Correspondence.

MOSCOW, SANFORD CO.,
Ala., May 14th 1869.

George Q. Cannon.—Dear Brother.—Thinking that it may be interesting to some of the many readers of your paper to hear from us and to learn something of the prospects that seem to present themselves to us, I consider them good and have no hesitancy in saying that it is only a question of time as to the progress of the work, and the development of the truth in the hearts of many in this land of Dixie. Some few have obeyed the truth and there is quite a number that will obey it soon. Most of my relatives, who are quite numerous, I flatter myself will receive the gospel; they have manifested a good spirit and kind feeling towards us ever since our arrival in this land. They furnished us with good horses to travel on till plowing commenced, and tell us as soon as the crops are laid by we shall have horses to ride. They say men that have left all that nature has rendered dear to them, and traveled 2,500 miles and borne their own expenses, to preach the gospel to them are worthy of all the friendship and hospitality that they can bestow. There are many noble spirits in this land, all that is necessary for them to become strong advocates for the truth is time and proper teachings; let this take place and I hesitate not in saying we will be able to turn out some valiant soldiers for the truth. Some would not come out to hear us at first on the ground that, if the gospel we preach should prove to be true, all the sons and daughters of Adam would be judged by it. We bear our testimony that such will be. If they did not hear it they would not come under condemnation for not obeying it and that they might be justified by faith; but when they began to understand that they would suffer loss for not hearing it when they had the opportunity, they have, some of them, come to the conclusion to hear it, and, if I am a proper judge, it has caused them to think seriously. I think there is more reading of the Bible done now than there has been for the last twenty years, in this country. The priests stand at a distance crying, false prophet, false teachers, beware of those Mormons or they will deceive you and take you to Salt Lake and compel you to remain there all the days of your lives to work for twelve and a half cents per day!

But men that are not so blinded with falsehood though they may be uttered by a *Rev.*, have said to the pious priests, "why don't you meet the Mormons with the Bible and prove to us from that, that these men are preaching a false doctrine and let us all see and hear you prove this? We have been liberal with you in the way of means; we have paid you preachers high salaries, so that you could take time and study the scriptures and thereby be able to condemn error. Now, inasmuch as these strangers are willing and ready to meet you on fair grounds, that is with the Bible, we claim it at your hands that you meet them in debate, and that you may not lose anything we will pay you $100 for your time and trouble. This we will pay you over and above your salary." On their refusing to comply with the terms offered the conclusion is that something is wrong or a screw loose in some place, and so there is, and they don't want us to tighten it for them.

On the first Sunday of this month one of the Reverends preached what some of his members were pleased to style my "Funeral Sermon." Judge the great surprise of my friends on seeing me several days after riding through the country, looking well and hearty, and as fresh as the morning rose. I could not tell my friends that the resurrection had come, but that the gentleman in his great zeal to do me good had preached my funeral sermon some fifty years too soon; and that I was sorry that he should labor under such mistakes as he did when he told the people that Christ was the last true prophet on the earth, and that all prophets after him were false and if he was so incredulous as to disbelieve John's Revelations and rank him with the false prophets and award him his portion in the lake of fire, I might consider my case a lost one, as I here testified that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Lord, sent and called to usher in the dispensation of the fulness of times. Our school boys in Utah, 10 years old, can tell that John wrote his Revelations about 63 years after Christ.

All Christendom receives them as being genuine and true; yet this gentleman in his blind and ignorant zeal to condemn the Prophet Joseph Smith and all his followers, would refuse to receive John's Revelations, from the fact that he was after Christ. I was present and heard him, but had no chance to make a reply.

The spring is very backward, but few of the planters have finished planting, in consequence of there having been so much rain; the cotton that is up looks very small and weakly and is dying, so that the crop will stand thin on the ground if it should cease to die from this time. Some farmers talk of plowing the cotton up and planting corn instead; the corn looks as if it would make a crop if the rain would cease and the weather turn warm. It keeps so cold that vegetation grows but slowly.

The peach crop is almost an entire failure; the apple crop will be light; the wheat crop will be short, judging from present appearances. It is almost a universal cry with the farmers that the crops will be light this season. Money is scarce, taxes high. The people seem to have lost confidence in each other. I have talked with several men on this subject, and they say there is a great lack of confidence in the people, to what there was formerly. You may see this lack of confidenc among all classes. There seems to be a fearful looking for something ahead; they cannot tell what. As one of old times said their hearts are failing them for fear and for looking after the things that are coming on the earth.

We are all well. Brother Matthews joins in love to yourself, President Young, George A., Daniel H., and all the Twelve.

I remain your brother in the Gospel,
J. D. HOLLADAY.

Hypocrisy is a sort of homage that vice pays to virtue.

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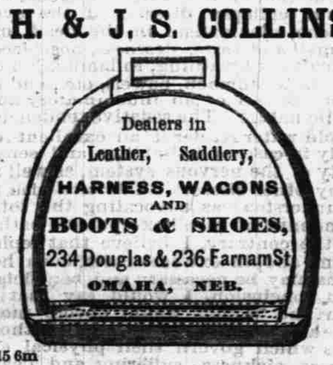

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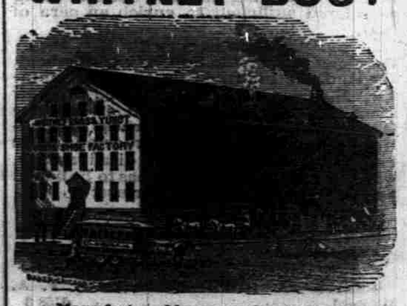

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