

grain, grass, houses, barns, cattle, and some children were nearly burned to death. The fire would fly from bush to bush, across any clearing; and so great was the fire, that the people had no place of safety, but to get into the wells, which were all dry.

"In Winchester alone, about thirty or forty houses were burned, and the families left to beg this winter. Some threw their furniture into the wells, and then it caught fire and burned; some on the wagons, and had to take off the horses, and let it burn in the wagons. Spurbach's saw-mill, and all the buildings in that neighborhood, were swept clean; there are no fences to show the road by night, but a complete common.

"Cattle were burned, hogs burned in the pens, sheep in the pasture, and so on. You may think strange, but so it was; if you remember the Merrimash fire and smoke, it was so here last summer you could not see 50 yds. for a long time.

"Last summer beat all that ever was seen in Canada by fire."

### THE SCORPION.

"This creature somewhat resembles a lobster, and in Africa it is found very large and powerful. It is very bold, and ready to attack an enemy; erecting its tail, placing itself in an attitude of defiance, and fighting till it is killed, or till it has driven away its foe. Its bite is sometimes fatal, particularly in some of the African species. From the language of scripture we find that, in the East, these animals have long been the dread of mankind"—*Peter Parley's Tales*.

Dr. Meeks recently presented us with a young scorpion, which we have caged, and will leave at the tithing office, a few days, for the inspection of the curious, and the benefit of those unacquainted with the animal. It is poisonous, and as it exists, to a small extent, in this valley and on the surrounding mountains, every person, every

child ought to know it so as to shun or destroy it. There is no poison but what may be cured, if properly and seasonably attended.

G. S. L. CITY.—June 23, 1850.

The Persifer Co. from Knox, Co. Illinois arrived here on the Morning of the 18th, after a long journey, across the plains and mountains of America. It is useless for us to attempt to describe our feelings as we approached this City. The snow glittered upon the mountain tops, but summer smiled in the valley.

Marks of civilization grew plain-er as we approached, and our excitement grew stronger until the whole city burst full in view.

The improvements far exceeded our expectations, giving indisputable proof of the industry and perseverance of its inhabitants. We were treated with the greatest cordiality by the inhabitants, & we can truly say that a more hospitable people cannot be found. Long may they live to enjoy the fruits of their toil.

May they never be driven from their home amid the mountains, but be blessed with freedom and plenty, until the last link in the great chain of time shall mingle with the past.

K. W. Miles,	A. Metcalf,
R. White,	G. McPherin,
Wm. Bradford,	David white,
A. Fletcher,	H. Herrin,
C. R. Lindsey,	C. Herrin,
Edward Thorp,	Wm. McCallister
R. N. Alexander,	T. McCalister,
C. Fierce,	J. Hearn,
S. Tuttle,	A. J. Caldwell,
A. W. Caldwell,	W. Lindsey,

A Merchant of San Francisco, Says, It would make your heart ache to see the immense piles of what were dry goods, and merchandise of every description, now rotting in the streets since the rains have set in. Somebody must suffer. There are continual forced sales at auction at dreadful sacrifices.

[N. Y. Courier.

### DESERET BOARDING HOUSE.

The large room in the south east corner of the State House, is converted into an eating house for the accommodation of emigrants, and laborers on the public works.— Butter, cheese, milk, radishes, onions, slaw, &c., wanted immediately, and constantly to supply said table.

The people of the valley gathered as they are from almost every nation, and consequently, having correspondents throughout the earth, will be gratified in learning the rates of postage to the different nations, which we publish this week.

A gentleman, seeing the frame of a building near the State House, enquired if the house would be to let, when finished, was politely informed that it was only the frame work of a carriage, now building by the Nauvoo Brass Band.

A gold mine has recently been opened in Westfield, Mass.

The Berkshire Medical Institution, at Pittsfield, Mass., has been burned.

WONDERS OF GEOLOGY.—More than 9000 different animals have been changed into stone. The races or genera of more than one half of these are now extinct, not being at present known in a living state upon the earth. From the remains of some of these ancient animals, they must have been larger than any living animals now known upon the earth. The Megatherium, (great beast,) says Buckland, from a skeleton nearly perfected, now in the museum at Madrid, was perfectly colossal. With a head and neck like the Sloth, its legs and feet exhibit the character of Armadillo and Ant-eater. Its fore feet were a yard in length, and more than twelve inches wide, terminated by gigantic claws. Its thigh-bone was nearly three times as thick as that of the elephant, and its tail, naer-