

# Correspondence.

## Work Among the Indians.

SPRING CITY, Sanpete Co.,  
Feb. 25, 1881.

### Deseret News:

Hostiles F. M. Lyman, and J. H. have requested me to send a report of my labors among the Indians. I have taught two terms of school among them, and they learned quite well. They were easy to govern, more so than the white children, and very willing to set them an example of imitation. A number of them who did not know a letter when they started, can now read in the First Reader, can write quite well, and understand some of the principles of arithmetic and geography. They were quite desirous to learn that the world is round, that it revolves around the sun, etc. Some of them who attended one term of school taught by Brother V. Selmon, last winter, can now read in the second reader. They are very anxious to learn to write, and they say they want to learn to understand our language, they can know why the Lord sent them to be Latter-day Saints; at we are here for; why the Latter-day Saints pay tithing; why they build Temples, etc. They want to learn to read the Book of Mormon and find out what their fathers did when they lived on this continent, and what they have done to them, and want them to in these days. They want to read the book of Doctrine and Covenants and other good books, and learn to live like Latter-day Saints. These are mostly their own words. I have read the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants to them whenever opportunity afforded it and they always seemed deeply interested in what I could explain to their understanding. Bishop Spencer told me that they had not words in their language that could convey the right meaning if he should try to interpret the reading of those books to them, and that they were in danger of getting misunderstandings, or I could have read more and tried to have had it interpreted, but he said the safest way was to wait until they got so far as to read and understand themselves.

They seem to be very thankful for their homes and say they love them, and that four years ago they were like the wild deer of the mountain, bird of the forest; did not know anything but to wander wherever they led them, and all they talked then was death and the shedding of blood. But now they are talking of peace and quietness and of life here and hereafter. Before they did not know there was any hereafter, any God, but now they say they now there is a God, and that he loves, by the feeling that is within their hearts that has been with them since they were baptized and confirmed members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Nephi, one who can understand and talk more than the rest, says to the white children, "You white children you know how to behave yourselves, your parents know, you know what is right and I want you to do it, so we can learn from you, and do like you, and not be doing wrong." And I think as the example is which is set before them, so they will be. And it is very necessary that they have the proper example set before them, for the very notions of those whom they consider their leaders, they try to imitate.

The women can all sew quite well, with the exception of three or four very aged ones. They piece a quilt with excellent taste, considering the small advantages they have had. They can make good bread of yeast powder and soda and sour milk, and one of them has learned to make salt-rising bread. They fry meat, eggs, etc., peel and boil potatoes very well, make tea and coffee, and get regular meals, wash and iron, white-wash and clean their houses, and have quite an understanding of the rudiments of house keeping. They pay Sunday eggs and help in making quilts for the temple.

All the Indians pay their tithing, temple donations, etc., and have all been (who are of age) registered, and pay their taxes as American citizens, and have the legal right to vote. They have an Elders Quorum, a Sunday school and a Relief Society organized among them, and with the guidance of Bishop John

Spencer and others, who are working for the advancement of the mission to the best of their ability, it seems as though there is a bright future before them.

There is an opposite party, who make some difficulty by jumping their lands and taking advantage of their ignorance. Yet it will only be a benefit to them in the end, for while they look to white people to be taught, they will learn that not all are Latter-day Saints who bear the name, as their Bishop often tells them this is not his work nor President Taylor's work, but God's work, and that neither he nor any other man or person is perfect.

I never saw a place where the power for good or evil worked so effectually, and I do not believe that any power but that of God can accomplish the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Book of Mormon concerning them, which it seems he has commenced, and is amply able to accomplish.

And that all who are doubtful of these things may wake up and prepare for action is the prayer of your sister in the covenant,

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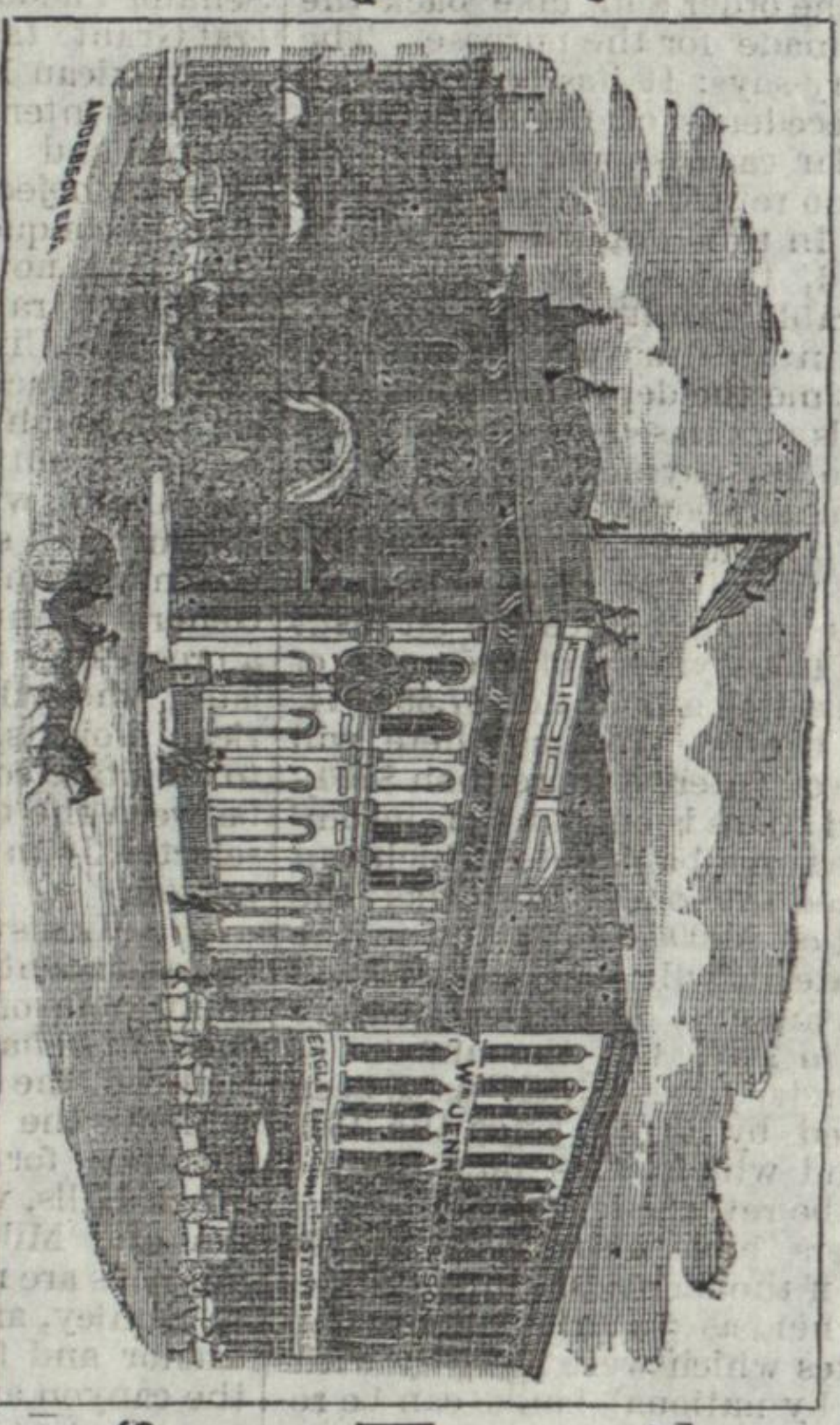
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