

Correspondence.

PARIS, Oneida Co., Idaho,
Aug. 31, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

My last to you was from St. Charles, as President Young and company were on the point of starting for this place. I mentioned the frost which had nipped the potatoes and vines the previous night. As we drove through Bloomington, and the farming land belonging to this place, we noticed the crops to see if any bad effects of frost were visible; but so far as appearances went, they were not injured. The hay and grain crops throughout the valley are unusually good this season and the people feel well satisfied with their prospects.

The season for outdoor work in this region is very short. As soon as the land is in a condition to be plowed in the spring, the teams commence breaking up the ground; this has to be done quickly, to be speedily followed by the sowing of grain and planting of other seeds, that the full length of the summer may be taken advantage of for the ripening of the grain and vegetables. Delay in the performance of these labors throws the crops late into the season, and exposes them to the frost before they are ripe. As soon as the ground is fairly planted, irrigation commences, then haying follows (a labor of considerable magnitude, for in this valley the cattle have to be housed and fed nearly six months), and then the harvesting of the grain and other products requires attention. By this time the season has so far advanced that wood must be procured for winter consumption, and but little time is left for any other labor. We ask our friends: "With your heavy snows what prevents your logging and getting wood out of the canyons in the winter season, when sledding is so much easier and cheaper than hauling timber with yongs?" They reply that "the winds which blow almost constantly in the canyons renders this impossible that no matter how many teams were to go up the canyons in the morning, making a good solid track, by the time they obtained their loads and returned they would find the roads during the most of the days of the winter, completely obliterated by snow drifts." This makes canyon work in the winter time almost impracticable; and, in fact, but little outdoor work of any kind can be performed in the winter. With these conditions, if the people of this valley keep pace with those of other valleys, they must find some remunerative employment for themselves during the long winter months, which are now principally spent in the feeding of their stock and such other odd jobs as they may chance to have to do. They must enter upon some settled and systematic plan of labor. New England furnishes an example which they can profitably imitate. When people estimate time as money, they will not allow any of it to go to waste. This is the estimate which the people of this valley must yet place upon their winter days. In-door employments should be created, trades of various kinds should be learned, and the young men be taught habits of unremitting industry and to adapt themselves to the changes of the season, to have work of a suitable character for every day in the year. Every hide produced in this valley should be kept here, tanned, dressed and manufactured into boots and shoes; and not be allowed to leave here until it has acquired all the value which labor can bestow upon it. Shoemaking is a good winter employment, and a co-operative system of manufacturing boots and shoes might be established here with excellent results.

The timber of these canyons is unsurpassed by any in these mountains. What is there to prevent the manufacture of cooper ware, furniture, sashes and doors, and an infinite variety of articles which are needed for daily use? It may be said that the facilities here will not permit the people to compete with those who live elsewhere. But suppose they do not earn as high wages as mechanics are accustomed to ask, is it wise, therefore, to allow the days to pass without improving them? Half wages during the winter season would be better for body, spirit, and pocket than idleness. The elements are here in profusion, the only cost is the manufacturing of them, and they ought to be utilized.

Lumber is not so easily obtained

here as it should be. The consequence is, improvements are not made with the required energy. We hear of a skilful turner who fears that he will lose all this winter, because he cannot get lumber to enclose his shop, the frame of which is erected. This is a bad condition for a people to be in, who have so fine a timbered region as this. Better resort to whip saws and saw the lumber by hand than to have everything stand still for the want of it. We know of no valley where the principle of co-operation has a better field for its exercise than this. In every one of these towns there is a demand for furniture, for cooper-work, for carpenter work, and other mechanical products. A skilful, managing man in each of these branches could find here a splendid opportunity to make himself a benefactor by starting a shop in which each of these trades could be carried on, and every young man who has a taste for mechanics be taught to work at that business for which he has the greatest aptitude. This would be building up Zion in reality, and the men who would take these branches in hand and labor unselfishly to carry them on in this manner, would perform a great work and in the end would be abundantly rewarded. Co-operation ought to be brought to bear in starting good saw-mills, then with plenty of cheap lumber and the winter days spent in preparing it for building purposes, elegant residences would spring up all over this valley, adding civilized comforts to the magnificent scenery.

Your correspondent might extend this letter to a great length in suggesting the many ways in which time could be spent to advantage during the long winters of this region, but he has probably said enough upon this subject at present. There is another point, however, which should be brought to the attention of our friends who reside here. We learn that money is scarce here. Now, butter and cheese are cash articles. Our merchants have to send East to purchase these, remitting money to the dairymen of other States, which should be expended here. A better land than this Bear Lake Valley for the production of butter and cheese can not be found in the same latitude on this continent. The principle of co-operation should be applied here to the establishment of butter and cheese factories. In this way the luxurious growth of grasses in the valley can be made profitable, not only to the people who reside here, but to the entire people of these mountains.

The company were kindly and hospitably received at Paris. Invitations to partake of hospitality have been so numerous that the members of the company have found themselves unable to accept of them all. President Young's health has greatly improved, and all feel greatly benefited by the journey. The meetings have been well attended, and a spirit of freedom has prevailed; this has been apparent in all the discourses delivered. President Young delivered a most choice sermon yesterday afternoon, which was listened to with close attention by the people. His reproofs were pointed and effective, and it is to be hoped that, with his counsels and admonitions, they will be practically applied to everyday life and be long remembered. On Friday morning the speakers were: Elders Geo. Q. Cannon and Wilford Woodruff. In the afternoon they were: Elder John Taylor and President Geo. A. Smith. On Saturday morning the speakers were: Elder J. P. Freeze, Bishop Thos. Taylor and President Geo. A. Smith. In the afternoon the speakers were: Elders David P. Kimball and Charles C. Rich, President Geo. A. Smith, Elders W. Woodruff and John Taylor and President Brigham Young and Geo. Q. Cannon. This morning Elder S. H. B. Smith, Bishop E. F. Sheets, Elders A. M. Musser and Geo. C. Lambert and President Geo. A. Smith addressed the meeting. This afternoon the sacrament was administered and President Brigham Young addressed the large congregation assembled, for an hour and a quarter. It was a most instructive discourse, and though the usual time for holding meetings was not exhausted, everyone felt so full of what they had heard that it would have been inappropriate to say any more.

The weather this morning was cool and showery. This afternoon, after the meetings here, President Geo. A. Smith, accompanied by assistant trustees, E. F. Sheets, A. M.

Musser and J. P. Freeze, will go to Montpellier and hold meeting. They will join President Young and company on the road to-morrow morning and accompany him to Soda Springs, which place it is intended to reach to-morrow afternoon.

J. Q. C.

FRENCH LITERATURE.

There is in general so much ignorance and impudence in the criticisms which are frequently published on France in this country, that we feel most happy when we meet any competent advocate of the truth. The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, repeating what numerous American and German newspapers say, lately published the following:

"We do firmly believe that the literature of the French is inferior to the English and German literature. And indeed, where is the Shakespeare or the French Goethe?"

To this exhibition of pedantry the Cincinnati *Times* make the following able reply:

"Very pretty, indeed, if we consider the fact, that the English had no literature at all before France sent to them some literary seeds with the Norman invasion; that the very tongue in which they write is more French than Saxon, and that the first true splendor of the arts and literature of the English, beginning with the Black Prince's reign, was only a copy—and a servile copy—of French writers and artists. The comparison is also very pretty for the Germans, if we reflect that the literature of that country is the most modern of all the civilized nations of Europe, and runs back only a few generations. The united literature of the whole world does not produce a more shining casket of names than that of France alone—its brightness not only dazzling by its direct rays, but also by the light it sheds on the pages of other countries. Let us quote a few of these sparkling names. Where can we find more delicious novels, a more daring imagination and more exquisite works than in the 'Trouveres et Troubadours,' compositions of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, when England and Germany were as completely without a literature as the period of chaos was of castles? In epic poetry France also got the start many centuries of any other of the modern nations. Witness the 'History of the Capture of Troy,' written by St. Maure in 1160, and the 'Romance of Alexander,' by De Cor, in 1180. The lively 'Chronicle of the Conquest of Constantinople,' written by Villehardoin in 1207, is the first great historical work in modern times. The 'Memoirs' of Joinville, on the good Louis IX., still remains almost without competitors in biography, on account of the charming simplicity of the narrative; and the 'Chronicles' of Froissard have been for five centuries the dictionary of historians and romancers.

"When we reach the religious and literary revival of the sixteenth century, we find the names of Rabelais, Montaigne, Amyot, Marot, Ronsard, Malherbe, Voiture, and of the great Calvin. In the next century we discover a literary monarch proudly standing before as many Shakespeares and Goethes as you please—Peter Corneille, the first, the greatest tragical writer the world has ever seen. Around him shone, like a glorious crown, the masterly logic of Descartes, the sharp eloquence of Pascal, the sacred and pathetic eloquence of Bossuet, the artistic style of Flechier, and the matchless sermons of Bourdaloue and Massillon. Tragedy polished itself with Racine, comedy digs new furrows with Moliere, and fable prospers with LaFontaine. Ghosts of the Muses, what names follow in quick succession! Stars of the literary sky, before whom the genius of the European world grows pale in its glimmering light. Fenelon, La Rochefoucauld, La Bruyere, Vertot, Fleury, Cardinal of Retz, Madame de Sevigne, Malebranche!

"Let us turn another leaf in Time's great book, and we have another cluster of sparkling suns, the philosophical giants of the eighteenth century—Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Buffon. They were, indeed, great masters, and among their numerous disciples many were as great as themselves. Diderot, d'Holback, d'Alembert, Condillac, Condorcet, Crebillon, Le Sage, Beaumarchais, Chateaubrian, and de Staël. In the present century we have others as great as any who

preceded them—Lamartine, Hugo, de Vigny, Scribe, George Sand, Balzac, Soulier, Karr, Berange, and de Musset; and lastly, the great historical and critical cycle which has brought forth Guizot, Taine, Thierry, Sismondi, Michelet, Martin, Thiers, Mignet, Littré, and Louis Blanc.

"Inferior to the English and German literature, truly! Individual instances will be found in those countries which, perhaps, can not be excelled by France; but her complete catalogue of literary stars is as far superior to theirs as the abilities of a lady of the world are above those of a school girl." *Courrier des Etats Unis.*

L. A. B.

FOOD FOR THE SOIL.

SALT LAKE CITY,
TUESDAY, Sept. 2, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Interesting and instructive as the late articles of the DESERET NEWS on agricultural topics have been, they seem to me not to have called sufficient attention to a most vital feature of the field, i. e., the nursing and nourishment of the soils.

In the vast expanse of this territory, the proportion of the uncultivated to its fertile portion is appalling, and, if considered as, what it is asserted to be, an irreclaimable waste, truly disheartening. Yet need this be the case? I venture to say no. As nature proceeds by steps, by gradual transitions, so man ought to do. On the barren ground, in the desert, a subsoil must be created; plants, with little requirements, such as the alfalfa, &c., must be inserted to create the humus necessary for the subsequent generation. This, in its turn, still living on meagre and alkaline diet, adds its quota; and by degrees, the soil has become so much deprived of its alkali, so much enriched in organic detritus, and so much fertilized by the attrition and chemical decomposition of the underlying rocks, as to render the cultivation of the most valuable cereals, etc., not only possible, but easy and remunerative. Add to this the cultivation of groves and forests—the conservators of the dew drops of heaven—the fostering and encouragement of our winged singers, and you have all the agencies at hand to reclaim the most barren desert, the loneliest, most forbidding abodes.

Experience and science unite to predict this as a most unerring result. Wherever the soil of this Territory has been properly nursed and irrigated, most gratifying returns have been the result. It is true, though, that with equal care, not everywhere equal returns have been secured; and this is due to the lack of insight, the absence of judgment in the respective cases. Various soils require different treatment. Sandy soils require additions of clay and humus matter. A heavy clay frequently is benefited by burning; and marshy and swampy lands demand neutralizing agencies to counteract their acid properties. As a rule, the unproductive soils of this Territory are so, either through the absence of organic matter their consequent inability of absorbing and retaining the atmospheric moisture, or through their high percentage of alkali. In any case, the source has to be detected, and the proper remedy to be applied. Useful as sand is in the make-up, a certain proportion can not be exceeded without detriment to the properties of the soil; and so with clay, lime, marly organic matter, moisture and all the other constituents. Science, through the indefatigable labors of a Boussingault, Pelouze, Liebig, etc., has fixed in each case the maximum and minimum limits. Where a soil does not bear the requisite proportions of one or several of these constituents, or lacks them entirely, it must be brought up to them, and with a perfect (or nearly so) composition, and with proper climatic conditions, a truly prolific vegetation will be the certain result. On the other hand, as man and nature are mutually reciprocating, so are inanimate nature and climate. A growing and luxuriant vegetation is all-powerful to modify the climate, and the climate in its turn will promote a weak and deficient vegetation to a rank and luxuriant one. Where the sun has only parched an arid and barren solitude, groves will call for abundant and beneficent showers, and these, in their turn, will start forests, meadows, and fields. But, as in all human life, everything is in the begin-

nings. An ounce of wise expenditure and judicious management will more than counterbalance pounds of awkward labor. Where fertilizers are dear and inaccessible, the soil must be made to fertilize itself; and this can be attained even in the veriest beginning, by patience; and afterwards, by judicious rotation. But *everything* is in the beginnings; the true deficiencies of a naturally refractory soil to be detected, and the proper remedies to be applied.

CIVIS.

BY TELEGRAPH.
AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 4.—The *Herald* today publishes a letter from on board the U. S. sloop of war, *Juniata*, at Salstenberg, Greenland, dated July 21, at which time the *Juniata* had been ten days detained by a dense fog, rendering naval action dangerous. Huge icebergs floated all around that region, often endangering the vessel, but they had always been avoided by careful navigation. On July 15th, the *Juniata* arrived off Fiskernaes settlement, on the north coast of Greenland. They had daylight during the night as well as day time. Even as late as 11 p. m. sunlight would flood the ship. On the 16th she anchored at Hamburg Island, a wild deserted region, where a shooting party and explorers went ashore. The snow lay thick on the ground. In the evening the vessel was visited by two Esquimaux in kayacks. One was sent to the governor of Sakkertoppin, and the other was engaged as pilot. The next day the lieutenant governor of that place boarded the ship. On landing at Sakkertoppin they visited the governor's house, who received commander Brain with great courtesy. In return Brain invited him to visit the *Juniata*, which he did, with great pleasure. These natives had heard of the rescue of the Tyson party from the ice, but knew nothing further. The *Juniata* left Sakkertoppin July 18, for Hotsbeenbourg, to secure sleds and dogs. The impression prevails that the *Polaris* has not yet been able to get out of winter quarters.

NEW YORK, 5.—This p. m., preparatory to the performance of the Black Crook at Niblo's, loud screams were heard to proceed from the dressing room of the ballet girls. On examination it was discovered that a girl named Rosa Firley was lying in a fit, her person, as shown in evidence, having been grossly outraged. The physicians at the theatre states that it is evident that morphine had been administered. Two men, who were seen leaving the room, were arrested and locked up. The girl continues insensible, passing from one fit to another.

DETROIT, Mich., 5.—A horrible accident occurred at the mill of the Rochester Salt and Lumber Co., opposite Saginaw city, about ten o'clock this a. m. John Butler, in stepping over the belt, was caught and carried to the top of the drum, and the space between the drum and the floor not being sufficient for his body to pass through, he was crushed to death. Butler was about fifty years of age, and had a large family dependent on him.

CINCINNATI, 5.—The cholera is at Milledgeburg, there were two deaths yesterday. Provisions having given out there, the citizens here are sending them cooked food, and the city council has made appropriations for their benefit.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., 5.—A tornado swept through Grandby, Hampshire county, yesterday, entirely demolishing the house and barn of E. Slater, unroofing other buildings, uprooting trees and destroying crops, &c. Northampton had a similar visit in the p. m.

RICHMOND, Va., 5.—During a storm in Nausemond Co., the house of Charles E. Sumner was struck by lightning and two of his children were killed and his wife and another child probably fatally injured.

WASHINGTON, 5.—Thirty-seven arrests have been made and a large number of illicit distilleries have been destroyed in North Carolina.

CHICAGO, 5.—The grand jury, before adjourning last evening, found bills of indictment against Beane the conductor, and Puffenberger, the engineer of the coal train, in the late collision on the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis R.R., in which so many lives were sacrificed. Both are now at large under heavy bail, and unless they go back on their