

Correspondence.

The American Agricultural Exhibit. Its completeness and the excellence of its arrangement.—The superiority of the American Agricultural Machines.—The French journals disposed to be satirical on the subject of their decoration. Street Cars exported from the United States.—The inferiority of the American Art.—The entire absence of all Warlike Displays in this Exhibition.

PARIS, RUE CAUMARTIN.

Editors Deseret News:

The remarkable exhibit of the commissioners of agriculture in the agriculture section of the United States is now finished. Its main feature is an ingenious pentagonal structure of wood and glass, in which economy of space and effectiveness of distribution of the objects exhibited, have been very successfully combined. Unfortunately, the agricultural building is too low, and the topmost pentagon almost touches the roof. The building, too, being small and low studded, the effect of the structure is entirely marred. The contents of the cases, however, are highly satisfactory. A more complete and better arranged collection of the natural products of our country could hardly have been made. Woods, fruits, fibrous plants and their pulps; minerals, corn, tobacco, flowers, in fact everything that the soil of the various States produces, is to be found in the cases, fully and scientifically described, each by its separate label. There is a similar exhibit made by the Russian agricultural department, but it is not nearly so complete or so compact and convenient as that of the United States. The display of agricultural machinery, in another part of the building, is also very fine, and it is already evident that we will be able to distance all competitors and to sustain our reputation for cheapness, lightness, strength, and ingenuity. The French, however, I have observed from their journals, are disposed to ridicule us, in their polite way, for our excessive ornamentation of plows, reapers, harrows, and threshing machines. An article in a morning paper argued that it was evident, from the gilt luxuriosity of our machines, that our farmers went afield in kid gloves and soft raiment; not like their laborers in blue blouses and wooden shoes. The writer was not aware that the machines on exhibition here, are in their holiday attire, that they have come to Europe, and are arranged much more gorgeously than the specimens that do service at home on the prairies. There are some excellent exhibits of plows, grain drills, and other agriculture appliances. Deere & Company, of Moline, Illinois, the largest plow makers in the Western States, show their celebrated "Gilpin Sulky Plow," their "Highlander," "Prairie Queen," and also a "walking cultivator," which is decorated with a gold medal won at State trial in Indiana. A remarkable machine is "Fausts Hay Loader," exhibited by Stratton & Cullom, of Meadville. This machine is attached to the back of a wagon, and will elevate a ton of hay in five minutes. Dederick & Co., of Albany, exhibit a perpetual baling press. Baugh & Son, of Philadelphia, show their mills and fertilizers. Wagons, carriages, and wheelwrights' work are fairly represented in the Agricultural section. Studebaker Bros., of South Bend, Indiana, and Peter Schuttler, of Chicago, have each a good show of farm, freight and plantation wagons. Their wagons, however, are not of a character that it is worth while to advertise in this market, where vehicles for use in towns and cities must have very low front wheels, and be also constructed so as to turn in the narrowest streets. All heavy portage is effected by means of prodigious carts, drawn by large Normandy horses, sometimes as many as six harnessed tandem. In the way of carriages, buggies, etc., the largest exhibit is that of Brewster & Co., of New York; it is in the main American section, and contains, besides five specimens of buggies and spider trotting carts, of the American pattern, several broughams, landaus and phaetons, built after the European style. The American street cars, models of lightness and smooth running, are exhibited by New York and Philadelphia firms. It may be remarked

here that street cars are exported from the United States; a number were on the steamer by which your correspondent sailed, intended for the streets of Hamburg.

One of the features of the United States section is the curious way in which exhibits are mixed: for instance Colt's pistols are in the machinery department, while Remington's firearms are in the industrial section. Almost the first object that strides one in the gallery of alimentary products is the exhibit of a Car Wheel company of Wilmington, Del. It is upon agricultural machines, and products, and upon certain classes of manufactured articles, that our side of the water will have to rely for excellence. In some of these we can certainly surpass all other exhibitors, but in every department of legitimate art and decoration we are far behind. In paintings we are far surpassed by other countries, and I am not sure that we excel any but Prussia, who has a out the poorest lot of pictures ever collected. This must be a little humiliating to that country since it is only in the Beaux Arts department that she has any display at all.

The visitor here will miss the military and naval warlike displays that were so conspicuous at Philadelphia. No Krupp guns, no dummy soldiers. What is the reason? Can it be that these first class military powers, with standing armies of a million of men, more or less, are sensitive about showing each other their hands, or is it because they have been so long and so recently engaged that there is nothing new to learn? C. A. S.

Congregational Singing.

PAROWAN, Iron County.
June 19, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Two columns in the DESERET NEWS find a responsive chord in my heart, this evening. First, the Old Folks excursion. May God bless those brethren and sisters who took an active part in caring for the aged, and in giving them a relaxation from the weight of years, which no doubt rests heavily on many of them; it was truly a noble work.

Second, Congregational singing. I fully endorse every word on this subject, and more can be said in its favor. And now for the young folks. If we are to be a nation of kings and priests unto God, it would seem desirable that all should take an active part, so far as practicable, in the spiritual duties and exercises of the kingdom. Congregational singing would further this end. It will here be objected that all cannot sing, of course not, but all or nearly all can read, and when the hymn is given out, each one would have something to do, an individual responsibility, something to occupy their attention, and if no other good resulted, it would, in some degree, lessen the inattention and restlessness of a goodly number. But as the L. D. S. hymn book is mostly based on the principles of the gospel, they would naturally be learning some of those principles, and when once learned in youth they would not soon be forgotten.

Again very frequently in the lightheartedness of youth, their gayety finds vent in singing some snatch of a song which is not always wise or elevating. On these occasions the chances are that a line or two from the hymn book would do just as well, if they were more familiar with it.

I will here venture the assertion that the rising generation know less of the principles where choral singing is practiced exclusively, than where congregational is the rule, other things being equal. And that one thousand dollars invested in hymn books, would aid more in the knowledge of God than half a million spent in grand pianofortes or organs.

Of course it would be objected that congregational cannot be so perfect as choral singing, and that if we have any we should have the most perfect. So far so good. Now let us apply the same rule to the preaching, and how would it work; not very well, I fear. Elocutionists, grammarians, collegians, &c., being very scarce with us, and even if they were more numerous, it should be remembered that the "bone and sinew" to-day are about the same as anciently in Israel, composed of humble fishermen,

farmers, tent-makers, &c., who did not have much time to devote to the fine arts and the sciences.

Our singing, as our preaching, might be simple and beautiful, so that the wayfaring man though a fool, could comprehend it. Much is being done for the education of the young at present, but I humbly claim that their education as Latter-day Saints is scarcely complete without making some practical use of the hymn book in connection with other good books. My natural laziness is much better suited, in listening to the heavenly strains that the sweet singers of Israel cheer our souls with on the sacred day of rest, than to make any effort to assist them. However, the better education of the young is one of the uppermost thoughts with
A. M.

Mail Irregularities.

EPHRAIM, June 22d, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

During the last four years, the people of Sanpete and Sevier counties have been greatly annoyed with the poorest mail that has existed here since the first line was established, many years ago. When we had a weekly mail, we could depend upon its coming at or near the appointed time and the same with the semi and tri-weeklies; but now, what should be a daily is the weakest of all. The sub-contractor seems to have been trying to find out by experiment, how poor, lame and worthless horses can be, and yet be made to travel, and also how many ropes and strings of different kinds and sizes can be tied to and around the wagons in order to hold them together, and still satisfy the contractor's ideas of a Sanpete and Sevier mail outfit.

To report the failures of this nuisance of a mail to the special agent seems to do no good. We are inclined to think that the gentleman agent does not care anything about our Sanpete and Sevier county mail. During last week we had one failure and two delays of six hours behind time. Report says that the horses were on the range and it was late before they could be found, but another rumor is, that the driver was drunk, but we think perhaps the dust was too deep, hence the delays of the last week, and we believe the following are the principal causes of so many oft-repeated delays and failures.

First: An inpecunious sub-contractor, who keeps moving skeletons for teams, and who uses old, rickety, worn-out wagons, tied together with strings and ropes in every conceivable way, and which, breaking, hinder the drivers from making time. Second: The drivers are of the poorest class, as the wages paid are too small to employ good ones, and the work of flailing these poor animals is too brutal and degrading for any respectable persons to engage in. Third: A careless, high-toned, but well-dressed agent to look on and see the work poorly done.

We have borne with this miserable outfit as patiently as possible, hoping for better things when the next contractor shall take hold, but appearances indicate that those hopes will be blasted, as report says that one of the parties that have been connected with the sham of the last four years is to have the the sub-contract for another four years, and at lower figures than before. If such is the case, judging the future by the past, we know about what we will have for the next term, if the party referred to is installed. Under the circumstances we think the people of Sanpete and Sevier counties should make an attempt to secure better mail service than they can expect from any one that has been in any way connected with the last sub-contract, and we believe the department will help us in the matter, if a petition, setting forth the facts in the case, be numerously signed and sent there.

SANPETER.

Rev. Mr. Goodin, of Stirling, remarked to one of his hearers that he had heard he was about to be married for the third time. The reverend gentleman added: "They say, John, you're getting money with her; you did so on the last two occasions; you'll get quite rich by the wives." "Dear sir," quietly responded John, "what wi' bringin' them in, and puttin' them out, there's nae muckle made o' them."

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w15 tf

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H. S. ELDRIDGE,
wtf Supt.

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