

## Correspondence.

PALESTINE, March 10, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Our visit to the River Jordan was interesting; as we drank of its sweet and refreshing waters and washed in its sacred stream, our thoughts and reflections recurred to the days of childhood, when we were accustomed to peruse the Holy Scriptures describing the important events which transpired in this locality—the passage of the Israelites when the channel became dry, as the priests, bearing upon their shoulders the sacred ark, stepped into the flowing stream; the dividing of the waters by Elijah when he passed over the dry bed and was taken up into heaven from the plain on the opposite side by a whirlwind; and Elisha, as he returned, took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, saying, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" thus making the third time the Jordan was divided. But another event of much deeper interest is associated with this place—the baptism of our Savior, referred to in the following language—"John came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and Jesus came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized of him;" and we were at or near the identical point where all these memorable events had taken place, standing upon the bank, looking down into the glen, and bathing in the same stream which had borne silent witness of these sublime occurrences.

This stream of biblical history flows through a glen varying from two hundred to six hundred yards in width, and from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet in depth below the surrounding plain. The bottom of the glen is sprinkled here and there with shrubs; tamarisk, oleander and willows grow on the banks of the stream, which are generally very steep. The Jordan varies in width from eighty to one hundred and fifty feet, with a depth often of ten or twelve feet. It flows through the Sea of Galilee; from the great fountain at Dan to where it empties into the Dead Sea, its distance in a direct line, is ninety-two miles. The Sea of Galilee is about six hundred feet higher than the mouth of the Jordan and sixty miles distant. This river has a rapid current, making it dangerous to bathers unacquainted with the stream. A gentleman from New York, who joined us at Jaffa, stated that on his previous tour to Palestine, while bathing here, he was suddenly carried down by the force of the current, and at the last moment was saved by a dexterous and extraordinary effort of his dragoman.

A singular custom prevails among the Christian churches of Palestine—that of bathing in the Jordan every year at Easter. They gather in multitudes, putting themselves under the protection of a Turkish escort, headed by the Governor of Jerusalem or his deputy, to protect them from the Bedouin robbers. Starting from the "Holy City," traveling on foot and upon mules, donkeys and camels, through the wild mountain regions of Judea, they cross the plains of Jordan, and on reaching its sacred stream rush indiscriminately into the flowing waters, young and old, men and women, regardless of propriety or even decency. Through this ceremony they anticipate peculiar favors and heavenly blessings.

Having sufficiently examined the Jordan and its surroundings, we proceeded across the plains, making our encampment at the Fountain of Elisha, near the ruins of Jericho. This fountain consists of several small springs which flow from beneath a large mound. These are the famous waters which were healed by Elisha, as spoken of in Scripture. A stream flows from them of considerable size, which waters a portion of the plain of Jericho. The valley of the Jordan, in the direction we crossed, is about ten miles in width, possessing a rich soil, and with proper tillage could be made abundantly productive. A great portion of it, however, is a dreary desolate region. Some parts of the valley watered by the "Brook Cherith," and the stream issuing from Elisha's Fountain, are covered with lotes trees interspersed with willows and a prolific growth of weeds. Some distance from these water courses, the trees and shrubbery are more thinly scattered, which viewed in the distance resemble an immense park, beautiful and picturesque. These plains were formerly celebrated for their richness and fertility—their palm groves and luxuriant gardens, producing honey and balm, reckoned the most fertile region of Judea. Now, nothing of this kind remains. The plains of Jericho were formerly considered the garden of Palestine; their aspect now is strangely different, nothing is seen but small fields of grain intermixed with thorny bush. A small village, occupied by

Arabs, is the only modern representative of the ancient Jericho. The houses are formed of stone walls, built up loosely without mortar; the roofs flat and covered with brush and gravel; the yards and wretched patches of gardens, enclosed by winnows, constructed of the bows of thorns; the walls of the village, to protect its shiftless inhabitants from the raids of the Bedouins, are made of the same material. In riding, through this disgustingly filthy town, we were lustily cheered by some dozen dirty, half naked children, collected for this purpose, but more particularly for "backsheesh." Sheep, children, goats, women and men, all indiscriminately huddled together, and no doubt this people deserved the profligate character given them, i. e., similar to that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

In the evening, some twenty Bedouins appeared in our camp, equipped and prepared to amuse us by their accomplishments in music and dancing, for the purpose of laying claims to our "backsheesh." We considered it policy to accept the offer; accordingly we took seats before our tents. They posted themselves in a standing line immediately fronting us, each having a short sword girded under a ragged mantle, all scantily and shabbily clad, making rather a primitive appearance. They commenced their singular maneuvers by dodging forward and back at the same moment, clapping their hands, accompanied with rapid stepping of the feet and a strange chant, occasionally making a whizzing, thrilling whoop, the like of which was never heard but from the throat of a Bedouin, their chief standing in front, twirling and flourishing a naked sword in the faces of his comrades, keeping time with their fantastic motions, stepplings, chantings, and whoopings, occasionally turning suddenly, he made the whole exceedingly impressive by flourishing the naked blade close to our faces. The drift of their songs, we were told, as highly flattering to the ladies, and complimentary to the gentlemen—the former for their extraordinary beauty, the latter for their anticipated liberality in bestowing "backsheesh." We took the hint, and recollecting several robberies and murders, which had occurred in the vicinity, we paid them for this wretched entertainment, constantly adding more, until we excited their admiration. We retired to our tents, reflecting on the strange difference between the present occupants of this locality, and those who inhabited it when prophets converted bitter springs into sweet fountains, and smote impetuous streams, piling up their waters on either side and walked through on dry ground.

The following morning after breakfasting and drinking the sweet waters of the "Fountain of Elisha," we left the plains of Jericho, and ascended into a wild, rocky, mountainous region, our path lying along the brink of the most sublime ravine of Palestine. It is many hundred feet deep, where but little else is seen than precipices of naked rocks, containing here and there a grotto seemingly inaccessible to anything but eagles; yet we were informed that these solitary caves were once occupied by hermits, some of whom reduced their bodies to a condition that four raisins per day supplied the cravings of appetite. Down to an immense depth, we discerned a small stream tumbling over the rocks, which we were told was the "Brook Cherith, that is before Jordan," where the prophet Elijah was fed by ravens, while the famine prevailed in Palestine.

We stopped for lunch under the shade of some crumbling walls and pointed arches, where our generous Sheikh left us, his services being no longer required. Before leaving, he inscribed, in beautiful Arabic, his official name in my journal. Mounting our horses, we soon reached Bethany, situated about two miles from Jerusalem. Its location is pleasant and romantic, being built on the eastern slope of Mount Olivet, partially surrounded by steep hills, encircled by old, decayed terraces, supporting a few scattered fig and olive trees. It is a poor, miserable village, with narrow, filthy streets; the whole presenting a dismal appearance, yet a place of sacred interest. Here dwelt the sisters, Mary and Martha, with Lazarus, their brother. Here Christ raised Lazarus from the tomb and presented him alive to his weeping sisters. Here, too, was the house of Simon the leper, in which Mary anointed Jesus with precious ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sites of these events are still pointed out—the house of Simon, that of Mary and Martha and the tomb of Lazarus. The latter is a deep vault, partly excavated in the rock, and partly lined with masonry. We stopped our horses at the front of the entrance. This opens on a winding staircase leading to a small chamber whence a few steps more lead to a small vault in which the body is said to have been placed. We made but a short stay in this village, much to the disappointment of a crowd of dirty, ragged customers, who clamored fearfully for "backsheesh."

As we approached Jerusalem, we descended a steep hill, down a rocky, winding, shelvy path, past an immense cemetery and the Garden of Gethsemane with its ornamental trees, gravel walks, flowers and shrubbery, then around the towering battlements of Jerusalem, and soon reached our encampment, well pleased with our three days' excursion.

LORENZO SNOW.

LAIE, Oahu, Sandwich, Islands, April 9th, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

We have just passed through the pleasurable experience of meeting in Conference, and although we cannot compare a conference here in magnitude to one in Zion, yet we enjoy a portion of the same Spirit which actuates our brethren while commemorating the day on which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized. Our native Saints look forth with great desire for the time when they can gather from all parts of these Islands in conference. Being great lovers of associations of the kind, it naturally produces new life and spirit in the members, and we find it very beneficial to hold annual and semi-annual conferences here.

Storms have prevented us from grinding during the winter, except

at intervals, hence the prospects are that the crop already matured will require us to be very energetic, lest the crop now coming on be matured before the old cane is worked up into sugar. We shall not find time for the mill or ourselves to be idle during this season, but we shall not press our sugar into the Utah market, for sales here are more remunerative.

Late floods from the mountains, inundating some of our lowest cane land, have destroyed a portion of the matured crop which had fallen by winds; the loss will not be great.

Our April Conference opened here at 10 a.m., on the 6th, and closed at half-past 4 p.m. on the 8th. The missionaries, who have labored in the field since last October, returned, reporting very favorably of the condition of the branches on these islands. There has been a creditable increase of members by baptism since October last. The mission numbers at present 3,746. Since my report in October last, there have been added by baptism 567 and 161 children blessed.

We selected twenty-two Elders and called them to labor in the mission until next October. A committee of four were appointed to compose and select hymns adapted to our religion and send them to the NEWS office for publication in book form. A subscription list is being increased for the purpose of procuring instruments for a band.

The Hawaiian race drank so deeply and rapidly into sin and vice introduced by foreigners, that we find it a task of great magnitude to persuade them (this people) to abandon those evils and take a course to perpetuate the race. The census of these Islands taken in 1872, shows a decrease in the six previous years, a little over 11 per cent. The full native blood has decreased during that time 8,081, while the half caste has increased 847. The total population now stands at 56,897, composed of 31,650 males and 25,247 females. There are 4,517 foreigners, 3,336 half castes, leaving the population of full blood natives at 49,044. The decrease for the last forty years has been 80,956. With these facts before us, a man with reasonable foresight can see at a glance that a continuation of decrease at these rates will soon bring the Hawaiian race, which numbered at one time 400,000, to a termination, unless the power of God produces a change in a remnant. Should the scheme now being agitated, to annex these Islands to the United States, be carried into effect, then there will be an opening to emigrate some of our native members to a congenial part of Utah, where our hope would have a better foundation for a change in them than it is possible to entertain here, where they are so near to the market of sin and death.

The death of Kamehameha V, the last of that dynasty, places William C. Lunalilo on the throne by an almost unanimous vote of the people, a slight change towards republicanism. A new dynasty begins with the present king.

H. H. CLUFF.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

SPECIAL TO THE "DESERET NEWS," PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

## AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 25.—The officers of the New York, West Shore and Chicago Railroad state that the corporation has been organized with a view to the prosecution of the enterprise. The capital is to be increased to five millions. An agent is now in Europe negotiating the sale of securities. The road will be the completing line with the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, on the west shore of the Hudson River.

Rumors prevail that the Erie investigating committee will present a bill to the Legislature, prohibiting the formation of any closer relations between the Erie and Atlantic and Great Western Railroads. The Erie will not object, it is said, if the application of the bill is made general.

A special from New Orleans says that Governor Kellogg has sent the State militia to Tangipahoa parish, installed the officers and scattered the mob who had collected, and restored order. He has secured a steamboat, on which is mounted a twelve-pound howitzer, for ser-

vice in the rivers and bayous, and has organized a battalion of cavalry. He has also directed the Attorney-General to commence a prosecution of Governor McEnery and others, under the usurpation act, and also for treason, and has offered a reward for evidence that will lead to the conviction of those engaged in the recent massacre at Grant parish.

An examination of the bond of Col. Vanburen, commissioner to Vienna, shows that it is not signed by him nor properly sealed, and the State Department will not honor his drafts till its mistakes are rectified.

A private cable dispatch states that Bischoffsheim has had a quarrel with the Erie managers, and has given orders to sell his stock on both sides of the Atlantic at a corner.

Last evening Mrs. Hennesey, who murdered her two children on Wednesday, said that God and his angels, in a vision, told her to kill her children.

The reports of further depredations on the Kansas frontier by the Cheyennes, excites considerable apprehension at the Indian bureau. The raid made at Sidney, yesterday, is regarded as most significant, as the locality is eighty miles this side of Cheyenne, and is a station on the Pacific railroad.

CHICAGO.—A Washington special says a morning paper here says that General Butler expects to leave here on Friday for his home in Massachusetts, and will then enter actively into the canvass for governor. He does not seem at all concerned at the adverse criticisms passed upon his gubernatorial aspirations by some of the leading papers in his section, but is confident that he will be entirely successful. It is claimed that both Vice-President Wilson and Secretary Boutwell are committed to Butler's support, it being no secret that Butler used all his influence to secure Boutwell's elevation to the Senate. Once in possession of the gubernatorial chair General Butler calculates to set his wires so as to succeed Sumner in the Senate.

There seems to be no doubt that Brigadier General Philip St. George Cooke, now in command at Detroit, Mich., will be retired by the President soon, he being over the prescribed age. This retirement will occasion one vacancy in the list of Brigadier Generals, the number now being six, as authorized by law, and it is the general impression that Col. George Crook, who is now doing such excellent service in Arizona, will be promoted to the grade of Brigadier General.

CHICAGO, 26.—Washington special says that the Indian bureau does not share in the apprehensions indulged in by the regular army, relating to the probability of a general Indian outbreak. It is stated that some of the warlike tribes may cause trouble during the summer, but no more than has usually been experienced in this quarter. In this connection it is denied that Cochise is off his reservation, committing depredations, as when last heard from, a short time ago, he was still on the reservation on which he was placed by General Howard, and expressed his intention of remaining there.

The World's London special says the gravest apprehensions are felt in the highest circles in Paris, of an immediate civil war, as the monarchists are determined to oust Thiers at any cost.

NEW YORK.—The Herald's Vienna special says twenty cases of sporadic cholera were brought to the hospital yesterday, five of which proved fatal. An effort is being made to conceal the fact of the disease in the city.

NEW YORK.—To-day it transpired that the grand jury had found indictments against 127 keepers of sailors' boarding houses, charged with a violation of the act of Congress known as the "new shipping act," passed in 1872, for the protection of sailors. About 6 o'clock seventy policemen, armed with warrants, made a tour of the 4th and 6th wards, and succeeded in arresting 52 of the indicted parties. The arrests produced much excitement, and but for the overwhelming force of police resistance would doubtless have been made. The arrested parties are locked up in Oak St. police station, and will, to-morrow, be arraigned at the Tombs.

NEW YORK.—The Evening Post has a letter from Newfoundland, which states that a clause in the charter of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, which has passed almost

unnoticed, provides that at the end of the first twenty years the government of Newfoundland has the right of purchasing the line at a valuation. The first twenty years terminate in 1875. The company recently applied to the government to have this clause rescinded and their possession continued for the next thirty years, but the government, under the most eminent legal advice in London, that they have a right to purchase the line at the cost of the plant, without paying anything for good will or valuation of profits, have refused. The receipt of this intelligence in London caused the stock of the company to fall from twenty pounds to fourteen pounds, but after the panic had abated somewhat it rose to seventeen pounds.

P. M. REPORT. NEW YORK, 35.—The manufacturing city of Joachensthal, in the Mountains of Bohemia, was destroyed by fire on the 31st of March. Out of 586 houses in the city, 450 were completely burned, and five thousand persons made homeless. The magnificent church, founded in the early days of the Reformation, was a prey to the flames, as also valuable paintings, by Lucas Cronach and Albert Durer.

QUEBEC.—The exodus of the French Canadians to the States, from the country districts and from this city, is greatly in excess of former seasons.

SAN FRANCISCO, 25.—The people of this city begin to appreciate the value of horses. The epizootic is still spreading, and there have been several more fatal cases to-day. The house painters, carpenters, and others, unable to obtain express or wagon teams, will engage Chinamen with poles and baskets to convey their burdens from place to place.

NEW YORK, 26.—The ship owners' and ship masters' associations propose, in view of the arrests last night, to see how far the organized bands of the sailors' boarding house keepers may interfere with the commerce of the port. These keepers and their runners have been so bold of late that they have prevented from shipping before the commissioner, as required by law, and even insist that the advance money shall be paid within one day after the men had been put on board, and that often without the seamen's signature to the note. They also seek to prevent the men shipping, that they may break down the law and for that purpose have a committee in the neighborhood of the commissioner's office, frightening off the seamen, and if a seaman does go into the office, he is frequently followed and openly threatened with violence if he ships in any manner other than the boarding house keepers' instructions, and thus numbers of vessels with their cargoes on board have been detained for days, awaiting a crew.

The purchasing committee of the board of Indian commissioners have contracted for 1,508 dozen butcher knives, and 120 skinning knives, which, among other articles, are to be furnished the Indians.

Wall street gossip intimates that the Erie and Atlantic and Great Western Railroad cannot be consolidated, and that close working or running arrangements, on a *pro rata* basis, will be established between them. It is also said Gould, Bischoffsheim and Goldsmith have opened the regular Erie campaign, Gould having gone short of stock on sales to the latter, who along in the campaign is to bestir further enlistment. According to the same authority, the war is to be waged by Bischoffsheim, Erie's London banker, on President Watson.

Twenty-seven delegates from the various trades' unions in the United States met in secret session last evening, and after discussion resolved to postpone any attempt to enforce the eight-hour rule till 1874.

NEW YORK, 26.—The government will publish, next week, the official statement of Phelps, Dodge & Co's case, in which the firm will be shown to have sworn falsely and to have been guilty of a willful attempt to defraud the revenue. A number of damaging letters, which passed between the firm and the officials, but which were suppressed by the former in their recently published explanation, are to be incorporated. The statement is drawn up and ready to go into the hands of the printers, and as soon as it is put in type it will be given to the newspapers for publication. The officers claim that they have been driven to this course in self defense by the asser-