

of very attentive listeners on the subject of oneness among the saints. Much wheat has been sowed, and a number of new fields have been enclosed.

GEO. A. SMITH.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, }  
March 17, 1855. }

EDITOR OF NEWS:—

On Wednesday, the 7th of March, Elder Benson and myself visited the foundation for the Provo Bridge. It is located immediately above a dam across the river, which renders it very difficult to sink the piers as low as required, in consequence of the water rushing into the pits as soon as dug. The timbers are of an excellent quality, and are well put together; the piers, however, will be very apt to give way before some of our mighty spring torrents, if the bed and banks of the river are not thoroughly secured.

We attended a party at Elder Redfield's, where we enjoyed ourselves with a very pleasant company until 12 o'clock.

On Thursday morning, Elder Benson took leave of Provo for the city. I examined the improvements made by Mr. Roberts in his pottery; also visited Elder Evan M. Green's farm, which had been damaged by the citizens of Provo turning the river across it, to prevent its overflowing the city. I think the City Council would do him justice, if they would give him \$200. I examined some heavy wrought iron work manufactured by Mr. James Simpkins—a full set of wrought-iron grist mill gearing for Mr. Kelting; also a set of saw-mill irons very elegantly finished for the settlement in Cedar Valley, and the wrought-iron gearing of several thrashing machines, well executed. These shew conclusively that the machine shop of Simpkins and Holdaway is capable of granting the best accommodations in the shortest time to any persons wanting heavy irons draughted and finished. I set out in my garden 90 osage orange plants, as a commencement for a hedge fence.

On Friday morning, set out some fruit trees. In company with Elder John Y. Greene rode to Lehi, part of the way facing a severe north rain storm. Put up with Bishop David Evans; preached in the evening at the School-house, which was crowded; many people went home for want of room.

Saturday, stormy all day. Attended the drama of "Luke the Laborer," and the farce of "The Rough Diamond." The play would have done honor to the Social Hall in this city, although the performers had but just commenced, without having any one of experience to teach them.

On Sunday, in company with brother Evans, went to Pleasant Grove; preached in the School-house at 10 1-2, a.m.; returned to Lake City, and preached at 2 p.m.; in the evening preached at Lehi at 6 1-2 p.m. The houses were all crowded to overflowing; many went home for want of room.

Elder John B. Milner is teaching the Deseret alphabet with considerable success, having 60 scholars at Lehi, 28 at American Fork, 25 at Mountainville, 28 at Pleasant Grove, 22 at Provo, first ward, who are making good progress.

On Monday returned to this city on the top of a load of wheat, in company with Thomas McKenzie; arrived at 10 1-2 p.m., night so dark we could not see the horses—we judged, however, the roads in Great Salt Lake City were capable of some improvement; having been absent 12 days, travelled 150 miles, and preached 15 hours, attended two plays and one dance, and settled many minor difficulties.

The people of Utah are busy fencing their fields and putting in grain.

A large new field of 2,500 acres is being enclosed at Lehi, and the main water ditch enlarged, which extends seven miles, bringing the water from American Creek, near the canyon.

An additional field is being enclosed on the south east of Provo.

The inhabitants of Springville and Palmyra are making arrangements to enclose a new field of 3,500 acres between the two cities, to be watered from the Spanish Fork. A considerable portion of this land will be put in grain this summer.

The people of Utah have commenced to adopt, as a field fence, a mud wall.

The Provo Canyon Road Company organized on the 6th inst. Liberal subscriptions of stock were made, and a committee appointed to immediately locate the road through to Fort Supply, who will commence their operations the beginning of next week.

The following report shows the progress and condition of the city wall at Provo:—

"PRESIDENT GEO. A. SMITH:—Dear Sir: Agreeable to your request, I have examined the city wall of this place, and find it as follows:—59 rods of wall completed; 7 rods, 11 feet high; 20 rods, 10 feet high; 7 rods, 9 feet high; 11 rods, 8 feet high; 17 rods, 7 feet high; 144 rods, 6 feet high; 15 rods, 6 feet high; 8 rods, 4 feet high; 12 rods, 3 feet high; 151 rods stone foundation laid; total amount, commenced and completed, 451 rods; 829 rods remaining, not commenced.

"ELIAS H. BLACKBURN, Bishop."

"Provo City, March 8, 1855."

I have advised them to wake up a little on the subject.

Very respectfully yours, &c.,

GEO. A. SMITH.

News from our Emigration.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, }  
March 16, 1855. }

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:—

The following copy of a letter from my son is submitted for your clemency, &c. W. W. PHELPS.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Jan. 10, 1855.

DEAR FATHER:—I left Liverpool on the 7th of December, in charge of a company of 422 Saints on board the "Clara Wheeler," Capt. Nelson, all in good health and spirits. During the passage we had one birth, seven marriages, and twenty-three deaths, all children, with the exception of two; and all owing to the measles having been brought on board.

We made the quickest passage of any of our ships, having only been 34 days from Liverpool to New Orleans. During the voyage we enjoyed the Spirit of the Lord, and every blessing that could be asked for or required on ship-board. When we arrived at New Orleans, we met Elder

James McGaw, the agent for our emigration, and we made arrangements for all to go to St. Louis on the steamer "Oceana."

Sunday, Jan. 14.

Since writing the above we have embarked, and got up the river as far as Natchez, and, as usual, the Lord has blessed us in every thing. We have with us the mortal remains and effects of the late Elder W. W. Major, who died in London, of which you doubtless have been informed.

I am sorry to say that my health is not improved as yet, but I have full faith that it will be sufficient to allow me to return to England and fulfil my mission; if not, I shall be in the valley in the course of the coming season. Of course, then, I shall let all my affairs relative to the war in the East remain "in statu quo."

Times in the old country are bad; labor scarce, and badly paid. The poor are oppressed, and long for deliverance: the same condition extends to New Orleans, which has generally been a busy place; but this season trade is dull, and thousands are walking about without employment, and stout, hearty men are begging. The devil has full sway, and grinds harder as Mormonism grows stronger; so look for coming events.

This letter is roughly written, owing to the jumping of the boat, which renders writing almost impossible. I will write again at St. Louis, and send you further particulars. Remember me to all the brethren.

I remain, your faithful son,

H. E. PHELPS.

P.S.—Brothers Parsons and Crosby, as counselors, and E. C. Brand, as clerk, desire to be remembered to you and brother S. W. Richards, and all the rest of the brethren. Please hand this to the Editor of the Deseret News, if you think proper.

H. E. P.

[Much obliged.—ED.]

Our Home Correspondence.

PROVO CITY, Utah County, }  
March 6, 1854. }

EDITOR NEWS:—I left G. S. L. City on the 1st inst., in Mr. John Daley's mail coach, and arrived at this place at 7 o'clock p. m. The bluff on the northern bank of Provo river has been so graded as to make a good passable road. Good bridges are made, one across the slough at the foot of the hill, and one across that on the south side of the river. Three abutments for the main bridge have already been put in, and much material is on the ground for completing it.

Lieut. Col. Steptoe made a wise disposition of the improvements on the military road when he determined to bridge the Provo.

On Friday evening I preached on the subject of the gathering of the saints, and the revelations of the Priesthood to the Church, in the meeting hall which was crowded. On Saturday Elder E. T. Benson arrived, and we visited the City Wall, Seminary, Tithing Office, Music Hall, Meeting Hall, Messrs. Holdaway and Simpkins' Woollen Factory and Machine-shop, and other public improvements.

The City Wall is progressing very slowly, and indicates a want of energy in the matter. President Joseph Young and several of his counselors arrived. Prest. A. P. Rockwood, E. T. Benson and myself preached in the Hall which was crowded, and many listened out of doors. An appointment was given out for the Presidents of the Seventies to preach 3 times on Sunday, which they filled to the gratification and instruction of the saints. Elder E. T. Benson and myself addressed the saints in Springville on the temporal things of the Kingdom. Bro. Wm. Miller conveyed us to Palmyra, where Elder Benson preached in the school house to a crowded audience, while many listened out of doors; I followed him and spoke about 1 hour. On Monday bro. John Berry took us to Payson, and at 10 o'clock a. m. we addressed the saints in the school house. Elder Chas. B. Hancock was unanimously chosen Bishop of Payson, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Benj. Cross, and we ordained him. The branch organization was discontinued, and the Bishop directed to preside, with Elders Jas. McLellan and Fairbanks for his counselors. The saints listened to our instructions with every manifestation of pleasure.

After partaking of their hospitality, we proceeded to the Fort of the newly incorporated City of Spanish Fork, and were very kindly received by Bishop Wm. Pace. The Fort wall is built of adobles, and is 165 feet long by 111 wide, and 12 feet high; fifteen houses are built on the inside against the wall, which has good and substantial gates.—The cleanliness of this fort speaks well for the taste of its inhabitants.

Elder Benson and myself set as referees to decide a difficulty between the cities of Palmyra and Springville, both cities having claimed a tract of land located between the two. We listened to the arguments of the committees from both places, and decided to the satisfaction of all.—I rode to Springville in company with the committee of that city. Elder Benson remained and addressed the saints. We met again at Springville this morning, and committed to writing our decision upon the above named land dispute.

The inhabitants of Springville have continued to labor on their City wall during most of the winter; the City plot is 3-4 of a mile square, and two-thirds of the wall is built six feet high.

We preached in the Meeting Hall to a crowded assembly