

remained at Orderville two weeks and I built them two good bake ovens, which they considered of great benefit to them.

Our cattle were resting during this time and believing that they were sufficiently recruited we left there on the 1st of April, hoping to prosecute the remainder of our journey without any more hindrance, which we realized with the exception of laying by a day now and then to rest.

On the 4th we reached Kanab. There we had another taste of spring, and very soon after had our entire satisfaction of summer, whilst passing over mountains and hot sandy deserts—it seemed as though the heat was almost more than we could bear, but at length we reached the end of our journey on the 12th of May, and found the camp under shade of the big cottonwood trees on the east bank of the Little Colorado River, a company of people who had started to work and live in a united order, Lot Smith presiding. He with a part of the company had arrived some five weeks before us, and they have continued to come in from that time until a week ago, when Bro's Wright and Dablin (our blacksmith) arrived from Summit County.

You are already aware, no doubt, as to the latitude of our location. Our camp is called Sunset, it being just below the sunset crossing of the river.

Brother Balanger's Camp is about three miles below us. Last week they moved to within the walls of their fort, which is in course of erection, and now five feet high at each side, with a bastion at opposite corners. They have planted quite an amount of wheat and corn, and built a substantial dam, which at present seems to endure or resist the force of the water the best of any on the river, owing to their having a rock bottom to build on. The rest of us have had to encounter quicksands. Bro. Allen's camp is about twenty miles above us, and Bro. Lake's four or five above him.

Last Friday, 25th of August, we experienced the heaviest rain of any we have witnessed since we came to the country. It has torn out a great deal of our dam, I may say all we have done in the last six weeks, and cut a new channel 150 feet or more at the west end, which would have a great tendency to discourage us if we would be discouraged. But I am very glad to be able to say that the most of us who are remaining here are determined to stick to it until we have overcome the difficulties we have or may have to contend with.

The brethren grubbed and planted about fifty acres of wheat on a piece of land below the camp, which came up and perished, owing to the dryness and heat of the weather, before water could be got to it. We have since put in 20 or more acres of wheat and 75 or 80 of corn, which looks very well, considering the circumstances. The same may be said of squash and melons. I never saw a better prospect. I believe such as I have named will make a crop. We have had no frost up to date. The dust which came in superabundance at the early part of our settlement ceased to come at the commencement of the rainy season, which generally commences in June, but did not commence this season until late in July. The weather now is very pleasant, and the general opinion of the people here is that the weather has not been near so hot as the weather is in Utah, generally in July and August. We have not experienced more than three or four nights but what we could sleep comfortably with a thickness or two of cover on. The mosquitoes have been a little troublesome, but nothing to be compared with what they are in Utah in places.

The land here is a mixture, but generally of a light brown and reddish color. Some of it is stiff clay, at other parts seems to be all sand. But the tract that we have designated for a town (which is east of Brother Balanger's camp) is a nice loamy soil, and not subject to overflow as other parts are. Although the land is very level, there is no drift wood on it, and there are thousands of large cottonwood trees that seemingly stood until they dropped with old age, and covered the ground. The high floods, that have so much interfered with other parts, have not touched that, and we take that as a strong evidence that it will be safe to build a town there. We feel fully confident that good water will be obtained. It is

about half a mile from the river and opposite to Brother Balanger's Fort, where they have found good water at a depth of about 50 feet. Perhaps you have heard that the country is covered with drift wood. It is lying all over the land, in quite a variety. We find excellent ash and oak, black walnut, pine, cedar and boxelder, with a large predominance of cottonwood. There is plenty of it standing up and down the river for miles. Our saw timber is from 30 to 40 miles distant from here, and those brethren who have visited it say that the quality is unsurpassed, and in that neighborhood they say they saw groves of ash, oak, cedar, and walnut, and plenty of game—deer, antelope, turkey, and smaller birds and animals in abundance.

The brethren are now back at the river for the saw mill. The camps on this river are much thinned out by the brethren going back, some few for their families, and the rest to stay, and a few more yet expect to return. As near as I can ascertain, there will be but about sixty men in the four camps this Winter, unless we have a reinforcement. I for one hope it may be so, for we feel rather weak numerically.

I feel confident in saying, that as far as I have been able to learn the country and its surroundings, it is peculiarly adapted to the establishment of the United Order. It would be very difficult for separate persons to subdue. The land is very flat, consequently a water-ditch has to be taken a long way to bring the water to the surface of the land. Again, the Little Colorado River is a peculiar stream. At high water it is very difficult to put in a dam. Owing to the bed of the river being principally quicksand, it is all the time changing its course. At low water in some places, there is considerable, while at other parts there is none. It seems that the water sinks and rises. Hence it requires a united effort to cope with these circumstances, and should more be called to come here I would recommend that the best that can be found be selected for this mission. There is plenty of land and room for good Latter-day Saints to dwell, and it requires such to build up this country.

The plows that were generally brought here by the brethren were altogether too light, they broke up very fast, and not having any blacksmith we were very much crippled. The Oliver chilled plough is the best for this country. We have one here. It did as much work as all the rest that were brought, and is good yet. We have plenty of wood here to stock plows with. If all the irons can be bought without the wood; that would be a saving of money and weight. We have one good revolving harrow. If any are bringing harrow teeth, tell them to bring good heavy ones, light teeth are but very little use. With regard to wagons I should recommend that a (what is called) 3 1/2 inch axle is full heavy enough. I brought a 3 1/2 inch and it was a heavy lug. Such a wagon with 3,100 lbs. needs three good yoke of oxen to draw it. I hope some good mechanics will come, as we have none here yet, with the exception of Bro. D. Davis, from the 15th Ward, and he is a foundry man. He and I do the carpentering and other wood work for the camp, and I do the shoemaking also for the camp. The health of the people generally has been very good. I believe this is a very healthy climate, but we miss very much fruit and vegetables.

A newspaper some time would be very acceptable.

Yours truly in the gospel of peace. JAMES T. WOODS.

On the base ball grounds, says the Burlington Hawk-Eye, a red-hot ball struck the batter just where his mother used to feel for him with her slipper, and the umpire shouted "dead ball." "Dead ball!" retorted the striker struck, "if there's a live ball on the grounds that's it."

A fellow at Sing Sing, who was told that he would be put at the work of picking oakum, said, "Don't you do it; I'll tear your darned oakum all to pieces."

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I HAVE in my possession: One Bay MARE, very old, star in forehead, saddle marks and collar marks on her, brand resembling S on left hip. Which, if not claimed, will be sold at the District Pound at Moreni, Sanpete County, Sept. 27th. A. D., 1876, on Wednesday, at 2 o'clock p. m. J. L. JOLLEY, District Poundkeeper. MORONI CITY, Sept. 17th. d254 s & w

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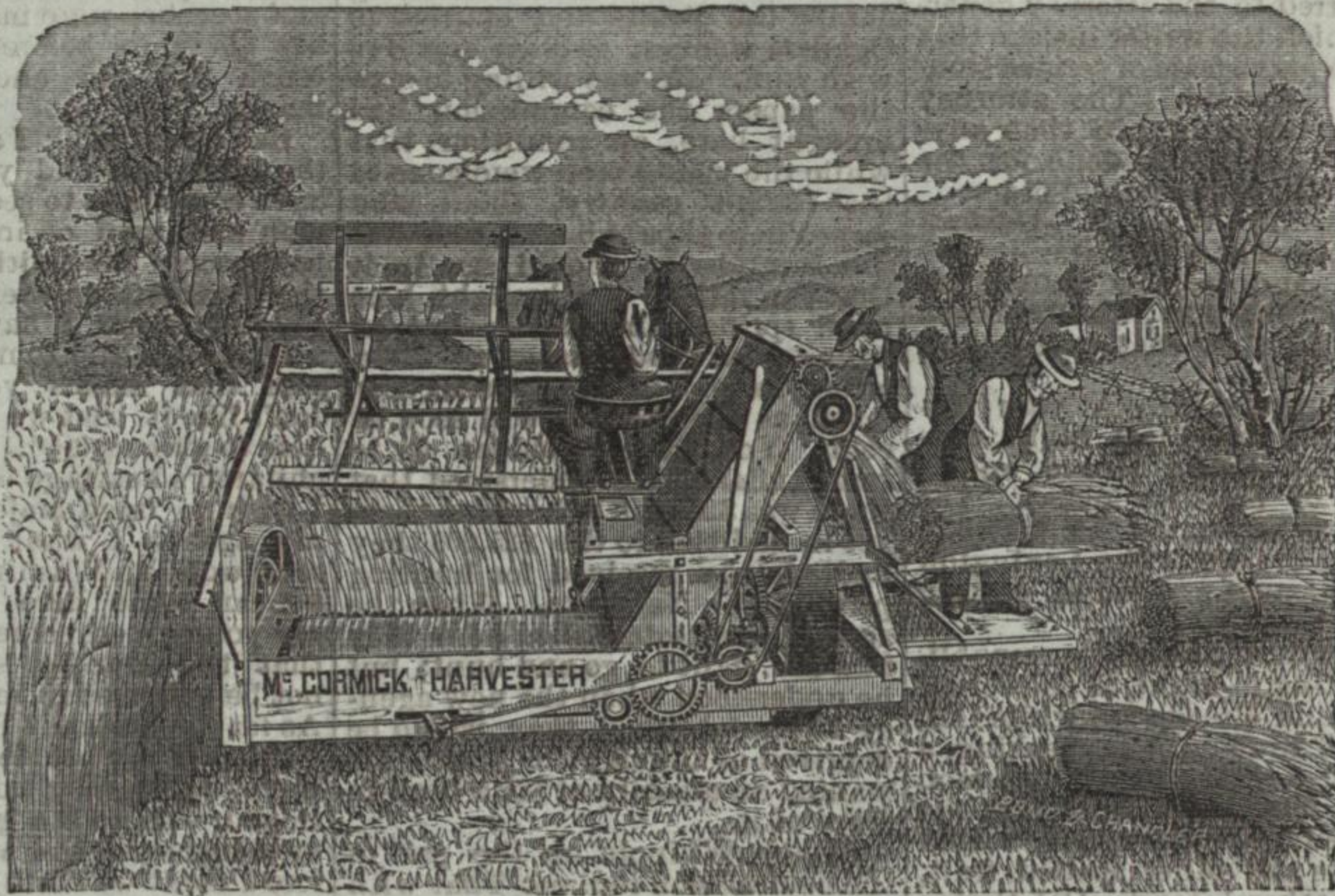
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