

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## A SOLDIER'S COMPLAINT.

FORT BRIDGER, }  
April 7th, 1863. }

## EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

Having nothing else to do to-day, I thought that I would write you a note that would give you and the public some idea of the hardships and privations which attend a soldier's life.

We left Camp Douglas on the 4th of Dec. last, and after marching four days, arrived at this post, on the 8th, a distance of 115 miles—an average of about 29 miles per day—on foot. On our arrival we found the buildings, with the exception of the guard house, in a dilapidated condition. The weather was cold and we found no wood here, with the exception of a few cords that the post swindler had previously bought of government for the small sum of twenty-five cents per cord, which he readily offered to sell to our gallant commander for the sum of eight dollars per cord, but as green backs were not very plenty and 40 per cent. below par, very little wood could be bought—and the result was that we had to travel from twelve to fifteen miles through snow, from one to two feet deep, to get wood to prevent us from freezing to death. Whilst performing this duty, if such it can be called, some of the men got their feet so badly frost-bitten as to disable them for several months.

I will now try to give a description of our living. Shortly after our arrival here, our supplies of provisions gave out, with the exception of flour, meat, sugar and coffee. The meat consisted in part of a lot of old government bacon that was condemned in Mexico in 1848, and then sent out here in 1857, under the gallant General Johnston, who figured things so close, that he only swindled government out of one million of dollars by the operation, as many others would do if they were smart enough, judging from what little they do now, or from what little smartness they have exhibited. We get a little beef three days in a week, but instead of its being a number one article as government intended it to be, it consists of the remains of Russell's and Waddell's old bull teams that came out here in 1857-8.

J. H. S., Co. I., 3d Infantry, C. V.

## SANPETE COUNTY ITEMS.

FOUNTAIN GREEN, }  
April 13th, 1863. }

## EDITOR NEWS:

Spring has opened—work is progressing finely; every one is engaged. Wheat, oats, etc., are being sowed, and the farmer and gardener is cheered on in his work by the many notes of the robin and lark who attend him to gather the worms, bugs, etc. No Indian troubles, no disaffected judges, no trouble of any kind. Water is plenty and the land very dry; spring is at least three weeks ahead of last year; DESERET NEWS received yesterday; four days ahead of time; all right; cannot write much for I am too busy.

S.

## THE INDIAN ATTACK AT BATTLE CREEK.

PLEASANT GROVE, }  
April 14th, 1863. }

## EDITOR NEWS:

On Sunday morning last, the 12th inst., a small party of soldiers from Camp Douglas, with one baggage wagon, came into our place and camped on the premises of Mr. John Green. Not far in the rear of this party, two Indians were seen following, who did not enter the town, but took to the left towards the mountains. The day passed off quiet, and the fact that soldiers were present, or Indians near, was not thought of till near sundown, when a party of Indian warriors, report says, forty-two in number, was seen coming from the mountains in great haste. The soldiers were the first who noticed the movement, and took immediate steps to be ready for contingencies. The family of Mr. Green was notified to vacate forthwith, which was immediately complied with, notwithstanding Mrs. Green was confined to her bed, having a child but eight or nine days old, and the soldiers took possession, placed their cannon in position and brought in their ammunition and other articles of value, as far as time would permit, which from the first notice of the approaching enemy, did not exceed ten minutes until the house was besieged. Our citizens, (except a few who saw the Indians approaching) remained ignorant of what was going on, until they were suddenly aroused by the discharge of a cannon and subsequent bursting of a shell, which passed over a portion of the town, bursting a short distance beyond its limits on the west. The excitement which followed on hearing the first gun, coupled with the report that a fight was going on between the soldiers and Indians was intense, families fleeing from the vicinity where the fight was progressing to parts more remote. An incessant fire of small arms was kept up from the commencement until some time after dark, say one hour and a half, and was, as the result shows, conducted on the most scientific and approved plan of modern warfare, no one having been killed or wounded on either side.

A visit to the scene of action by some of our citizens as soon as they deemed it prudent to

venture, found the party, nine in number, fortified up in the house, in safe, though not very comfortable quarters, which position they seemed quite reluctant to vacate, until fully assured that all was right outside.

On learning that reinforcements were looked for, an express was sent out to meet them, which returned before morning, with a force strong enough to insure safety. Another detachment has since arrived, so that the party is now considered sufficiently strong for any contingency.

Another fight may soon be expected, if the Indians do not retreat into parts inaccessible.

## RESULT OF THE BATTLE.

Of the twelve horses and mules belonging to the party, five were killed; two by the soldiers and three by the Indians; one skedaddled, and six were taken by the Indians. The wagon was plundered of everything portable. Damage to Mr. Green's house and contents is estimated at about one hundred dollars. M.

## THE BATTLE OF SPANISH FORK.

SPANISH FORK, }  
April 16th, 1863. }

## EDITOR NEWS:

Night before last, or rather early yesterday morning, the troops—two companies or more, with a howitzer—marched into Spanish Fork canyon and came upon a body of Indians between the two bridges, one mile above the mouth of the canyon, on the south side of the river—evidently unexpectedly, as the position for retreat was illly taken, and as it was raining heavily; it was, probably, a perfect surprise. How long or fierce the battle was we have not learned, but appearances indicate something of a struggle, and that a portion of the more active and ready of the Indians succeeded in getting up the canyon whilst the others took up a ravine that led to a side canyon. There they were exposed, and certainly three were killed and two wounded—perhaps more. The soldiers had three wounded; Lieut. Peel mortally, who died at Springville last night. They reported that from ten to twenty were killed and many wounded. I think the main body of Indians were some miles up the canyon.

LATER.—From the best information gained, there were four Indians killed and two wounded.

Respectfully,

A. K. THURBER.

P. S.—17th: a heavy rain, and snow last night.

A. K. T.

## UTAH COUNTY ITEMS.

SPRING LAKE VILLA, }  
April 17, 1863 }

## DEAR NEWS:

Yesterday was one of the worst, and hardest steady gales of wind I ever experienced, blowing all day from the south, changed to the north in the evening, bringing a small amount of snow hail and rain. One house in Payson was partially unroofed, and generally, every one got an over dose of dust and sand.

Teams for the States leave this region on Tuesday next. Valleys, hills and mountains sides are covered with verdure, and the feed is getting to be really fine. Gardening is well along, and agricultural prospects bright.

A collision took place in Spanish Fork Canyon on Wednesday, between 200 Cavalry and an uncertain number of Indians. The Indians fled after first fire, in which it is said 3 soldiers were wounded. It is claimed that 14 Indians were left on the battlefield, and some ponies and munitions of war captured. Indians are scarce about the settlements, they having fled to the mountains.

The people around here are beginning to awaken to the fact, that we must produce what we use. The means and material for manufacture are being gathered up and provided. Tobacco, hemp, flax, madder, etc., will this season be among the common crops grown. In way of leather, greater facilities are being provided, and we are authentically informed, that both at Salt Creek and Fort Ephraim, Tanneries are established, where they give half the leather the hides make to those who provide them. I would advise everybody in these parts who cannot do their own tanning, to patronize these men. Mr. P. Johnson, in Payson, is a good hatter, and could furnish his neighborhood with respectable covering for the head, only he cannot leave his crops to attend to it. By the by, speaking of hats, reminds us that we took some furs and skins to a hatter living near the Court House in your city, last fall, with a promise of hats for pay in a week. We have called or sent for them from ten to twenty times—always got a fresh promise for hats right away, but no hats yet. We speak of this not as an individual grudge, but as an example of many other mechanics and tradesmen of the sort, who take a course to destroy all confidence, and keep from themselves the means they need to make their business profitable and agreeable.

Are there no mechanics among us? if we have, why has the farmer's toil failed to so great a discount? Last fall a mason refused to work for us at \$4 per day, and boarded, because he had to attend to crops, which a man at a dollar a day might as well have done. Why will not tradesmen and mechanics act more wisely and sensibly, and go to work and set up their own business, where their knowledge will be both useful and profitable, and leave agriculturists to till the soil; herdsmen to keep the flocks, and by this division of labor equalize the price of all our products. They should take in apprentices, employ journeymen, and thus, not only assist to build up

a healthy mechanical structure in social life, make the products of their handiwork and skill at a less price, with good profit to themselves, but be doing a public good by creating a demand for raw material, and thus go on to independence and greater comforts.

Why need we want for cutlery when there are numbers of citizens in these valleys who are capable manufacturers?—let them get together, join hands like brethren and good Saints, and start an establishment at once. Have we no glass manufacturers? if we have let them speak out. How many sorts of dishes, vessels, vials, buttons, beads and thousands of other useful and necessary articles might be made from glass, and it is believed we have the material in abundance. Who would dare be a glassmaker and not speak out? Why not make silk goods and clothing? it is a light and pretty business, the mulcaulis or mulberry in which the worm feeds, may be had in the city, and the eggs of the worm may be transmitted by mail. What lady would not sooner wear silk than wool or cotton? If any let them speak! there is but little real difference of labor in producing either, and thus we might go on and enumerate scores of trades and business, that might be profitably conducted, that have not as yet been touched—but as we are at bottom we will defer farther notice till next time.

J.

## THE STOCK DRIVES.

Pursuant to previous arrangements, the gathering together of stock on the upper Jordan range to the designated point, took place on Tuesday the 14th inst., and was conducted, as per report, in a very satisfactory manner. There was some little furious charging done, and a few loud and boisterous words uttered by two or three of the drivers, alleged to have had some complicity in the demolition of a jug of Howard's or Weiler's "best," which they supposed to be essential to their mental and physical invigoration on that occasion. The results, however, were not serious. A large amount of stock was gathered up, all of which, with the exception of about one hundred and eighty head, was claimed and taken away by owners. The animals for which no claimants appeared were turned into an inclosure at night, with the intention of having them drove down to Snyder's ranch on Wednesday, but in the severe storm which occurred during the night, they broke out, and only about one half of them could be found next morning.

The drive on the lower range on the 15th was a ponderous affair, and thousands of cattle were collected at Snyder's, and hundreds of horses and mules were driven to the public stray-pound in the city, where they were examined by thousands anxious to recover strays. There were a few good animals among them, but a large proportion of the colts were not of "blooded" stock, and the possession of any considerable number of them by one individual could not possibly be considered an indication of thrift or wealth.

Of the thousands of cattle collected at Snyder's, about three-fourths were claimed and taken away; the remainder were turned back on the range, a large proportion of them young animals, which had no visible marks or brands on them, and ought, no doubt, in justice, to be disposed of as strays.

For the amusement of the concern, and not having been beyond the limits of the city proper for nearly two years, we rode out on Wednesday afternoon to witness the vast assemblage of "men and beasts" at Snyder's, which was certainly no small affair. There was much running to and fro, more than was necessary for the accomplishment of what was intended. Judging from what was seen and heard, about one half of the missing stock was recovered, among which were many oxen and cows, some of them having been gone for one, two or more years.

There can be no doubt that more good than evil resulted from the concern, although the scene recalled to mind the story of Babel, and the many reports which have been made within the last year, relative to the "demoralization" of the armies engaged in the prosecution of the civil war in the North American States. To those fond of excitement, there was not of course, anything manifested of an inharmonious character, and most of those present were evidently pleased with what they saw and heard, whether they were fortunate in recovering their lost stock or not. The weather on that day was most favorable, and had the drive been as complete and universal as intended, it would have been more satisfactory. It was, however, quite as successful as we had anticipated.

It is evident, from what was exhibited at all the drives, that there are hundreds of ani-

mals running on the public domain in this valley, which have no known owners, and which should be disposed of, as by law provided. The circumstances were such that it could not well be done this spring, but in our opinion, it would be a great public benefit to have all the stock on Jordan range gathered up next fall, upon due notice given, and have that, for which no owners appeared taken and sold as strays. There are many reasons not necessary now to state why that should be done. The horses, sheep, and much of the other stock not needed for use should be taken off that range in the summer season and herded in the mountains or other valleys, where flocks and herds cannot be kept during the winter. The benefits resulting to the citizens of Great Salt Lake city and county from such a course would be incalculable. Stock kept where there was good pasturage during the summer would be in good condition in the fall, and if necessary to let it run at large on the old range in the winter, there would be some chance for it to live, whereas, under present arrangements much of it dies of starvation every year.

## BANNOCK CITY EXPRESS.

On Wednesday evening last, Mr. A. H. Conover arrived from Bannock city with the express, bringing about five hundred letters. He was accompanied by Mr. House, a member of the express company, ex-postmaster Morrel and another individual who came in the capacity of Indian interpreter.

Mr. Conover left Bannock city on the evening of April 6th and came out about four miles to a good camping place, and from thence came through in nine days. There were but a few Indians seen on the route. Poccatello, with his band, was somewhere in the vicinity of the Portneuf, and as understood, wants to fight, and would be glad to have Gen. Connor send out an expedition in that direction, that he may have a chance to gratify his greediness for glory. Most of the Bannocks are reported to have gone eastward, probably to depredate the emigrants in advance of the troops to be marched from the East for the protection of those crossing the plains this season.

The report that the company which left the northern frontiers for the mines about the 20th of March, had been attacked and used up by the Indians had no foundation in truth, and so far as known, the natives have made no hostile demonstrations on the route hence to the Idaho mines recently, but as understood, they are far from being friendly to the whites, and intend to make good the losses they sustained at the battle of Bear River before the end of the year.

Some of the miners had commenced operations before the express left, and the prospects were, that there would soon be lively times in the "diggings."

FIRST DISTRICT COURT.—On Thursday last Judge Drake, accompanied by Marshal Gibbs, went to Provo for the purpose of making arrangements for holding the Federal Court in the First Judicial District, which according to appointment was to have been held there and to have commenced on Monday the 20th inst. As there is no Court House in Provo, the Marshal had to rent a hall in which the court could be held. The building, as a matter of course, needed some fitting up, which could not be done in time for use on the following Monday, consequently Judge Drake thought proper to adjourn the court till Wednesday the 29th, as we are informed, and returned to the city on Saturday evening. Nothing inhibiting, we suppose the court will now be held, commencing on this day week, and continue until all the business before it shall have been disposed of, which will probably not take many days—less than a week, unless something not anticipated or now unknown shall arise or be pending.

SPURIOUS COIN.—It is reported that some of the emigrants from Denver, enroute for the northern mines, recently attempted to pass counterfeit gold coin (quarter eagles) in one of the towns north, but were caught before they had disposed of much of that kind of funds. The offenders were not dealt with rigorously, and were suffered to go on their way after making all things right by way of exchange and payment of costs. Business men could not easily be deceived in that way, but the unsuspecting might. Men should have their eyes open in these days.