

Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
March 3rd, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—SIR.—After a long delay I have at length found time to give you a short sketch of my late travels. I left Salt Lake City, May the 20th, 1867, on a mission to the Southern States, to carry the gospel to my relatives and friends, who are scattered through several of them. Our company made a safe journey over the Plains, arriving at Omaha in due time, altho' the Indians were committing many depredations, burning stations before and behind us.

At St. Louis I bade adieu to my brother missionaries and pursued my way alone to Kentucky, where I remained about ten days, and then passed on into Tennessee, where I spent several weeks in the neighborhood of my birth-place. While in Tennessee I visited Murfreesboro, and saw the immense burial grounds of both the Northern and Southern armies. The sight was truly appalling. I next visited Georgia and then Alabama. In Wetumka, Ala., I met many old acquaintances, and so numerous were the questions asked me that I found it impossible to answer each one separately, so by invitation I entered a large Hall and publicly answered many questions relative to my country, customs and religion. My answers seemed to give general satisfaction, allaying in a great measure their prejudices. While in the city of Montgomery, Ala., I had the pleasure of meeting and making the acquaintance of Hon. M. B. Patton, Governor of Alabama. He politely invited me to accompany him to see the capitol building. It is a splendid edifice well suited to the purpose for which it was erected. The Governor was very affable; he asked many questions about Pres. B. Young and Utah.

I passed through Alabama and went as far south as Florida. This warm climate did not agree with me, I was soon stricken down with bilious fever; this put an end to my labors for several weeks. As soon as my health would permit I baptized the lady, at whose house I stayed while sick. Leaving her and two other families busily engaged preparing to gather with the Saints, I began to retrace my steps, and visited most of the neighborhoods in which I had labored. I found one family nearly ready to begin the journey. I baptized four of its members. Christmas found me at my sister's in Ky. I baptized her and her two daughters, and was busily engaged helping her to get ready for the journey until March 15th, at which time we left for Omaha, where I hoped to meet other families that were trying to emigrate to the valleys. We were detained at this place.

President Brown placed me in charge of a small company of Saints, who had gathered at Omaha. On the 17th of July we took the cars, for Laramie City. Here we awaited the foreign emigration; then joining Capt. Murdock's train we arrived safely at Salt Lake City, August 20th, 1868.

There is not that prejudice existing that I expected to find against us as a people in the Southern States; yet the people are much demoralized, and it truly appears that their best men have fallen in battle. The country has a desolate appearance, bearing many of the marks of the late civil war. Great dissatisfaction prevails. Almost every one is anxious to move, but want of means prevents, as land, almost the only property left them, will not sell. In all my travels I meet with no persecution. I was twice the subject of newspaper paragraphs, warning the people to beware of the "Mormon" emissary who was trying to swell the domains of Brigham Young.

As a general thing the minds of the people are so engrossed with the political state of the country that they give but little heed to religion. Traveling over so much country it was impossible to remain long in a place, but I sowed good seed, which I hope will yet bring forth much fruit. In every place and on every available occasion, I bore a faithful testimony to the truth of the great latter-day work. Going from house to house teaching the first principles of the gospel. Testifying that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, and reasoning with the people, on the truths of eternal life. Many seemed interested, listening attentively. Some acknowledged they believed it to be true, yet obeyed not its commands; a few gladly received the good tidings and were baptized. An idea prevailed through the country that the Church would emigrate all who joined it, and such is the dissatisfaction in the South, that had I favored this

idea, I could have baptized many, (of a certain class) for the sake of being emigrated, who cared little or nothing for the truth. I thank my Heavenly Father for his watchful care during all my wanderings, and I acknowledge His hand in all things. It is truly refreshing to be again permitted to mingle with my brethren in the Kingdom of God, located in the valleys of the mountains.

Your brother,  
JOHN P. LEE.

SERICULTURE—PRODUCING EGGS.

BY LOUIS A. BERTRAND.  
XIII.

When a large quantity of eggs is not wanted, the selected cocoons are regularly disposed on the shelves of the hatching room, where a uniform temperature is maintained. It is unnecessary to operate in the dark, but cocoons and moths, and especially eggs, must be sheltered from the direct rays of the sun. If the weather is warm and favorable, the worms, in from ten to twelve days from the time they have finished spinning, are transformed into a chrysalis, which emits immediately from its mouth an oily substance against one end of the cocoon, and simultaneously, with its head, it commences a shoving and pushing motion, when in a few hours it will emerge again into the world.

BIRTH OF THE MOTHS.

As the reproducing qualities of the eggs from which you are to propagate the species depends entirely on the operation, it becomes important that every female be paired with a male. If let alone, there being a large number of males and females all mixed promiscuously together, it is not probable that more than two-thirds of the females will be properly paired with a male, and hence a large number of your eggs would be valueless. Here, then, is work necessary to be done, and done thoroughly and at the proper time. The moths generally come out of the cocoons in the morning, before nine o'clock each day, in about the same order that the worms commence spinning cocoons.

Hence you must be present every morning to keep a watchful eye over this important operation. As soon as they come out, take hold of the wings of the moths and lay them upon some soft cotton cloth, spread on the shelves. They will immediately stick on the cloth. Males and females should be far enough separate that they may not get mixed. They are thus left during an hour, or until their wings fall flatly on their bodies. During that time, they will get rid of a reddish dark matter, the residue of the work of metamorphosis. The males usually come out before the females. Sometimes the males are on the first day far more numerous than the females. Keep for the following day, those that are not wanted. It will be sufficient to lay them upon some cloth and to remove them from the females.

SELECTION OF THE MOTHS.

The moth emerges from the cocoon, in the shape of a large butterfly, of a grayish white color, with four wings, two eyes, and two feathery plumes or horns. The male is easily known by its smaller size, and a continual flutter of his wings. The female is of a larger size, of a white color, and seldom moves.

A careful breeder must review all the moths coming out and reject every one which is not perfect. The males which are found among the females, are necessarily excellent, since they have been mixed with the latter, on account of their great size. Preserve them. On the contrary, the females which are mixed with the males must be generally rejected, because their weak constitution is the reason why they have been selected as being males.

PAIRING.

Before performing that interesting operation, spread a soft cotton cloth horizontally on a table. As soon as the reddish matter, above mentioned, has been evacuated, bring the males nearer the females to facilitate the operation of coupling. For that purpose, take hold of the wings of the males and place one near each female. The pairing is done immediately. They are then, to be left in darkness, as when complete, the silkworm is a night insect.

It is essential to watch the millers with assiduity. Sometimes, among the paired ones, a male or more gets loose; as soon as you see this, you must take them off, because they would disturb the others, and cause many of them to get loose also; and it is important that they should not be disturbed. Put these loose ones, male and female, back

with the unpaired ones, so that they may all get paired again.

When the millers have remained together six or seven hours, you must just as punctually be on hand and separate them. For that, catch the belly of the female with three fingers of the left hand, and, without disengaging her from the cloth, with the other hand, take the wings of the male, and draw them apart gently, so as not to hurt them.

You have no further use for the male unless, as sometimes is the case, there should be a greater number of females the next morning than males. To meet such a contingency it is prudent to keep some of them over by putting them in a box, which cover over to keep them in, giving them plenty of air. Very soon after being separated from the male, the female exudes a drop of yellowish matter on the cloth. The eggs are to be collected in the following manner:

LAYING EGGS.

A certain quantity of soft paper of uniform size and thickness is wanted. Dispose regularly your sheets of paper upon boards, frames or cloths, with a sufficient inclination in order that the millers may easily catch hold of them. Of course, these egg-cards have been prepared beforehand. Then remove your females to the card, and place them at about an inch apart, each way. Every card is large enough for twenty-five insects.

This having been done, the female commences her last act—depositing her eggs. Strive to dispose them orderly, and avoid having them laid too thick. When a card is not full enough, you may place more females upon it, or those of the next day which have been gathered upon other cards; but, in that case, be careful to bring them nearer. On the third day, these females are to be rejected, because their laying is insignificant. The name of the race of worms must be written on every card. The operation of laying lasts about forty hours. Each female lays on an average about four hundred eggs, and the most fruitful five hundred. They will lay nearly all of these between the time of separation, say at two o'clock p.m., and dusk. The eggs laid during this period are generally considered the best and most vigorous, and that they may be kept separate it is well at this time to transfer all the females to other cards on which to deposit the balance of their eggs. Mark the first cards No. one, and the cards on which the moths lay the balance of their eggs No. two. This same routine of pairing and separating the moths, and securing the eggs, must be gone through with each day, until all the moths have come out of the cocoons and laid their eggs. Having performed these last acts and left their eggs behind them for the propagation of their species, both male and female die a natural death.

The eggs, at first of a yellow-jonquil color, become successively grey, then of a slate tint; these variations of shade take place in about two weeks. But the barren eggs do not change their color—they are easily detected by their peculiar aspect, and by a light central concavity which does not exist in those which, having been duly fecundated, are of a good quality. To keep your eggs safely for the next season, you may roll together carefully the cards, and place them in tin boxes perforated with holes, so as to give the eggs plenty of air. The boxes, to be preserved, should be placed in a cool room, or in a cellar—but an ice-house is far more preferable. In fine, during the winter, and every month, the boxes should be exposed a few minutes to the open air, in order to preserve the eggs from all mouldiness.

SILK-REELING.

Having conveniently stored the eggs for the next crop, I will now give you a short description of the silk-reeling operations:

In France and Italy, there are innumerable domestic filatures where the cocoons, raised by one or more families, are reeled by the wives and daughters of the breeders. These employ from one to five or six reels, and the art of reeling is preserved in families from generation to generation. But the raw silk produced from these small factories is always of an inferior quality. There are also, in those countries, large establishments, or filatures, which employ from fifty to five hundred reels. These establishments have a superintendent who is thoroughly and practically a perfect master in every department of that business; women and girls work at the reeling under his direction. At these large factories the most perfect silk is reeled, which commands the highest price.

The reeling of cocoons seems, apparently, a very simple operation; but it

is, in reality, a difficult and delicate one. It requires much experience, a continual and nice attention, and above all, a skilful suppleness in the fingers which is seldom found, save in a lady's fingers. And yet, all ladies do not possess it to the same degree of perfection. It is admitted that good silk can only be made by a good female reeler.

The people of Utah are a very peculiar people, being composed of representatives of every nation of Christendom. A few French, Swiss and Italian sisters can now be found here, I think, to reel with ability the cocoons of our next crop. The above digression compels me to postpone the description of the silk-reeling operation to the next chapter.

MANTI CITY, SANPETE CO.,  
March 10th, 1869.

Editor Deseret News:—SIR.—Will you please tell the folks through the columns of your paper that the people of Manti feel first rate. None have died nor are likely to die for want of bread. The weather is very fine here, and our farmers have commenced to put in their wheat. Most all our land has been well summer fallowed and is in good condition. We expect to reap a harvest next fall that will astonish the natives, foreign grasshoppers not excepted. About three thousand perches of good rock have been quarried out from our stone quarry during the past winter. A general feeling exists amongst the brethren to improve and build up a city that shall be worthy the name of county seat for Sanpete. There are as good people living here as can be found any where; and in addition to them we have good land, good water, good fire wood, good timber, good coal, good stone quarry and a good climate; and if any good folks want to live in such a place, why just let them come along, there is plenty of land and water.

Almost every sister in this place belongs to the Female Relief Society, and the institution is doing much good. Its members clothe and feed the poor and hungry, visit the sick, and mind their own business generally. I've heard some people say that "women can't assemble together without gossiping and meddling with every body's business," but that's not so. I visited one of their meetings about two weeks ago, they were all busy. Some were cutting and tearing rags for carpets, and some were making pantaloons; others again were cutting out blocks or squares for quilts and coverlids, and sewing and quilting, and all for the poor, of whom, thank the Lord, there are but very few in this place.

Our Co-operative store is in full blast. Judge Peacock and Tuttle & Fox turned in their stock of goods, and the brethren subscribed and paid in nearly three thousand dollars.

Yours truly,  
ARTIST.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 15, '69.

Editor Deseret News:—SIR.—In these days of go-a-head enterprise in the development of the resources of our mountains and valleys, I beg to call attention to the splendid white sand stone that is found in Spring Canyon, some two miles from Coalville. This rock is adaptable to all kind of building purposes, and it is inexhaustible. The superiority of this rock over the Red Butte, and others generally used in Salt Lake City, can only be realized through the practical use of it. It can be cut for far less than the price usually paid for dressing Red Butte or the Cottonwood granite, and is peculiarly adapted for the choicest kind of mouldings, cornices and tracing windows of the most refined taste in modern architecture. This stone maintains its color, and is also free from iron beds and pebbles, and not liable to decay. The contemplated line from Coalville to Echo City will soon be completed, which is in close proximity to the quarries.

When the railway is finished to Salt Lake City, I believe this rock can be delivered cheaper in the city than any other kind. Samuel P. Hoyts, Esq., is building one of the finest mansions in the Territory out of this same stone. Three sides are cut. The ashlers are tubed and pointed, circular window caps, cornices, &c., polished, which give to it a rich and noble appearance. When finished it will probably be the finest house in this Territory.

Parties who are about to build would do well to pause and see the further development of this beautiful rock.

Yours, respectfully,  
SAMUEL CARLISLE,  
Stone Cutter.

Died:

At Manti City, on February 28th, Franklin, son of William B. and Elizabeth Barton, aged 3 years and 2 months of inflammation of the lungs and sore throat.

At Greenville, Beaver Co., U. T. on the 3d instant, of asthma, Elder Morgan Jenkins, in his 63d year.

The deceased was born in South Wales, Nov. 18th, 1806. He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1848. He remained true and faithful to the end.—Com.