

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Written for this Paper.

## HOLIDAY THOUGHTS' AND GREETINGS.

CANNONVILLE, Utah,  
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Christmas time! The mortal who can greet its coming with apathetic indifference must be indeed a misanthrope. No other festival in all the year suggests such memories. Under its glad influence the man of the world throws aside his cares and in the brief but happy Christmas season regards his fellow beings in a more fraternal manner, opening up his heart and purse strings in this period of "peace on earth, good will toward men," perhaps with a sigh of regret that this torrid world of ours is so indifferent to human suffering in all the other three hundred and sixty-four days of the fast-expiring year. To the boyish heart of youth, in an especial degree, it is indeed a glorious time, before whose effulgence even the patriotic Fourth pales into insignificance, the attractions of the time-honored "Christmas box," and the inevitable Christmas confections usually proving of a more magnetic and alluring character than the pyrotechnic display of youthful patriotism. To the average man, however, it comes arrayed in tears and smiles. There are some amongst us to whom, no doubt, it serves as a reminder of advancing years, perhaps of straightened circumstances, of seats bestowed on hollow friends and of the cold looks that now greet them in adversity and misfortune. To such we would say, never heed such dismal reminiscence! Do not select the merriest season of the year for doleful recollection. Daub aside the gathering tears. Dwell not upon memories of the vacant chairs of departed dear ones who once contributed towards making Christmas a continued round of mirth and happiness! Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has some! There are few amongst us who have not felt the pressure of gloomy care. To the general run of men, life is not a bed of roses. There is therefore all the more reason for seizing this auspicious period when "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" is on every lip.

Christian humanity all the world over bails the genial season, and we welcome it all the more heartily when we consider that it is pre-eminently the festival of the poor and lowly, on whom the Great Nazarene assures us in such touching terms that He has compassion and for whom He longs to break "the bread of consolation." Even to the thoughtless the passage of our annual land mark has in it something peculiarly solemn. Not alone with the entry of a new year into what Shakespeare styles "the fitful dawn" of our lives, are we reminded that we are "by an annual march" brought nearer to our final home; but many of us are also brought to recollect with remorseful pangs concerning frittered time and wasted opportunities. To these regretful twinges, we probably owe the number of good resolutions annually offered up at the threshold of the infant year. On

these occasions we may be said to measure out the gradually waning sands in our emptying hour-glass, and as we painfully note the lessening distance between us and the tomb, we naturally make some mental pledges regarding what is known as "bracing up."

About the first of January, therefore, we may trace a little uneasiness among the general run of our friends and acquaintances. It is not at all unusual on these occasions to be buttonholed by some new convert to the teachings of the late J. B. Gough, who in a burst of confidence will inform you that the saloon keeper will no longer thrive and grow fat at his expense. Leaving this temperance orator in all the glory of a newly acquired virtue, you will in all likelihood be accosted by the tobacco victim, who informs you that for the space of an annual trip around the sun, the soothing weed will know him no more. Next comes the cigarette patient, who by the way, is in a far worse condition than the honest tobacco victim. After listening to his tale of woe, in which "Duke's Cameo, Vanity Fair," and other brands of the noxious stuff are consigned to hades for the space of a twelvemonth, you proceed onward, and if you are a philanthropist you will probably sigh to think of the unattained resolutions and promises of reform made in all confidence and good faith.

Now, see these resolutions, though, alas, in too many instances they do not stand the stern test of time, yet bear testimony to the inherent good that dwells within the human heart. It is owing in a great measure to the moral cowardice and shrinkage from privation that characterize so many of us, that we fail in our efforts to acquire a higher life. Along the pathway of suffering can we alone hope to achieve triumph. Few among us will perceive the hero in the man who, knowing his failing, one which has time and again blighted his career with the shadow of disgrace, will not abstain from the intoxicating course which with Circean magic is lowering his better instincts to that of the glowering swine, while it hurries him madly forward to degradation and death. Again we fail because we are selfish in our aims and totally indifferent to the wants and feelings of others. We shut ourselves off from human sympathy by erecting a rampart of indifference to the aspirations of our kind.

Let us then improve the opportunities which time has given us. A very interesting poem informs us that, "while the devil fishes for men with the bait of each man's passion, he uses only the naked hook in catching the sinner." We should put forth our best endeavors to acquire a suitable education, not necessarily a collegiate standard, but one that will fit us for the duties of good citizens. This is one resolution we should make and keep it. In this respect much can be done by the individual himself, if he be in earnest. The career of men like Lincoln and many others reminds us that "the

fault lies not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." But above all and beyond all we see danger in that so-called knowledge which asserts that this fleeting, perishable world overshadows in eternal oblivion man's spiritual cravings. With all the earnestness of our very nature we would say, build on religion and never heed those who would bank alone on "science." We feel assured if we fortify ourselves with this conviction, that all of our good resolutions made will not be in vain, for they will then be based on immortal truth.

Standing at the gateway of the opening year we desire to wish our new State of Utah and her worthy people, as well as our great nation, a happy new year, and close with the hope that we may meet at its finish strengthened by a year's record of mutual helpfulness and good will.

JNO. M. DUNNING.

## SEVIER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Sevier Stake of Zion was held in Richfield, Saturday and Sunday the 23rd and 24th of November. There were present the Stake presidency, members of the High Council, several Bishops and other leading Elders from the various parts of the Stake.

After the usual opening exercises on Saturday morning, Counselor Joseph S. Horne, of the Stake presidency, made a favorable report of the condition of the Stake, after which Elders Morten Jensen, George A. Hatch and Bishops Jens J. Jensen and Joseph W. Fairbanks addressed the congregation, reminding the Saints of the purpose for which we have come here, and the necessity of being faithful and energetic relating to our duties as Latter-day Saints.

The meeting in the afternoon was addressed first by Elder P. C. Peterson, who had recently returned from a mission to Denmark. He spoke of the condition of the people among whom he had been laboring, saying it was hard to convince them of the Gospel truths. Elders V. E. Bean and H. O. Magleby spoke of the gifts and blessings pertaining to the Gospel, and testified that the gift of healing, as well as other blessings enjoyed by the Saints in former days, are enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints when they live for them, and where they are not enjoyed to the fullest extent the fault is not with the Lord or the Priesthood, but can be attributed only to a lack of faith.

After the opening exercises on Sunday morning Patriarch Geo. W. Bean spoke to the people, relating his experiences while traveling in many of the eastern states on a genealogical tour the last three months. He said that Utah is a blessed land compared with many of the eastern countries. Patriarch Chas. N. Smith and Counselor Wm. H. Clark, of the Stake presidency, also addressed the Saints speaking of the purpose the Lord had in view in bringing His people to these valleys and the duty we owe to the Lord and each other.

The afternoon services were opened with the usual exercises, after which the Sacrament was administered, and the general and Stake authorities of the Church was presented by Elder