

Correspondence.

MEADOW, MILLARD CO., U. T.,  
March 12, 1870.

Editor Evening News:—Dear Sir:—A few words from our place, with regard to our progress, being due you, I improve a moment in scribbling them.

Thursday, 10th inst., we received a visit from Thos. Callister, President of this State of Zion, and Bishop Edward Partridge, of Fillmore. The Saints assembled at 10 o'clock a. m., and were addressed by the Hon. Co-operation and the necessity of our entering upon some system to prevent so much loss of stock and labor, by uniting our labors together, &c.

In the afternoon a Female Relief Society was organized in this place, the following ladies being chosen as officers: Mrs. Martha S. Bennett, President; Hannah Fisher, first; and Elizabeth Smith second, Counselors; Mrs. Sarah Stott, Secretary, and Alice Stott, Treasurer. The President and Counselors were set apart and the assembly received some instructions as to the good society of this kind might do by being united and ministering to the needy and destitute, &c.

In the evening Bishop Partridge went to Kanosh City, and President Callister met with the people here, and the subject of a co-operative dairy was taken into consideration, and, after receiving some instructions upon the benefits arising therefrom, a motion was made that we go into the business and establish a co-operative dairy forthwith, which was carried unanimously. A good spirit prevailed and all felt well.

March came in rough and has continued rough. Not much ploughing has been done yet, except some last fall. General time of health at present, though many young and old have been afflicted with the mumps during the winter. The people are fencing in a new field which will nearly double our farming operations in this place.

Very respectfully,  
JOHN L. SMITH.

SPRING CITY, March 14, 70.

Editor Evening News:—The eighth article of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States reads as follows: "Excessive bail shall not be required, excessive fines imposed, nor cruel nor unusual punishments inflicted." How do the lines, cruelty and unusual punishments provided for in Mr. Cullom's bill correspond with this article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States? Is it usual for all the lines and cruel punishments named in that odious bill to be inflicted upon every man that is guilty of seduction, concubinage, whoredom or adultery? and surely our polygamy cannot be regarded in the eyes of the law as any greater crime than the above? Some, however, may say that the former is more severely punished than the latter, and, consequently, is less objectionable; but this is a sad mistake. Is it not read and known of all men that licentiousness, in every shape and form, is as common and widespread in the States as pig weeds in a garden? and how can it be a secret when the public journals, from one end of the land to the other, are thundering their anathemas against that vile and demoralizing practice? If Mr. Cullom does not make his lines and punishments applicable in all cases of licentious practices, are they not cruel and unusual when applied only to the "Mormons?"

The truth is, we violate no just law on earth or in heaven by the practice of polygamy; while the outside world violate every just law by their practices, that exist on earth or in heaven; and hence I am forced to pronounce Mr. Cullom's penal provisions not only cruel, but unusual and consequently unconstitutional, and, therefore, null and void.

Year co-laborer in the gospel,  
OSMON HYDE.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
March 17th, 1870.

Bro. Cannon:—On Thursday last I left this city, in company with Bishop W. W. Cluff, on a tour through Summit County. On Saturday a meeting was held at Wahsah for the organization of "The Upper Weber Co-operative Lumber Co.," with a capital stock of \$10,000, in shares of \$5 each.

On Sunday morning the meeting-house was well filled, notwithstanding the very severe wind and snow storm which had been raging for over twenty-four hours. The meeting was addressed by Elder E. Eldredge and myself, and while the elements were in wild commotion without, we passed off a couple of pleasant, and I trust profitable, hours within. At the close of the meeting, Elders Cluff, Eldredge and myself, facing the storm in an open wagon, proceeded to Hoytsville, where the people were assembled awaiting our arrival.

After sacrament, Bishop Cluff and myself occupied about forty minutes each, enjoying a liberal flow of the good spirit, my text being the 6th Lecture on Faith, Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

Immediately after meeting, we proceeded to Coalville, where, in the evening, I addressed a large audience of men, hour and twenty minutes, dwelling on several subjects connected with the duties of the Saints, but more particularly on the gifts of the spirit and the blessings derived by us from the gospel, and was followed by a brief testimony from Elder Alma L. Smith.

On Monday, in company with Elders J. Allan and E. Shelden, I visited Henrieville, where, in the evening, I addressed a large audience of men, hour and twenty minutes, dwelling on several subjects connected with the duties of the Saints, but more particularly on the gifts of the spirit and the blessings derived by us from the gospel, and was followed by a brief testimony from Elder Alma L. Smith.

This little branch has undergone a process of cleansing since I last visited it, one year ago. Then I preached a fervent discourse on the Word of Wisdom and honesty; but my words seemed to rebound like echoes from the crumbling sand-stones which rear their heads to the surrounding hills, and before the congregation had dispersed, several of my attentive hearers drew forth their trusty old clay-pipes, charged them with tobacco, lighted them, and behind their curling smoke steamed out of the meeting-house with an air of nonchalance that would have done credit to a soldier dandy. Now, strict attention was paid and every word seemed to be absorbed by the listeners, and after meeting those friendly greetings,

the hearty "welcome" and the kindly "good-bye," so dear to friends and brethren, were freely interchanged. Next day Brothers Cluff, Eldredge, Alfred and myself visited Croysden and held meeting, several coming from Henrieville and from some distance around. The house was filled, and we had an excellent meeting. This is a very healthy place, only three deaths having occurred in about eight years. After this meeting, in company with Brothers Hopkins, Edwards and Bishop Richins, I started down the cañon for Morgan City, in a sleigh, to fill an appointment at seven o'clock in the evening. The snow had drifted badly in places and the road was unbroken. We had one break-down (running against a stump) and two upsets in the snow, on the way down, occasioning many salutes of good humor and considerable mirth. We reached Morgan an hour after our appointment, and found a large congregation assembled, who were being addressed by Bishop W. G. Smith. I followed at some length and enjoyed excellent freedom. A good spirit and feeling prevailed. I felt to bear an earnest and fervent testimony of the wisdom and power of God manifested in the deliverance of the Saints from bondage and oppression, and the spirit of God bore record in our hearts.

The brethren and Saints treated me very kindly throughout. I cannot particularize, but I pray for God's blessing to rest abundantly upon them, that they may continue to hold fast to the "iron rod," and that the testimony of Jesus and the faith of the holy gospel may continue to abide in them, increasing forever.

Your brother, etc.,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

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