

sweet music and all had a time not to be forgotten.

This week the U. P. passenger train killed a fine cow for Mr. S. A. Smith.

The earth has again put on her robe of the beautiful, and the gentle flakes are still falling, while now and then old borias breathes down upon us from his northern home, which makes all feel that a good home and fireside is one of man's great blessings.

J. K.

SAN JUAN, NEW MEXICO.

JACKSON, San Juan Co.,
New Mexico.

Since returning home last August, I have many times thought of writing an article for the benefit of the many anxious readers of the DESERET NEWS, describing the many natural resources of this part of our fair land.

New Mexico you know is the "Sunshine State," and for the past three and a half years, until last August, there has been almost perpetual sunshine. But the day after my arrival home we had a heavy rain storm and for two months afterwards it rained hard nearly every week. The latter part of the fall and until January 12th there was no snow at all and the climate was so pleasant and warm that men worked out of doors with their coats off most all day long, nearly every day. But on the 11th of January it began to rain, and on the morning of the 12th we had about three inches of snow here on the Laplatta. The frost is about all out of the ground and we can commence plowing as soon as it gets dry enough. The ground is in excellent condition and good crops are certain this year.

For the past three years crops have been almost a failure here on the lower Laplatta on account of the drouth, and consequently this little branch of the Burnham ward has been almost vacated, but now a good class of people are moving back here to redeem this place.

Elder William Hall of Madoos and Bishop L. C. Burnham from Fruitland were here last week and held meetings with the people and they assured us that henceforth our labors would not be in vain.

The Jackson canal, which was built five years ago, and which has been of but little use to the people who built it, with a very little repairing will be in excellent condition to furnish water for the reservoir and for all the cultivated land in the community. The reservoir is now over twelve feet high and will be raised five feet higher this month, and with the superabundance of water that flows by until the 1st of July almost every year, the reservoir will be filled and held in reserve until the latter part of the summer when it will furnish sufficient water for one or two good waterings which will insure a third crop of lucern and the corn crop. Without the reservoir, unless it is in extreme cases, small grains can be matured before the water falls in the creek, and the production is something wonderful too. There is scarcely an acre of land on the lower Laplatta that will not produce forty bushels of small grain, and the most of it will produce from sixty to eighty bushels per acre.

Up to the present there have only been about 300 acres of land cultivated in this place, but there are

from 1,500 to 2,000 acres of just as good land as that now cultivated, yet to be cleared off and cultivated, which will certainly be done in the near future, for such land as this will not be left to lay idle as soon as we can convince people that water is a sure thing. Six months ago cultivated land could have been bought on time for about one half what it would take now to buy it, and a water right in the canal could have been bought for \$75 below cost; but at present stock in the ditch and reservoir is worth anyway 50 cents on the dollar, and by next fall I feel certain that land and water will double in value, for as soon as the reservoir proves to be a success, which we know it will do, many will want to buy but few will sell at all. At present there are three or four quarter sections open for entry which I do wish could be secured by some poor missionaries, like myself who have come home "broke" and desiring to get a piece of land for an inheritance. Now is the chance for such fellows, I know of several who labored with me on the islands who would I believe, feel that they had small fortunes if they were here with me today. I closed the bargain this morning with a Brother Joseph S. Smith for his claim to this quarter section I am on, which has a small house of three rooms on it, a stable, corral, hen house, and has thirty-five acres of rich bottom land cleared off, and which has \$260 water right in the canal with it, all of which I get for \$400 with three years to pay it in. There are other places not so much improved that I could have got much cheaper, and still other places not improved I could have taken up; but as I believe I can live on the place and pay for it without cramping myself in the least, I preferred this place already improved.

Good pinon and cedar wood can be got in great abundance within three and a half miles, and coal can be got within eight miles for \$1 per ton at the mine.

Such an opening as presents itself for poor, honest industrious men I never saw before! Our settlement here is four miles from the mouth of the creek and thirteen miles from Fruitland, and five miles from Farmington, and a better location for a nice settlement I have never seen, though I have wandered around much over the arid regions of the "Wild West." Our climate, our soil, and our natural advantages are second to none in all this mountain country, but just one thing we are in need of, and that is a few good, faithful, industrious families, or men like myself—wishing to get a home and family.

Our county government (so our district judge told us) is the best in all New Mexico, and our schools are much better this year than ever before, and we are going to labor hard to make them equal to any in the land.

The health of the people is good, and prosperity seems to stare us in the face. So,

If Providence will smile upon us
We will raise our heads and say,
Come to us all ye weary
Here is a place to stay.
Come, join us in our labors
And help us here to stand
And make our homes a heaven,
The best in all the land.

Besides Jackson there is also an-

other opening for one or two good settlements here on or near the river. About ten miles above here there is a "Mesa" about four miles long by one mile wide which is so level that water would run south for more than a mile at a stretch without leveling the land at all, from one side of the bench to the other, and for less than \$400 worth of work a large ditch which covers a lower bench of land, could be brought up and across the upper end of over half of this beautiful piece of country, and still there is another ditch surveyed above this one which could be built for not more than \$3,000, which will cover the whole of said Mesa. Even this isn't all—the lower ditch above mentioned has been surveyed clear over into the head of the large dry valley north of Fruitland, where, sooner or latter, another reservoir will be built which will be filled from this large ditch during the winter and spring months and this furnish water for thousands of acres of beautiful level, rich land. Oh, why don't men take advantage of these golden opportunities? As Elder Brigham Young told me last summer: "This is the country and all it wants to develop it is men with teams and their bread; they don't need money." Why do men lay around waiting for others who have rustled, to "give them a job," crying "hard times." If we can't have silver and the gold is locked up; if we would we could earn our bread by the sweat of our brows, raise cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, poultry, etc., and besides raising what we want to eat we could, if we would, establish factories, tanneries and mills and thus be independent of the outside world. Your brother in the Gospel,

LEWIS B. BURNHAM.

ASSAULT ON A MORMON MEETING.

POLLARD, Clay County, Arkansas, Jan. 17, 1897.—Last conflicting stories come to the hearing of our people at home and cause unnecessary uneasiness. Elder Andrew Kimball, president of the Indian Territory mission, desired me to give your readers the particulars of a disturbance which took place at the close of our conference last night. In justice to the majority of the people of this community, who are as much incensed over such actions, as we could be, and who are honorable, law abiding people, not the least in sympathy with such doings, we wish to say that the outlaw gang of whom we speak, came mostly from a neighboring community a few miles distant.

The evening of our first public meeting the devil showed his cloven foot, and we observed it the more strongly because we saw the contrast after the rich outpouring of the spirit we had experienced the night before, when our Elders all met, first in a private house, as also the excellent time we had in the woods.

A crowd of boys came into our meeting and announced a disturbance by way of running in and out shuffling their feet and talking out loud. One of our youngest Elders, John H. Peterson, was talking on faith, and was giving a most interesting discourse. Notwithstanding this, the attention of this element could not be attracted.