

Some of our mails are, from good authority, not much if any better made up than the old woman's, and that too without her excuse of being unable to read. Recently mail matter for Sanpete was found in the sacks and stopped at North Ogden, while packages for the north were sent south. We have no doubt the postmaster who made up that mail could read, but, perhaps being deficient in the geography of our Territory, he made it up, like the old woman, by guess, or else is too culpably careless to be intrusted with a matter requiring the strictest care and correctness.

Through miserable carelessness, both on the part of postmasters and carriers, we are almost daily annoyed at hearing and hearing of the expression "I would like to take the News, but they come so irregularly—sometimes 2, 3, or half a dozen together, and again not at all—that I am discouraged in trying to get it." Now such conduct in mail matters should not be, and it must be stopped, or, so fast as we can learn facts and names, we shall feel constrained to publish them, and let blame and loss rest where they belong.

#### HOME ITEMS.

**THEATRICAL:**—"Richelleu" was again presented on Wednesday evening last. The playing in some parts was superior to what it was when performed before.

For the first time in this Territory "Richard III" was placed upon the boards of our Theatre on Saturday night, to a very crowded house.

The tragedy of "Richard III" carries us into one of the most interesting and bloody periods of English history, when the common forefathers of the present Anglo-Saxon race waged a fierce and relentless civil war, under the leadership of the rival roses, the houses of York and Lancaster. Though Cibber's adaptation of the play for the stage differs in many respects from the original by Shakespeare, still, the main characters remain the same and the historical features are unaltered.

The play opens with Henry VI (Mr. McKenzie) a prisoner in the Tower of London. Word is brought him by his adherent, Tressell (Mr. Thompson), that a sanguinary battle has been fought at Tewkesbury, between the forces of York and Lancaster, the latter, being animated by the presence of Henry's Queen, the heroic Margaret of Anjou, a strangely daring, bold and unobedient spirit to be clothed with a womanly tabernacle, and married to so mild, mediocre and unambitious a monarch. Seven times had she crossed the German Ocean to wrest her husband's crown, by force of arms, from the victorious Yorkists, and in many a bloody conflict proved that in her woman's form were combined indomitable will, unflinching perseverance and a soldier's courage. But, she had been taken prisoner in this engagement, with her son, Prince Edward, who was killed in the very presence of the victorious monarch, Edward V, the Duke of Gloster, (Mr. Lyne) striking the first blow. Henry sinks under the intelligence, and learning that Gloster had started for London immediately after the deed, readily surmises his own death by the same hand is intended. Gloster arrives soon after, dismisses Sir T. Brackenbury, the Lieutenant of the Tower, (Mr. Ottinger) and in the midst of a bitter accusation heaped upon him by the King, stabs the ill-starred monarch, who dies imploring forgiveness for his own sins and pardon on his murderer.

In pursuit of his projects, Gloster actually makes love to the Lady Anne, (Mrs. Gibson), widow of Prince Edward, as she accompanies the funeral cortege of her royal father-in-law, his second victim, audaciously avowing his criminality, but pleading that her beauty and his love drove him to the commission of the acts, cozens her completely, and finally marries her. Edward V dies suddenly, and the young Prince Edward, his son, (Mrs. A. Clawson) is called to the throne, with Gloster as Lord Protector, who removes the Prince with his little brother, the Duke of York, (Miss D. Clawson) to apartments in the Tower. Aided by Buckingham, (Mr. Lindsey) who harangues the civic authorities and citizens, and by Catesby, (Mr. Simmons) who tampers with the nobility, he forms a powerful party favorable to his assuming the crown. A deputation from the city, headed by the Lord Mayor, (Mr. Whitney), finds him closely engaged in devout meditation (!) assisted by two eminent divines, and with well feigned dissimulation he affects to thrust away the crown he has been plotting, scheming and murdering to secure, which is apparently forced upon him. Once crowned, he feels himself insecure while the young Princes live, and sounds Buckingham regarding their death. But Buckingham is anxious to become possessed of certain honors and property, promised for his services in raising Richard to the throne, and hesitates, when the new king, employs the ruffians, Tirrel, Forest and Dighton, to do the deed, and dismisses Buckingham abruptly.

The parting of Queen Elizabeth (Mrs. Bowring) and the Duchess of York (Mrs. Stenhouse) from the young Princes, in the Tower, is very affecting, and the Queen's prayer for her endangered children is in Shakespeare's finest vein.

Richard becoming enamoured of Elizabeth, sister to the Princes he has just killed, and tired of Lady Anne, soon disposes of the latter, and having heard that Buckingham heads an insurrection starts forth with his forces to chastise him, but is met by the Queen and Duchess, when he thrusts the latter rudely from him, although his mother, and tries to make the Queen his intercessor for her daughter's hand. She, at first, tells him to woo her daughter with a pair of bleeding hearts, with Edward and York engraved on them, and tell her that he had killed her uncles, Grey, Rivers and Clarence; but afterwards dissimulates and feigns to believe the honesty of his purpose for politic ends. Word arrives that Buckingham's forces are scattered and himself taken, when with savage joy he shouts "Off with his head," and proceeds in the fulfillment of his designs.

But another and more dangerous foe is in the field. The young Earl of Richmond (Mr. Caine) has landed from Brittany, and is joined by the disaffected Lords and their forces. Against this new foe Richard marches, and from the point where they come upon the stage till the close, it is bustle, energy and life, with the blazon and paraphernalia of war, except in the 5th scene, where Richard, betaking himself to sleep in his tent, is visited by the ghosts of four of his murdered victims, who, in a dream, strike "more terror to the soul of Richard than" could "ten thousand soldiers led by shallow Richmond." With superhuman energy he shakes off the impression, and rushes to the battle. In the thickest of the fight, Richard and Richmond meet, and after a fierce encounter the deformed tyrant is killed, and victory crowns the arm of Richmond, who is hailed as King Henry VII, and eventually cements the union of the rival houses by his marriage with Elizabeth; this last historical item being omitted in representation.

The foregoing sketch of the plot will give our readers a better idea of the play in detail than any lengthened critique on its merits, which are long since established, or the characters embodied in it.

As this notice has been extended beyond our usual length, we will confine our remarks on the playing and general appearance of the piece, to saying that the former was good throughout, but especially in the first four acts, and the elaborate costumes and appointments, heraldic devices and banners combined to show a great historical living picture of the period represented. We are satisfied the business of the last act will make the illusion designed more perfect in the next representation, as the large body of auxiliaries employed will necessarily improve with the repetition of the play.

Mr. Lyne's "Richard" was very good. The play will be repeated to-night.

**INFORMATION WANTED,** of the whereabouts of JOHN GRIFFIN. Supposed to be somewhere in Bear Lake Valley. Any information respecting him will be thankfully received by his brother William Griffin, at Bishop Miller's, Mill Creek Ward.

**ARRESTED.**—The indefatigable efforts of our police to bring to justice the gang of thieves who robbed Ranshoff and Co's store, have, after ten days perseverance, been rewarded by the discovery and arrest of the guilty parties, and their very innocent entertainers, together with more property than was taken from Ranshoff's. Union and Bountiful appear to have been the places of rendezvous for the parties now in custody.

Our reporter attended the Court House to take notes of the examination on Monday and yesterday before his Hon. Judge Smith.

Griffin, who harbored the thieves at Union, Louis Danzanser, of whom Griffin spoke in the highest terms of praise, and James Rhodes were examined on Monday. Rhodes after a short consultation with his counsel, agreed to tell all he knew about that and other "scrapes," and he certainly revealed a good deal about himself and the gang generally, but some gentlemen who were present at the examination thought he might have told considerable more.

George Heath, wanted counsel, and hence had his examination postponed till Tuesday, there being no attorney present, though several were in the court room, who was willing to undertake so difficult a task.

At going to press Heath was under examination, Wm. A. Hickman, having consented to defend him.

**ATTENTION** is invited to the numerous neatly got up and tastefully displayed advertisements in the SUPPLEMENT, with the hint that probably those who advertise most liberally in the largest circulation will also deal most liberally with their customers.

**WEATHER RECORD.**—Wednesday night, 30th, snowy. Dec. 1, snowy, blustery, strong north and northwest wind; Saturday night and Sunday, raining steadily; Sunday night, snowing; Monday and Monday night raining; Tuesday, showery, wind north.

—It has been decided that the Prince Imperial of France shall be educated at one of the public Lycees of Paris, as were all the sons of Louis Philippe. The youngest Murat is to enter the College of Sainte Barbe at the same time.

## \* Correspondence.

Through the courtesy of Pres. Heber C. Kimball we are enabled to furnish the interesting items contained in the first three following letters:

PORTSMOUTH, Hants, England, }  
Aug. 4th, 1864. }

PRESIDENT KIMBALL:

DEAR BROTHER:—With pleasure I take up my pen to communicate a few words to you, through the imperfect medium of ink and paper.

When I last saw you, your words sank deep into my heart. Our interview was near the Deseret Store, and I was in company with Bishop C. W. West. The words were, "Do you know that I am an Apostle?" They comprehend much. I can now answer, "I do—by the power and spirit of God, and I thank Him for it."

Seventeen years ago I left this harbor, having been a soldier in the service of my country. I then believed there was a God, but knew little of Him; yet I sought to serve Him, as I had been taught by the precepts of the Mother of Harlots, continually praying to God to direct my youthful footsteps in the right path. He answered my petitions; I heard and obeyed, and have never felt to wince from that time to this.

I thought before I came on this mission that I knew all about it, but oh, how little did I know, for the world have gone rapidly into corruption since I left, or else I could not see it then as I do now. I have not seen enough property since I left home to keep me here, if the servants of God told me to return: for obedience is the first duty of a soldier, and I learned it when young, thanks be to God.

I am glad to say that I am laboring under your son, David P. He is a changed man! I was well acquainted with him at home. He is quite a preacher, and as a counsellor he cannot be easily excelled. I traveled and preached with him in and out doors: we had a few rotten eggs, &c., thrown at us, but no harm done. I am now traveling with Brigham; he is a good boy, bears a bold testimony, and will make a good preacher. Would to God some more young boys who do no good at home were out here, for all that I have seen yet are going to make great men, if they keep humble. I instruct Brigham all I can in the things of God, and tell him all I know of the world, as my travels afford me much useful experience. We travel and preach on foot, truly without purse or scrip, for the Saints here are poor and we tell them to keep their money and pay it into the fund to get them away from here.

It grieves my heart to see the poverty of the people. If the Saints in Zion knew how the poor live here, and in the States, they would cease whining. Men were working in Illinois and other western States for one dollar per day, when I passed through, the highest they could get, which made about forty cents when reduced to gold, and everything very dear.

The people of the world do not know what to do. Ships are loaded to and from America with passengers, fleeing from trouble; men's hearts are failing them for fear, and they are as corrupt as the devil wants them, much like the cities of the plains. I have seen more corruption in one week since I have been here than I saw in all the ten years I was in Utah. But enough of this.

We are gradually adding to the number of Christ's Church, by baptism; but they do not come in with the rush they did when you were here, for Israel have been gathering out every year since, but we hope to still get a few, and if but a few, we shall have our reward. Noah got but very few after his long preaching, and Lot less. Well, we hope to be able to bear a faithful testimony, and gather out a few true-hearted, for I tell the people that is the kind we want.

I feel thankful every day of my life to President Young for my liberty which he so kindly purchased from the army for me, and that I have a home and family in Zion. I feel thankful to my Bishop and those who sent me on this mission, for I know it will do me good, if I prove faithful.

I find that the great thing the Elders have to fear is themselves, not others. One of the hardest things we have to war against is the acts of Thomas Margets, James Marsden and others. May Israel's God keep us from leaving a trail behind us that will be a stink in the nostrils of God and all good men.

We well know we have your prayers when we do right, and we pray for you. Brigham sends his love to you and all at home. I know you like to hear from the Elders abroad, and that is why I write to you.

The nations of Europe are all tottering, and they will soon fall. Zion is upward and onward; they are downward, and may they both increase their speed, is the prayer of

Yours truly,  
JOHN H. DONNELSON.

BRIDPORT, Dorset, England, }  
Oct. 4, 1864. }

PRESIDENT KIMBALL:—It is with pleasure that I take the present opportunity to address these few lines to you, having some little knowledge of the interest you must feel in a work in which you took so active a part as you did in introducing the gospel into this land. I am pleased to tell you the work is still moving forward; many are being added to the Church, and the power of God is being made manifest through His servants.

I take great pleasure in telling you that I have the privilege of laboring in the same field with your two sons, David P., and B. W. Kimball, and I can truly say that they are trying to magnify their calling, and not only trying but they are doing so. I have traveled with D. P. a great deal. We have had cause to rejoice. We have seen the power of God made manifest through our administrations—the sick are healed, the palsied are made to walk, devils cast out, and the poor among men rejoice in the truths of the Gospel, for which we give God the glory.

I am somewhat acquainted with Charles—he having paid us a visit at Southampton; and I have been with him at our conferences, and we have rejoiced together. I know that your heart would be made glad if you could see and hear those three boys bear testimony to this Latter-day Work and preach the Gospel to the people. D. P. is father's boy, and he might say with the Savior, "When you see me you see my father." His counsel is good, and his rebuke severe, still he is tender-hearted as a child and merciful unto all.

As for myself, I am trying to fill my mission according to the spirit that God has given me, and I can truly say that He has blessed me in my labors. He has given me friends among the Saints, and amongst the world. He has given me health and strength to labor and to walk; He has given me wisdom and light to impart to the people. I commenced in weakness, and, by being humble, I have been able to speak the glorious truths of the Gospel in simplicity, and if I have done any good I thank my Heavenly Father, and also for the privilege of bearing my testimony in this land, for I can truly say that these have been my happiest days; still, I look

forward with anticipations of joy when I shall again have the privilege of associating with those of my brethren in the Valleys of the Mountains, and likewise my wife and children, for they are near and dear to me.

I am trying to do right, and I have confidence in that God whom I am endeavoring to serve according to the best of my ability. I have visited my brethren and sisters. I have two of each, with many other relations, whom I left in this country thirty-one years ago, and they have been very kind in administering to my wants. I have borne a faithful testimony to them of the Latter-day Work in which we are engaged; but they are of the world and have no religion, still they do not quarrel with me about mine. They say if there is any truth, I have it. I hope and trust that I may lead some of them into the water yet, before I leave England.

We are anticipating a good time on the sixteenth of this month, as Presidents Wells and Young have promised to visit us at that time, and you have some idea with what pleasure we are anxiously waiting that we may get a few of our mountain boys together, for then the spirit of Zion is felt in the midst of the people, and our hearts are made glad in each other's society. There is a feeling or spirit accompanying them that the world do not understand, yet they feel it and enjoy it in part.

Perhaps I have said all that is necessary. You will forgive me taking this liberty, and if I have done wrong I will try and do better next time, for it is by experience all knowledge is to be obtained. If you should think of it you will remember me kindly to brother G. Q. Cannon and John W. Young, and also my kind regards to President B. Young, and to all that feel an interest in the cause of Zion, and believe me

Your brother in the cause of truth,  
EDMUND F. BIRD.

SOUTHAMPTON, England, }  
Oct. 11, 1864. }

MY DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER:—I enclose you a few lines this morning, (I wish I could say in answer to one from you, but not so,) hoping they will find you all in good health, not as they leave me, for I have a little cough, though not to do any hurt or even stop me from performing the least of my duties.

I often think of and pray for you, and sometimes am foolish enough to wish I could see you all, but when I make such a wish I fear it is wrong, for I am in a foreign land, sent to preach the truth to a blind and wicked generation, therefore my mind, thoughts and interests should be here; but one cannot control his feelings all the time.

The Savior said to his disciples, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak; therefore watch and pray;" so it is with me—the spirit is willing, and I see the necessity of being prayerful. I am now placed in a position that, in a measure, I can see and feel as those having the care of the whole Church upon their shoulders, and I feel to do all I can to help them, and strive to make up for the lost time, and, instead of being a burden, help them to roll on the mighty work—the Gospel of Christ.

I see many in the Church here that will not do anything, and a few do all—feed the Elders, clothe them, pay hall rents, &c., which, of course, is of the same spirit as some in Zion—leave the few to do all.

I have enjoyed many blessings when there were others more worthy who would have made good use of blessings which I have thrown away, but I would not all that I have passed through. The Lord is merciful, and will do men good when they are not willing to help themselves. This is in accordance with your good instructions, father, and there is no doubt but that you have felt the force of it many times in your vast amount of experience in this world.

On the 16th of this month—next Sunday, I expect bro. D. H. Wells and B. Young, jun. here to hold a conference. What a good time it will be! Brother Charles S. and bro. J. Bullock are coming from London, as well as all the Traveling Elders in this Conference—your son Brigham included. Brigham is growing very fast, and I often feel bad on his account, for it is hard work traveling. He is getting round on the shoulders.

Some people in this country are not all so kind as they might be. Elders have imposed on them in years gone by, and we are now reaping the fruits—not gospel fruit, but scorns, &c. This only applies to a few.

Brigham will make a man, and though men slight him now because he is young, they will see the day they will court his favor. So far as I know, Charles is doing well, and is thought a great deal of by the Saints.

We are doing considerable out-door preaching, but will soon stop, as the weather is getting cold. I have preached out-doors several times. There is no telling what a man will do for the sake of obedience and example. One year ago I would sooner have thought of doing some desperate act than of preaching in the open air.

I hope you will both write. Give my two boys a kiss each for me. My love and prayers are for all my father's house.

I remain your affectionate son,  
DAVID P. KIMBALL.

PAROWAN, Iron County, }  
Nov. 21, 1864. }

**EDITOR DESERET NEWS:**—Knowing your desire to learn of the progress of music, or any other science that will tend to the happiness of the people of this Territory, I herewith transmit you a few of the Minutes of a meeting of the musicians of this place, for the purpose of organizing an Harmonic Society, which took place on the first of November.

Said meeting Resolved to organize a society, to be known as the Parowan Harmonic Society, for the cultivation of sacred and secular music, and appointed for

President and Conductor, Thomas Durham,

Vice-President, George Grimsshaw,

Secretary, Alexander Orton,

Treasurer, Andrus J. Mortensen,

And a board of seven Directors, including President and Vice-President of said Society.

It is the design of this Society to give a series of Concerts this present winter—for the amusement, edification and instruction of the public.

There is also organized here, under the guidance of Captain Thomas Durham, a Brass Band, who have sent, per the transmittance of bro. D. O. Calder, for a set of sax horns—expected to arrive in a few days—which will add much to our facilities for the advancement of music and interesting the public.

We also have here a good String Band.

Yours respectfully,  
JOSIAH ROGERSON.

—The Persian poet Saadi commends fasting, in terms that deserve the attention of those unfortunate persons who suffer from drowsiness on Sunday afternoon: "Hunger is a cloud out of which falls a rain of eloquence and knowledge; when the belly is empty, the body becomes spirit; when it is full, the spirit becomes body."