

Correspondence.

BURKS GARDEN, TAZEWEEL CO.,
VIRGINIA,
Dec. 2nd, 1869.

Prest. B. Young:—Dear Bro.—Since writing to you in July last, I have been busily engaged, and with success. I would have reported to you sooner, but I have been laboring in Rupell County for the last two months, and I wished to await the results of my labor there, so as to be able to report to you the progress of the work throughout my field of labor.

I baptized twenty-eight in Rupell lately; the branch there now numbers fifty-four. Said branch was organized in May last, and nearly all have the spirit of gathering, and are arranging their matters to that end as fast as circumstances will permit. I have baptized fifteen in other portions of my field, making in all forty-three since I last reported to you. There are many more that seem to be strong in the faith, and will come in and seek a home with the Saints. I can truly say that the work is growing rapidly, and the Lord has blessed me in my labors, and I feel to ascribe all the honor to our Father in Heaven, for it is through His spirit only that we can build up the Kingdom of God.

Money is very scarce here, but I think the great majority of the Saints can dispose of their lands and stock for a sufficiency of means to emigrate their families. They have a spirit of sacrifice for the sake of the gospel and a home among the Saints; there are others who cannot emigrate without assistance. All that I have baptized seem to be men of energy and zeal, such as it takes to build up the Kingdom.

The spirit of persecution is the vilest where the greatest work is done. A parson of the Missionary Baptist persuasion of Rupell, remarked in one of his discourses: "If the people were like me they would shoulder their guns and drive all the 'Mormons' from the country." I replied to the people that that was the only weapon they had ever fought the Saints with; they did not have the moral courage to meet us on the broad platform of eternal truth. The invariable charge they bring up against their members for embracing the gospel, (in order to excommunicate them,) is "heresy," and in nearly every one of their church meetings they have some one to excommunicate; and never once do they try to redeem them, for the humblest member we have can pierce them with the sword of truth, that they can do nothing but howl with rage and try to heal the wound from which they never can recover.

Brother L. W. Peck passed through here on his way to Ohio; I do not know whether he has accomplished good or not.

Brother D. H. Perry and lady visited us this summer; they bore their testimony to the people wherever they were thrown, and removed a great many preconceived opinions, as the people here were their old friends and acquaintances.

I am at present at Thos. Heninger's who is a friend indeed to the elders; his wife is in the Church. I will remain here a few days and will go to Smyth County, where good will be done.

Good work can be done in Ky, a field I opened last winter, but it makes my field too large for me to attend to.

There will be some two or three hundred souls that aim to emigrate next season from my field of labor.

The Saints all join me in love to you and the brethren associated with you.

May God bless you and yours, Brother Brigham, is the prayer of your brother in the gospel.

THEODORE B. LEWIS.

POLK CITY, POLK CO., IOWA,
Dec. 6th, 1869.

Dear Brother Cannon:—Feeling that a few lines would not be unwelcome, I take the liberty of addressing you. Brothers Edward Stevenson, Ezra T. Clark, Nathan T. Potter, Moroni L. Pratt and myself arrived at Des Moines City at 11:30 pm. of the 24th ult., having crossed the plains in 90 hours, and from Omaha to Des Moines in 6 hours. We put up at the Des Moines House for the night, and our arrival was noticed in the *Des Moines Bulletin* in the following manner: "Mormons:—Six Mormons, from Salt Lake, came to our city last night and are stopping at the Des Moines House. They are hunting proselytes to their peculiar faith. We learn that about 250 have come from Mormondom

on this same business and are scattering over the country."

We found Bro Bullinger and his interesting family well and alive in the work, he is in his right place as president of the branch here. He remembers me as the first Mormon Elder he ever saw, at which time I held a meeting at his father's house in Brown County, Illinois. This was twenty-seven years ago. We have had some 17 meetings up to this date, in and about Des Moines, two of which were held in the Court House in Des Moines. We have had very attentive congregations in every instance, and a spirit of inquiry is in the hearts of a goodly number. We have had no public opposition but once, and that time through a man by the name of Buzzard, who has once belonged to the Church, but is carried away by spiritualism, even to denying the atonement of the Savior. We, considering a Buzzard an unclean bird, noticed him as little as possible, but he seems disposed to follow us up, and is trying to prejudice the minds of the people against us. I will here remark, that the proprietors of the *Iowa State Register* and the *Des Moines Bulletin* kindly advertised our meetings at the Court House, together with other matter in the *Register*; this last expressed a wish to effect an exchange with your office.

On Saturday the 27th ult., bro. Moroni L. Pratt and myself took a walk into the eastern part of Des Moines city, and in the course of our walk brought the State house in our way, and asked the privilege of looking at it. The Janitor being busy, kindly gave us the privilege of going through the house. After visiting the different apartments and the look out, we were about to retire when the Janitor invited us into the Governor's rooms where there was a good fire burning. We gladly accepted the offer and took seats at the fire. He then enquired what part we were from, we told him we were from Utah. "Ah," said he, "let me introduce you to the Governor's private Secretary," at the same time enquiring my name (I being the older). He led us to the next room and presented me, and I in turn presented bro. Pratt, as a son of the apostle P. P. Pratt. In a few minutes His Excellency Governor Merrill came in, with the Hon. Mr. Craig of Bluff city, and other gentlemen. The Secretary presented me to the Governor, and I, as before, presented bro. Pratt. After a pleasant visit of a few minutes we arose to take our leave. His Excellency arose and gave us a very friendly shade of the hand as a parting salute, the other gentlemen followed his example. The Governor seems a true gentleman, plain but agreeable.

We are stopping at brother George Beebe's, at Polk city, fifteen miles from Des Moines. We held our regular last meeting at his house on Thursday last, more particularly on account of Bro. Beebe's son, Alvaro, who has been paralysed in his entire body, so that he has been as helpless as a child for three months. We commenced meeting at 7 a.m., and continued until 2.30 p.m., having eaten no food in the morning. We had a blessed time of five and a half hours; at about 1 p.m. we proceeded to wash Bro. Beebe, and then anointed him from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet and then proceeded and laid our hands upon him and blessed him. He is fast recovering, for which we feel thankful to our Heavenly Father.

On Saturday last four persons were added to this branch by baptism, which now numbers twenty-two; but in a scattered condition. Our 18th appointment for to-night is out; and the door is opening and extending further. Bro. Beebe and family are all in the church and alive in the faith and anxious to gather. We leave here soon to go farther east to visit. We feel there is plenty of labor right here for all of us; others have expressed their readiness to be baptized.

Please accept the kind regards of the brethren and myself, and our prayers for your future welfare.

Yours in the bonds of the Covenant.
STEPHEN C. PERRY.

WESTON, CACHE VALLEY,
December 4, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Bro.—Thinking a few lines from our village would be interesting to your readers, I have taken the opportunity of writing you. Weston is situated on the West side of the Valley, directly opposite Franklin. It numbers some fifty families, in comfortable circumstances, considering the small amount of grain raised here this season. We have a Female Relief Society, and a good school house, also a first rate grist mill. Our intercourse with our neighboring set-

tlements has been very limited, owing to the inconvenience of crossing Bear river, which has to be done by means of a ferry boat at Smithfield. But we are progressing: at a recent meeting it was resolved that we unite our efforts to build a good substantial bridge across Bear river. The vote was taken and carried unanimously. We have petitioned the County Court for assistance, and we expect to get all that will be required. Already the timbers are on the ground, and it is expected that, by next spring, we will have a first class free bridge, across Bear river. We have no regular mail, but Uncle Sam has promised us a weekly mail, on and after the first day of July next. Bless him, O ye inhabitants of Weston. More anon.
Very respectfully, J. H. C.

SMICKSBURG, INDIANA CO.,
PENNSYLVANIA,
Nov. 30th, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Bro.—Knowing the interest you take in the preaching and spreading of the gospel I send you a few lines from this place. Since last writing to you, Brother Murdock and I have been preaching in the more northern part of the State, where we have had good congregations of attentive listeners. Bro. Murdock has now gone into Massachusetts to see and preach to his relations. I am now preaching to my relatives in this State, as well as to all who are willing to hear. I have been in this and Huntingdon counties two weeks, since which I have preached eight times, at each time having a good and attentive audience; yet, as Josh Billings says, "However anxious folks are to get to heaven, very few are ready or willing to start."

Many persons see that this nation is drifting into an awful future, and feel to shrink from the consequences, but few have faith enough in God to make any move to escape. The judgments which are coming upon the wicked—murder, drunkenness, wickedness in high places, adultery, deception, religious revivals, and other things calculated to lead the human family from God, are on the increase, which all can see, but for which none are able to find a remedy.

I am trying to bear a faithful testimony to this nation, warning them to flee from the judgment to come, and if I do my duty I am willing to leave the result with God.

Your brother in the gospel,
ISRAEL EVANS.

[OGDEN, Dec. 9th, 1869.]

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—Dear Sir:—The busy scenes that enlivened this city a year ago are being re-enacted. From day light till dark the noisy clatter of the mechanics' tools is heard. On Main street buildings are springing up, suddenly, in various directions. Hunters after the "almighty dollar" are being attracted hither like the magnet to the pole. How far the expectations of those with whom money making is the ruling passion, and the sole object of existence, will attain a realization here, remains yet to be seen. However, speaking business fashion, matters in Ogden are looking up. It is to be hoped that some branches of business, which are becoming a prominent feature here, will go down, and be extinguished as rapidly as they are looming into prominence; I refer more particularly to the liquor traffic.

Shakespeare says when a man indulges in drinking intoxicating draughts he "puts an enemy in his mouth to steal away his brains." It is a question whether a man possessed of brains will persistently introduce such an enemy into his system? Should this question be negatived it then resolves itself into another, as to whether a man can have stolen from him that which he never had?

The population of Ogden is becoming gradually more heterogeneous—as it increases in number. The nature of some of the additions are anything but healthy being composed of a certain species of the *ge us homo* who can daily be seen hanging around those resorts over the doors of which should be painted in flaming letters, "come and poison yourselves." This class seem to have no particular employment, yet they exist; they are the vultures of society. Notwithstanding that considerable of the ardent is being carried around in human receptacles, little or no violations of law have yet occurred to disturb the usual equanimity of the peace-loving citizens of this place. The business class of transients can be readily distinguished from the class above mentioned; instead of the reckless, swaggering, "devil may care" style that

generally characterizes the saloon lounge in these western countries, they have a keen expression of face and a style about their gait and manner which make them appear as if they were on a stern chase after something and meant to catch it, all of which indications say plainly, "I'm after money and intend to get it."

A person formerly familiar with the locality of the junction of the three lines of railroad, who had not been cognizant of the rapid changes that have been made thus within the past few weeks, would be apt to fail to recognize the place; the whole face of things here has been completely metamorphosed. That formerly suburban, quiet part of the city has been changed to a place of life and bustle. The employees of the U. P. & C. P. R. R. companies are engaged in building a telegraph office, passenger office, freight depot, a railroad employe's hotel, &c., all of which, judging from the amount of work already done in so short a time, will soon be completed. Around this part of Ogden there is a large number of a class who have gradually floated to this center with the building of the two lines of railroad from the east and west. Members of this class can now be seen busily engaged fixing up their tents and shanties, hoping soon to be able to vend "forty rod" or "forked lightning" to a thirsty public. But as yet no license has been granted to sell liquor near the depot, and I am pleased to learn that no such license is likely to be given, as it is the expressed wish of the three railroad companies that no drinking saloons be established near the junction. This desire is heartily endorsed by the honorable body, the City Council, and also the Mayor of Ogden. It is a wise policy and there are many reasons why it should be adopted, one of which is that such institutions of modern civilization, in close proximity to the depot, would have a demoralizing effect upon railroad employees.

A large number of tents and shanties are already on the ground and many have hung out their shingles informing the public that they can have "meals at all hours," &c. There are also sign boards strewn about on the ground, with significant words painted in large letters, such as "Billiards" and the like.

The people of Corinne are considerably chagrined over the transfer of the depot from that place to Ogden; many of them are pulling up stakes and moving over here. Now that Ogden is the junction of the three lines of railroad Corinne depends almost solely upon the Montana trade for existence and, if Madam Rumor speaks truly, there is a fair prospect of that prop being taken away by the transfer of the Montana trade to another point. If this should prove to be the case we may expect that, unless the present trading, speculating, "live-by-your-wits" population move to other and more likely fields of action, and are replaced by a more agriculturally-inclined, home-manufacturing, self-supporting class of people, Corinne, at no distant day, will share the fate similar to many other railroad towns that have sprung into existence in a day and gone out as suddenly.

Taking into consideration the prospects of the future, the hotel accommodations of this city are altogether too limited. To meet the pressing demands for accommodation of this kind I am informed that it is the intention of the U. P. and C. P. railroad companies to build a large hotel in the vicinity of the depot. Notwithstanding this, future prospects warrant me in the belief that it would be a profitable investment of capital for one or more of our citizens to erect a first-class establishment of this kind.

Many prognostications are indulged in by the people here regarding the future of Ogden, some of which may be rather highly colored, yet there can be no doubt but that from the advent of the junction and depot of the U. P., C. P. and U. C. railroads will date a rapid commercial development and growth for this city.

Respectfully,
JOHN NICHOLSON.

Died.

November 30th, 1869, at Richmond, Cache Valley, Mrs. Margaret Brewster, aged 77 years. Deceased embraced the gospel in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, in 1848, and came to this country in 1857. She was the mother of a large family, who are left to mourn her loss. She died in the hope of a glorious resurrection.