

Correspondence.

Y. M. M. I. A.

HYDE PARK, Jan. 6, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

Please publish the following—

Organized at Hyde Park, Dec. 27, 1875, by Bros. M. H. Hardy and M. Young, a branch of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, with the following officers—Thos. W. Kirby, Pres.; John H. Woolf, Jr., 1st Councillor; Edward Thurman, 2nd Councillor; Fred. Turner, Secretary.

We have an enrollment of fifty-one members. A good time is anticipated.

Yours respectfully,

F. TURNER.

At Council Bluffs, Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis.

SAINT LOUIS, Jan. 1, 1876.

Elder John Nicholson:

Dear Brother,—Since leaving home, Nov. 1, 1875, myself and Elders Junius F. Wells and Joseph G. Young have had the privilege of holding some twenty meetings in the neighborhood of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and have been exceedingly successful in meeting with friends who have been kind and hospitable towards us, and have administered to our wants and necessities, to that extent that I feel truly thankful, and acknowledge the kind providences of our Heavenly Father in opening up the way before us in order that we may go forth, with what knowledge and understanding we may be in possession of, pertaining to the principles of life and salvation, and try and explain them to the people, and to bear our humble testimony to the truthfulness of the work in which we, as Latter-day Saints, are engaged.

In the meetings we have held, the people have observed good order, and have listened with strict attention to what we have had to say. They have opened their school houses to us, furnished fuel and lights, conveyed us from place to place in wagons, and showed us every courtesy characteristic of kindness and sociability; and if we have been instrumental in the hands of God in doing some good, in sowing the seeds of righteousness among them, and teaching them true and correct principles, then I shall feel that the object of our mission is being partially accomplished, at least we shall have made a commencement.

We also held a meeting in Omaha, at a private residence, there being present about thirty, including Elders Junius F. Wells, I. D. Alphin, M. W. Pratt and myself. We had a very spirited meeting, and I think, attended with good results. I had the privilege of bearing my testimony, along with the rest of the brethren. Elder I. Alphin went to Texas, Elder M. W. Pratt to St. Louis in company with Elder D. M. Stuart, and Elder J. F. Wells and myself remained in and around Omaha and Council Bluffs for one month, speaking and visiting the people, when Elder Wells had occasion to visit his relatives in Nashville, Washington county, Illinois, where he is now laboring, and I understand, very successfully, the people turning out in large numbers.

I was joined in my labors by Elder Joseph G. Young, and, in connection with him, remained in Council Bluffs about two weeks, speaking to the people, both publicly and privately, mostly around their firesides, and in some instances I have had occasion to discuss the subject of spiritualism, which by the way seems to be the prevailing "ism," in the neighborhood of Council Bluffs, unless it be apostasy, and with the latter class there seems to be considerable confusion and dissatisfaction, or at least it seems so to me in what little experience I had with them, which I acknowledge is not very extensive, but sufficient to convince me that they are anything but happy, judging from their looks and actions. They always seem to be so restless and discontented.

The objects of interest in and around Omaha and Council Bluffs are not very imposing or interesting, except the Missouri Bridge, which is a masterpiece of workmanship. This bridge I am told is twenty-seven hundred feet long.

On December 16th, Joseph G. Young and myself started for St. Louis, via the Kansas City, St.

Joseph and Council Bluffs R. R., arrived at Kansas City about four o'clock in the afternoon, and saw a very busy looking place. While in the reception room, meditating and considering what road to take to go to St. Louis, the trains all left the depot, and we concluded to stay in Kansas City. We did not care to go to St. Louis that night anyhow; we preferred to stay in Kansas and partake of a good night's rest, not on a bed of roses, but on a terrible hard bench, in the waiting room, at the depot, and there dream of our peaceful homes in the valleys of the mountains, with our eyes open. At half past four o'clock in the morning the night watchman, thinking probably we had enjoyed a good night's repose, came and notified us it was time to get up; the train would leave in a little while, for which I felt very thankful. We got on the train, and through the kindness of a Mr. Hall, we were allowed to go from Kansas City to St. Louis via the Missouri and Pacific R. R. for five dollars a piece, the usual fare being twelve dollars, he remarking afterwards, "Your countenances would pass you anywhere."

On our way to St. Louis, at a station called Hermann, the people had just participated in the enjoyment, so it seemed to them, of hanging a human being, and seemed to be immensely delighted, judging from the noise they made. The confusion and jargon were terrible to witness. We arrived in St. Louis about eight o'clock in the evening, all safe and sound, and went to the residence of Mr. A. J. Kershaw, there met Elders D. M. Stuart and M. W. Pratt, and went from there to Br. Berman's. Both of these families are very kind and hospitable.

I have visited all the principal places of interest in and about St. Louis, among which is the St. Louis Bridge, and a very grand structure it is. Its length, I am told, is one mile and a quarter, and it cost in the neighborhood of thirteen million dollars. I also visited the St. Louis water-works, iron-works, coal mines, prominent buildings, and many other points of interest, and last, but not least, the several public and private parks, which are indeed beautiful, especially Shaw's Gardens, which are simply magnificent. One could almost imagine himself in the tropical regions, when looking at the palm trees, shrubbery, flowers, &c., therein contained; also the Tower Grove Park, which is an immense affair, containing one hundred and sixty acres. It cost the city in laying out lawns and trees, making roads, fences, &c., something like six hundred thousand dollars. It is owned by the city, which expends on the same some twenty-six thousand dollars annually for improving and beautifying the place. I obtained my information from the gatekeeper, who once professed to be a Latter-day Saint, but, on account of seeing so much trouble, he left the church, and is now a myth, so far as religion is concerned.

I visited Lafayette Park, which is very nice, and the Forest Park, in the which they are just making the roads, and many other places too numerous to mention.

I am here, in connection with Elders D. M. Stuart and M. W. Pratt, holding meetings and visiting and speaking with the people, whenever we have an opportunity to do so.

I will close by expressing my thanks unto God, for his many manifestations of goodness and kindness unto me during my absence from home, and since being appointed to this mission, and also return my thanks to my numerous friends in Salt Lake City, hoping always to be sustained by their faith and prayers.

Give my kind regards to the members of the Twentieth Ward Institute, and exhort them for me, to still continue to be identified with the same. Elders D. M. Stuart and M. W. Pratt wish to be kindly remembered to you and all enquiring friends.

Your Brother in the Gospel,
JOS. F. SIMMONS.

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