

REMARKS

By Elder John Taylor, delivered in the Tabernacle, G. S. L. City, May 19th, 1867.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

As we have just returned from a journey from the south, I presume it would be interesting to you to hear some little about how the Saints, generally, are getting on. We have had quite a pleasant journey, but rather a laborious one, traveling thirty, forty or fifty miles a day, and preaching from once to three times a day. But we have had very pleasant remarks, feelings and associations during our absence. We found that the President and those who were with him were welcomed and well received in every place we visited. There seems to be an increase of faith among the Saints and a desire to live their religion and to keep the commandments of God. We also find that improvements are taking place in almost every place we visited: they are improving in their farming operations, their orchards, gardens, dwellings, &c., and some places we find are really very beautiful. Down in the far south, in Saint George, and through that region of country, the people are beginning to live easier and better than heretofore, so that the matter of living is no longer a problem with any of them. In the early days of the settlement of that country a good many became dissatisfied and left. George A. used occasionally to go down with reinforcements expecting to find quite a large company, but when he tried to put his finger on them, like "paddy's flea," they were not there. At the present time, however, different feelings prevail: there are many now who desire to go down there as a matter of choice; and a great many there with whom I conversed feel as though it was as good a home as they could find anywhere in the valleys, and they would not wish to leave unless counselled to do so. Many of them stated that it took counsel to take them there and it would take counsel to bring them away. I noticed, too, that there was a very general disposition among the people to observe the Word of Wisdom. Of course we had to keep it; we could not for shame do anything else, for while teaching others to observe it we were morally bound to observe it ourselves; and if we had been disposed to do otherwise we could hardly have helped ourselves, for nobody offered us either tea, coffee, tobacco or liquor. There seemed to be a general disposition among the people to obey, at least, that counsel, although they had not heard much preaching upon it until we went down and talked things over together. We enjoyed ourselves very much, and the people expressed themselves as being very highly gratified. They met us as you met us here—with their bands of music, schools, escorts, and so forth, and they made us welcome wherever we went, and we found that it was indeed a very different thing to preach the gospel among the Saints, from what it is to preach it in the world. Instead of receiving opposition, contumely and contempt, we were received with kindness, good feelings and a hearty welcome.

When I was at Conference at St. George I felt that I was among a very good people and that there was a great deal of the Spirit of the Lord there; but when I came to reflect on the circumstance I was not surprised that there should be a good people there, because where there is a people that have been called upon to undertake what they consider to be a painful or unpleasant task or mission, and they go and perform that mission without flinching, they feel that they are engaged in the work of God, and that His work and His commands and the authority of the Holy Priesthood are more to them than any thing else; and they have the blessing of God, resting upon them, which produces peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. That is the reason why there is so good a feeling and so large a flow of the Spirit of the living God through that district of country. But where there is a backwardness and a shrinking from duties assigned us, there is a drying up of that Spirit and a lack of the light, life, power and energy which the Holy Ghost imparts to those who fulfil the dictates of Jehovah. When I reflect upon these things I take this lesson to myself, that it is a good and pleasant thing to obey the dictates of the Lord, that it is praise-worthy and honorable to be found walking in the commands of Jehovah, and that it is a blessing to all men to fulfil all missions and to discharge all responsibilities and duties that the Lord lays upon them. When selecting brethren to go down there I remember the Bishops

asked me "what kind of men I wanted?" I told them I wanted "men of God, men of faith, who would go and sit on a barren rock and stay there until told to leave it." If we get a number of men of that kind to go, there is faith, union, power, light, truth, the revelations of Jesus Christ and everything that is calculated to elevate, exalt, and ennoble the human mind and to happy the Saints of God. These are my views in relation to the order of the kingdom of God.

The Lord has established His kingdom on the earth and He has given us His servants to guide and direct us. We, as a people, profess emphatically to be governed by revelation. We do not believe in this simply as theory, as something that would be beneficial to somebody else, but as something that will be a blessing to ourselves. We believe that God has spoken, that angels have appeared, that the everlasting gospel in its purity has been restored; we believe that God has organized His Church and kingdom on the earth, and that through channels which he has appointed and ordained, He manifests His will first to the Saints and then to the world, and we believe that the more we adhere to the teachings of the servants of God the more we shall prosper both temporally and spiritually, the more we shall enjoy the favor of the Almighty, and the more likely we shall be to obtain for ourselves an everlasting inheritance in the celestial kingdom of our God. We believe that the intelligence and wisdom of man cannot guide us, and that we, therefore, need the guidance of the Almighty; and being under His guidance and direction it is our duty to submit to His law, to be governed by His authority, do His will, keep His commandments and observe His statutes that we may ultimately be saved in His celestial kingdom.

May God help us to be faithful, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Correspondence.

By the kindness of Bro. N. H. Felt we have been favored with the following letter from his son, Joseph, one of the missionaries to the South:

ST. THOMAS, Pah-Ute Co., A. T.,
Sunday, Jan. 5th, 1868.

Dear Folks at Home.—We received your letter of Nov. 19th last week, it being forwarded from Harmony to St. George, and from there here. We have not had any mails for two weeks previous, on account of high water. The "Beaver Dam," a small creek fifty-five miles from here, towards St. George, rose so high that it swept away eight or ten houses and all their farms and vineyards. At Millersville, on the Santa Clara, the flood tore up their farms and drowned some of their stock. The Muddy was very high. It flooded nearly all the land at St. Joseph, making it very bad for the boys putting in their crops. The water rose so suddenly that the boys who were out in the fields had to swim home. It has done little or no damage here, as our farming land is higher up from the creek.

My lot of five acres, down on the banks of the Virgen, is as good a piece of land as I wish for, it having been cultivated, and is now ready for the plough. Our lots face east and west. Mine is first to the north, S. H. Hill's next, H. P. Folsom's next and John Sharp, jr., next. We are about three-quarters of a mile from the fort. Hyrum, John and I are in partnership. We have about eight acres plowed now, and shall plow another to-morrow, so we will have three acres apiece, which we shall plant in wheat this week. Then we will have two acres for corn and potatoes, which grow well, if planted in the right season—potatoes in February, and corn as soon as we get our wheat harvested, in June. We plant our cotton in May. I think we can raise anything we want here as soon as we learn the best seasons for planting. We can plant our wheat in October, harvest it in June and plant corn on the same ground. As soon as that is off, we can put in another crop of wheat. We intend to sow, harrow, water and harvest our own grain. We will likely have thirty or forty bushels of wheat to the acre. My lucerne I shall plant in my 2½ acre vineyard, also melons, cucumbers, cane, etc. We have lots of work to do besides our farm work. We have adobies to make and houses to build. I think of building back on my city lot so that I can use the house for a stable when I get able to build a better one. Then we have lots of public work—making ditches, draining the swamp, building a corral, etc., etc.

I hope I shall succeed in exchanging

my wheat for some here, and get my things brought down from St. George, for although it is only 150 miles from here to Harmony, it is more like 300, the roads being so sandy and bad. Then our horses are hardly fit for such a trip, for I have no grain to feed them, yet they keep up first rate. The old settlers are very kind to us, giving us chaff and straw to feed our animals.

Perhaps you would like to know how we spent our Christmas and New Year. Well, on Christmas we were hunting our horses till noon, got a load of wood in the afternoon and went to a dance in the evening. The next day we commenced plowing. New Year's day we plowed till 3 o'clock, only think of plowing January 1st, when I suppose they were sleighing where you are. Then we came home, had fresh beef, roasted, (ribs cost 18 cents per pound here) apple pudding, sauce, pie and bread. Don't we live! Then we all went to a party in our school house. While there the news was received of the death of Lucy Spencer Grant, which took us by surprise and cast a gloom over our pleasures.

Do you want to know how I feel about my mission? First rate! We found everything here much better than we expected. Good land, good water, plenty of grass for grazing and hay, plenty of wood—mesquite or mescrew six inches through, or driftwood on the Virgen, a pleasant climate—working at present in our shirt sleeves, very little rain and the wind not as strong as I expected. Our only trouble is want of lumber which is 150 miles distant now, but will be only 60 miles distant when they get a steam saw mill in our nearest timber. We have two encampments of Indians here; they are all willing to work, the women to wash, the men to herd, often taking our horses off at night and bringing them back in the morning. They will cut wood, grub, or do anything, some of them working as well as any white man. They will work three days for a shirt, and five days for a pair of denim overhauls, costing 40 cts. at auction in S. L. City. Col. Reese hired one to work 9 days for 3 yards of factory. Of course we must board them. I have nothing to hire them with. I often wish I had a few auction shirts or pants or beads, for I could get my adobies made, but then we get along first rate. We have health and strength, and above all, the satisfaction of knowing we are doing our duty. We have a good bishop—br. James Leithead—bros. Warren Foote and Andrew Gibbon are his counselors.

Monday evening. All well. I have just got home from the field. I have been plowing on my land to-day.

I must close as the mail starts in the morning. It arrives from, and leaves for the north, or should do, every Tuesday and Friday. You could send letters via Pahranaagat, which is 100 miles north-west of here.

LOGAN CITY, Jan. 20, 1868.

Editor Deseret News:—Winter, in these more northern latitudes, seems to have at last settled down in earnest. Yet the perseverance of the people appears not to be abated. The very favorable fall weather was well applied in plowing and putting in grain, throughout the extent of the valley, almost to the very eve of Christmas. How much in area has been sown, I am unable to say; but I have heard of one man, and he but of moderate calibre, agriculturally speaking, who has sown fifty acres in wheat. There prevails here, also, a strong pre-assurance that bountiful crops will repay the tiller's toil, at the coming harvest.

An era of more general local improvement is dawning for Cache. The necessity of farmers' barns is becoming practically exemplified in substantial frame buildings of varied dimensions, ranging from 60 by 80, to those of ordinary proportions in heavily timbered countries. Almost every man in Richmond who has hay in quantity to stack, and stock to feed, has either already got out, or commenced getting out, or is soon going to commence to get out his timbers for a real, live American farmer's barn, with all the appurtenances, &c., thereunto belonging, as Blackstone would express it. And weal be-tide the day that brings it about. The trees are growing in the mountains, and here are the sturdy yeomen who can put them into shape.

The elegant and commodious stone school-house, just erected at Franklin, would adorn any town in the Union. The people there, under the unfaltering care and stimulation of Bishop Hatch, have also inclosed their meeting-house of cut stone and of really massive proportions, considering their comparative strength in numbers and resources.

Messrs. Flavius Green and Wm. C. Neale, the latter gentleman of your city, have a portable steam saw mill in the heavily timbered mountains above Franklin, which, it is confidently hoped, the coming season, may very far exceed the large amount of lumber sawed the past year.

At Smithfield, your friend Jerry Hatch is turning out a fair quality of cut nail, from a machine of his own construction. A handsome and commodious frame meeting-house has also been put up there this fall, where the Saints can comfortably assemble, until their more elaborate stone house—already up to the square—shall have been completed.

In the very handsome new stone meeting-house at Hyde Park, on Saturday evening last, a vocal and instrumental concert was given by the Logan choir. A crowded house witnessed the performance. Some of the singing was exceedingly sweet and charming. Proof was not lacking of the existence of liberal acquirements and talent in music.

The traveling public will be glad to learn that the work of reconstructing the road and bridges in Box Elder cañon, so fearfully torn and distorted by the recent flood, is going on vigorously, and it is confidently expected, will be in order again about the 20th inst. Already, I understand, light sleighs can pass over it with safety.

Preparations are in progress here for a Sunday school concert and dramatic exhibition, under the direction of br W. H. Shearman, superintendent.

SCOTIA.

MANTI CITY, Sanpete Co.,
January, 1868.

Editor Evening News:—The interest you feel in Zion and her welfare and the condition and affairs of the Saints generally throughout the Territory, prompts me to write you the following few lines:

We read with delight in your ever-welcome papers, of the efforts that are being made by the Presidency and those associated with them, to establish schools and institutions of education, and we are striving to copy after your example. A Sunday School has just been commenced here by the direction of Bishop A. J. Moffitt, where the children meet every Sunday morning eager to receive instruction. They are in their Sunday School. We have also a large Day School for young men and women, taught by Bro. Wm. T. Reid, who has lately moved here from Payson, and who is also acting as our County and Probate Clerk. Three or four other schools for young pupils, and mostly taught by young ladies, are also in daily session. Our Dramatic Association, with Bros. J. Crawford and W. K. Barton as Managers, and a number of competent supporters, mostly young ladies and gentlemen, with the motto of "Let us make our own amusements or have none," are giving weekly performances in a well furnished hall. We have also a fine band of music here, under the leadership of Bro. Hans Westenskov, and I scarcely need say that dancing is at this time of the year receiving its proper share of attention. So much about our literary pursuits and social amusements.

But I also wish to state, that while attending to those matters, we are not neglecting our temporal affairs. Black Hawk, for the last three years, has prevented the doing of any mountain work. The people are busy now making preparations to get out their poles and timber on the snow, the former to fence in new land that has just been surveyed, and the latter to finish off new buildings in progress of erection. Circumstances have rendered it impossible for us to do much in the way of public improvements for the last few years, but a school house is now about to be completed, which I think will compare favorably with any in the Territory outside of Salt Lake City.

As for enterprise, that kind which is manifested by importing labor-saving machinery, we are trying to keep up with our neighbors, and I think we have got more than any other settlement in the county. We have now three grist mills, owned respectively by M. D. Hambleton & Co., John Lowry, and S. Christogersen; the first of which is just completed, and is a fine structure, driven by one of "Leffel's Double Turbine Water Wheels," the grinding being done by one of Isaac Strab's Portable Grist Mills; good judges say it does as good work as any in the Territory. We have two good carding machines, one belonging to Judge Peacock and the other to Bro. S. Christofferson, to which he intends to add a Spinning Machine and a few Power Looms as soon as practicable. Three Threshing Machines