

Samuel Smith, Esq., was a justice of the peace, and often held the place of town magistrate or agent.

But the Smiths gradually died out, or departed, and this universal name is no longer of Topsfield. Among the latest lingerers was one Asael Smith who removed, about 1793, to Tunbridge, in Vermont. This man, like "Ammon's great son, one shoulder had too high," and thence usually bore the significant and complimentary designation of "crook-necked Smith." He was so free in his opinions on religious subjects that some regarded his sentiments as more distorted than his neck. When he went to Vermont, a son, Joseph, accompanied him. In process of time, Joseph was married and had children, among whom was one bearing his own name, and destined to make no small noise in the world. When Joseph Smith, allured by the star of western emigration, left Tunbridge, with his family, he little suspected that he had a young Mohammed in that omnibus wagon which conveyed him and his household.

I shall not pursue the story of Joseph Smith. Famous, or infamous, he was no common man. His name is inseparably connected with the origin and history of a numerous and remarkable sect.

When biography shall hereafter seek to trace him to his source, among the thousand genealogical lines of Smithdom, it may save her some trouble, to be told that Joseph's ancestors were Topsfield people—that his father was born there—and that some of the Goulds and the Balches of this old town still claim kindred with the "Prophet."

The rise of Mormonism is one of the wonders of our day. What but strong enthusiasm, impelling from within, and a fiery persecution, pressing from without, could have driven a people numbering many thousands, to seek a safe home, in the far-distant, and almost impenetrable wilderness? When we were told that they had pitched their pilgrim tents upon the remote borders of the Great Salt Lake, how little did we dream that they had gone thither to build—unwittingly indeed—a half-way house—a grand caravansary—for the refreshment of a hundred thousand of our countrymen, soon to be on their way to the Pacific Shore! Who will deny that there was an oversight, and a wisdom here, far beyond the reach of mortal ken? Let us not despair, even of the Mormons; left as they are to themselves, may we not reasonably expect that the developed absurdity of a wild fanaticism will prove its own corrective? May we not confidently hope that the strong native sense of the Anglo-American will at length prevail, and bring back to the faith and practice of a pure Christianity, these victims of delusion?

Correspondence.

MALAD CITY, Oneida Co., I. T., Feb. 26, 1871.

Bro. Cannon:—I feel like reporting Malad City and precinct. Up to the present time there has been quite a mild winter, very little snow, stock doing well out. Malad City has three day schools, taught by R. G. Evans, Harrison and Winters. The progress made by the pupils in each of said schools is highly satisfactory both to parents and teachers. Our Sunday School is doing well. A dramatic company was organized about four weeks past; a fine set of scenes, stage lamps, books, &c., were gotten up on short notice. "The Jacobite," "Charcoal Burner," "Box and Cox," &c., were presented and played, the company acquitting themselves in a creditable manner; the whole under the supervision of Bro. R. G. Evans. Bro. Nicholson, agent for the DESERET NEWS, paid us a visit about two weeks since, on official business; but as luck would have it in our favor, he dropped into Malad City on Sunday afternoon about 2 p.m., just in time to take a Mormon rest, by preaching for an hour. At 7 p.m. he again occupied the stand, speaking to the edification and satisfaction of his hearers.

We have had several concerts, by the Cherry Creek, and Malad Branch choirs, conducted by Bro's. Turvy and Owens.

On Wednesday last, 22d., we had a very heavy shower of salt, which lasted about an hour, to the great joy of the horned stock. Our co-operative store is doing a good business, considering the opposition to contend with. Samaria settlement, on the west of the valley, is spreading herself very much this Fall.

The Pres't., Bro. Samuel Williams, is quite a go-ahead man. His examples are worthy of imitation. They have a first-class school, taught daily by Bro. Davis; Sunday school and meetings are a credit to the settlement.

Your Bro. in the gospel,
DANIEL DANIELS.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

ANOTHER SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION.—We understand that Major Powell, the famous Colorado explorer, will shortly direct his scientific researches to the Yelf lowstone, the appropriation committee of the House of Representatives at Washington having lately agreed to an appropriation of \$12,000 for an exploration of that river, to be conducted by the above named gentleman.

A SINGULAR SHOWER.—On the night of Tuesday, Feb. 21st, a shower of thin mud prevailed in some parts of Cache and in Malad Valley. People who were out of doors during the storm had their clothing completely bespattered from head to foot. The mud was of a lightish color.

PARAGONAH.—Silas S. Smith, Esq., writing from Paragonah, Iron Co., on the 26th ult., says "There has been considerable sickness of late; many have had the measles, and now nearly every one is afflicted with a severe cold, a sort of distemper, with a hard cough, and, in most cases, a light fever for a few days. Whole families, in fact nearly every one in the settlement, being taken down in a day."

HALIFAX, ENGLAND.—Elder Charles Lambert, of the 7th Ward, of this city, now on a mission in England, writes from Halifax, Yorkshire, on the 4th ult. He is assisting in the Leeds Conference, is well received, and enjoys his labors. He sees a marked change since he left England, now nearly thirty years since; there is a great increase of wickedness; he has always appreciated his home in the mountains, but thinks he will be able to do so more than ever when he reaches it again.

FAIRVIEW.—Elder Amasa Tucker, of Fairview, Sanpete Co., writes on the 28th ult. that on the 5th ult., the new meeting-house at that place, was dedicated by President Orson Hyde. Elder Tucker says it is capable of holding all the citizens of Fairview, and is the best house for public worship in the county; and has been completed under as unfavorable circumstances as any house of the kind in the Territory; for during the time of its erection the people of Sanpete valley have had to endure a five years Indian and grasshopper war. The winter has been mild, and tolerably healthy; but many of the people are now suffering from the prevailing epidemic.

A NEW BRIDGE.—A new bridge has lately been built across Bear River on a direct line between Logan and Newton, Cache county. This is a much needed improvement, there being a great deal of traffic between the settlements on the south-east of the valley and those west of the river. An appropriation was made in December last, by the County Court, to build the bridge, the balance of the expense being sustained by the people of Clarkston and Newton. Messrs. Peter Maughan, S. Molen, S. Roskelly, W. F. Littlewood and Simon Smith were appointed a locating committee and W. B. Preston, F. W. Young and S. Smith a committee of construction. Work was commenced on January 3rd, and on February 15th it was so far completed that teams were enabled to cross. It is called Newton bridge, and is 109 feet in length. It is substantial, and was put up in the expeditious and energetic manner usually manifested by the people of Cache Valley in all matters of public enterprise and improvement.

MOUNT PLEASANT.—Elder George Farnsworth writes an interesting letter, on the 28th ult., from Mount Pleasant, Sanpete county.

He says that on account of the very mild winter, fears of a scarcity of water during the coming summer for irrigation purposes had been very general throughout Sanpete Valley; but all such fears had been dispelled by the abundance of snow which had fallen during the two or three weeks prior to the date of his letter.

The people of Mount Pleasant have a co-operative shoe shop in operation, at which is manufactured articles as neat and substantial as at any place in the Territory; and as soon as they get on their machinery they expect to be able to compete with any other place in price. They are about to establish a co-operative stock herd, tannery and cabinet shop, the success of co-operation in the last named business having been demonstrated by Bro. Paul Dehlin.

Elder Farnsworth says: "Bro. Geo. Halladay, visited us last Friday evening, when a meeting was called, and he gave us a very excellent discourse upon various principles, but more particularly upon the 'Atonement of Christ,' which, in a very able and clear manner, he set forth before an attentive congregation. He also spoke concerning the DESERET NEWS and Juvenile Instructor. I was much pleased with the figures he presented, showing it to be the duty of Latter-day Saints to have these papers. I wished him in his travels through Sanpete, to continue to advocate the good cause, which he promised he would."

"I purpose in two or three weeks, to visit every settlement and do all in my power to encourage the brethren. Some are afraid to go into debt, fearing the grasshoppers may eat them up again; but from all the information I can get, we will not be so much infested with them as last year. Most of the people have faith in raising good crops this season."

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—The Denver Tribune of last Friday, announces the death from chloroform, of a "strong, stalwart man," named Jeremiah Murphy, a watchman on the Kansas Pacific railroad. Murphy had had a finger amputated a day or two previous, and was in the doctor's office about to have it dressed, and requested to have chloroform administered. He inhaled half an ounce, which threw him into spasms, terminating in death in an hour or two.

A NEW NURSERY.—Mr. John Reading, of this city, lately paid a visit to Providence, Cache county, for the purpose of selecting a suitable location on which to establish a nursery. Such an institution would be a great boon to the people of the county. It would not only preclude the necessity of their having to obtain their trees, etc., from considerable distances, but trees raised in the vicinity where they will be transplanted are acclimated and would, therefore, be more likely to do well than under other circumstances. The inhabitants of Cache have made laudable progress in beautifying their cities and homes by the raising of fruit and shade trees. Some very excellent fruit was raised there last season. A nursery, conducted under the experienced management of Mr. Reading, would be a valuable aid to them in this direction, and we therefore trust he will not fail to carry out his present intention.

DANGEROUS ILLUMINATING OILS.—In consequence of the many deplorable accidents that have occurred throughout the country from the use of various illuminating oils we append the following test of their explosive tendencies, which is taken from the Scientific American, an able and reliable paper:

"The only reliable test is the temperature of the flashing point; that is, the temperature at which the petroleum takes fire when a burning match is applied to its surface. The test can be easily applied. Into a flat dish or saucer pour the oil to be tried, until it is at least half an inch deep; then hold a burning match or taper near the surface. At the point of contact the combustion is often very lively, as the taper draws up some of the liquid, but if the petroleum is safe and free from naphtha, the flame does not spread over the surface. If the petroleum has been adulterated, as soon as the match touches the surface a blue lam-bent flame flashes across it, and in a few moments the body of the oil will be on fire. Such an oil is dangerous—liable to explode in lamps and give off inflammable vapors at all times. Any oil which takes fire when a match is held near its surface, and continues to burn, ought to be condemned at once and thrown into the street. We lay some stress upon this experiment, because we have actually seen a country merchant pour petroleum into a saucer and ignite it in this way as a proof that it was not dangerous."

A FEW weeks since we published the "Anathema Maranatha," said to be a copy of the curse pronounced by Pope Pius IX on Victor Immanuel, King of Italy, on the occasion of that gentleman's excommunication from the Catholic Church.

On May 19th, 1865, the Christian Advocate published the following lines, which are said to have been endorsed by all Methodists, and entitled a PRAYER IN BEHALF OF JEFF DAVIS.

Oh may that cuss, Jeff Davis, float,
In open sea, in open boat,
In Iceland cold without a coat.

Glory hallelujah.

Without a compass, sail or oar,
A million miles away from shore,
Where mighty waves like mountains roar.

Glory hallelujah.

May sharks devour him stem and stern,
A whale engulf him down in turn,
And the Devil get the whole concern.

Glory hallelujah.

Oh may that cursed traitor dwell
In darkest pits of deepest hell,
And gnash his teeth and groan and yell.

Glory hallelujah.

And 'mid his roars and frantic cries
Oh may eternal ashes rise
And blow forever in his eyes.

Glory hallelujah.

In burning brimstone may he be,
While little devils dance in glee;
Then lock the door and lose the key,

Glory hallelujah.

Agents! Read This!

WE WILL PAY AGENTS A SALARY of \$30 per week and expenses, or allow a large commission, to sell our new and wonderful inventions. Address, M. WAGNER & CO., Marshall, Mich.

Gross Assets, Dec. 31, '70, nearly 45 Millions;
Increase in Net Assets, for the 7 1/4 Millions,
year.

STATEMENT OF THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF NEW YORK, 144 and 146 Broadway.

For its Twenty-Eighth Fiscal Year, Being for the year ending Dec. 31, 1870.

Richard Goodhind
Offices.—Opposite Salt Lake House,
Agent for Utah Territory.

Net Assets, January 1, 1870.....\$35,211,593 71

RECEIPTS:

Premiums and Policy Fees.....\$12,169,717 34
INTEREST:
On Bonds and Mortgages.....1,983,308 38
Stocks and Trust Companies.....886,344 57
Premium on Gold and Rents.....108,029 73
Total Cash Receipts.....\$2,477,772 68

849,859,073 73

DISBURSEMENTS:

Claims by Death.....\$1,982,724 62
Matured Endowments.....27,500 00
Total Disbursements.....\$2,010,224 62

4,112,855 37

Paid to Policy-holders—Additions to Death Claims and Matured Endowments and Post Mortem Dividends.....\$292,846 64

Cash Dividends in Reduction of Premiums and Annuities.....2,584,896 87
Surrendered Policies.....1,256,111 86

1,352,575 49

Commission to Agents.....\$284,609 15

Paid Agents for Purchase of Future Commissions.....440,456 87
Taxes, Law Expenses and Office Expenses.....224,997 39
Salaries.....221,845 72

Advertising, Printing and Stationery, Exchange and Postage.....132,271 69
Physicians and Medical Examiners' Fees.....45,894 66

1,352,575 49

Total Cash Disbursements.....\$7,476,656 47

Net Assets December 31, 1870.....\$12,382,417 56

INVESTED AS FOLLOWS:

Cash on hand in Bank and Trust Companies, at Interest.....\$2,608,910 74
Bonds and Mortgages on Real Estate.....33,999,421 62

United States Stocks—cost.....4,203,108 75
New York Stocks—cost.....570,000 00

Real Estate.....945,383 07
Balances due by Agents in the course of trans- mission.....55,593 38

Actual Cash Investments.....42,382,417 56

Add:
Interest accrued, but not due.....\$324,542 00
Interest due and unpaid.....41,322 15

Premiums due, but not yet reported—chiefly for December.....312,676 30
Deferred—Quarterly and Semi-Annual Premiums.....1,119,573 77

Market value of Stocks in excess of cost.....423,624 00
2,226,736 22

I have carefully examined the foregoing statement, and find the same correct.
ISAAC F. LLOYD, Auditor,
New York, Jan. 18, 1871.

INSURANCE STATEMENTS:
Number of policies issued and restored during the year.....11,463
Amount insured there- by.....\$33,458,217 00

In force at the end of the year.....71,271
policies, insuring.....222,423,254 00

The foregoing is a statement taken from the Actuarial Records.
SHEPARD HOMANS, Actuary.

The Board of Trustees have authorized a Dividend for the year of 1870 of two millions of dollars, CASH, which amount may be subsequently increased.

These Dividends will be paid to policy-holders as they may elect, in cash or in the purchase of additional insurance, as soon as the equitable portion of each can be determined.

THE MUTUAL Life Insurance Co. of New York,
FREDERICK S. WINSTON.....President,
144 and 146 Broadway, Corner of Liberty St.

RICHARD GOODHIND,
Salt Lake City,
Agent for Utah Territory.

Mr. GOODHIND will visit Ogden and Corinne monthly, to receive applications.

EFFICIENT AGENTS WANTED.