

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

**SABBATH MEETINGS.**—In the morning Elder Henry G. Boyle, who has just returned from a mission to the States of Virginia and North Carolina, gave a very interesting account of his labors and their results in those localities. His remarks were very excellent and were listened to with marked attention by the large congregation. Elder Boyle has been very successful in his missionary labors.

He was followed by Elder George C. Cannon, who referred, briefly, to the change that has been effected here since the arrival of the Saints in these valleys, and the peace, and good order, and safety to life and property which have prevailed in this Territory. In reference to this he said, "We can truly say that God has been with us, and He has blessed us; He has fertilized this land and has made it fruitful. And why have we been so signally blessed? I have reflected upon this, and the conviction is forced upon me, and the more I reflect the more I am convinced that my conclusion is correct, that God has manifested His peculiar favor towards us because of the valor that has been manifested by this people in defending and sustaining the principles which He has revealed."

Brother Boyle has alluded to the subject of "Patriarchal Marriage." Do they, who seek by every means in their power to break up and destroy our organization because of our belief, have any idea of the sacrifice of feeling and reputation it cost the first elders of the Church to introduce, sustain and declare this principle? When I look back to that time and think of the men who entered into that order and advocated it conscientiously, because they knew the command to practice it was given by God Almighty to them, a feeling of admiration for them fills my heart, and I thank God that I live in a day when men are so valiant as they were. Instead of feeling ashamed I am thankful that I am among men who can die, if it be necessary, for an idea, when they believe and know it is right; and because they know God has revealed it, they are willing to embrace it and accept all the consequences involved in obeying it.

When I think that this people did from the time they left Illinois until they came to this Valley, and they are still doing, I sincerely believe, with all my heart that the blessings God has so signally bestowed upon them, have been because of the courage and constancy manifested by their leaders in embracing and maintaining that principle.

If the question had been asked a year previous to the breaking out of the war between the South and the North, which of these "twin relics," as they were called, slavery or polygamy, is most likely to be destroyed, what would have been the reply from all parts of the nation? "We believe plurality of wives, the peculiar domestic institution of the Mormons, must go by the board; slavery is of too great magnitude for us to grapple with." That would have been the reply from every individual, no matter how favorable he might have felt in other respects towards the Latter-day Saints, unless he had believed they had introduced it had been inspired to do so. But what is the result? Slavery does not exist. Still the feelings against polygamy are as strong as ever. It is only a few days ago that I read a letter, the contents of which were the views of a prominent man, a member of a party that visited this city recently. In that letter it was stated that this system, so odious to the so-called Christian world—must be destroyed. There was no question about it; it had to be met and decided, and there could be no doubt as to the result.

Now, I speak frankly upon this because I know it is a topic which is uppermost in most men's minds; I tell the feelings candidly, not defiantly, upon it, but knowing that plurality of wives never will be destroyed, if it be of God, and we know it is. If such a thing were possible as to destroy and break up this people, it would only increase the difficulty; it would be like going into a garden and striking a head of mustard seed when it is ripe—the seed would be scattered all over the garden. As long as there is a Latter-day Saint upon the earth, holding the priesthood, as long as the oracles of truth exist on the earth, earth and hell may array themselves against this principle, but it will stand, because it is of God, and it will have its origin in licentiousness, and does not come from the degradation of woman. On the contrary, women, under it, are elevated. It is true that we do not place a few of them on a pedestal and make them objects of worship, as we do the Old Institution, while thousands of the poor degraded sisters are perishing in the gutters and sidewalks without any thought or care. We do not pursue this course; but instead of elevating and making objects of worship of the few, we elevate the sex generally, we pay the respect, homage and honor due to them, we consider our sisters, and we respect their virtue to such an extent that there is not a man amongst us, who is a true Latter-day Saint, but what would die rather than the virtue of his mother, aunt, wife, sister or daughter should be violated. He would be recreant to the principles of the faith he professes, a poor, miserable devil, who would be considered unworthy of a name amongst us, who feels and would act otherwise. We do for the sex what others talk about doing—that is we honor and respect them. May God bestow on us, my brethren and sisters, to cleave to the truth, and discard error; to be valiant to the cause of our God and accept the consequences, always, even if it lead to the stake or the scaffold. We are no better than our Master: He died an ignominious death, and His apostles died the same. We are no better than the Hebrew Children, or than any who fought the good fight when upon the earth, may God help us to be like them, follow in their footsteps and attain to the glory which they enjoy. I ask it in the name of Jesus, Amen.

In the afternoon Elder John R. Clawson, just returned from a mission to England, briefly related his labors and experience while there.

He was followed by President George A. Smith, in a discourse upon the history of the Church from the commencement of a Territorial Government in Utah, which was reported in full and will shortly appear.

**THEATRE.**—To-night the Minstrels announce another change in their programme. New sketches will be produced, among which are "The Carte de Visite Mania," "Dr. Colten's Laughing Gas," and "The Masquerade Ball." These, with their sweet ballads, comic songs and medley clog dancing, should fill the house.

**OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.**—Last evening the joint Congressional Committee on Retrenchment, accompanied by a number of invited guests, reached this city in three special coaches. The members of the committee consist, on the part of the United States Senate, of Hon. James W. Patterson, of New Hampshire, Hon. Carl Schurz, of Missouri, and Hon. Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio; on the part of the House of Representatives, Hon. M. W. McKim, of Ohio, Hon. J. R. Keim, of Pennsylvania, and Hon. Jacob Bland, of New Hampshire; also D. F. Murphy, Esq.,

Clerk of the Committee, and J. I. Christie, Esq., Sergeant-at-Arms. The committee was accompanied by Hon. A. G. Cattell, U. S. Senator from New Jersey, Hon. J. S. Morrill, U. S. Senator from Vermont, and a number of ladies and gentlemen.

Yesterday the party attended the morning and afternoon services at the Tabernacle, and to-day they visited President Brigham Young, took a walk around his grounds, and were shown the method of irrigation practiced here, in which they manifested much interest. Accompanied by a number of our leading citizens they also visited the Tabernacle, the Theatre, the City Hall and other places and objects of interest in our city, expressing much pleasure in what they had noticed in our midst since their arrival. This afternoon they again started on their journey westward to San Francisco. We learn that their journey has been a very pleasant one thus far, and we hope its pleasures may continue to the end.

**CONCERTS IN THE SETTLEMENTS.**—Professor C. J. Thomas, so well known in the community as the founder and former conductor of the theatrical orchestra, has been in the city for the past few days. He came for his home, Beaver City, Beaver County, on Wednesday next, and intends to give a series of concerts in the principal settlements en route. The vocalists and instrumentalists on these occasions will be the Professor, himself, assisted by his wife and daughter, (the latter only seven years of age) and the bands and choirs of the various settlements in which his entertainments will be given.

Professor Thomas's efficiency as a musician and conductor are sufficient guarantees that the ability at his command will be made the most of, and while using his talent for the pleasure and amusement of his friends and the public generally, we hope they will not forget to make him a befitting return in greenbacks and other good things to help him on the journey of life, through the coming winter.

**THE NEW ARRIVALS.**—We have had several very pleasant interviews with Elder John E. Pace and others of the returning missionaries, who came by the Colorado. From them we learn that the voyage was a most pleasant one, and from the time they left Liverpool, on the 28th of July, to the date of their arrival in these valleys, August 21st, they did not see one of the company by day or night, but their number was increased by the birth of a girl, while in the cars in the Bitter Creek country. Of the returning missionaries who came in the Colorado, Elder John E. Pace, Joel Grover, Willard Richards, Hy. J. Moore, Orestes M. Smith, Nathan B. Baldwin, John R. Clawson and William Howard, the latter accompanied by his wife, have reached their homes in these mountains. Elder R. Erastus Egan is still east, whilst Elder Geo. Teasdale remains in New York to assist Elder W. C. Staines in the business of the emigration.

## Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY.

August 20th, 1866.

**Editor Dearest.**—Dear Bro.—The following extracts I have taken from Joseph Smith's Journal, kept by his private secretary, Willard Richards:

"Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1844. I instructed the Twelve Apostles to send out a delegation and investigate the locations of California and Oregon, and hunt out a good location, where we can remove to after the Temple is completed, and where we can (like the Israelites) build a city in a day, and have a government of our own; get up into the mountains where the Devil cannot dig us out, and live in a healthy climate, where we can live as long as we have a mind to."

"Wednesday, 21st. The Rev. Mr. De Wolf lectured in the Assembly Room in the evening. I attended, and after the sermon, at his request, spoke to the people, showing them that to get salvation we must not only do some things, but everything which God has commanded. Men may preach and practice everything except those things which God commands us to do, and will be damned at last.

"The object with me is to obey and teach others to obey God in just what He tells us to do. It mattereth not whether the principle is popular or unpopular, I will always maintain a true principle, even if I stand alone in it."

"At the same hour the Twelve met in my office and selected eight men, to accompany the exploring expedition I mentioned to them on the 20th, and adjourned to meet at the Assembly Room, on the evening of the 23rd."

The minutes of the above named meeting are as follows:

"At a meeting of the Twelve, at the Mayor's Office, Nauvoo, Feb. 21st, 1844, 7 o'clock p.m. B. Young, P. Pratt, O. Pratt, W. Woodruff, J. Taylor, Geo. A. Smith, W. Richards and four others, being present, called by previous notice, by instruction of President Joseph Smith, on the 20th inst., for the purpose of selecting a company to explore Oregon and California, and select a site for a new city for the Saints. Jonathan Dunham, Phineas H. Young, D. D. Yearley and David Fulmer volunteered to go; and Alphonso Young, James Emmett, Geo. D. Watt and Daniel Spencer were requested to go. Voted the above persons be notified to meet with the Council on Friday evening next, at the Assembly Rooms."

"Friday 23rd. Met with the Twelve in the Assembly Room concerning the Oregon and California exploring expedition. Hyrum and Sidney present. I told them I wanted an exploration of all that mountain country, and twenty-five men, let them preach the gospel wherever they go. Let that man go that can raise \$500, a good horse and mule, a double-barrel gun, a barrel rifle and the other smooth bore, a saddle and bridle, a pair of revolving pistols, bowie-knife and a good sabre. Appoint a leader and let him beat up for volunteers. I want every man that goes to be a king and a priest. When he gets on the mountains he may want to talk with his God; when with the savage nations, have power to govern, etc. If we don't get volunteers, wait till after the election. Geo. D. Watt said, 'Gentlemen, I shall go.' Samuel Bent volunteered; Joseph A. Keating, do; David Fulmer, do; James Emmett, do; Daniel Spencer, do; Samuel Rolf, do; Daniel Avery, do; Samuel W. Richards, do."

"Saturday, Feb. 24. Seth Palmer, Amos Fielding, Charles Shumway and John S. Fulmer volunteered, and subsequently Almon L. Fulmer, Hosea Stout, Thos. S. Edwards, Moses Smith and Rufus Beach, and probably others volunteered to join the Oregon and California exploring expedition."

The foregoing extracts taken from the Journal of Pres. Joseph Smith set forth clearly the fact that he had an eye to the West.

Yours respectfully,  
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

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