

help of God Almighty, suppress this growing evil; and we are carving a new epoch in the history of the world; it is for this purpose that I volunteered.

Since I arrived here I have been well in body and spirit. Of course I can't help thinking of home. It was not until I lived with Mrs. Robertson that I knew what a home was; indeed, I was treated as well as any son could be treated. We are drilling hard every day, both march drills and also with our cannon. We have not as yet received our uniforms, and will probably get them in San Francisco, en route for Manila. I don't know when we leave; it may be next week. Our order to go to Manila is subject to change; therefore it is possible that we may never leave the State; but from present appearances we leave in the near future. I would like to get a smell of hostile powder before I am discharged, if no more, and when I reflect upon the conditions of the thousands of innocent women and children, it warms my blood, and if I could pen the feelings that creep over me at times, I could write an interesting letter.

Well, brother, I wish an interest in your faith and prayers, not only for myself, but for our nation at large, that we may accomplish the object in view. Hoping to meet you again, and the blessings of God to be with you, I remain,

Your loving friend,  
STEPHEN BJARNSON.

#### LETTER FROM H. A. PEARSON.

A week ago today the "News" published the portrait and gave an interesting sketch of the career of Henry Pearson, Utah's naval representative in the battle at Manila. Reference was made to a letter written to his parents on April 5th, from Shanghai, in which he briefly stated that he had been ordered to the Philippines. Now another letter has reached his parents, giving further particulars. It shows that he was in charge of the *Zafiro*, one of the English ships purchased by Admiral Dewey and on which the English sailors were retained at wages that were increased one hundred per cent.

War had not been declared when Ensign Pearson wrote his last letter. That important declaration was made on April 23rd, while the letter bears date of April 18th. But it is evident from Ensign Pearson's conservative and interesting letter that trouble was anticipated at that time. He writes in a decidedly matter-of-fact way of the seriousness of the situation and refers to the then prospective capture of the chief city of the Philippines and the stripping of warships for action in a manner that is most business-like. Spanish spies, he said, were prowling about the American ships nightly in the hopes of securing information regarding the United States fleet. The letter, which is interesting throughout, is as follows:

Dear Family—My last letter was written from Shanghai just before leaving for Hongkong. Three officers and fifty men left the *Monocacy* on April 7th for Hongkong by mail steamer and arrived on April 10th. As soon as we arrived all went at once to the Olympia. The next day the men were divided among the various ships that needed them. On arrival at Hongkong we learned that the admiral had bought a merchant steamer called the *Nanshan* with 3,000 tons of coal on board and another called the *Zafiro* on which coal and provisions were to be placed. One officer from the *Monocacy* was retained on the Olympia, one sent to the *Nanshan* to take charge of her and I was sent on board the *Zafiro* to take charge of her. These

two vessels were English vessels before we bought them, and when we got them, we kept the same crews that were on them before, paying them double wages.

As soon as I got the *Zafiro* we began to take on coal and provisions for the fleet. We have about finished this and now have on board about 850 tons of coal and 75 tons of provisions. The *Zafiro* was, until we bought her, a passenger steamer between Hongkong and Manila, and is well fitted up with good passenger accommodations, having about a dozen good state rooms, etc., and it is the intention to use these as a sort of hospital for wounded men and officers, if matters come to the worst.

The fleet consists of seven good warships and these two steamers, each of which are to be supplied with some small rapid fire guns, rifles, pistols, etc. All vessels of the fleet are loaded down with ammunition, coal and provisions, and the supply on the two steamers is to be taken by the fleet when they run short.

The daily telegrams indicate that matters are very serious and that trouble is very liable to come. If it does come, the fleet out here goes at once to the Philippine Islands, which belong to Spain and will probably try to take Manila, the capital city. The Spanish forces there seem to be in a bad state as far as we can learn and there seems to be no doubt as to the outcome if we go to take the place.

The ships are stripping themselves of all needless gear and putting it on the *Nanshan* so it will be out of the way in case of action. The ships are all now painted white, but tomorrow they are going to paint them all a light green color, so they will not be so easily seen at a distance.

Every evening there are three Spanish spies who go about the harbor in a small steamboat and look at every one of our ships to see if any new ones have come or any left port. They no doubt are watching to send word to Manila when we leave Hongkong.

If war has been declared when you get this, we will probably be down near Manila, going for the Spaniards. If the matter has been peaceably settled, I will probably be on the Olympia, which is coming home as soon as this matter has been settled.

Regards to all.

Yours, etc.,

H. A. PEARSON.

#### ITEMS FROM VERNAL.

Vernal, Utah, May 12, 1898.

We had a very cold, backward spring until the Middle of April, when old Sol began to send forth his benign rays in such fury that our streams were swollen to such an extent that crossing was dispensed with, save at bridges. The Duchesne river was over its banks and travel was being somewhat hindered; but the first of May was ushered in by heavy rains and a light fall of snow in the valley and about one foot on the Uintahs, making a strange sight not often witnessed, green leaves and a vegetation with a partial coverlet of the beautiful, which reminded one, in noticing it, during the forenoon of the changing views of a kaleidoscope. But the water has now subsided, although the last few days it is again on the raise.

Crops in this valley are looking beautiful, as the grain is all up and early vegetables are on the market. A large number of our fathers as well as boys are out in Wyoming shearing sheep and hauling wool, while a large number have just completed shearing our home herds, and the wool is being hauled to Price.

Stock of all kinds are high here

this spring, cattle and sheep especially. This causes the farmer to smile, as most of them have a few surplus cattle to dispose of. Never before in our county has there been such promising prospects for an abundant harvest as now, not only in cereals, root crops, hay, etc., but in fruit as well.

The Uncompahgre reservation seems to be filling up very slowly, when we realize the amount of people without homes. There is yet a considerable amount of land which can be taken up although the Indians, of course, are still given the preference.

Our officers are making a raid on the cattle thieves this year and are so very successful that a great number of stolen cattle have been returned and some convictions secured, and other arrests are expected soon to follow.

Our quarterly and M. I. A. conjoint conferences have just adjourned, and a time of spiritual feasting was had. We were with the presence of Apostle Cowley, Bishop Preston, and Sister Susie Young Gates, neither of whom had ever been here before.

The fatherly advice of Bishop Preston, the blessing pronounced upon the people by Apostle Cowley, and the advice to mothers and daughters upon their duties and callings, will never be forgotten by many. We feel that the eyes of many were opened at the lines of the Gospel marked out by the speakers, and feel that a general time of reforming will take place.

Sister Gates was the first missionary enroute here in behalf of the Young Ladies, and the result was manifest, for at their meeting, held alone, the gift of tongues was given to Sister Pack.

The visitors left for home today, and we all wish them God's speed.

R. L. W.

#### IN THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, May 5, 1898.]

Releases and Appointments.—John H. Bailey Jr., president of the Leeds conference, John H. Brough, traveling Elder in the same conference, and Don B. Colton, president of the Sheffield conference, have been honorably released to return home. The date of their departure is not fixed, as each of them expects to visit the continent before leaving for home.

George H. Bradshaw, president of the Manchester conference, James H. Davis and William R. Rostron, traveling Elders in the same conference, Robert Cameron and Alexander G. Adamson, traveling Elders in the Scottish conference, H. C. Jacobs Jr., and William F. Tuckett, traveling Elders in the Sheffield conference, and John T. Jacobs, traveling Elder in the Birmingham conference, have been honorably released to return home June 2, 1898.

John P. Burt, traveling Elder in the Newcastle conference, Edmund Price and Thomas Llewellyn, traveling Elders in the Welsh conference, James E. Hoggan and Alma Montgomery, traveling Elders in the Scottish conference, have been honorably released to return home June 3, 1898.

Elder Charles Woolfenden has been appointed to preside over the Leeds conference.

Elder James Blake has been appointed to preside over the Manchester conference.

Elder Ernest P. Oldham has been appointed to preside over the Sheffield conference.

Change of Address.—After May 28, 1898, the address of the Scottish conference house will be 53 Hoinhead street, Glasgow, in place of 130 Bar-rack street.