

States today, so far as he knows. He says that for ten years he had traveled extensively as a salesman, all over the intermountain country, and knows for a verity that the Gila River valley outclasses them all. Persons contemplating bettering their material conditions will find it a good place to locate. Men with families need not be fearful regarding lack of social or educational advantages, as ample provision is being made for these. Educational interests are particularly being pushed forward at this time. A fine academy, to which an extension was recently made, has now a large attendance of pupils. While those who patronize it are principally Mormons, President Kimball cites the fact as an instance of good feeling, that a considerable number of non-Mormons are also enthusiastic patrons and supporters of the schools.

President Kimball will remain in the city for two weeks, and while here, will make his headquarters at Cutler Bros., where he will be pleased to meet consult with, and give information to anyone desirous of locating in the Gila River valley. After that, he will return home to supervise the construction of the Enterprise canal, upon which work will begin on Oct. 24th. This large ditch will tap the Gila river, will be thirty-six miles long, twenty-five feet wide at the bottom, and four feet deep. It will cover and irrigate fifty thousand acres of land, not now under cultivation, much of which has not yet been located. This land, he says, is particularly fertile and will produce as good grain, crops, and fruit as the best and richest sections of California.

AN ICELANDIC ADDRESS.

By request of Jacob B. Johnson of Cleveland, Emery Co., the "News" gives space to the following address, which appeared recently in the Canadian Icelandic newspaper (Helmskringla), and was delivered by Andrew, the mayor of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to the Icelandic assembly, on their national celebration day at Winnipeg, the 2nd day of August, 1898:

Mr. Chairman, and all who are assembled here today: It is my earnest desire in behalf of the committee and all, that joy and happiness may attend you on this your grand national day, which assembly mainly consists of the members of that nation, in order to commemorate their highly respected native land. My desire is that you all might be happy, not only as Icelanders, but as Canadian citizens.

I understand that your claim is—and I believe it to be true—that your forefathers, those most famous heroes, found this great land about 500 years before Columbus did; consequently, it is really outside of the right way for others to bid you welcome unto this land, as you have the full right yourselves to bid them welcome unto it. You have come hither, not in order to become English, Scots or Icelanders, but to become honest Canadian citizens.

When realizing upon the emigration unto this country, it can be learned that it is not right to esteem the greatest number only as a main advantage, but rather the character and ability of the incomers. And as pertaining to the ancestry from whom you are an offspring, I presume that it is all right to say that never has any nation emigrated to this country whose blood is circulating warmer or nobler in characterizing the connection one with another than are the Icelanders as a nation; and nowhere on the face of the earth can man find a nobler race than those whose ancestry reaches back to those great and brave heroes in ages past, whose

power extended over all the northern countries (of Europe), through their skill and ability. They had their poets among those who served in the king's palaces from time to time. This nation was acknowledged and famous for their poetry and literature from the first time of their history, and these were Icelanders—your forefathers. We also ought to be thankful to you for having come here among the first settlers, while this northwestern land was yet in its childhood, and have faced all the toils and hardships following the undertaking of going out on an unsettled country and bringing it under cultivation; for this it is due to render thanks unto you, and I hope and desire that you will reap a great reward from this land—which is one of the best on the earth—for all that labor you have performed in assisting to supply its need, to build it up.

We can truly say that we live here in one of the best lands that eyes of man has beheld, and there is, no doubt that through your diligence, frugality and skill you will be a prosperous people as a nation. You will belong to that nation who eat their bread in the sweat of their faces, and as well as ye are an industrious people, as sure it is that ye never rest till ye have paid to everyone that is due to him, and are particular in keeping out of debt. You have also proportionally taken an active part in various associations in the community; by coming here ye have imparted some intelligence and knowledge to the nation. I have been told that in Iceland there can hardly be found a child that is not able to read and write when 10 years old; and in this land, you have such an advantage above all others, that in your schools everywhere out in the country, you have a school teacher of your own nation who teaches in the English language.

You are prominent partakers in most all improvements of this country, as ye are equipped with merchants, lawyers and doctors and so on; and two newspapers are published here among you.

Since 1875, when the first Icelanders emigrated to this country, your nation has increased in number up to 10,000 here in Canada—about 4,000 of them who are residing here in Winnipeg. I therefore, as mayor of this city, declare unto you that there is not a nation in this country that excels you in any particular—neither physically nor mentally; consequently there are none others who are more respectable citizens than they of your nation.

I thank you all for the honor manifested unto me by inviting me here in your midst to address you this day. I wish you all good luck and happiness in the future in your national celebration.

[Re-translated into English by Thorarinn Bjarnason at Castle Gate Utah.]

CONCERNING THAT INTERVIEW.

Riter, Utah, Sept. 27th, 1898.

A few days ago a friend called my attention to a letter from Mr. Joseph Luff of the Reorganized Church, addressed to Robert J. Parker, a missionary from said church to Utah, with address at Springville, Utah, as published in the Saints' Herald of Sept 14th, 1898, in regard to the interview of March 18th, 1896, at Independence, Mo., between Joseph Smith and me, in company of Elders E. S. Hart, Wm. Criddle, A. G. Young and also Joseph Luff of the Reorganized Church. It was suggested that a reply from me might not be out of place.

Accordingly at my earliest opportunity I perused Mr. Luff's statement, and you may imagine my surprise at his attempts to deny the correctness of

the questions and answers, as published in the "Deseret News." What his object may be in such misrepresentation I presume he, better than I can say.

After looking over his letter and observing the spirit manifest in its contents, I am indeed surprised that he should admit that he even knew I did write anything at all in his presence—quite different with Mr. Smith—he had no knowledge whatever of me writing.

Luff admits: "He pretended to have some questions down in writing and would ask one at a time, then begin writing when an answer was given, and, that, too, without hearing the answer in full!"

Who but a "short hand" reporter would wait for the "end" before he made his beginning?

Luff says, "Surely those people who account President Smith as a knave will not pretend to believe him to be a fool."

Mr. Smith says, (Saints' Herald, July 29th, 1896) "The questions were not written in my presence, nor did I see them if written; neither were the answers shown me, nor written in my presence to my knowledge."

If Mr. Smith could sit in the same room (a room probably not larger than 14 by 16) where Elder Spencer held his Journal in one hand and fountain pen in the other, and "begin writing when an answer was given, and that too, without hearing the answer in full," as Mr. Luff admits, surely Saints and sinners will observe a defect somewhere. If Mr. Smith has no "knowledge" of the fact of me writing he certainly can have but very little retained in his memory of what was said on that occasion.

The fact of the matter is that Mr. Smith seemed to be perfectly dumb-founded when confronted by a few of the most humble Elders.

In Mr. Smith's letter to J. M. Stubbart of May 19, 1896, he endeavors to remember the entire dialogue of March 18, 1896, and pretends to give it word for word after a lapse of two months, (but cannot remember me writing—strange!) although, he is said to his credit, he inserts in his letter no less than six or eight times— "I think," "I don't think," "I believe," "I don't believe," "I don't know," etc., etc.

It is with the full belief and intention of meeting the Creator of heaven and earth, to be judged for the deeds done in my body, that I repeat what I have ever said of the "Interview," every question given and every answer written as published in the "Deseret News," signed by myself and those with me, are in no instance altered or changed, but are true and correct, and though heaven and earth may pass away, Mr. Smith and Mr. Luff, as well as ourselves will have to face the fact, whether the questions and answers please or displease them. And as far as I am concerned, I will not accuse Mr. Smith of either being a "knave," or a "fool," but I am forced to admit that I never met a man of standing in any community who talked with less spirit of ease and confidence, with less expression of satisfaction and knowledge, than did he in our presence.

I do not record this out of disrespect, but simply as a matter of fact, which I can in no wise alter.

Before meeting Mr. Smith I had longed and prayed for the privilege of conversing with him.

May God grant that the day may not be far distant when those claiming to believe in the restoration of the Gospel may acknowledge the house of the Lord in the mountains and be one with us in redeeming fallen mankind.

SAMUEL G. SPENCER.