

## Correspondence.

## The Kirtland Temple—Gathering of Old Kirtlanders, Etc.

KIRTLAND, Lake Co., Ohio,  
January 28, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

I arrived in Kirtland on the 18th inst., and found it a dismal looking place. I found some that professed to be "Mormons" here, but they are not Latter-day Saints, and the first thing they wanted to know was, "Is Kirtland going to be built up again?" for they heard it was.

They are nearly all spiritualists here. A Methodist church stands near by, also a Baptist church, but no meeting of any kind is held here on the Sabbath day. Everything looks dead, like as if it had been plucked up by the roots. There is no life in anything. The only thing by way of amusement was some old and young sliding down hill. They go to the Temple and start with about twenty in one sleigh.

I went into the Temple, but it was very much defaced. The lower rows of stands are torn away, the doors torn off, and it is in a very bad state of decay. Passing to the upper room, that was worse. Every seat was gone, there were holes in the floor, the stands west and east were partly torn away, and what was left was marked all over. The walls inside were all marked and cut to pieces. They have had dances there, also the meetings of the Lodge of the Sons of Temperance have been held there. The attic was still worse, it is too bad to describe. The belfry window is broken by the shooting of rifle balls, which have lodged in the ceiling and torn it off and also on the outside. Many balls from guns have penetrated the walls. The rain has wet it and it has run down a dirty yellow color. The walls have cracked on the north side as on the west. It looks as if it was forsaken.

From there I went to Mr. Morley's, and there I learned of a meeting of all the oldest settlers of Kirtland. It was held in Maple Grove, Morley's farm, September 20th, 1876, when they organized and elected chairman and permanent president, Alfred Morley; secretary, Dr. Luce. About three or four hundred persons were present. All the oldest men were called forward, among them one Mr. Gray, ninety-six years of age, also Isaac Moore, Esq., eighty-three years, who settled in Kirtland in 1811. Many speeches were made and much interest was manifested in the meeting. Many old relics of farming tools were brought forward, and a good feeling was manifested among the people. They adjourned to meet at the same place one year from date. As my father settled in Kirtland, with his family, in 1817, and I was raised there from a child, and was present when Oliver Cowdery preached there the first time, I thought that a short notice of these things might be interesting to your many readers.

I find the people, as a general thing, worship the god of this world. They want nothing more. I have been blessed while on my mission. In a few days I shall continue east.

Yours in the bonds of the new and everlasting covenant,

JOHN RIGGS.

## Traveling and Preaching—Poverty and Hard Times—A Few Words to the Young, etc.

PHILADELPHIA,  
February 5, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

Since my last communication to you I received a note from Elder Lorin Pratt, with a request of Saints and friends for me to preach at Cressona on Saturday evening at seven o'clock, Feb. 27, and Shenandora on Sunday evening, fifty miles beyond Cressona, which I accepted. I preached in the Odd Fellows Hall at Cressona to a large audience, and Shenandora on Sunday evening, and Fishback on Monday evening. Several have said they intend to be baptized soon.

I left Pottsville on Tuesday for Columbia on business and found Elders Musser and Whitney alive in the work in which they are engaged, preaching the gospel and holding meetings in the different towns near that place. Opposition

papers sent to that place have caused many to come out to hear the truth, who otherwise would not, and prominent men assist the elders in getting halls to preach in. I am informed that in the coal mining district many are in a starving condition. The Catholics are sending their poor from St. Clair to Texas. There is more suffering in this city than there has been for the past thirty years. Taxes are high. The city debt is eighty-two million dollars.

There are in the almshouse at the present time near five thousand souls, and the inhabitants of this city are visited often through the day by men, women and children with a pitiful look for something to eat.

I have had great pleasure in talking to my relations and schoolmates and acquaintances that I have made through them on the principles of the gospel, and they have promised to get me places to preach in.

A few words to my young brethren in Utah. I advise you to go to work now, for now is the time for you to make yourselves acquainted with the Scriptures and practise before your brethren and sisters, that when you are called on missions you can stand up and defend the cause of Christ, and not, as I have seen some, regret that they had not embraced the opportunity at home during many hours which they spent foolishly.

I feel that I ought to mention that Brother Andrew Glover at Shenandora is very anxious to gather to Utah with the Saints, and is not able without some assistance. I can recommend him as a good brother and Saint, and I fear if he is not assisted he will have to suffer in this panic.

I leave to-day for Valley Forge, and through some of Montgomery county.

I have just received a letter from Brother W. H. Rowe in New York. He will be in this city about the 9th. I never felt better in my life.

I remain your brother in the gospel of Christ.

HENRY GROW.

## Travelling—Preaching—Branch Organized—Opposition, etc.

GROVE OAK,  
De Kalb Co., Ala.,  
Feb. 5th, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

I was called at the April Conference, 1876, to take a mission to the States. After arriving in the State of Mississippi in June, and preaching a few times with little success, being alone, and learning that Bro. D. P. Rainey was in Tennessee, I made my way to him that I might have a companion. Finding him in bad health, after remaining with him for a short time, he thinking it wise to return home on account of his health, we parted. I then started on foot for Alabama, distance over 200 miles. I had already travelled over 100 miles on foot, carrying my effects.

Reaching this place Oct. 29th, I gave notice of a meeting for Sunday Nov. 5th. Since that time I have been laboring in this vicinity with no one to assist me, that is, no other Elder. But through the blessings of the Lord I have been the means of bringing a few souls to a knowledge of the truth. After laboring faithfully for two months and a half, I commenced baptizing. I baptized twelve persons and organized the Grove Oak Branch, Jan. 12th. I ordained Bro. R. Sellers an Elder to preside, and his brother, Samuel Sellers, a teacher to assist him. At our meeting for organization, the brethren all bore a faithful testimony.

The Saints are all trying to make ready for emigrating this spring. Great and small they number near forty. Others will come in if we remain here.

We find that the evil one still works. I have had very great opposition to contend with, and it is still raging, and threats have been made. We know the Gospel must be preached to all the world and then shall the end come, says our Savior, Matthew 24. I have been blessed by coming out on my mission, this being the first time on this business.

Bro. Charles Brewerton and Bro. Wm. C. Wightman, jun., of Payson, Utah Co., arrived here on Thursday, Feb. 1, for the purpose of laboring with me, they having been in Des Ark, Prairie Co., Arkansas, for a short time. I was very glad to meet them, as I had been alone so long. I have labored hard here,

sitting from 11 to 12 o'clock at night, but I am satisfied as long as I know that it will do good.

Bro. Brewerton and Bro. Wightman join in sending their regards. We desire the prayers of the Saints, as we will remember them.

Your brother in the Gospel of Christ,  
JAMES T. LISONBEE.

## Suggestions in Regard to Liquor Selling.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
Feb. 13, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

To give unasked for advice is generally regarded as a work of supererogation, and such the following suggestions may be considered by the City Council; but learning from your columns that the liquor question is again under consideration by the City Fathers, I have made bold to present a few alterations in our present ordinance, which I think would be wise and salutary and would be sustained heartily by public opinion, if they become law. My proposed amendments are—

1. That the City Council may grant licenses to keep as many dram shops within the corporate limits as they may think the public good requires, upon the application by petition of a majority of the legal voters (or residents) of the block on which it is proposed to open and carry on such business.

2. That the license of any dram shop may be revoked by the City Council, whenever they shall be satisfied that the person licensed has violated any of the provisions of the city ordinances, or keeps a disorderly or ill governed house or place of resort for idle or dissolute persons, or allows any illegal gaming in his dram shop or in any house or place adjacent thereto.

3. That no person shall be licensed to sell intoxicating liquors unless he shall give bonds in the sum of \$3,000, with at least two good and sufficient sureties, tax-payers in the city, conditioned that he will pay to all persons all damages that they may sustain, either in person or property, or means of support, by reason of the person so obtaining a license selling or giving away intoxicating liquors.

4. That any saloon-keeper, or his employees, who shall sell or give away intoxicating liquor to any minor, without the written order of his parent, guardian or employer, shall render himself liable to a fine.

5. That all places, where intoxicating liquors are sold in violation of the law, may be abated as nuisances, and be closed until the proprietor gives bonds, with approved securities, that he will not again break the city ordinances.

6. That any person injured in person or property by a husband, wife, child, or other person depending upon him, obtaining liquor from a saloon, etc., may institute a suit for damages against the proprietor.

7. That the giving away of intoxicating liquors, or other shift or device to evade the ordinance, shall be held to be unlawful selling.

Are there any good and sufficient reasons why these amendments should not be made in the interest of temperance, morality, and good government?

## Instruction and Amusement—Weather and Health, etc.

NEWTON, Cache Co., Utah,  
Feb. 15th, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

Things in this part of the country are moving steadily along. We are considerably isolated, but as it has been predicted that the iron rails would pass through this place, our loneliness will be of but short duration. Railroads are a great blessing, but they are like the rose with the thorn, and while enjoying their benefits, we must put up with the evils they bring. But good men and women can accommodate themselves to many circumstances without being contaminated. As the Scripture says, "All things are pure to the pure in heart."

Things here are about as they always are in the winter season. For amusement we have theatres and dances, and meetings of the priesthood to counsel and instruct the Saints in the principles of the gospel. Our Bishop, Wm. F. Littlewood, looking to the interests of the rising generation, has organized a Young Men's Mutual Improve-

ment Association, the meetings of which are being very well attended and are producing a good effect on the young men of this place. Our dramatic association, lately organized under the direction of Moroni Jenkins, who is also President of the Y. M. M. I. A., is quite a success, having rendered plays in a very creditable manner.

The weather has been very cold for two or three weeks past, but is now moderating. There has been but little sickness, considering the unhealthy state of the times.

I remain respectfully, your brother in the gospel,  
JONAS N. BECK.

## Y. M. M. I. A.—Holidays—Winter and Amusements—Improvements—Progress, etc.

GLENWOOD, Jan. 15, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

As a member of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association of this place I wish to announce through your paper the present condition and organization of our association and the present condition of our little town. Our association was organized on the 30th of November, 1875, but re-organized on the 16th of April, 1876, with the following named officers, viz.: President, Wm. M. Palmer; First Counsellor, G. P. Pectal; Second Counsellor, Andrew Killian; Secretary, E. Fillmore; Treasurer, Harry Payne. The association is in a thriving condition at the present time, under the existing circumstances, our not being able as yet to procure a library and the lack of historical books in our settlement, and our president being on a mission, who was ever ready and willing to give us a helping hand and urge us on in the great good work we had commenced. Some of the more elderly and experienced men of the settlement have joined the association this winter. It has been thought wisdom by our president (who communicates to us by letter) that we go through a series of lectures on the first principles of the gospel this winter, which, God being our helper, we are striving to carry out to the best of our abilities. One of the main features of our association is to set our face as a flint against the sin of intemperance, giving it no countenance nor encouragement in our association, nor wherever our lot may be cast upon the sea of life. I am happy to say there are no whisky saloons in our little settlement.

The holidays went off splendidly. We had a good time, and most of the people seemed to enjoy the spirit of their religion.

We have got one of the most favorable localities in the country, more especially for water power. We have a saw mill and grist mill now, both running, right on the edge of the town, a machine for sawing laths and pickets, a turning lathe and furniture shop almost under completion, and a co-operative tannery now in running order, which bids fair to amply supply leather for our home consumption. The grist mill has been running almost incessantly day and night for weeks, on account of our neighboring settlements bringing in their grain to be ground, they not being able to run their mills on account of cold weather, their creeks being almost frozen up. Our little creek, which arises from springs about a mile from town, is always the same, summer and winter.

We have had a very pleasant winter, with little snow, but rather cold. It is dry and almost dusty now. We cannot have the enjoyment of sleigh-riding, like the northern settlements, so we have to content ourselves with a play at ball, and once in a while a social party. We have also had a few plays by our Dramatic Association this winter, under the direction of J. W. Pierce. They are mostly new actors and actresses, but they bid fair to make the association a success.

It is the design of the people to build a factory here for the consumption of the wool in the county and surrounding country, it being a great wool raising district.

The Relief Society are doing their best to gather up grain against a time of need. The people are donating very liberally, I believe, for the construction of the Temple in Manti, Sanpete county. The United Order are doing well, from all appearance, and are still inviting their brethren to join them in their work of unity. I forgot to mention that the larger portion of the above

mentioned machinery is under the direction of the United Order.

Respectfully yours,  
E. FILLMORE.

## Spring Weather and Work—Price City Farm—Temple Missionaries—Thespians—New Road to the Colorado, etc.

ST. GEORGE, Feb. 8, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

We are having delightful spring weather here, warm and pleasant. The sky is bright and blue above us, making life agreeable, and the gardeners and farmers happy. I notice many gardens being prepared for the early seeding, and best of all, we are busy. Our town is quiet and free from those everlasting "bummers" who sun themselves on the sidewalks in East Temple Street in your city.

Bro. Wm. Lang has been appointed by President Young to take charge of Price City Farm, which lies five miles south of here. Bro. Lang is one of our most successful farmers, and under his able management we expect to hear of Price City looming up, with her granaries full of wheat, corn, etc.

The following named missionaries have been visiting the settlements in the Temple interests—R. Bentley, B. Johnson, and J. Judd, as far north as Paragonah; Charles Pulsipher and John R. Young as far east and south as Long Valley and Kanab; M. P. Romney and Jos. Orton west to Shoal Creek, Pinto and Pine Valley; W. Nixon and Doctor Higgins up the Virgin River to Rockville.

The Thespians have closed for the season. They have done first rate for amateurs, and will need less prompting as their memories improve. Bro. Cox is remodeling the old cannon, reloading it with lead and iron, and will use it to drive the piles for the Virgin River Bridge. Pity but all the iron and brass cannon were used for like purposes.

The new road to the Colorado ferry can now be travelled, thus shortening the distance to the Grand Gulch mine. Some think that mine will be worth "millions" yet. If it is, we hope it will be used in wisdom, and not be thrown into the hands of unprincipled men.

Only one or two of our citizens are affected by the "Leeds" fever.

The President's health is much improved.

The work for the living and the dead goes on, and all thank God for a holy temple. May Zion increase in strength and power, until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God, and Christ shall reign as king of kings.

AMRAM.

## Hard Times—Cold Weather—Health—Schools—Y. M. M. I. A.—Meetings, etc.

CEDAR CITY, Iron County,  
February 12th, 1877.

## Editor Deseret News:

Notwithstanding the recent development of mines at Leeds, which is situated within thirty miles of this place, we are frequently reminded of hard times, scarcity of money, etc. Still we manage to live, are comfortably clothed, and hear no complaints for want of food, for which blessings we feel thankful, and trust our course may be so shaped in the future as to merit a continuance of those inestimable blessings.

The winter thus far has been very hard on our stock on the range, on account of exceeding drouth which prevailed through the summer of last season. Very little snow has fallen, yet we have experienced severe frosts, accompanied with cold, biting winds. In fact our old settlers say it exceeds anything of the kind in their experience in this valley.

The general health of the people in this settlement has not been as good as we would like of late, many of the aged suffering from severe colds, while a number of children have been afflicted with diphtheria, but as yet only one case has proved fatal.

We have had two day schools in successful operation this Winter, with an average attendance of one hundred scholars, the teachers of which seem to give general satisfaction. Both schools are under the supervision of our worthy trustees, who seem to be taking hold of