angus M. Cannon preached at Kanosh, and the rest of us preached to the people of Meadow Creek, last evening, and this morning at ten we joined, and held meeting in Kanosh, which contains one hundred families and a school of one hundred and twenty-five scholars, taught by H. Coombs. The new town presents many evidences of substantial thrift. The almost total destruction of crops by grasshoppers, together with the loss of the dam at Deseret City on the Sevier river, tell fearfully upon the inhabitants of this county, many of whom are destitute of bread and seed grain, and the Egypt to which they look for corn is Beaver county, where it bears a high price. We have just held a meeting in this fort, which its inmates and the neighboring families attended. Our comfortable entertainment at this place contrasts favorably with the many times we have had to camp in the snow, or hide in the cedars, to avoid nocturnal visits from unwelcome strangers. Bro. Joseph F. Smith is suffering from a severe cold.

Your Brother,

Geo. A. Smith.

BEAVER CITY,

March 12, 1889.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Sir, President George A. Smith and the brethren accompanying him arrived here last evening, and preached to the Saints in their large new meeting house.

Four meetings were held to-day, and a Stake of Zion organized in Beaver County. Bishop John R. Murdock was chosen and set apart to be President of the Stake, Orice Murdock, Daniel Tyler, A. M. Farnsworth, Wm. Robinson, Jas. Farrer, Jas. Towle, W. G. Knowers, Wm. G. Allred, Wm. Richards, Jas. H. Rollins, Geo. Egers, and Alfred Wilson were chosen and set apart as members of the High Council of this Stake of Zion. M. L. Shepherd, was ordained Bishop of the 1st Ward of Beaver City; John Ashworth as Bishop of the 2nd Ward; David B. Adams as Bishop of Greenville and Adamsville and Jas. McKnight as Bishop of Minersville.

A great amount of good instruction has been given to the Saints in this county, who appear to rejoice in the gospel.

I regret to say that bro. Joseph F. Smith is afflicted with a severe cold. The brethren are busy plowing and sowing spring grain. The ground is dried hard to the depth of two inches. This will necessitate the brethren to commence to water at once unless it should rain shortly in this part.

There is very little snow on the mountains in this neighborhood.

Yours truly

NONNAC.