

Correspondence.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, Aug. 18, '92.

President Brigham Young:

Dear Brother—My advice of Elder Wm. C. Staines, I have notified all the Saints in my field of labor, who can possibly emigrate this season, to accompany me home, with the next company from Great Britain, said to be due at New York on or about the 6th of September.

I have been assisting Bro. Staines in the emigration at Omaha. So far everything works well. Brother Dusenberry conducts the companies through from New York to Omaha, and can do all in future that is required here, when he comes up with each company, thus liberating me to go home with the Saints, as above stated.

Brother Dusenberry says that the railroad men all along the route of travel are disposed to do what is right by our emigrants. At this point C. G. Hammond, Gen. Supt., U. P. R. R., and Mr. Clark, Superintendent of the Place (division of the railroad, are doing all in their power to make our people comfortable, and to speed them on their journey to Utah.

The mission in the United States, in my opinion, is like the gleaming of grapes when the vintage is over. The Elders who are laboring for the salvation of souls enjoy the spirit of their calling; they find here and there in their travels a cluster of honest souls, who receive the word of God with gladness, and are gathering to the home of the Saints as fast as circumstances will admit of their doing so. But as a general thing, our labors in the States remind me of preaching in the streets of a large city to a traveling congregation. We labor unheard and unheeded by the great masses of the people whose minds are all absorbed by the cares of life, and the vanities and frivolities of the world, without any fixed aim of Heaven, like driftwood floating on an ever-flowing stream. Some pause to inquire what we believe in, and while we are endeavoring to lay before them the plan of salvation, they hurry on in pursuit of some bubble in the prospective that ever eludes their grasp, but is ever before them, like a phantom, luring its victims on from disappointment to disappointment, until death closes the scene.

There is another class who pause to inquire, with an air of affected piety, (very befitting their character and calling,) "whether there is any money to be made in "Mormonism." They find no fault with our religion, and would willingly join the Church if they could do a lucrative business in Utah at their respective callings. The most of these are doctors, lawyers and merchants, (ministers seldom enquire, knowing that our Elders travel without purse or scrip.) I have received, since I came on this mission, an unlimited number of letters from this class, interrogating me what they should do to be saved, in case that they became members of our Church. I tell them to go to work, plow, chop wood in the canyon, drive a team, or anything to get an honest living. They almost all turn away very sorrowfully.

There is another class of honorable men, who pause to accord to us the right to worship God agreeable to the dictates of our consciences. They freely admit that we have the best governed community in the United States; that our people are the most industrious—the most united, and that our social system comes up to the "highest moral standard; and, say they, "if you Mormons would only away with plural marriage and return to monogamy, in a short time you would rank the first among the States and Territories of this great Republic." I answer, were we to adopt your social system, we would have to descend to where you are in social degeneracy; that we can never do, without abandoning our religion, which has made us all you admire in "Mormonism," and lifts woman to her highest social and moral calling, to be the helpmate of her husband, the honored wife and mother of legitimate children.

Religious bigots belonging to stereotyped dogmas still cry, "Deism," and propose mobbing us, as the strongest argument to put down "Mormonism;" but, as a general thing, the people are becoming more liberal, and that which was once persecution, so rampant in the States twenty years ago, is giving way and we are allowed the freedom of speech accorded to all other denominations, in many places, especially in the rural districts; but in the large cities wickedness is on the increase, the people are fast degenerating. As in the days of Noah, so it is now. But, notwithstanding this state of things, we have found many honest souls who received the truth into good and honest hearts, obeyed the requirements of the gospel, and can bear testimonies for themselves that the work is of God.

The Elders are laboring at present throughout the mission as follows: Elders David Holliday and Matthews are doing a good work in Alabama. Elder T. B. Lewis is laboring in Virginia. Elder Riggs was laboring with him at last accounts; but I understand President Brown released him to return home. Elders Dix and Church are laboring in North Carolina to advantage. Elder J. W. Crosby, Jr., is on his way home with a small company from Georgia; I expect to hear from him every day. Elder A. Baird called on me at St. Louis. I saw him off to Memphis, Tennessee. He carried with him the spirit of his calling and will do a good work if he continues in communion with God. Elders George Mosser and Rudey are laboring in Pennsylvania, where there are two branches of the Church, the one in Pittsburgh and the other in Hyde Park. Elders Israel Evans and Nymphus C. Murdock are laboring in Iowa, where they find many friends and a few brethren rejoicing in the truth. Elder J. W. Thurmond writes me from Heart county. He is now about to return home with his mother and family. Elder W. G. Goff, who has been in business in Illinois, is coming up the river from St. Louis with two families from Indiana; I expect them here to-morrow.

There are a few faithful Saints left in St. Louis who cannot possibly get away this season. I have appointed Thomas Harris to preside. He is an energetic man and is capable of doing a great deal of good, if he will continue to seek first the kingdom of God, which I verily believe he will do.

I have instructed the Elders to report progress in their respective fields of labor to you hereafter, as I am returning home agreeable to your wish. A privilege I esteem very highly. Since I left home I have enjoyed the best of health, have always had friends, and means to defray my expenses, and the prospecting care of Heaven has kept me from harm by day and by night.

In all my travels from Ogden to North Carolina and thus far back, I feel amply rewarded for all my labors, and I pray God to bless all who have kindly administered to my comfort while on my mission, and for what little good I have done, in conjunction with my brethren, to my Father in Heaven all the honor is due.

With love to yourself and Counsel and all associated with you in the Holy Priesthood, to my Father in Heaven, and to the faithful at home and abroad, I subscribe as ever

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