

ELDERS' CORRESPONDENCE.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

[From Joseph Smith to his cousin Geo. A. Smith.]

MOPIO, Kula, Maui, April 14, 1855.

I am well, and enjoying myself well, for which blessing I feel grateful to my heavenly Father.

We have just held a conference on this island, and the number of saints in this conference was reported to be upwards of 2000 on the three islands, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. The saints seemed to show an unusual spirit of gathering, and some 150 were called to go to Lanai, between now and our next conference which is to be held on that island on the 24th of July.

Four hundred dollars were subscribed towards purchasing a vessel to transport our products from place to place, and also for the conveyance of the people to Lanai.

The two cousins Silases were well the last I heard from them, and making fast progress in the language, as I believe is the case with most if not all of the brethren that came out last season.

I have been exceedingly blessed since I arrived at these lands, both in obtaining a portion of the language and in health and strength, and for these blessings I feel daily to thank my Father in heaven, for I feel that his parental care has been over me from time to time, and blessed me in all my lawful undertakings. I hope and pray that I may ever walk upright before the Lord, that he may continue his blessings unto me, that I may do a good work on these lands, for it is the desire of my heart to do the will of God.

I feel to realize more and more the duties that are devolving upon me and my mission, and I know that the devil has great power, and that he is seeking daily to overthrow the principles of truth and righteousness, therefore I find that those of us who are young have to be watchful, thoughtful, and prayerful at all times, to overcome the power and influence of the adversary, that we may not be led off by his stratagems into sin and wickedness.

HAWAIIAN ISLES.

[From Silas Smith to his cousin Geo. A. Smith.]

WAILUKU, May 28, 1855.

My health is good, and in fact I have not experienced a single day of ill health since leaving G. S. L. City; for this I feel thankful, and praise my heavenly Father from day to day for the blessings that he is continually bestowing upon me. I feel well, and shall ever rejoice in my mission to these lands, although this people are singular in their manners and customs, and somewhat different from any people that I had ever been acquainted with.

I have been blessed with regard to obtaining a knowledge of the Hawaiian language, and am now able, by the assistance of the Spirit of the Lord, to bear my testimony in the native language. The elders of the mission are generally well and in good spirit, with the exception of J. A. Peck; his health is poor, and I suppose that he is on his way to California before this time. He left this island about one month ago for Honolulu, Oahu, expecting to return soon to Salt Lake. Of the 20 missionaries who left Utah for the islands, 19 arrived here. D. M. Merrick remained in California.

The native saints seem to feel well; many of them are gathering to Lanai, and many are preparing and seem to evince a great desire to gather to Salt Lake. They are poor and destitute, and I am of the opinion that without the assistance of means from some other source besides their own industry and economy, but few of them will ever reach the mountains of Ephraim. They have not that faculty to combine their means and bring it to bear for their benefit, which people have who have been reared in other climes and under other circumstances.

Summer and winter are alike with this people, and they have nothing to disturb them; they eat, drink, and lay down and sleep, and they are sure to carry out the principle of letting every day provide for itself.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

[From the Millennium Star.]

PORTSMOUTH, 5th April, 1855.

PRESIDENT F. D. RICHARDS:

Dear Brother:—Having been ordered to England from the scenes of blood and carnage in which we have been for some time engaged, I feel it a duty, as President of the Floating Branch of the Malta Conference, to give you as faithful an account of the same as I possibly can.

We left the Crimea on the 29th Dec., 1854, previous to which I wrote to each of the brethren of my Branch, counselling them to keep up a correspondence with the brethren at Malta; and, if any of them should leave for England or Malta, to lose no time in reporting themselves, and uniting with whatever Branch of the Church they should come to, and to give a faithful account of themselves to the President, and in the meantime to live much in faith and the spirit of prayer, and to bear in mind that they are of the people over whom the Lord is ever watchful, and to remember that the prize is at the end of the race, and so they must bear up under present trials.

The ship to which I belong got to Constantinople on the 2nd January. While at that place I learned that the Britannia and Trafalgar were also ordered to England. Those of my Branch belong to those ships, viz:—Deacon Locke, members Culver and Trice. I don't know whether these received my last letters or not, as neither of them have written to me since I wrote to them, and I therefore know but little of their present standing.

Teachers Corporal Pullham and Sergeant Hillier, of the Royal Marines, are left on the Crimea with the army.

Brother Pullham I can recommend as a good and faithful brother, and as a person I think likely to be of much service in the Church. I have always found him faithful, and ready to respond to every call. I pray he may be spared with our other brethren, to go home to Zion.

We left Constantinople on the 14th January, and got to Malta on the 27th, where, on going on shore, I found only brothers Burridge and Bonavia. I spent two nights and one day on shore with Elder Burridge, during which I felt much of the good Spirit of God, and I found that the hand of the Lord was still with me. I am happy to say that brother Burridge got a passage with us to England, during which time I have done my best to make him as comfortable as circumstances would admit. When he came on board he was recognized by brother Thomas, of the 41st Regiment, who had, unknown to me, been on board from the time we left Constantinople, he having been wounded in his left hand, and lost three fingers. As

far as practicable we have met and conversed together, but our situation on board is such that we could not hold meetings as we could wish.

From the time I left Malta, June 18, 1853, I have not been able to meet my Branch even once, but I feel that I have done my best, and am very thankful to the Lord for his goodness to me during every trying scene I have had to pass through.

The present state of the Branch is as follows:—

Elder Downes, President.

„ Burridge, going to Liverpool.

Teacher Pullham, at the Crimea.

„ Hillier, do.

Member Culver, on passage in Trafalgar.

„ Trice, do do.

„ Thomas, left for Chatham to be discharged.

Deacon Locke arrived at Portsmouth in the Britannia. All other particulars I have from time to time communicated through brother Bell.

We have had a very long passage home, not having arrived here till the 3rd April. I was in hopes of having a good time with the Saints, but I find I have only fourteen days' leave.

With love and respects, I remain, dear brother, yours in the everlasting covenant,

ALEXANDER DOWNES.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

THE INDIANS IN UTAH COUNTY.

G. S. L. CITY, July 23, 1855.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:

Dear Brother:—Hearing some reports that the Indians in Utah county were disposed to be disorderly, Dr. Hurt, Indian agent, thought best to send me to examine into the matter.

I left this city on Thursday, July 12, and arrived in Springville at 7.30 p.m. On the next morning, Friday 13, Tin-tie, one of the head ones of that band, payed me a visit. He was very cold and indifferent at first, but after my talking to him sometime, he got warmed up, and said he felt better.

I told him that I wanted to see all of the band, and talk with them, and that I had a letter from the agent for them. The message was circulated, and I was surrounded by about 50, among whom were Tab-by, Ton-om-bugah, Sanpitch, and other principal head men.

After smoking the pipe of peace, I spoke to them about three quarters of an hour upon the subject of the whites living on their land, and of their becoming civilized. The head men replied that they wanted the whites to live here, and live in peace, for it was bad to fight and spill blood upon the ground.

They said that they knew very well that some of their unruly boys would stop up their ears, so that they could not hear, and they believed that some of their whites also stopped their ears.

After talking with them three and a half hours, I gave them some tobacco. They said that before I came, they had lost the Good Spirit, but after hearing me talk, they said that their ears were now open and they went away feeling first rate.

Saturday 14th, attended meeting at Provo city, and had some conversation with His Excellency the Governor in relation to the Indians. He requested me to come the next day to the meeting, and bring all the Indians with me.

Sunday 15th, I called upon all the Indians at Springville to go with me to see the Big Capitan at Provo; they readily consented, and about 50 of them rode in double file, by order of one of the chiefs.

At the bowery the Indians were all seated, so that they could hear all that was said. After a lengthy discourse from His Excellency the Governor, very appropriate to both the whites and the Indians, I was called to the stand, together with the chiefs, to address the congregation. Ton-om-bugah spoke a short time, and I interpreted. I also made a brief statement of what the Governor had said. They said that their hearts felt good, and went away well satisfied.

Monday 16th, I left Springville in company with Mr. James Obanton, to visit the Indians at Summit Creek. I found but a few there, the rest had gone into the mountains after service berries. The few there were taking care of the crops; their grain has been visited by the grasshoppers. I gave them some shirts and tobacco, which pleased them very much.

I returned to Peteeetnet, and found the citizens collected at the bowery for meeting. I spoke to the congregation, and told them the course that the Governor wished the people to take with the Indians, and continued on to Springville, where we arrived at seven p.m.

Tuesday 17th, started for this city; stayed over night at Dr. Sterret's, in Pleasant Grove.

Wednesday 18th, arrived in this city at half-past four p.m.—Yours, in the gospel,

L. S. WOOD,

U. S. Indian Interpreter.

LOS VEGAS.

July 10, 1855.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:

Dear Sir:—We arrived here June 15th, all safe and well, after a journey of 35 days (with ox teams) from G. S. L. City. We can truly say that the blessing of the Lord has attended us, both on the journey and since our arrival at this place. We have had no loss or accident, in any way, since we left home, and can verily realize that the promises of the Lord unto his servants have been fulfilled with us, for his angels have gone before and round about us.

The brethren have been engaged in putting in grain of different kinds, which looks well and bids fair for a reasonable crop. The weather is extremely hot, which prevents us from laboring very extensively at present. The stock is doing well notwithstanding. Our location is directly on the California route, and about 25 miles from the Colorado river, which in this region runs through a mountainous, barren country.

Shortly after we arrived here, we assembled all the chiefs, and made an agreement treaty with them for permission to make a settlement on their lands. We agreed to treat them well, and they were to observe the same conduct towards us, and with all white men. Peace was to be preserved with all emigrants traveling through this country, as well as with the settlers.

If travelers through this country will use the Indians well, there will be no trouble with them, but if they are mistreated, they are ready and able to take revenge on the first opportunity. They recount many instances of

unprovoked murder committed by white men, who have traveled this road, but they are now willing to bury all animosities, and to once more try the conduct of white men.

The brethren hearken diligently to counsel, and all goes on well.—I remain, as ever, your brother in Christ,

WM. BRINGHURST.

AGRICULTURAL.

SOW MILLET.—Do you want to know why? Because it yields more food for man and beast than any other cultivated grain.

Cut for hay, the crop is large and of excellent quality; and it is said, imparts a vigor and elasticity to working cattle that is acquired from no other food. Stock, too, are very fond of millet hay. If allowed to ripen, its seed is an excellent grain for animals, possessing as much nutriment as Indian corn, but not its fattening property.

In Europe it is often ground for bread; and where people are accustomed to its use, they are fond of millet bread.

In this latitude, as we learn from good authority, the time for sowing millet is from the first of May to the middle of June, when it will be ready to harvest in July or August, leaving the ground in the best possible condition for a crop of winter grain.

A rich, light soil is best, and it should be deep and finely prepared as for wheat.

If grown for hay, from 30 to 40 quarts of seed should be sown to the acre. It should be cut while the seed is in the milky state, and as soon as it is well wilted, it should be put up and cured in cocks, as recommended for clover hay. If the weather is fine, it will be sufficiently made in three or four days, when the cocks should be turned and opened a few hours before it is hauled in.

When sown for the grain, from 16 to 20 quarts of seed are required to the acre, and if put in with a good seed drill, the crop of seed would be much improved.

No attempt should ever be made to secure both seed and hay from the same field. Plant one field for seed and one for hay. A good crop will yield five tons of hay.

For seed, the upper parts of the heads must be ripe before it is cut.

There is one advantage in growing millet that ought to recommend it to all farmers. It flourishes well in the driest seasons.

Farmers who once commence the cultivation of millet, seldom if ever abandon it.—[N. Y. Trib.]

GRAFTING COMPOSITION.—The following composition for grafting purposes, is from Cole's American Fruit Book:—

One part of good beef tallow, 2 parts of beeswax, 4 parts of white transparent resin; melt all together, turn into cold water, and work and pull it toughly, as shoemaker's wax.

This composition is not so soft as to melt in warm weather, nor so hard as to crack in cold weather; but gives as the tree grows. It is of great importance to have it of a right temperature and well applied, else it will peel off in cold weather. While warm it should be pressed closely to all the wounded parts of stock and scion. When used in cold weather, it should be kept in warm water; when it is very warm, keep the composition in cold water. In working and applying it, the hands should be slightly greased to prevent its sticking.

If you want a composition cloth for splice grafting, melt a portion of the composition in a dish; then dip therein strips of thin worn cloth, which press and draw between two sticks to remove superfluous matter. These strips may be cut or torn to suit the convenience of the user.—For splice grafting, and even for budding, there can be nothing better, as the cloth, if somewhat old, will yield to the growth of the limb, while, if it be properly put on, it will exclude the air and moisture as effectually as the composition itself, while it does more by holding and binding the parts together.

THE CHINESE POTATO.—THE DISCOREA BATATAS.

Mr. John Henderson, an English agriculturist, has published a pamphlet, descriptive of the nature and progress of this esculent, with the mode of cultivation. The writer states that experiments have been made by the most skillful horticulturists, and the results are:—1. That in point of flavor and nutritive properties, it is at least equal to the potato, and in the opinion of some agriculturists, superior. 2. That the quantity yielded is greater than that of the potato, whilst its freedom from disease renders the crop more certain. 3. That it will grow upon sandy, and generally considered barren soils, and thus affords an excellent means of turning waste land to a useful purpose, as well as to profit. 4. That it can be propagated with the greatest facility. 5. That it may remain in the ground several years without degenerating, but on the contrary, each year it increased in size, weight, and nutriment.

A VALUABLE COMPOST.—Near every dwelling, but a little out of the way, there should be a place, vat or cistern prepared, where all the scrapings of the door-yard and litter from the garden can be conveniently deposited. Where, likewise, should be thrown all the woollen rags and other refuse stuff, such as old boots and shoes, bones, &c., usually committed to the flames by the neat housewife, upon every return of that ever to be dreaded "festival" commonly denominated "house-cleaning!"

Into this receptacle throw all your brine, and soap suds on washing days, and ashes and lime rubbish where leaches are emptied; add occasionally a wheel-barrow load of muck, loam or turf, and you will find at the end of the year, that you have a quantity of excellent manure, far more valuable for many purposes than barn-yard manure.—[Ontario (N. Y.) Times.]

BUTTER MAKING.

Our attention has recently been called to a very valuable and eminently practical prize essay, read before the Royal Agricultural Society of England. We published several articles on this subject, in our last volume, and are happy to find our own views confirmed by the very careful and scientific experiments, the results of which are given in report described. We beg leave to invite the attention of all our farmers to the following portion of this subject, being all that relates to their particular business. The experiments were conducted by Professor Traill and the late Dr. Bullock. Their accuracy was subsequently tested by the writer of this essay, and his re-

sults, with one exception, agreed remarkably with those made by the gentlemen named.—[Plough, Loom and Anvil.]

One series consisted of the comparative quantity of butter yielded by the following:

1. Sweet cream churned alone.
2. Sweet milk and its cream churned together.
3. Sour cream churned alone.
4. Sour milk and its cream churned together.
5. Scalded or Devonshire cream churned alone.

On the 24th of May, the milk of four cows was drawn in the same vessel, passed through a strainer, and then divided into five portions of six English pints each, which were placed in similar basins of earthenware, in a place, the temperature of which ranged from 55° to 60° Fahr.

Monday, 25th.—The temperature of the air was very hot, 76°; but that of the milk-house, by constant evaporation of water, was kept about 60°.

Tuesday, 26th.—Thirty-nine hours after the milk had been drawn from the cows it was removed from below the cream of No. 1 and No. 3, by a syphon; the cream from No. 1, and the milk and cream from No. 2, were immediately churned in glass vessel.

No. 1.—Sweet cream churned alone. From previous trials it was found that the addition of cold water to thick cream facilitated the separation of the butter; half a pint of water was added to the cream, the temperature of the mixture at the commencement of churning was 62°. In fifteen minutes butter appeared in grains; the churning was continued for twelve minutes longer, or twenty-seven minutes in all, when the temperature was found at 70°. The butter was collected, but from the warmth of the weather was very soft. It was put into cold water until the next day, when it was worked and washed in the usual way, and weighed 1386 grains. It was of a good color, and perfectly well flavored.

No. 2.—Sweet milk and its cream churned together. The mixture of sweet milk and cream was churned at the same time; though cold water was added after one and a half hour's churning no butter was seen. The churning was continued three hours without obtaining butter.

No. 3.—Sour cream churned alone. On Thursday, the 28th May, the cream of No. 3, which had been separated on Tuesday, and placed in the milk house, was now slightly acid, and was churned after half a pint of cold water had been added to it. In twelve minutes butter appeared; and in eight minutes more united into one mass. During the churning the temperature of the cream had risen from 54° to 63°. The butter was well washed and worked, and weighed 1756.6 grains. The color and taste were good.

No. 4.—Sour milk and its cream churned together. On the same day, 28th May, the milk and cream churned together, and half a pint of cold water was added. It was full fifty-seven minutes before any butter appeared, and before the churning appeared to be completed one hour and fifty minutes had elapsed; showing clearly that more time is required to churn milk and cream together than to obtain the butter from cream alone. The butter was diffused in small grains, and when washed and worked as long as any color was communicated to the water, it weighed 1968 grains. Color paler than the last, but of good flavor.

No. 5.—Clouted cream churned alone. On Tuesday, the 26th, the milk and cream of No. 5, were placed in a vessel of warm water until the temperature of the milk rose to 156°, a Devonshire dairy-maid assisting in the operation. The milk was drawn from below the cream by a syphon, the latter being kept cool until the following day, when it was churned.

It was ascertained that by churning the milk of Nos. 1 and 3, a few more grains of butter could be obtained on some occasions, but on no occasion from No. 5, so completely does the scalding process separate the butyrous matter from the milk. The butter of No. 5, when well worked and washed, weighed 1838 grains. It had a rich yellow color, and tasted agreeably.

Similar experiments were repeated, the result of which was, that the largest amount of butter was produced by the Devonshire method; the next in quantity by churning the milk and cream together when a little acid; the third in quantity was afforded by cream kept till it was slightly sour. The smallest quantity was obtained from sweet cream; but on no occasion was butter obtained by churning sweet milk alone.

In order to decide on the keeping qualities of the butter obtained by the four processes previously detailed, samples were exposed to the free action of the atmosphere.

No. 1 was always found to remain longer without any rancid taste than the other kinds.

Nos. 3 and 4 were nearly on an equality—if any difference, it was in favor of No. 3.

No. 5 became rancid more quickly than No. 3 and No. 4.

When salted for keeping, rancidity appeared in about the same order, commencing in No. 5, or the butter from scalded cream; next in No. 4, from sour milk and cream; then in No. 3, or sour cream; and lastly, in No. 1, obtained from sweet cream. The rancidity was supposed to arise from varying proportions of casein; and on instituting experiments to ascertain this fact, it was found that casein assisted in preserving its freshness.

In order to ascertain the effects of overchurning, the cream of six pints of milk was separated by a syphon, and churned in a glass vessel. The butter was formed in about half an hour; but the churning was continued for half an hour longer, when the butter had lost its fine, yellowish, waxy appearance, and had become pale and soft, while very little liquid remained in the churn. This butter could not be washed and worked until it had remained some hours in cold water, being so exceedingly soft when taken out of the churn. After washing it was pale, rather soft, and weighed 2566 grains, which was evidently beyond the due quantity, when compared with the other experiments on the same quantity of milk, which gave the following results:

- No. 1. The sweet cream overchurned yielded 2566 grains.
- No. 3. The acid cream duly churned yielded 2187.5 grains.
- No. 4. The acid milk and its cream duly churned yielded 2397.5 grains.
- No. 5. Scalded cream duly churned yielded 2671.

The butter of No. 1 tasted insipid, never became firm, and soon turned rancid. It was found to yield a very unusual quantity both of casein and watery fluid, which could only be separated by melting the butter.