FROM THE HOLY LAND

Interesting Items in a Missionary's Letter.

JEWS INCREASING IN NUMBERS.

"The Only Redemption of the Country Will Come Through the Mormon People."

By courtesy of J. T. Wilson, of Midway, Wasatch county, the News is able to place before its readers the following from a letter written to Elder Wilson, by Elder Don C. W. Musser, president of the Turkish mission:

JAFFA, April 8, 1893.—Dear Brother: Your kind and very interesting letter of February 28th was received some time ago, but owing to the press of other matters I was unable to answer at an earlier date. I derived considerable encouragement from reading your letter, and I realize the truth of what you say concerning the extraordinary blessings that a kind and loving God is daily bestowing on the Latter-day Saints. Nor are we the only people who are partakers of His unbounded love and tender mercies; for they extend into all corners of the earth, and all nations and people are made recipients to a greater extent than they deserve. The Saints show by their works that they are grateful for their blessings, more than other people do; still we all have room for improvement. We are oftimes careless in our department, and given, to a considerable extent, to fault-finding and back-biting. We are oft covetous of the wealth and influence of others, and loose in our habits in keeping the commandments of God, and in attending our meetings, and are unmindful of the golden opportunities that are flitting by. Still I believe the Latter-day Saints are, taken as a whole, eminently better than any other people under the sun. We can only absolve, if the Gospel of Christ, in its sweetness and purity, is anything. If divine revelation and a knowledge of the hereafter will incite a people to lives of cleanliness and virtue, our lives should be the most clean and virtuous of all people.

But to your letter. In answer to to your first question, I have to say no. There is not an English paper published in all Palestine. There is a small German sheet published in Jerusalem and an Arabic sheet at Beyrout. As near as I can learn these are the only papers published in Syria.

In question two, you ask if any of the wall King Solomon built around Mount Moriah is still remaining. Yes. On the north side of the mount is a very high marble wall 1024 feet long, in the lower part of which there are blocks of stone 15 feet long and from three to four feet deep. It is thought that a great deal of this wall is just as it was first laid. This is one of the most interesting spots of the ones Holy City; for here the Jews come to weep and bewail the land of their former glory and to pray for its return. It is a curious sight to see this once haughty and proud people as they stand there kissing those cold marble blocks while the tears stream from their eyes.

The Jews are constantly increasing in numbers in Palestine. At Jerusalem, whose population is over 50,000, there are over 30,000 Jews. These are divided into two classes—the Sephardim, of Spanish origin, and the Ashkenazim, of German and Polish origin—and are all very poor. They are disliked and persecuted on all sides, by the so-al ed Christian as well as the Mohammedan. The Turkish government has recently passed a law prohibiting the Jews taking more land. Those who have lands can pass on them, but they cannot sell to their brethren, neither can they buy more. There are a number of Jewish colonies throughout the land in a flourishing condition, and as far as I am able to see and study their ways they make good citizens.

The latter rains have come to Palestine and at the present writing there never was a more fertile looking country. Grass and flowers grow everywhere. Silvery brooks thread their way through the richly carpeted lowlands, dotted here and there by flocks of sheep and goats, and mud villages; while the highlands are covered with the vine and fig tree and olive groves. All in the world this country needs to make it the Eden it formerly was, is a Mormon colony to teach the Arabs how to work, how to be industrious, how to live happily by doing good. Not long since I was talking with a gentleman of prominence who has interested himself in the "Mormon question," and among other things he said: "Although I am not a believer in the Mormon faith, I believe the only redemption for this country will come through your people." This gentleman said he had lived here forty years and in that time the climate and the land have improved phenomenally. I thought of that time when the servants of the Most High came and blessed this land and removed the curse it had been under for so many ages.

Yes, I have visited the Mosque of Omar. It stands on the most sacred ground in Jerusalem. It was here where that inexpressibly grand temple of King Solomon stood. On this spot, according to tradition, Abraham was about to offer his son Isaac in compliance with a command of God. Over there is where David had the Ark of the Covenant placed before the temple was built. Down under that modern building is where Solomon had his "40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots;" and on this side is the "Beautiful Gate" through which Jesus passed on his way to and from the Mount of Olives, and where Peter cured the lame man (Acts iii, 1-11).

The Mosque of Omar is a magnificent structure with eight sides, each being 68 feet long. It has 56 stained glass windows, whose harmony and richness excite the wonder and admiration of all visitors. The walls are covered with colored porcelain, and the great dome, 60 feet in diameter, is supported by 12 marble columns that were found in the ruins of Solomon's temple. The floor of the mosque is marble mosaic.

I did not get out to Hebron, I am sorry to say, but I was as far as Solomon's Pools, and was in Bethlehem on Christmas eve and part of Christmas. I spent most of the night in the place where our Lord was born. I have been over the Mount of Olives a number of times. There are quite a number of churches on the mount at present and some fine buildings, belonging mostly to the Greeks.

Well, dear brother, my letter is getting rather long, so I think it wisdom to close for the present. I hope to hear from you again in the near future. Kind regards to yourself and family.

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TRAINS DEPART SALT LAKE.

No. 3—For Provo, Grand Junction and all points East ..... 9:00 a.m.
No. 4—For Provo, Grand Junction and all points East ..... 1:00 p.m.
No. 10—For Provo, Fairson, Eureka and Silver City ..... 1:00 p.m.
No. 8—For Bingham, Provo, Marion, and Pleasant Grove ..... 6:00 p.m.
No. 2—For Ogden and West ..... 11:00 a.m.
No. 1—For Ogden and the West ..... 11:00 p.m.

ARRIVE SALT LAKE.

No. 3—From Provo, Grand Junction and the East ..... 10:10 a.m.
No. 4—From Provo, Grand Junction and the East ..... 11:00 p.m.
No. 10—From Provo, Fairson, Eureka and Silver City ..... 10:00 a.m.
No. 8—From Bingham, Provo, Marion and Pleasant Grove ..... 7:00 p.m.
No. 1—From Ogden and the West ..... 1:00 a.m.
No. 2—From Ogden and the West ..... 7:00 a.m.

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From all Eastern points ..... 10:40 p.m.
From Cache Valley and Ogden ..... 7:00 p.m.
From Provo and intermediate points ..... 9:00 a.m.
†From 30th st., Utah, Nephi, Provo ..... 4:00 p.m.
Provo and intermediate points ..... 6:00 p.m.
*From Terminus and Tooele ..... 4:00 p.m.

DEPART.

For eastern points ..... 3:00 a.m.
For Butte, Portland, San Francisco and Cache Valley ..... 10:00 a.m.
For Cache Valley and Park City ..... 9:30 p.m.
For Ogden, intermediate points and all points east ..... 6:00 p.m.
For Ogden, all intermediate points and San Francisco ..... 11:00 p.m.
†For Eureka, Juab and Milford ..... 7:00 a.m.
†For Provo and intermediate points ..... 5:00 p.m.
*For Tooele and Terminus ..... 7:00 a.m.
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