

state occasions to release some people from bondage, and perhaps Utah will be released from territorial bondage in the one hundredth year of the independence of the United States, and for once have justice done her.

Yours truly,
N. U. N.

Schools—Improvement Societies—Parties.

PLAIN CITY, March 4, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

In looking over your last issue of the weekly NEWS, it afforded me great pleasure in reading over the many letters from the different settlements, relating to their growth, education, mutual improvement, &c., knowing that the many readers of the NEWS take an interest in the growth of the little settlements throughout the Territory.

We have had two day schools in good running order during this winter—one in our commodious school house, under the direction of Dr. Crawford and lady; the other, a private one, under the supervision of Mr. George Musgrave and lady.

During the winter, our boys, from twelve years of age and upwards, have met one night per week in the capacity of a Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. Our young ladies have also met in a like capacity. The young men are under the presidency of Elder William England and assistants, the Young ladies under the presidency of Sister Emily Shirliff. I must say there is a marked improvement in the young of both sexes in Plain City. Our young ladies, besides improving themselves in speaking, have also improved in netting, crocheting, needlework, etc. It is also pleasing to see the interest that our boys take in these meetings. On Monday night, the 6th inst., Elder W. Geddes gave a descriptive lecture of his travels on his late mission to Australia, before the young men's association. The room was crowded, and the little folks went home, highly pleased with the rich treat. Our Sunday school is doing well under Superintendent I. Spiers. We have also improved in our dancing parties, we commenced at 2 p. m., and quit at 10, and we have discarded round dancing. We have also revived the old-time institution of uniting our picnics and partaking from one common table, and I can truly say it has proved a pleasant feature in our social parties this winter.

EDWD. GODDARD.

How Received—Religionists Stirred Up—Kindred in Utah—Walking and Talking and Preaching, etc.

COUNCIL BLUFFS,
Feb. 20, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

It is now some six weeks since we landed here. Some time was taken in gauging the situation and feeling the pulse of the people before holding meetings. It seems singular to find nearly all western Iowa owned by a people who profess to be Latter-day Saints, and yet most of them are destitute of all ordinances of the gospel revealed by Joseph Smith, except baptism and confirmation.

One intelligent and wealthy citizen, who entertained me, said there had been great deadness among some of the religionists, but we were entitled to credit for stirring them up, and that since our preaching they had reorganized themselves and were holding meetings three times a week in places where none had been held for some time.

I wish to state here that we have been very much kindred in Utah, and are much hurt that they cannot get answers from them to their letters.

Scarlet fever is a raging epidemic and quite malignant hereabout. In some sections schools are closed, and we are barred holding meetings on account of it.

The stampede to the Black Hills gains volume daily, a fine comment of the masses on the government, which gave its orders peremptorily on that question. One thing seems certain, if the miners stay there we shall hear of a terrible Indian outbreak, and knowing ones about here wink that "that's what's wanted."

Our mission increases in interest. We have all the openings for preaching that we can fill, congruence and attentive. We

are not curtailed of the privilege of walking. Much of our time is spent in visiting families by the wayside. Our usual salutation, after knocking, is, "Does any one live here who once was a Saint?" "Yes, sir, come in." And in the missionary walks, and sometimes stays for hours. Neighbors are sent for, and a grand talk is had.

I have made it a point to attend several meetings here, some of them are very curious.

We have held thirty meetings, baptized eight persons, have more waiting. We have a funeral sermon to preach to-morrow for a "Gentile" family, and one wedding to solemnize on Monday. So we are busy.

Very respectfully,
Z.

Traveling—Preaching—Infidelity.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa,
March 6th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

We have been diligently engaged (Brother Spencer and myself) in preaching and visiting ever since our arrival here, January 8th last, and not without success. Brother Isaac Bullock joined us on his return from the East, and has labored diligently ever since. The weather has been fine and dry all winter, roads most of the time dusty. We took advantage of this to travel around among the country people, and preach in the school-houses, which, in nearly every instance, were freely offered and without charge. Now that the Spring storms have commenced, rendering travel impracticable, we shall confine our labors to the larger towns, and design laying siege to Council Bluffs. Have held four meetings already and I think the interest is increasing among the people, though it is like "the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done." This country is full of apostate "Mormons," some of whom are very anxious to discuss in public with us. This, we have in every instance refused. We have borne faithful and powerful testimonies to the people, but I have sometimes thought it would take the thunders and earthquakes of the last days to wake them up, and one man told me they asked no odds of God, cared nothing for the Devil, did not want to know anything of Heaven or Hell, but, if I could tell them how to make money, then they would listen for a week. If I am any judge, this is the condition of thousands, though they do not talk it quite as plainly. The moral and social atmosphere "is rank, it smells to Heaven," and will ere long bring upon the people the direst calamities.

The new era (political) that has dawned upon Utah seems to be many faced—your quadruple set of delegates is rather an amusing feature.

JOSEPH E. TAYLOR.

Municipal Election—Hard Winter—U. O. and Co-operation—School Matters, etc.

WELLSVILLE, Cache Co.,
March 5th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

To-day our election for municipal officers takes place.

We have had a hard winter, so far as plenty of the "beautiful" is concerned, but from present appearances the day is not far distant when flat-bottomed boats will be in demand.

Our U. O. is progressing favorably in this settlement, creeping along slowly, but surely making headway. Our co-operative store is under the control of the "board." A boot and shoe shop is established, with six men working under the superintendence of Brother Robert Baxter. They are turning out work which is a credit to themselves and the settlement. True, the work is a trifle more costly than is usually charged for States manufacture, but when the articles manufactured are compared with the eastern shoddy, they are by far the cheaper of the two, and as time tries all things so it will prove this thing to our shoe-wearing populace, and secure a liberal patronage to this branch of home industry. Our carpenters have been organized as a body, and a committee appointed to locate a site for a workshop, and in all probability ere many moons we shall recline our wearied limbs on couches made from wood growing in the surrounding cañons, instead of paying a large freight on the same article for the luxury of

knowing that it comes from Chicago or St. Louis. A little in farming may be done this spring, but we look out for big things next year. At any rate the small edge of the wedge is inserted, and the inclination seems to be to keep laboring at it until home manufacture is the rule and not the exception.

Our schools have been pretty well attended during the past session, and are about to commence another this week. As soon as spring opens we expect to hear the clink of the mason's trowel on the rock work of a splendid schoolhouse, which is expected to be ready for use this incoming fall. We are now in the tenth week of a night school which was started for the benefit of our young men and women, three nights per week with three teachers, at the nominal rate of one dollar for the season, merely enough to pay for lights, firewood, &c.

A good feeling prevails in the settlement. Meetings are well attended and all are working harmoniously together.

Respectfully yours,
W. K. R.

School Matters.

GOSHEN VALLEY, Utah Co.,
March 9th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

I am happy to inform you our Sunday school compares favorably with others, and is a rising feature, we being more fully organized and the superintendent and teachers alive to their duties. We held an exhibition for the benefit of the same on the 4th inst., in which our children took great interest, getting off their pieces very creditably, which met with meritorious and financial success. I am also pleased to state we have a good day school in successful operation.

Respectfully,
M. A. TILE, Secretary.

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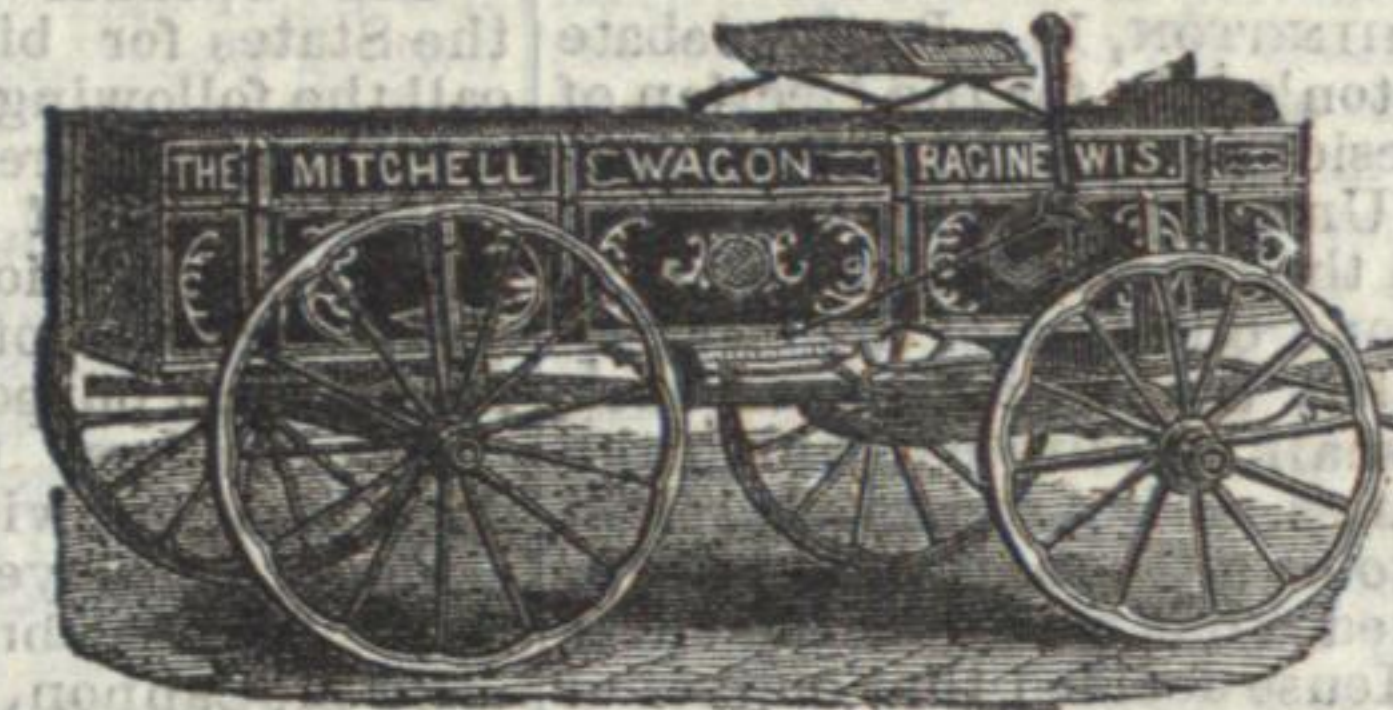
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