

OGDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL.
HUNTSVILLE,
Weber County, Utah,
February 15th, 1881.

Deseret News:

Accepting a published invitation, in the Ogden Junction, to witness the closing exercises of the second term of the Central School in Ogden City, I took the privilege of leaving my school, and attending the examination and closing exercises of the above, which occurred on the 17th, 18th and 19th insts. There were over 400 pupils enrolled, and by L. F. Monch as principal, an able corps of assistants, R. S. Z. Ballantyne, Mr. Brunn, Ruthinda Monch, and Miss Balantyne.

The school is graded from the primary through the intermediate, to the academic department, and, on the whole, is making good progress. The most observable features are the almost perfect arrangement of the grades, and the Monitor System, which is the best I have ever seen, and this is only perfected in the academic department.

In the examination of the "higher grades," which was all that could be expected by the most sanguine, the pupils examined their respective papers in a manner which showed perfect acquaintance with their work, and that would have done credit to experienced teachers.

The Intermediate Departments are in good hands, and as far as a satisfactory examination permitted, it was only to be seen that faithful labor had been performed.

The Primary Department is an exception to the whole system, and as pupils are promoted from it to the intermediate, the teachers will have an easier element to handle than that which they have at the present time, as the twig is more pliant than the middle aged tree. It is to be hoped that the parents will see the necessity of keeping their offspring continually at school, thereby assisting those who are striving to make our schools what they should be. Pardon the digression.

Some of the pleasing features of the closing exercises were the recitations, original essays, reviews of history, geography and physiology recited orally by the pupils, songs and calisthenic exercises.

The reviews and essays coming under the heading, "Waking Up Mind," were worthy of notice, especially by those who are in the habit of "pumping" or "drawing out" by asking questions, a practice to be deprecated.

It was a matter of much comment that a feeling of brotherly and sisterly love had sprung up between teachers and pupils in so short a time—no master and scholar, no obedience through fear; and this love assisted to cast away all fear while the scholars were passing through the terrible ordeal of an examination, and was made manifest in a noble manner in the shape of presents to Mr. and Mrs. Monch, accompanied by nice little speeches, all a serenade by a string band during the exercises, composed of members of the school.

Your correspondent noticed but very few, present at the examination proper. This is wrong; as parents and trustees they should be very anxious to see the actual work of the school-room. Recitations, dialogues, etc., are matters of mere show, and do not belong to school examinations, but to exhibitions; and I hope to see the day when the schools will be examined in a more effectual manner than they are to-day (if at all), and in a way that will show the amount of work well done in a given time.

Trustees can aid in this, they can write practical teachers, or those who are not teachers, but men of experience, to examine classes, notice being taken of the number of pages passed over in a term. This mode of examination would soon place in our school active teachers, but so long as trustees and parents are satisfied with teachers asking a few set questions in set words, and the pupils giving set answers—then closing with recitations, songs, dialogues, and a few speeches—just so long will we have teachers who work only for remuneration, and who will always be clogs in the way of the advancement of the whole.

I was pleased to see so little of the mixed with the solid food—during the closing of the second term of the Central School, and it was very gratifying to the trustee who witnessed the whole proceedings.

May success crown the efforts of

the trustees and teachers who are so assiduously laboring to perfect the graded school system now fairly inaugurated in Ogden City.
SCHOOL VISITOR.

Correspondence.

BETHEL, Pitt Co., N.C.,
February 17, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

Bishop Jolley, of Mt. Carmel, started on his return home this morning at 10 o'clock, from Tarboro, Edgecombe Co., N. C., accompanied by six of his relatives, five of the number are adults. Bishop Jolley has labored in this State nearly three months, making many friends and sowing the seeds of truth wherever he went. He has enjoyed good health and starts home feeling well. And many friends wish him a God speed on his way.

Brother Clark and myself being left alone to continue the work, feel rather lonely and realize that we have lost a kind father and adviser, but the Lord has blessed us with kind friends who seem willing and ready to minister to all our wants. The weather is very changeable but somewhat warmer than last month, and the farmers are commencing work in earnest. Some portions of the people seem interested in our doctrines while others have allowed falsehood to so prejudice their minds that they feel very bitter towards us, not seeming to be acquainted with the saying of the wise King Solomon, viz.: "He that judgeth a matter before hearing is not wise," or if they are, preferring to be considered foolish rather than let an opportunity pass of expressing their opinion in regard to Utah and its inhabitants, and in many cases not being acquainted with nor even having seen a "Mormon." But I trust the Lord will open up the way whereby this feeling may be allayed and truth prevail, for there are many many honest hearted people in this country.

We have held 18 public meetings in Pitt, Edgecombe and Martin Counties, have baptized one adult. More anon.

Praying the Lord to bless all honest hearted people, and to cause his work to roll on, I remain your brother in the gospel of peace.

ALMER W. JOHNSON.

CASSIA CREEK,
Feb. 16, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

It has been some time since I saw anything in the columns of your valuable paper from this place, I thought a few items would not be disinteresting to some of your many readers. The winter set in here about the middle of November, in good earnest. The weather continued very cold till about Christmas, when it moderated and began to rain, and since that time we have had a great amount of rain. For the last few days it has been snowing at intervals so that we have now about six inches but the weather is mild and we are looking for spring to make its appearance as we are getting very anxious to go to turning up the soil which will be done quite extensively this spring. There is quite an excitement about the rich discoveries of the precious metals in the Wood River country, and it is expected that there will be a big stampede for there as soon as the roads are passable.

The health of the people is good, there have been only two cases of sickness here this winter and no deaths.

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