

Correspondence.

Through the courtesy of Elder Wm. Clayton we are enabled to publish the following extracts of a letter from Pres. Jos. S. Horne, who has been appointed to succeed Pres. William P. Nebeker in the Presidency of the Swiss, German and Italian Mission. Pres. Nebeker having been released to return home; the letter was written May 13, at Saint Imier, Canton Bern, Switzerland:

I feel first rate, rejoice in my mission, and hope to be useful and do some good while I am here; if I do but little good for others, I am doing good for myself, and am gaining an experience that will be of great and everlasting benefit to me. I desire to live humbly and prayerfully before the Lord, and to discharge the duties of my calling as a faithful Elder in Israel.

The work of God moves slowly but surely. We have a great deal to oppose, and it takes a great deal of preaching to get the people to believe. We find a few who are brave and honest enough to believe and embrace the gospel. Some believe and are willing to acknowledge that we have the truth, but something does not work to suit them, they cannot stand the persecutions, it costs too much, or they hardly think it necessary to embrace the gospel and gather with the people of God. I say let them remain where they are; they will some day think of the warning they have heard. Most of the Saints are very anxious to gather to that land which God has chosen for His people to gather to.

The Paris Exhibition is now attracting much attention, still there are many who think and talk about war quite as much as they do about the exhibition. These are critical times, and the Lord is vexing the nations; but you of course learn all about the manoeuvres of the great men of the earth by telegraph, and have the news fresh.

[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

New York, 19.

Generals Griffin and Reynolds, of Texas, report to Gen. Sheridan that Judge Rivers of the 9th judicial district in that state, in a charge to the grand jury of the court, stated that he should not receive the testimony of negroes, as the laws of congress on the subject were unconstitutional, he therefore defied them. They also report the same facts against Judge Dougherty, who stated that, as regards the testimony of negroes, he would not recognize the law or authority of congress. Reports of like character are coming almost daily from different sections of the State.

There seems to be no doubt of a quorum of congress in July.

Chicago, 19.

It is reported that the wheat in Kentucky is badly injured by rust, and in many places utterly ruined.

Wilmington, 19.

The action of Judge Barnard is the reverse of that reported the other day; he adjourned the court because negroes were not put on the jury.

Junction City, Kansas, 19.

A letter from Fort Wallace, 12th, reports that, on the 3d, Favor and Thompson, of Pond Creek, were killed and scalped between Pond and Goose Creeks; on the 6th, two men from the mines, names unknown, were killed within half a mile of the same place. On the 11th, a coach from the west, having on board Lieut. Bell, three soldiers, a lady passenger, driver and guard, was attacked by from 25 to 30 Indians, 25 miles from Fort Wallace; one soldier was killed; the others dismounted and fought the Indians for four miles, and finally repulsed them, killing two. It is reported that, on the 17th, a government train was attacked 18 miles west of Fort Harker, and one man killed, his body being horribly mutilated. The Indians are so troublesome that the stage drivers refused to go out; eight of them have deserted their coaches. It is rumored that at Pond Creek Gen. Custer had been repulsed by the Indians, who have come down in force from Platte Valley.

London, 19.

The riot in Birmingham was speedily suppressed by the action of the government.

In the House of Commons, this evening, the Hon. Gathorne Hardy, Home

Secretary, announced that the disturbances in Birmingham were ended, and peace and order restored; the troops sent there were under orders to return to their former stations.

New York, 19.

The reported case of cholera on Monday was untrue.

Pittsburg, 19.

Gillespie and Mitchell's planing mill, Hobson & Co's. sash and door factory and six adjacent dwellings were burned last night; loss \$100,000; insured \$16,000.

Philadelphia, 19.

The American Varieties theatre in Walnut street, with the surrounding property is in flames. The audience was not large, and succeeded in escaping; many were bruised in the rush to the front door. It is believed that all the performers escaped. At 10.30 the front wall of the building fell with an awful crash; about half a dozen persons were carried away injured; it cannot be ascertained how many were crushed to death beneath the ruins, to remove which will take several hours.

Washington, 19.

The Hon. Isaac Newton, Commissioner of Agriculture, died this evening. The duties of the office devolve on John W. Stokes, Chief Clerk.

New York, 19.

The damage to the track of the Pacific railroad, by the recent flood, is not yet repaired; an immense amount of mail matter has accumulated at Junction City and Salina. At Fort Hayes, on the 11th, water was 20 feet deep; six soldiers and citizens were drowned.

New York, 20.

Chief Justice Chase has decided that parties in the south owing debts in the north, and who paid confederate receivers, are not discharged of their obligations.

Constantinople, 18.

A collective diplomatic note, signed by France, Russia, Prussia and Italy, was presented to the Cabinet of the Porte on the 15th, on the situation of affairs and the conduct of the war in Crete. The signing Powers urge on the Sultan the propriety of an immediate suspension of the hostilities in Candia, and a governmental inquiry into the grievances of the Islanders, Christians and others, the inquiry to be conducted by a commission appointed by the Great Powers of Europe and the Porte.

Philadelphia, 20.

There have been thirteen deaths from injuries received at the burning of the Varieties Theatre last evening; about thirty were wounded.

Miscellaneous.

HONG-KONG—CHINESE DINNER—TRIP TO CHIN-WAN—DESCRIPTION OF HONG-KONG—COOLIES—CHINESE LADIES—PALANQUINS, &c., &c.

[We are permitted by favor of an old friend of the writer to make copious extracts from a private letter from Hong-Kong, China, written by a former resident of Mansfield, and formerly a prominent editor of this State. The letter is rich in information, description and humor, and evidences great observation and faculty of expression.]—*Cleveland Herald*.

HONG KONG, Jan. 15, '67.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

Really, my life in China has been thus far very agreeable; much more so than I could have anticipated in view of coming among a people so strangely peculiar and so utterly different from our own. But those difficulties and peculiarities have greatly interested me. The Chinese are by no means a disagreeable people to mingle with in business or in ordinary social intercourse. No people on earth are more fastidiously polite; nor does one get the impression when among them of mingling with an inferior or degraded race. They are shrewd and quick of perception, and generally intelligent; as reading and writing is more universal with them than even with us in America. But the Chinese common school education stops at reading and writing.

I have been to their houses and have taken "tiffin" with them, where they tried to use knife and fork as complement to me, and where I tried to use "chop-sticks" as compliment to them, both parties meeting with positive and ludicrous failures. We accordingly compromised by each using his own mode of feeding himself. The awkwardness of each in the attempt to use the

implements of table warfare of the other, was such as to cause infinite amusement to all around. Of course no women were present; no "lady hostess" to preside at table and pour the tiny cups of tea for the husband's guest. Nay, the Chinese husband and wife never eat together at the same table but once—on the day of their marriage. Nevertheless I could catch glimpses of the Celestial beauties of the household, as they peeped through the lattices over the doors of their houses to see the "outside barbarian" eat. Manifestly, "curiosity" is not unknown to womankind, in Asia, no more than in America. "What did I eat?" Don't ask me, how can I tell? I can only say that I ate heartily. The food tasted well, and the eggs were unexceptionably fresh. In one town I visited, Chin-Wan, it seemed that the whole population came out to see me. I could hear the old women on all sides shouting, and see them beckoning to the youngsters at a distance, calling to come and see the "Fah-kee man." Fah-kee is the common Chinese name for Americans. "Fah" means a flower, and "kee" means a flag; hence they designate Americans as "the people of the flowery flag," in allusion to our star spangled banner. I have been in their schools, in their temples or "Joss-houses," mingled among them in crowds of thousands, and have never experienced anything but entire respect. Here in Hong Kong the Chinese and Europeans mingle unnoticed and unnoticed. But up in China, away from the seaport, a foreigner is still a great curiosity among the people. But I went among them entirely alone, except that I was accompanied by two Chinese gentlemen who went with me from Hong Kong.

This Island of Hong Kong has been in possession of England now about twenty-two years. Twenty years ago there were only a few fishermen's huts, built of bamboo, on all the island. Now there is here a well-built city, of about 140,000 inhabitants; some of the greatest mercantile firms on the globe have their head houses here; banks, whose capital stock is summed up by millions; a splendid harbor, where are usually from 200 to 300 ships, bearing the flags of all nations, from the black eagle of Prussia to the white elephant of Siam. Here are warehouses whose dimensions would dwarf anything I ever saw in America; and this island, from its central position between India and Japan, and controlling almost the entire coast of China, and from being the converging point of the steamship lines of England, France and America for moving the immense commerce of Asia, has come to command a greater influence on the commerce and public policy of the vast Orient than any other place in the east.

The place itself has many attractions in its romantic glens and mountains; Victoria Peak, 2,000 feet high, looks out over the broad Pacific ocean on one side, and off into the interior of China on the other. At its foot is the city and harbor crowded with shipping and Chinese junks. The walks and drives are beautiful, the roads all as smooth and as clean as those of a lawn, while the pine, the palm, and the bamboo, with the grave old banyans overshadow the whole. Gardens of wonderful beauty are seen surrounding mansions whose grandeur presents impressive specimens of oriental magnificence, and whose inmates are served by a retinue of ten, twenty, or even thirty servants in the quaint costume of the Chinese, which constitutes a livery at once comely and characteristic.

The city is gas lighted, well supplied with water as pure and soft as dew, and affords every comfort and luxury of life; always provided money is on hand. It is perhaps the most expensive place to live on the face of the habitable globe. Rents are enormous, but servants are cheap; I have five in my establishment, and the wages of all five amount to but about \$90 a year, and they board themselves. Perhaps you wonder how any five human beings can live on \$90 per year; so do I. I don't know how it is done; I only know that my Chinese boys are all fat and sleek, have been in my household now about a year and a half, and manifest no disposition to leave me. Servants are always males. The women never go into service, except as nurses for children. The nurses are called "Amahs," and are always well dressed, well behaved, and very respectable women. They are very gentle and careful of the children. The walks of the public gardens, of a

pleasant evening, will be found filled with Amahs watching over troops of little people, gaily dressed in European clothes, and who play "hide-and-go-seek" among their dusky colored Amahs, to whom the little ones become greatly attached. The "housework" is all done by men; they cook, scrub, wash clothes, wash dishes, set the table and serve it, make beds, sweep, iron, dust, &c., &c. Each servant has his own department and will not do anything out of it. Water coolie will not scrub a floor, house coolie will not bring water, dining-room coolie will not make a bed, cook-house coolie will not set the table, and so on. This gives rise to the necessity of so many servants in each household. And if one is told to do something out of his particular line, he looks astonished, and answers with amazement, saying—"he no belongee my pidjin!" (*Pidjin* is their universal word for "business.") A good Chinese servant is the best servant in the world. They are tractable and perfectly obedient. They must at first be shown exactly how to do what is required, and from that time henceforth and for ever they will do that thing exactly in that way; they think of no other mode. For the Chinese, you know, never change. They now live and work by the same modes as their ancestors did before the birth of Christ. With them, antiquity is the highest authority.

The climate here is very peculiar. There are no seasons as with us; spring and fall are unknown, and even winter is scarcely recognizable. Think of it,—here now it is the middle of January, my house is all open, no fires, birds are singing all around me, roses and camellias are in full bloom in the gardens, the morning glory is climbing and blooming over the highest trees in the grounds; green peas, radishes, lettuce, asparagus, &c., are daily on the dinner table, and last year I ate green corn from the cob at a dinner in the house of a friend on the 22d of February! It was raised in his garden and the seed came from America. And now we have had 116 consecutive cloudless days! the weather as beautiful and balmy as ever beamed from the heavens since Eden was closed. The temperature during all that time has not been below 50°, nor above 70°; ranging from 58° to 66°, and it now looks as though the same delightful season would still continue. Nothing of climate could be conceived of more lovely than this season has been. Frost has never been known here. The summers are, of course, pretty hot, though I did not find myself greatly oppressed by the heat of last summer. Certainly I did not expose myself much to the sun's rays. None but the natives of China or India go abroad in the sunshine during the heat of summer. Such exposure is dangerous to Americans and Europeans. The summer heat begins to be oppressive about the middle of May, and continues till the middle of September. During this time the hot winds or south-west monsoon prevail; the other portion of the year the north-west monsoon is the prevailing wind, and those monsoons constitute really the only "seasons" known here.

Woman in China is in an anomalous condition. She is regarded simply as of no account. Though, in view of the multitudinous population of these regions, I don't exactly see how they could well get along without them. Still, women are not ill used by their "lords and masters." The latter, to all appearances, simply give them a "terrible letting alone." I have never witnessed the slightest act of gallantry shown by a Chinaman towards a Chinawoman; nor have I ever seen the slightest abuse of them. The "little footed" women are simply objects of pity in my mind. They are voluntary cripples. It is merely a mark of aristocracy of breeding. Rich men will never marry a large footed woman. And yet the same men condemn the practice of compressing the feet. But if the Chinese err in compressing the foot, they are certainly guiltless of such impropriety as to the waist. Women in China have no waists; they are actually formless. Their style of dress utterly conceals every line of the figure. Their dress is a system of sacks and bags—sacks for the body, bags for the limbs.

They dress very richly; but never in variegated colors; hence calico is unknown in China as a material for dress. —The trowsers, voluminous as you know, may be of a color different from