

as he used to be. The almost universal stringency in monetary matters is scarcely felt in Snowflake, except in the low price of sheep, wool, etc. The chief articles of export are lucern and other hay, a good market being found for it in Fort Apache, nearly 70 miles.

Our meetings were characterized by the rich outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord, and a time of unalloyed pleasure was universal throughout the entire congregations. They were held in the Stake meeting house; which needs further improvements being made in the gallery, etc., to render it complete in its accommodation for the public. A vote was called and universally responded to, that all the means needed for its accomplishment would be forthcoming.

After our Sunday evening meeting, we bid adieu to our many warm-hearted friends, and left Snowflake by team driven by Joseph Clawson, son of Moses Clawson, who lived in the Second ward, Salt Lake City, in the early fifties. We left Snowflake at 8:15 p.m., and after traveling 28 miles in an open conveyance, and our road enlightened by the rays of the moon, we reached our terminus by crossing the little Colorado river. On reaching the opposite side of the river, the bank was so high that it was impossible for our team to ascend; they made the attempt in a partial but desperate effort, and to prevent a serious disaster, our expert teamster having such wonderful control of his horses, quieted them in their perilous situation, while he succeeded in unhitching them from the conveyance and got them on the bank, after which he prepared to enter the water, and assisted us along the tongue, the end of which was on the bank. We then walked to Holbrook station near by, where Brother Reynolds and myself were accommodated with a bed on the floor of the co-op. store till half-past 3 o'clock. Two of our brethren, Brothers Farley and Decker, went with Brother Clawson and succeeded in getting the conveyance out of the river.

Monday, August 13, at 15 minutes to 4 a.m., our train left Holbrook station, homeward bound, about 1,800 miles' travel.

During the last ten days, the earth has been drenched with torrents of rain for hundreds of miles through Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Washouts were therefore experienced both on the railroads and also by team in travelling from place to place. By the blessing of our Heavenly Father we escaped injury from all of them. Before reaching Leadville we were detained between two and three hours, and in many instances where the water was rushing about our tracks we had to slacken our pace, so that on arriving at Grand Junction, Wednesday morning, August 15, at 9 o'clock, we found ourselves eight hours behind time; and instead of reaching Salt Lake City at 1:15 we did not arrive until midnight. GEORGE GODDARD.

ON THE GILA RIVER.

The Gila settlements have made such a success that I think they deserve a few lines in your valuable paper.

About fifteen years ago a few of our brethren were attracted there by the

abundance of water in the Gila river, and by the extension and beauty of that valley. Through the energy and skill of our people and the blessings of Heaven, the uncultivated land has turned into a fruitful garden, which is about thirty miles long by five miles wide, almost every inch under cultivation, producing all the fruits of this southern land in great abundance, not only to supply all the wants of the people but plenty to spare for the surrounding mountain country, which is very big and its people mostly depending on the Gila settlements for all their supplies.

The good feeling which has ever existed in this country between Gentiles and Mormons is considered due to this quality of our people of producing all the necessities of life in such abundance. The surrounding mining and mountain country has come under these happy circumstances, while before many a mine and other enterprises could not be carried out owing to the high prices of the produce of California, which was its nearest market. This makes the Gentiles feel that the Mormon people are an essential part of their welfare. A better feeling I have never seen in any other country. You can hardly find a Gentile who will speak a word against a Mormon.

One of the main features of the Gila country is the Graham mountains, which encompass the settlements on the western side. They are very picturesque and are full of springs of cold water, making a most pleasant and happy resort for the summer.

It will be hardly fair to speak of this country without making honorable mention of some of the worthy Pioneers who have struggled to redeem it and made it blossom as the rose. Prominent among them figure P. C. Layton, who, under the counsel of some of the Twelve Apostles and by the benefit of his own experience in building up more than one settlement deserves first praise in these noble efforts. The townsite he has located in a most conspicuous place and more chosen spots of ground can hardly be seen anywhere. His own private property and residence are also a model of intelligence and skill, where everything is done under the highest and most improved methods. His ten acres of orchard loaded to overflow with the chosen fruits of this land will show what the Gila valley can do under the care of intelligent workers. His windmill, ice-house and private residence with its surrounding flower gardens show the most delicate feelings of their designers. Busy people, who are always meddling in somebody else's business here, take the honor from the head and say that this is mostly due to the intelligence and fitness of his better half, but as I never meddle in gossip, I simply write what I learn and go on with my business.

Many other names could be mentioned who have done just as much for the country and deserve the praise and sympathy of every honest soul, but this would take me entirely out of my subject, which in the main part was to visit the surrounding Mexicans and Indians of these settlements.

From what I could learn, no work has been done with any of this people yet. Our brethren have been

really too busy in redeeming the country to think of anything else, but the character of the people and their good qualities have been well noticed by the natives and the latter's feelings have been impressed very favorable toward our people.

In speaking with one of our brethren whose business brings him in contact with the Apache Indians who adjoin our people on the north, I found out that even that warlike and ferocious tribe seem to have softened their hearts toward our people so that they would rather transact their business with them than with anybody else, and this brother, named Joseph Macray, has done a great deal of good in his dealings with them, which may eventually open a door for the civilization and conversion of that hard-fighting people which have kept in awe and distress the Mexican borders for over half a century.

As for the Mexicans, which are very numerous around our people, they have learned this much, that our people have the truth and that they are trying their best to live it; and they look to us for teaching and learning in religion as well as in everything else. The contact with our people has improved them morally as well as in their finances, and when the time may come that a religious work could be done among them, there is a prospect for a good harvest. Some of our folks there speak fluently the Spanish language. They have a great deal of love for that people and in fact there are all the elements among our people to carry out that work which I think will be started as soon as some of the brethren are over their hard work in establishing themselves and families in the country.

In the nearest Mexican town called Solomonville, I fell in conversation with some Mexicans, as I was passing through to town and I told them I was appointed by the Church to explain to them the principles of the Gospel, as I was one of their race who had been among them for eighteen years. I noticed when I first commenced to speak, they were kind of sullen, but as soon as I took the subject their countenances began to shine and they felt quite different toward me. They felt so interested that I promised them as soon as possible to go to their town for the express purpose of holding a meeting with them and explain the Gospel principles to all of them who might be willing to hear. This seemed to please them very much. As it was, that day I was passing through their town with a load of flour and provisions to take with me into Mexico, and it being a sultry day, in the heat of summer, I thought it was not the most proper time to speak to them; besides I want to let them desire to see what should be done for them, so as to prepare for this work.

In returning to St. David from this trip I received an answer to my letter to the colonization agent at Sonora written a month and a half before. He says he has just received it and has sent the list of my outfit to the government, and expects it will be returned to him in three weeks, with the permit to pass free of duties, which I think will be done without further delay.

Respectfully,
M. G. TRFJO.
ST. DAVID, ARIZONA, Aug. 17, 1894.