

of snow will insure an abundance of water for irrigating the crops the coming season.

DEPARTURE.—The ship *Thornton*, Captain Collins, cleared on May 3, and sailed on the 4th for New York, with 764 souls of the Saints on board, of whom 163 were from the Scandinavian Mission.

This company is under the Presidency of Elders James G. Willie, Millen Atwood, Jacob A. Ahmansen, and Moses Clough. Elders Willie, Atwood, and Clough arrived in England January 5, 1853; and consequently have been labouring in the ministry, in this country, nearly three years and four months. Elder Ahmansen was one among the first who received the Gospel in Scandinavia. He was baptized by Elder E. Snow, when the Gospel was first carried by him to Denmark. Since that time he has laboured faithfully in the ministry, and held responsible positions in the Scandinavian Mission. Elders John Kelly, late President of the Cheltenham Conference, A. M. Findlay, formerly of the East India mission, and John Chislett, who has been labouring in the Swiss mission, also sailed in the *Thornton*. These brethren have all been faithful and diligent in the ministry, and have left their fields of labour to go home to Zion with our blessing, and they have our prayers for their future success and welfare.

NOTICE OF TRANSFER.—In view of our approaching return to Utah, and the transfer of the business of our Presidency, we call attention to the following Notice—

It is requested that the Presidents of Missions, and the Pastors and Presidents in the British Mission, will forward to us, prior to the 30th of June, all Tithing collected, and the Donations to the P. E. Fund, and Temple Offerings, for the quarter ending June 30, from the Saints under their respective jurisdictions.

Also that the Pastors and Presidents in the British Mission will see that General Book Agents forward to us, prior to the 30th of June, all the funds possible to the credit of their respective Conferences.

All persons who have money on deposit at this Office are requested to communicate with us, stating the amount.

It is desirable that all individual obligations, whether for goods, cash, or postage, should be cancelled previous to the 30th of June, that we may not be under the unpleasant necessity of transferring such items to our successor for collection.

It is particularly requested, that all the remittances above contemplated, reach us before or not later than the 30th of June, as our accounts will be closed on that day.

F. D. RICHARDS.

Foreign Correspondence.

DESERET.

Fillmore City, Dec. 24, 1855.

Elder Franklin D. Richards.

Dear Brother—We at present hail from this place, being here during the session

of the Legislature, which convened at this point on the 10th instant, and will hold forty days. We send you the Message, and the laws providing for holding a convention and taking the census, with a view of obtaining our admission into the

Union as a State. There has, as yet, but little else passed the Legislative Assembly of much importance. The *Deseret News*, which will go out with this mail, will give all the items. We are not in receipt of anything new from this California mail, except the return of Dr. Kane; therefore I have but little to write. We still wish to urge the Saints to cross the plains as before suggested—on foot, in charge, so far as may be practicable, of American Elders.

It is now probable that brother Lorenzo Snow will not go out the ensuing spring, but, most likely, Orson Pratt may, and others of the Twelve.

We still feel the burden of the past season's operations, and desire you to assist all you can to liquidate the St. Louis indebtedness. Be careful to avoid any additional indebtedness in the operations of the ensuing year.

I expect that when you leave, my son Joseph will accompany you, and that you will come directly through; others are older, and can manage as best suits them. I presume a goodly share will have companies in charge.

We contemplate having a set of school books printed at the Liverpool Office, in the new alphabet; we would like to have you inform us in relation to getting up a font of type, and whether we will have to send any person to Liverpool for that purpose, or to oversee the printing of the books, the manuscript of course being furnished from this Territory. It is our intention to introduce this system in the schools throughout the Territory. We consider the *Deseret Alphabet* a great improvement in letters, simplifying the attainment of our language to the youth as well as to foreigners. The Legislative Assembly will probably take this matter in hand and make an appropriation to further this object. As you are probably aware, brother Samuel W. Richards is here, and I presume will write to you. Your family are all well so far as I am acquainted.

Brothers Kimball and Grant are here, and, together with myself, are enjoying tolerable good health.

Remember me to Joseph, Edmund, brother Little, and all the boys. You, together with them, have our unceasing prayers and faith for preservation of health and strength, from the powers of darkness and of the adversary, and that all

may return to us pure and uncontaminated from the wickedness and pollutions in this ungodly generation. We have continued favourable reports of their faithfulness, industry, and of the good influence which they are exercising, which gives us great joy. We trust that they will keep humble and continue to rely upon the Lord of Hosts who is able to save them, and will do so, inasmuch as they are faithful before Him. All is peace with us, and the various settlements are prosperous.

There will be sufficient provision for the inhabitants until another harvest, if it comes as usual.

Praying the Lord to bless you continually, in all your labours, and in His own due time bring you unto us in peace and safety, I remain, very truly, your brother in the Gospel of Christ.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Great Salt Lake City, January 7, 1856.

Dear Brother Franklin—It has been in my mind many times to write to you, but, always writing you from the office, it seemed as though if I should, there would be but little left for me to say. Geo. A. Smith is at Iron County, and probably may not write you this mail.

It is now about four years since I had the privilege of bidding you farewell at Liverpool. Since that time the vicissitudes of life have placed you there, and me here, and I anticipate, with pleasure, that they will soon bring you home again; where they will place me, futurity must tell, for I don't know, but if it should be on Europe's shores, I would feel to say, Amen.

You are probably aware that since my return, I have been engaged in the Historian's Office. In 1854—5, I clerked in the Legislature. This winter, during the sitting of the Assembly, I have copied 300 pages of manuscript for a "Latter-day Saints' Reader," and "Latter-day Saints' Elocution," which I am now engaged in compiling and arranging. I mentioned last spring to President Young, that I considered good "Readers," or school books, could be compiled here, principally from our own works, so that while our youth were learning to read, they might, at the same time, be learning the faith of their fathers—the truths of heaven—the revelations of God. He told

me to go a-head, and prosper at it, and he would see what I would produce, at the same time asking me how and where I thought such works could be published to advantage. Whether they will be published or not I do not know, but I think it is a good idea to encourage our own literature as soon as practicable, and to this end have I devoted my winter's labour.

The weather has been very severe; the thermometer has been at 12 degrees below zero—piercing cold. There has been snow on the ground since the beginning of December. At intervals it has nearly disappeared, but, before it had time to get entirely away, a fresh fall of it would come, so that there has been good sleighing nearly all the time. In consequence of hard frost the water courses have frozen over, causing the water to flow over the streets, and making them an entire sheet of ice, difficult to travel on, on foot, or with oxen unshod. This weather has been hard on the cattle, and many have died. We had some more snow last night and this morning. The snow will be a great blessing to us the ensuing season for irrigation.

The measles have been prevalent, though I have heard of but few dying. There has been more disease and death this season than usual.

The Missionaries who were appointed for this Territory have been alive to their duties, and have found in many localities a great necessity for such a mission, in consequence of the Saints getting lukewarm, and setting their hearts on horses, cattle, farms, and property, more than on building up the kingdom.

We have organized a Polysophical Society in our ward, which has created quite an interest this winter. Essays, poems, lectures, and speeches have been delivered, exhibiting that love for literature which is the pride of a free people. Ballo's excellent band has been in attendance, and the exercises being interspersed with songs and recitations, has produced a variety which has not failed to please and enliven, as well as enlighten, the most fastidious. During the absence of the Legislators, all other societies have been adjourned. The Seventies have framed a constitution for a Library; and I might add a Museum, in which may be deposited all collections of antiquities, relics, ancient coins, philosophical and astronomical in-

struments, as well as books, maps, charts, drawings, &c., &c.

Elder Amasa Lyman has been with us this winter, and, in the absence of the First Presidency and Twelve, has much edified, instructed, and built up the Saints. We have been thankful to the Lord for his opportune visit. He looks and feels well.

There was a "Mass Meeting" of the inhabitants held at the Tabernacle last Saturday afternoon, for the purpose of agitating the question of establishing a daily express and passenger conveyance from the Missouri river, *via* Great Salt Lake City, to San Francisco, California. After many speeches and addresses, the meeting adjourned for one week. There is no doubt but this great project will soon be carried into practical operation, and when it is successfully carried out, by some enterprising company, it will be easy for them to have a telegraphic line along the road. As the conveyances of this company will go day and night, and have stations every 30 or 40 miles, they will probably go through from the Missouri river to California in about 12 days, perhaps less. Every one is sanguine that such a company will be eminently successful, and I believe it only needs President Young to say, "Brethren, let us go a-head." This probably will be the Company that will construct a railroad across the great Continent.

The health of the First Presidency and Twelve is, generally, first-rate. I have not seen President Young look so well since I came home. He enjoyed very good health at Fillmore.

It will be pretty hard times here this spring, in consequence of the scarcity of grain, through the failure of crops last season, and the severity of the winter. This will probably cause many who are ready, at every trial we are called to pass through, to find an excuse for leaving us to seek other climes, they not being one with us.

We have had good meetings lately, not only in the Tabernacle, but in the wards. The Saints, generally, feel alive to the work of God, and to preparing themselves for the events that are coming on the earth. I will say, brother Franklin, that I do enjoy my prayer-meetings in the Endowment House. They are to me a source of much comfort and gratification. I feel oft times, when I do not express it to my

brethren, as Paul said, that we "sit together in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus;" and are truly favoured, and I assure you, while we pray for all our brethren who are on missions, you are especially remembered.

The tithing of this people is now being collected by the Bishops in the various wards, and instead of settling the accounts at the General Tithing Office, all are settled with the Bishops. Minute schedules are issued from the General Tithing Office, which are filled up by the Bishops, and reported back to the Office, and when they are bound they show the tithing of all the Saints; and through that channel, an almost unlimited report of the statistics and finances of the Territory will be yearly obtained.

Space forbids me saying much more, but I will add, that I called lately on your family and found them all well, and anxiously looking forward to next August for your return. Sister Jane has built a considerable addition to your house this fall. I have admired her plan very much, and, for comfort and convenience, consider her addition unsurpassed.

Brother Bullock bids me inform you that he spent two hours with your family last Sabbath. My family are all well, and wish to be remembered to you and brother George Turnbull, Also with myself to all our brethren and sisters in Scotland. Praying God my heavenly Father to bestow on you every needful blessing and bring you safely home in due time, I remain yours devotedly in the Lord,

ROBERT L. CAMPBELL.

IOWA.

Council Bluff City, April 7, 1856.

Dear Brother Franklin—I arrived at this point on the morning of the 31st of March, after a tedious journey of 10 days, from Iowa City, where I last addressed you.

The route from Iowa City to this place is a good one, the distance is 277 miles, and the country is settled all the way. Provisions can be got on this route as reasonable as in any of these upper coun-

tries. Horses and cattle are dear all through the country where I have been, but I learned to-day that good work cattle can be got on Grand River, in Missouri, for from sixty to seventy dollars per yoke. Horses from \$80 to \$100 per head, and good cows from \$15 to \$25.

Since I have been at this point, I have got some lands deeded to the Church at Florence, *alias* Winter Quarters, and am building a frame warehouse for the Church, 24 by 40 feet. I have also made arrangements for timber and fuel for Church purposes, for the term of ten years, free of charge. I have also contracted our ferriage across the Missouri, Elk Horn, and Loup Fork rivers, for ten years, at the following rates—across the Missouri, one wagon with one pair of horses or oxen, 50 cents; 5 cents for every additional head; hand carts, 10 cents; men, women, and children, free. Rates of ferriage across the other two rivers— one wagon and team as above, \$1, 25 cents; loose stock 6½ cents; hand carts 12½ cents; men, women, and children, free.

There is a great chance for work in this region of country, at the present time. One hundred and fifty men could have employment in this, and other adjoining towns. Common labourers can get two dollars per day, and mechanics three dollars. Towns are springing up like mushrooms after a rain storm.

I shall leave this place in three or four days for St. Louis, to assist brother George in the purchase of cattle, horses, &c. The spring is opening up nice here, grass begins to start in low grounds, and I am anxious to see the emigration rolling along to the peaceful valleys of Ephraim. I have not heard from home since I left England, although A. W. Babbitt, and the mail are expected every day. There will not be much emigration this year except ours.

My kind love to brothers Spencer and Wheelock, and all the brethren of my acquaintance.

Praying heaven's blessing to smile upon you, and hoping soon to see you, I remain, your brother in Christ,

WM. H. KIMBALL.

THE *Boston Bee* contains the following polite hint—"Deacon ——— is requested not to commence snoring in church to-morrow morning until after the commencement of the sermon, as several of the congregation are anxious to hear the text."