

ZION'S TRUMPET,

OR

Star of the Saints.

No. 20.]

AUGUST, 1850.

[VOL. II.

THIRD GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,
FROM THE GREAT SALT LAKE VALLEY, TO THE
SAINTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH,—
GREETING:—

BELoved BRETHREN,—When we contemplate your diversified situations, in connection with the great work in which you have enlisted, it is one of our highest sources of enjoyment for the time to arrive when we can communicate to you by letter, what we would make known by tongue were you with us; and if you, being filled with the same spirit, shall enjoy as much in reading as we do in writing, we shall feel that our labors have not been in vain; for we should thereby have the assurance, that that brotherly love and kindred feeling necessary for the peace and prosperity of the church, are sure and steadfast and on the increase among those who profess to love Jesus Christ.

We are here in the mountains, far removed from the revolutions and daily intelligence of the nations, and have heard nothing from them, or from our brethren who dwell afar, since September: but, though separated from our kindred of Adam's posterity, and dependent a large portion of the time on our own resources for information and enjoyment, we have the pleasing consolation that we are located near "the tops of the everlasting hills," and higher

upon the mountains than any other people; consequently we are nearer the heavens, those regions of light and glory from whence we derive intelligence, and from whence all blessings flow.

The welfare of scattered Israel lies near our hearts; it is our theme by day and by night; in meditation, in council, in prayer, in action; we are at home nowhere only as we are engaged in building up the kingdom of God; and it is one of the greatest sources of our joy, to be permitted to be servants unto the Saints, and we ever seek the earliest opportunity to communicate the situation of the brethren in the Valley, and to diffuse that light of which our heavenly Father is pleased to make us the recipients, that we may all be edified and grow up together in the knowledge of God, and be prepared for celestial glory.

Some emigrants from Michigan arrived at this place on the 15th of November, accompanied by Mr. Vasques, bringing letters from the elders then going east, who were at Little Sandy, October 30th, all well: and on the 22nd of the same month, snow covered the Valley from one-and-a-half to two inches; and on the 24th it was about thee-and-a-half feet in Mill Creek Canyon: and on the same day, Elder Parley P. Pratt, with a company of about fifty men, left the most southern settlement of this Valley, where they had rendezvoused the day previous, for the purpose of exploring the south country, to learn its geography, history, climate, and locations for settlements.

Nineteen emigrants arrived December 1st, in a very destitute situation, having left their wagons more than forty miles back, and their teams about twenty; themselves without provision. They reported having left the States on the 24th September, and having passed Elder Taylor's company at Independence Rock, November 6th; but so closely were they pressed by the snow, they did not bring us one newspaper, through they said they had many in their wagons.

An express was sent by Captain Stansbury, of the United States Topographical Engineers, stationed at this place, to Fort Hall, some time in December, but so deep was the snow it was obliged to return, without accomplishing its object, and business

generally was suspended in the Valley during this month, though a few milder days near the last, permitted the raising of the roofing timbers of the council house, which had been prepared in the Bowery, which has been occupied as a great work shop during the cold weather.

On the 5th of January, Captain Stansbury sent a second express to Fort Hall, which accomplished its mission, and returned after a tedious journey, together with the paymaster and some other officers of the U. S. Army from Fort Hall, who reported but little snow in the vicinity of the Fort, but immense quantities on the route; and that a large portion of Government cattle, at Cache Valley, had died through the severity of the weather and snow, which fell in this Valley from ten inches, to two feet deep on the 18th and 19th, and in some of the adjoining Canyons six or eight feet deep. On the morning of the 24th of the same month, a terrible wind swept over our Valley from the south, and continued about twenty-four hours, driving all animals before it, the snow being so deep and light as to be subject to its influence, piercing through the thickest clothing, causing men to seek shelter in the house, and cattle to gather in hollows, and under cliffs, where, in some instances, they were buried, suffocated, and frozen in heaps.

The snow having commenced somewhat earlier than usual, found the brethren nearly destitute of wood, and about the time last mentioned, it was reported in the city, that fifteen sleighs were buried in the snow in Dry Canyon; but in the evening, the men and teams came into the city all safe. The facts were, the brethren had passed the Canyon in the morning, and while loading their sleds on the mountain side, a snowfall came across their path, which filled the canyon, some fifty or sixty feet deep, and prevented their passage; but by leaving their wood, and making a pass on the side of the mountain, drivers and teams were all saved. We mention this as one of the pleasures, inconveniences, or casualties that the Saints in the mountains are liable to experience, when they have not provided their winter's wood in the summer; and the snow has been from six to twenty feet deep in our Canyons a great share of the past winter.

On the 30th of January, four men arrived from Fort Bridger, having left their goods and remaining pack animals in Weber Canyon, a portion of their horses having died on the way before reaching the Canyon. This was the second attempt of the same company to pass from the Fort to the Valley, and their goods remained in the Canyon on the 30th of March.

During the past season, the winter weather has been longer by four or five weeks than the season previous, and more snow, but not so severely cold, and the prospect for grain is good. It is generally believed that there is as much good looking wheat now on the ground, as grew here last year: and there are large quantities of the best California and Tous wheat ready for sowing. There are also large quantities of California barley, a valuable article, and many other choice seeds, which will greatly enhance the farming interest of the present season: and no exertion will be wanting on the part of the brethren here, to raise food for those who may come to the harvest.

The snow in the Valley was nearly dispersed in the latter part of February; but frequent falls since, and night frosts through the month of March, prevented plowing to any great extent, till near the first of April, when the earth was bare. Spring rains began to fall, and the farmers began to improve the cheering return of seed time, in the confidence of an abundant harvest; and we would still urge upon the brethren, who have choice and rare seeds, to bring them with them, for although there are a great variety of seeds in the Valley, there are many good varieties on the earth which we have not yet obtained; and if we had abundance of the white Silesia, or choicest kinds of sugar beet seed, at this time, there would be no necessity of our importing sugar and molasses after the present season, for the vegetables of the Valley are richer in saccharine matter, than in any other place of our acquaintance.

As we anticipated in our last letter, about sixty families, under the presidency of Patriarch Isaac Morley, left this place in October, and commenced a settlement at Sanpete (Sand-pitch), one hundred and thirty-four miles south. They have suffered many inconveniences through the deep snows, and severe frosts, for want of houses and

other necessities common in old settlements, and have lost many of their cattle; but they have laid the foundation of a great and glorious work, and those who persevere to the end in following the counsel of heaven, will find themselves a thousand fold richer than those who have made gold their counselor, and worshiped it as their God. Their cattle, now living, have been sustained by their shoveling snow from the grass, and feeding them with their provision and seed grain, and we have sent them loaded teams, to supply their necessities until after seed time.

They have been surrounded by a tribe of Indians who appear friendly, and who have suffered much from the measles since they have been among them, and many have died, as have also most or all of the tribes in the mountains; and those who live, urge the brethren to remain among them, and teach them how to raise grain and make bread; for having tasted a little during their afflictions, they want a full supply. There is plenty of fire wood easy of access; some of the best of pine. Bituminous coal, salt, and plaster of Paris at this settlement, or its immediate vicinity.

The Utah Lake Indians, have been very troublesome for a long time; and even before the pioneers arrived in the Valley, we were told by all the mountaineers we met, that "they were bad Indians, and that we could not live near them in peace, and that other clans of the Utah nation did not like them." On acquaintance we found all these statements true; and particularly since our last communication, they have been very hostile, killed many scores of our cattle, stolen horses, waylaid and shot at the brethren at Utah, until self-defense demanded immediate action.

Their doings were presented to Captain Stansbury, also the paymaster and such officers of the U. S. Army, stationed at Fort Hall, as were here at the time, and they were unanimous in their decision, that it was necessary that those Indians should be chastised and that it belonged to the U. S. troops at Fort Hall to do it; but the snow was so deep, the troops could not come hither; therefore, it became necessary for the citizens to proceed against them, which they did, advised by all, and accompanied by some of the said

national officers; when a portion of the Indians entrenched in two days, the 8th and 9th February, with the loss of several of their warriors. One of our brethren was killed, and a few wounded, who have since recovered: after a few more skirmishes, in which none of the brethren were killed or wounded, peace was restored.

There are many tribes of the Utah Indians, or many clans of that tribe, from whom we have heard, and they appear satisfied with our course, and say, "*It is good, the Lakes were bad Indians,*" and there is no probability that the remaining Utes will offer any further violence at present, and we hope never.

Elder Pratt returned about the middle of February with a part of the exploring company, and left the remainder with the teams in Yoab Valley, the snow being so deep oxen could not travel but with much difficulty a portion of the way. They all arrived in safety about the 28th of March. The company went south more than three hundred miles, and over the rim of the Basin, into the borders of the Valley of the Colorado, passing trackless mountains, covered with deep snow, and followed by excessively cold weather, the mercury in several instances falling 20 degrees below Zero. They found some small valleys, with little or no snow, warm and pleasant, desirable for settlements, one of which is Little Salt Lake, where we design a settlement the present season. Good water, iron ore, and wood are abundant. Little, comparatively, could be learned of the vegetable or mineral productions of the country through which they passed; but they saw enough to know that popular geographers have hitherto known less of its prominent features. Suffice it to say, there is yet room in the valleys of the mountains for all who can be contented with honest industry, peace, and seclusion.

On the 22nd of February, the shock of an earthquake was sensibly felt in the Valley, to a great extent, causing houses to jar, and crockery and furniture to move considerably. The report of volcanic eruptions, or commotions of the earth, resembling the discharge of distant cannon, are not infrequent in the mountains.

The health of the Saints in general is good, and there has never

been any prevailing sickness in our midst, and but very few deaths. Since last mail brothers Absalom Perkins, George W. Langley, Erastus Snow's eldest son, Claudius V. Spencer's wife, sisters Jane Hall, Turley, Stewart and Thompson, are all we recollect, and those mostly from consumption and other symptoms of disease contracted long before they came to the Valley.

The General Assembly of Deseret have held an adjourned session, at intervals, through the winter, and transacted much important business, such as dividing the different settlements into Weber, Great Salt Lake, Utah, Sanpete, Yoab, and Tuille counties, and establishing County Courts, with their Judges, Clerks and Sheriffs, and Justices and Constables in the several precincts; also a Supreme Court, to hold its annual sessions at Great Salt Lake City, attended by a State Marshall and Attorney, and instituting a general jurisprudence, so that every case, whether criminal or civil, may be attended to by officers of State, according to law, justice, and equity, without delay.

They have also chartered a State University on the most liberal principles, to be located at Great Salt Lake City, with branches throughout the State, if wanted; and appropriated for its benefit five thousand dollars per annum, for twenty years, out of the public treasury, all of which will be under the supervision, direction, and control of a Chancellor, twelve Regents, Secretary and Treasurer, who will, no doubt, publish their intentions by this mail.

On account of the severe weather, little has been done on the public buildings since last fall. The foundations of the public store house and store are laid, and the aqueducts, from the warm spring to the public baths, are rapidly progressing, and they will be ready for use in a short time.

Captain Stansbury, with his topographical engineers, are surveying Great Salt Lake, and the adjacent country, for the purpose of mapping, which, when completed will unquestionably be very interesting to our friends abroad, for by it they will better understand our relative locations.

Many brethren having gone to the Gold Mines, and many are

about going, and all “by counsel,” as they say, and, no doubt, truly. A few have gone according to the advice of those whose right it is to counsel the Saints, and such are right, inasmuch as they do right; but much the greater portion have gone according to the counsel of their own wills and covetous feelings. Such might have done more good by staying in the Valley, and laboring to prepare the way for the reception of the brethren; but it is not too late for them to do good and be saved, if they will do right in their present sphere of action, although they will not get so great a reward as they would have done had they performed the greater good.

If at the mines they will listen to the counsel of those men who have been appointed to counsel them, and work righteousness when they return, and do as they would be done unto, and acknowledge God in all their ways, they may yet attain unto great glory; but if they shall cease to hearken to counsel, and make gold their god, and return among the Saints, filled with avarice, and refuse to lend, or give, or suffer their money to be used unless they can make a great speculation thereby, and will see their poor brethren, who have toiled all the day, in want and in perplexity, and they will not relieve, but keep the dust corroding in their purses, it had been better for them if a millstone had been hanged about their necks, and they had been drowned in the depths of the sea, before they had departed from the right ways of the Lord; for if they shall continue thus to harden their hearts, and to shut up their bowels of compassion against the needy, they will go down to the pit with all idolaters, in a moment they are not aware, with as little pity as they have manifested to their poor brethren, who would have borrowed of them but have been sent empty away.

Gold is good in its place—it is good in the hands of a good man to do good with, but in the hands of a wicked man it often proves a curse instead of a blessing. Gold is a good servant, but a miserable, blind, and helpless god, and at last will have to be purified by fire, with all its followers.

Elders Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich will continue their operations at Western California, according to previous instructions,

and not only keep an accurate account of all tithings and of the general proceedings of all faithful brethren, that we may know of their good works, and hail them as brethren when we meet, but keep a perfect history of all who profess to be Saints and do not follow their counsel, pay tithing, and do their duty, and report the same to us every mail, that they and their works may be entered in a book of remembrance in Zion, that they may be judged therefrom, and not impose upon the faithful; for it is not uncommon for men to say, "I can do more good if I go to the mines, than I can to stay here," and we want to prove such, and know whether they are true men or liars.

When men, professing to be brethren, go to the mines according to their own counsel, we want them to stay until they are satisfied—until they have obtained enough to make them comfortable, and have some to do good with, and a disposition to use it for that purpose, and not run back here in a few months, lock up their gold, boast how much they have made, doing no good themselves, and hindering everybody else from doing good over whom they have an influence; curse God, deny the Holy Ghost, and when spring opens, run to the mines again, as some have done. Let such men remember that they are not wanted in our midst; for unless they speedily repent, the wrath of an offended Creator will suddenly overtake them, and no power can stay it. Let such leave their carcasses where they do their work, we want not our burial grounds polluted with such hypocrites; but we have it in our hearts to bless all men who will do right, whatever their occupation, and our arms are ever open to embrace such, and we pray for all men who are ignorant, or out of the right way, that our Heavenly Father will give them his spirit, that they may learn and do right.

To those who may fear coming to the Valley on account of the scarcity of timber, we would say, there is now four times more timber known within reasonable distance of this city, than there was one year since, and every season opens new stores of wood, in the surrounding mountains; and all the difficulty is the scarcity of help to remove the wood and timber to the Valley before the falling of snow;

besides, coal has been discovered, from whence it can be brought on a railway, easily constructed, and there is more, and nearer, in prospect.

Furnaces and forges are much needed here, for the furnishing of mill irons, machinery, farming utensils, culinary vessels, railway tracks, and many other things, and we hope that Elder Pratt has already sent on men, who will be here to start the business this season; if he has not, we trust he will not lose sight of this important object against another winter.

Elders Orson Pratt and George D. Watt are wanted at this place, with their families; and we shall expect them as early in 1851, as circumstances will permit.

At such time as Elder Pratt shall find it convenient or necessary to facilitate his return, he will call to his assistance Elder F. D. Richards, who will succeed him in the Presidency of the church on the British Isles; and we would suggest Elders George B. Wallace and Levi Richards for his counselors. So far as we have been informed, Elder Pratt has done a great and good work in England, but his labors are now needed at home—and if the Saints should mourn his loss, we would say, be comforted and come with him, or follow him as fast as you can; but if you cannot at present, you will find in his successor, Elder Richards, a counselor, president, and friend, and worthy of your prayers and confidence.

Elders Wilford Woodruff, and Amasa Lyman, are expected here this season. We anticipate a visit from Elder Orson Hyde, who, we hope, will bring a host of Saints with him; for the labors of the Valley are great, compared to the number of laborers. A greater harvest is near at hand than there will be reapers to gather. Let those who start, be prepared to come through without assistance from the Valley, for we shall have no men to spare during harvest to help emigrants. Companies are already organized and ready to start for Green and Platte Rivers, to keep ferries during the high waters, for the accommodation of the emigration.

We would urge upon all Saints the importance of keeping in view the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, and of adding thereto, all in

their power the present season; for every succeeding year will be more and more eventful in the progress of the work of God, and more and more Saints will be ready, and want to gather to Zion. We warmly anticipate that such will be the interest felt, and the funds collected in the British Isles, that we can commence bringing forward the Saints from that region, one year hence; and the Presidency in England will take special care to be ready to act on future instructions on this subject.

Elders of Israel be faithful in your calling, feed the sheep, feed the lambs of the flock, and proclaim the gospel in all simplicity, meekness, and love, whenever you have the opportunity as it shall be given you by the power of the Holy Ghost which you will always have for your counselor if you are faithful; and let all the Saints give diligent heed unto the counsel of those who are over them in the Lord, upholding them by the prayer of faith, keeping themselves pure and humble, and they will never lack wisdom from above, and by faith and works search out your way to Zion.

Several elders have been appointed missions to England, Scotland, the Society Islands, the States, and Western California, as will be seen by the minutes of the General Conference, of the 6th of April, to which we refer for particulars concerning any business then transacted.

We are happy in saying to all, that a brighter day is dawning on the intellectual prosperity of Zion; that the University recently established by the State of Deseret, bids fair to accomplish the object for which it was instituted; that it is under the supervision of faithful and intelligent men, who will consider no labor too great, to carry out the wishes and greatest possible good of those for whose benefit the institution was founded; and we earnestly solicit the cooperation of all the Saints, and particularly the elders in all nations, to gather, as they may have the opportunity, books in all languages, and on every science, apparatus, and rare specimens of art and nature, and everything that may tend to beautify and make useful; and forward or bring the same to the Regents of our University, for the benefit of all such as may hereafter seek intelligence at their hands.

Brethren, farewell. May the blessings of heaven and earth be multiplied unto you, and your hearts be warm to receive and improve upon the same in righteousness, and the time hasten that we may meet you in this land of peace, is the constant prayer of your brethren in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,
WILLARD RICHARDS.

Great Salt Lake City, Deseret, N. A. }
April 12, 1850. }

[FROM THE FRONTIER GUARDIAN, *JUNE* 12, 1850.]

EPISTLE OF PRESIDENT ORSON PRATT, TO THE SAINTS
THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN.

[From the MILLENNIAL STAR, August 15, 1850.]

DEAR BRETHREN,—Through the blessing of a kind Providence I have been preserved to once more meet with the Saints in the British dominions. I have been absent from you about four months, during which time I have performed a lengthy, though pleasant, journey to Council Bluffs, on the extreme western frontiers of the United States. The facilities for traveling within a few years past, have increased to such a degree, that it seems apparently to have decreased the distances upon the surface of our globe. To cross the Atlantic, and travel some two thousand miles into the interior of America, would have once been considered quite an undertaking, but now it is only a pleasure excursion. The power of steam seems to have almost united the two continents into one. In less than three weeks the servants of God can go from St. Louis to Liverpool—a distance equal to one-quarter of the circumference of the earth. They may well be termed, in the language of Isaiah, “*the swift messengers to the nations.*”

It has fallen to the lot of the Latter-day Saints to lie in one of the most momentous ages of the world—an age in which wickedness reigns predominantly upon all the face of the earth—an age in which God has determined to rend in pieces and overthrow all the

governments and kingdoms of the world, and establish his everlasting kingdom in the hands of his Saints, who shall bear rule under the whole heavens. For about six thousand years the inhabitants of our world have displayed their wisdom in the establishment of various forms of human government; but wickedness has triumphed among them all. The wicked have had their day for rule, but it is now drawing swiftly to a final close. Their sun is setting no more to rise: a long night of darkness awaits them. God has set his hand to turn and overturn, and to give the kingdom unto his Saints—to redeem the earth from oppression and violence—to consume the wicked as chaff, that righteousness alone may be exalted.

To bring about this great change in governmental affairs, one of the most important revelations that have ever saluted the ears of mortals, has been given, namely, the **BOOK OF MORMON**. It is sent forth as a last message to the nations of the wicked; it is sent to establish a kingdom which shall break in pieces all other kingdoms; it is sent to gather out the righteous from all nations, and establish them in one; it is sent to fulfill the time of the Gentiles, and bind up the law and testimony among them, that if they will not repent, they may be delivered over unto destruction; it is sent to gather Israel from their long dispersion; it is sent to make known the gospel in greater plainness and fullness, that contentions upon doctrine may cease, and the watchman of Zion see eye to eye; it is sent as the great preparatory work for the second advent of the Son of God; it is sent that the Saints may know the signs of the times, and not be in darkness, and that great day come upon them unawares.

When this message shall have been proclaimed to all nations, the Son of God shall come to sit upon the throne of his power and reign forevermore. Already twenty years have elapsed since the setting up of the kingdom of God; the proclamation has already been sounded in the ears of many nations; tens of thousands in America, in Great Britain, in the Isles of the Pacific, and in various quarters of the globe, have received the glad tidings, and with penitent contrite hearts have been baptized preparatory to the coming of the Great Bridegroom. Already tens of thousands have gathered out from the United States, Great Britain, and the Islands of the sea, unto the

valleys of the mountains in North America; there they are building cities, temples, and public buildings, converting the fertile valleys into gardens, and vineyards, and well cultivated farms, spreading themselves abroad into all the surrounding country. Where before resounded the warhoop of the savage, and the howling of wild beasts, now are heard the voice of civilization and the melodious songs of the righteous.

Let the poor afflicted Saints in this land cheer up their drooping spirits, for they shall in due time be gathered; if they cannot obtain means in this land, they shall be helped from afar; for the Lord will surely deliver His people, and no power can stay His hand. Already a sound of deliverance begins to be heard from a distance. Hark! It is a voice from the mountains. It is not a voice of savage triumph; it is not the voice of tyrants, clad with terror; it is not the voice of a nation bowed down with oppression; it is not the voice of mourning and lamentation: but it is the voice of freedom, rejoicing in the high places of the earth. Behold her standing on yonder mountain tops, clothed with celestial light. With outstretched arms to the nations, and with a voice of lovely compassion—she calls. Listen! She calls to the Saints in affliction; she invites them to her dwelling place. Her voice is heard! see the Saints arise: see mighty ships waft them o'er the main—see countless numbers track the western plains; the everlasting hills re-echo with their songs. Lo! a vast multitude assembled, enrobed in garments pure and white. They pray—the heavens listen—the powers above are marshaled. All things prepared—the Saints return to Zion, the Lord goes before the camp—the nations fear and tremble; ZION IS REDEEMED, and becomes the joy of all the earth. Praise ye the Lord.

Our latest news from the Salt Lake Settlements was dated the 12th of April. All things were then prosperous in the Valley. They were plowing, sowing, planting, and making every preparation for an abundant harvest. Tens of thousands of emigrants for the mines, together with immense numbers of horses, mules, and cattle will pass through the Valley this season, which will afford a ready market for all the provisions that can be spared. Large quantities of merchandise, both in dry goods and groceries, are being taken

by the merchants to supply the demands of the country; they are paying forty guineas per ton for the transportation of goods from the Bluffs to the Valley. The Lord is truly beginning to favor Zion, and to abundantly supply all her wants, although he takes in his own way to accomplish it. Oh! That the Saints may not forget the Lord in the days of their prosperity. How great are the responsibilities resting upon them! and how fearful the consequences of abusing the privileges and blessings bestowed from heaven!

Elder Woodruff, with most of the Saints from eastern and middle States, is now crossing the plains. It is judged that our emigration to the mountains this season will amount to some three thousand souls, taking with them from 800 to 1000 wagons. The Saints who still tarry at the Bluffs are generally poor, but they are in a rich and fertile country, and with perseverance and industry will soon be able to pursue their journey over the plains, leaving the country for others of their brethren who may come on and wish to tarry there for a season. There are some three or four thousand Saints in St. Louis, who are apparently doing well, much better than the poor in England. At this present time there seems to be in America a feeling of friendship and good will towards the Saints in almost every quarter. Our poor find employment sooner than any other class of people; they have been proved and found trustworthy; hence they are sought after in preference to others. The Lord has seen the afflictions of his people, and softened the hearts of that nation towards them for a season. How long this friendship will continue we know not: it cannot be long; for the nation has rejected the message of heaven, and they must be rejected of God; they will from time to time harden their hearts against the people of God, and will desire their destruction, but God will deliver them out of their hands.

About two years have elapsed since I was appointed to preside over the Saints in this land. I have endeavored, during the time, to inform myself concerning your condition, and to offer such counsel as I thought best adapted to your circumstances. If, in the multiplicity of business which has pressed my mind, I have at any time erred, it has not been intentionally. It has been my constant prayer and study to know the will of God concerning you. It affords me great

pleasure to know that the churches have greatly flourished since I have been in your midst, and that many thousands have been added to your numbers. Peace and union have also prevailed in almost every branch; while the Holy Spirit has been abundantly poured forth upon you, as is evident from the miraculous manifestations of the healing power, together with numerous other blessings enjoyed throughout the land. These tokens of the goodness of God towards his Saints are calculated to make the faithful servants of God rejoice.

The wise and judicious management displayed by the presidents of conferences, and the traveling elders under them, has been the principal means in the hands of God in extending the cause of truth in the British Isles. The extensive circulation of the printed word has also given an impetus to the rolling of the great wheel of salvation. Strictness of discipline in plucking off dead branches—in purifying the church of corrupt members—and in laying the axe at the very root of every species of wickedness, has also had a powerful tendency to strengthen and confirm the meek and humble, and to enlighten the eyes of the honest inquirer.

Let the presiding elders of every conference endeavor to inform their minds relative to the condition of every branch under their respective jurisdictions. See whether your flocks are in a healthy condition or not. The Lord has made you the shepherds over his sheep: if you lose the sheep, or suffer them to perish through your neglect, they will be required at your hands. Teach the presidents of branches to look diligently after all the members. Counsel them to enforce strict discipline, and to root out all backbiting and evil speaking one against another; for this is a great evil, and tends to quarrels, divisions, strifes, apostasy, and death. If the backbiter or evil speaker will not, after proper admonitions, reform and cease his evil practices, let fellowship be withdrawn from him, and let all know that the church of God is not the place to injure and devour one another. If any officer or member under your charge be found teaching or practicing unvirtuous doctrines, let him be dealt with strictly by the law of God; and if the president of a conference shall transgress, or teach or practice any iniquity, let the same be reported to us, accompanied with the proper evidences; and if one

of the Twelve, or the president of the Saints in Great Britain, shall transgress the law of virtue, and teach or practice unrighteousness, let the presidents of conferences inquire into the same, and collect the testimonies thereof, and forthwith transmit the documents unto the First Presidency at headquarters, that all may be dealt with according to the law of heaven. The time is come when too much light and knowledge have been given to the Saints for them to suffer themselves to be imposed upon by men who are carried away with their lusts. And we say, in the name of the Lord, that the displeasure of heaven shall overtake the adulterer unless he speedily repent, and his name shall be blotted out from among the people of God. "Woe unto them that commit whoredoms, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell." Woe unto them who shall betray the confidence reposed in them, and shall make use of their authority to seduce and lead astray ignorant and silly women, for, except they repent, their authority shall perish quickly like the dry stubble before the devouring flame. Woe unto them who lie and bear false witness against their brother or sister to their injury; it were better for them that they were sunk in the depths of the mighty ocean than to offend the children of God. Woe unto them who steal, for their deeds shall be made manifest, and justice and judgment shall lay hold on them in an hour they think not. Woe unto them who love slander, and will not cease to speak evil of their brother and sister, for they shall be hated of God and man, and their hopes shall wither away and perish. Woe unto all those among the Saints who shall turn from their righteousness and do iniquity, for the great day of the Lord is at hand, and their portion shall be among hypocrites and unbelievers.

Let the Saints sanctify themselves both in body and spirit, that the Holy Ghost, with all its accompanying powers and gifts, may be more abundantly manifested; for the destroyer is abroad in the earth, and the Saints must live by faith. But, how can we have faith, if we neglect the counsels of wisdom which God has ordained for our preservation?

The time is drawing near when I shall leave you and go to the Valley with my family, according to the request of the First Presidency,

as will be seen in their late epistle. But be assured, dear brethren, that the expressions of unbounded confidence, which the Saints have everywhere manifested towards me, will ever be cherished by me with a grateful heart. I shall ever look upon this short period of my life as among the happiest days of my pilgrimage. And if I have been a humble instrument in the hands of God of benefiting any of his Saints, or of advancing his cause in Great Britain, it will afford me great and lasting consolation when far hence in other climes.

The Saints in this land are dear to my heart; I have seen their toils, their hard labors, and oppression, and my heart has mourned over their afflictions. I have loved them because of their sincerity in receiving the message of truth which God sent his humble servants to proclaim: I have loved them because of their strong desire to work righteousness and hearken to the counsels of heaven: I have loved them because of their faith and love to God and His truth; I have loved them because they have loved me; and when I see their poverty and sufferings, my soul yearns over them, and my eyes are filled with tears. In the fullness of my heart I cry to thee, O my Father and my God. I ask thee, O God, to look upon these, my brethren; behold, how they have sorely toiled these many years, while their children have cried for bread; behold them, O Lord, bowed down in sorrow, under heavy burdens imposed upon them by their cruel taskmasters, and when thou lookest, O Lord, upon these great afflictions of thine own children, let thy bowels be moved with compassion towards them; let salvation and deliverance come speedily: defer not, lest thy people fall under the heavy yoke and perish. O Lord, thy people in this land have become a great people, but this is not their resting place—their eyes and their whole hearts are towards the mountains of Zion—the land which thou hast ordained for the habitations of the righteous in the days of trouble. Glorify thy name, O Father, in working out a speedy deliverance for this great people, that they may rest during the remainder of their days from the hard bondage, wherein they have been made to serve. Gather this people together, that they and their children may learn thy ways more perfectly, and walk in thy paths, and no more be led astray by the vain and foolish traditions of the Gentiles: yea, O Lord, save thy people for evermore.

I shall probably leave England the latter part of next winter, or early in spring, and perhaps sooner; but I rejoice exceedingly that I can leave you under the presidency and watch-care of one of the Twelve, namely, Franklin D. Richards, whose former labors in this country are well known and highly appreciated by the Saints. His unwearied diligence in the cause of truth—his godlike dignity of deportment, combined with a mild and amiable disposition—his sterling virtue and integrity, united with a superior intellect, enriched with the wisdom and knowledge of heaven—have eminently qualified him for the dignified and highly responsible station of presiding over the numerous churches which will soon be entrusted to his charge. Brother Richards will act in conjunction with me as my counselor while I remain in this country; and it is to be hoped that through our united exertions we may be humble instruments in advancing the great cause of truth in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

Some of the presiding elders have been rather negligent in teaching the law of Tithing according to the counsel which we have heretofore given. Every president of a conference shall see that every member of the church of whom tithing is required, is correctly instructed in regard to his duty upon this subject; urge upon them the necessity of strict obedience to this requirement of heaven; it is as essential as any other requirement; no person can be justified in neglecting the counsel which has been given upon it; no person will prosper who undertakes to cheat the Lord, and slip off to America with his property and money, without paying in this land the tenth thereof. The Lord has commanded and man must obey; for justice and judgment is the penalty of disobedience; therefore we exhort the Saints to obey the law of tithing; obey it strictly with cheerful hearts; obey it without delay. I have already borrowed upwards of £200 over and above the tithing I had on hand, to forward nails, glass, and other temple property to the Valley: this was necessary in order that they might be forwarded this season, that the great work might not be delayed. The amount borrowed must be within a few weeks refunded, therefore we call upon the presidents of conferences to see that every person who should pay tithing attends to this duty immediately, that there may be funds in the Lord's storehouse to

fulfill the purposes specified in the revelations and counsels of heaven. Teach those Saints who have property, and who will not exert themselves to obey this law of heaven, that the Spirit of God shall begin to withdraw from them, and the hand of the Lord shall be against them, and they shall cease to prosper in their business transactions, and a curse shall be upon the labor of their hands, and unless they repent they shall wither away like a branch plucked from the vine.

The Perpetual Emigration Fund must also be kept in view; and the Saints should be thoroughly instructed as to the importance of doing all within their power for the enlargement of this fund; it is established especially for the benefit of the poor, to be appropriated according to the instructions which shall from time to time be given by the First Presidency. Let all the arrangements and counsels which have, during my absence, been laid before the Saints by brother Franklin D. Richards, in relation to the collection of this fund, be faithfully complied with. Let the treasurers of the conferences forward to our office immediately the amount of funds which they have on hand, accompanied with a list of the names of the contributors, the amount each contributes, with the name of the branch and conference in which each resides. After this instruction has been fulfilled, the treasurers will thereafter make quarterly remittances and reports to us, namely, on the 1st of October, the 1st of January, the 1st of April, and the 1st of August. As our office will not be responsible only for the funds which actually reach us, we shall, if necessary, publish from time to time the names of all contributors, with the amount contributed (with the exception of those who may request us to do otherwise). This will have a tendency, in some measure, to detect any dishonesty on the part of the treasurers. We hope, however, that among the Saints no dishonesty will be found to exist, and that every man will be faithful and punctual in all things entrusted to his charge. We also say to all the Saints, let none of the Emigration Fund be used for any expenses whatever, but let all expenses incurred in purchasing cheap account books for the treasurers, or in any other way, be settled by the branches, independently of this fund.

Mechanics of every description are greatly needed in the Salt Lake country. Furnaces, forges, glass works, potteries, manufactories of cotton, of linen, of wool, are greatly called for. Let the presidents of conferences seek diligently in every branch under their respective jurisdictions for wise, skillful, and ingenious artisans, mechanics, manufacturers, potters, &c. Counsel those of them that have means, to go immediately to the Valley; and counsel those who have not got means, to use every exertion to obtain means and be in readiness when called for, if funds should be appropriated for their assistance; and remember the maxim, that the Lord will help those of his Saints who will seek diligently and honestly to help themselves. The presidents of conferences have many duties to perform in relation to the temporal salvation of the Saints as well as spiritual, let them not, therefore, become dilatory in relation to this counsel. We urged these things upon you months ago in many of the *Stars*, and we humbly hope that you have not forgotten subjects which we esteem of such vast importance for the welfare of the children of Zion. If you can find men of capital who have never been engaged in the manufacturing business, but who are willing to invest their capital in the establishment of such business, teach them that it is their privilege so to do, and that they shall be blessed with an hundred-fold in this life, besides having the satisfaction of seeing hundreds of thousands of Saints benefited by their manufactures. Let the Saints in Great Britain arise with one heart and mind to perform the great and mighty work which is before them, and the Lord their God will bless them, and strengthen their hands, and enable them to perform wonders in his name. They are called to do great things; let them not, therefore, be faint-hearted nor discouraged, for God is with them.

With feelings of love to all the Saints, and with an anxious desire for your welfare, I subscribe myself,

Your brother in the kingdom of Christ,

ORSON PRATT.

TEA PARTY IN LIVERPOOL.

A TEA PARTY was held in the above town by the Saints, on the 30th of last July, to welcome Apostle Orson Pratt back from Council Bluffs, where he was recently visiting with the authorities there. Brother O. Pratt arrived home here on the 17th of July. Thirty-five conference presidents welcomed him to the feast, and in their midst were President W. Phillips, and myself. Brother John Taylor was expected to be present, but somehow or other he failed to come. The officers gathered with the Saints by six o'clock, to the Music Hall, where an excellent tea had been prepared. After singing a song or two with the organ, the conference president was called to preside over the meeting; and then after the congregation had blessed the food with singing, they satisfied themselves with the good things that were on the tables. O, how happy we felt in the midst of Apostles Pratt and Richards, and all the other officers who were present. At about seven o'clock, all the hundreds of Saints and friends were ready to listen a second time to the sweet singing that resounded through the room, and to the powerful discourses that were being delivered. Then G. D. Watt, O. Pratt, Flanigan, Cummings, Wheelock, Halliday, Collins, J. Davis, Russell, F. D. Richards, and others were called on. Several officers sang beautifully between the different talks. We were entertained in this manner until eleven o'clock, when it was deemed wisdom to depart. All felt glad to have the pleasure of welcoming back brother Pratt, namely one who had done so much good in our midst. Brother Richards showed his appreciation in a very eloquent manner, and beseeched brother Pratt to leave his mantle on him when he left the country next spring, according to the instructions given in the last General Epistle.

 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. I WISH to have an explanation of the words "when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord," which are seen in Acts iii, 19. They seem incomprehensible to me.—*T. L.*

The above expression in English is self-explanatory. We would

translate the words thus:—"When shall come, from the presence of the Lord, the times to rest."

2. What words should be used when baptizing?—*A boy.*

It was probably before our brother's birth that we answered this question previously, or perhaps before he learned to read. Let him look in Number 13, page 24, and he will have his answer.

LETTER FROM FRANCE.

7 Rue Tourmon, Paris, August 8, 1850.

DEAR BROTHERS WM. PHILLIPS AND JOHN DAVIS,—In Boulogne, on the 24th of June, we arose early. Bro. Taylor addressed our Heavenly Father, entreating him to open the hearts of the chief leaders of this kingdom, to facilitate the mission. After that, we went to Monsieur Fontaine, the lord mayor of Boulogne, to request permission to preach the gospel of Jesus to the inhabitants of this town; this was granted nobly with the greatest amiability.

After that we went to a gentleman by the name of Monsieur Tatar to request permission to preach in his "Salé de Concerts," which was granted immediately. Then we went to the editor of the newspaper "Interpreter," Mr. Pater, to request permission to write about Mormonism in his paper; this was granted directly. God answered our prayers; it is good to begin with God in the morning for a blessing. "Thy father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly" (Math. vi, 6).

In the evening we went down to the beach on the seashore where Brothers Taylor, Bolton, Piercy, Pack and Stayner and I went on our knees before the Lord. Bro. Taylor offered the following prayer:—

"O Lord God, our Heavenly Father, we thy servants, at this time, bow ourselves before Thee, and for want of a better place on the seashore, in the shade of night, unnoticed by the children of this world, we call upon thee, for thou art our Father, and thy mercy has been extended to us. Thou saidest unto some of us that are here, by the mouth of thy servants, while we were in the Valley of the far distant west, to leave our homes, and come to this place to preach the Gospel. Thus far we have obeyed thy word, and we are here according to thy command. Thou hast brought us here in safety, while traveling over mountains,

deserts, plains, oceans, and seas. Thou has preserved us from plague, pestilence, shipwreck, and the sword. Our lives have been precious in thy sight, and we are found here as monuments of thy mercy. There are also others here, our Brother Howells, who has been here before, and our Brothers from the city of London, who have also left their friends, to labor in thy vineyard. And, Holy Father, we ask Thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, to give unto us wisdom to lay before this people the principles of eternal truth; for we have come to unlock the door of salvation to this mighty nation, and we ask thee, O Lord, to aid us in our enterprise, and to help us to fulfill the callings that devolve upon us, in a manner that shall bring glory to thy name, do honor to ourselves, and lead many to a knowledge of the truth; that thousands in this land may rejoice in the fullness of the blessings of the Gospel of peace. And we pray thee, O Father, so to dispose the hearts of the rulers of this people, that they may further us in this work, and not put any legal obstruction in our way; but that we may have an opportunity of presenting thy words before all grades and conditions of men, that the honest in heart may be gathered out and participate in those blessings which thou hast revealed unto us. And we pray thee to clothe us with wisdom, intelligence, and the power of thy Spirit, that we may be enabled to magnify our high and holy calling. May we have wisdom given us so that we may know when to speak, and when to be silent, what principles of truth to advance, and what to retain, so that we may never, by word, or action, throw a stumbling block in the way of any that are honest in heart. Forgive us our sins, Holy Father, if we have sinned against thee in word, or thought, or deed; we ask thee, in the name of Jesus, that Thou wilt blot out our transgressions, and remember them no more against us for ever. May we be girt about with the power, wisdom, and spirit of the Most High, and be enabled to conduct ourselves with dignity, and as men of God, while we sojourn in this land, and may we be enabled to preserve our bodies and spirits pure before thee. We ask thee also to bless our wives and children, and our families, that we have left behind; comfort them in their lonely situation. May thy angels, O Lord, protect, and thy Holy Spirit brood over them. May their wants be all supplied, and may they lack no good thing that is calculated to make them comfortable and happy. Preserve them from the power of the destroyer, and from the hands of wicked men. We ask thee, O Father, that thou wilt bless thy servant, Brigham Young, and his counselors. Clothe them with the power of thy Spirit, and let the revelations of Heaven be unfolded to their view. Bless all thy people be joyful in thy salvation. Let Zion be established in righteousness, and all nations flock to her standard. And now, O Lord, we dedicate ourselves unto thee, together with our wives and children, and all that we have, and are, for we are thy children, and thou art our God. And we ask that thy peace and blessing may be with us, and abide with us, from this time henceforth, and for ever, in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

June 26.—Monsieur Piclard, the French Minister in Havre, has come over here after us from London. He was the first who believed the gospel in France after he questioned me in detail for eleven hours; he wishes to live with us, and will doubtless receive baptism soon. Every day he spends some of his time with us; he does not know so much as one word of English. He is in our meetings and everywhere that we are. May God prompt him to hasten to cast his lot with us, for such a one is greatly needed.

— 29.—We received a kind letter from the mayor of Boulogne, granting us permission to preach in the Salé de Concerts, 21 Montseigny.

— 30. We went with Bro. Taylor to the Catholic Church where the priest preached in English, on the “Necessity of works for Salvation—works of piety, charity, and penitence.” Amidst the errors, he said much truth. As he preached he sat down frequently in his pulpit to take a pinch of snuff.

July 1.—In every street in town, the following information is being presented to the eyes of the men who gaze at the papers plastered on the walls. They wonder how the Latter-day Saints came to possess such authority in the place. Then they read the account of the lectures which Bro. J. Taylor intends to deliver (admission free) in a large hall in the center of town.

This small letter is full; I shall go on in the next one to portray the lectures and the debate. My love to you all.

WM. HOWELL.

[We saw in the “Interpreter” the report on the debate that took place between brother Taylor and three or four of the sectarian preachers in Boulogne. We have not yet heard proper information as to how things were, but we will publish everything as soon as we do hear.—ED.]

RAILROAD THROUGH SALT LAKE.

AT ONE TIME it was considered impossible to construct a railroad from the Mississippi overland to the Pacific Ocean, past Salt Lake City, since the way consists of from twelve to fifteen hundred miles devoid of wood, inhabitants, and useful materials for building the

railroad. But the "New York Tribune" says, that a recent discovery was made along the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, of the plentiful existence of *cannel* coal near the sources of the Nebraska or Platte rivers, namely on the path of the emigrants to Salt Lake; and the coal will answer the need in place of wood. It is reported also that iron ore is available from the borders of Missouri to the Rocky Mountains; and since coal is nearby, the rails can be made soon. There is no difficulty, then, in constructing a "highway" to the city of the Saints; therefore, may it soon be done.

FROM THE VALLEY.

WE COPY from the latest "Frontier Guardian," the following quotation from a letter written in Salt Lake City, Deseret, November 19, 1849, by President Brigham Young, to Elder Orson Hyde:—

"You have prepared plenty of supplies, bread, &c., for the companies; many of them would now like to have half a barrel of sugar, instead of their two barrels of flour, because here there is plenty of wheat, barley, oats, and buckwheat, together with potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, pumpkins, squash, &c. Do I say that there are plenty of potatoes? Yes! because I see lots of them daily; and permit me to say, the other day a brother brought thirty-three bushels of potatoes to the tithing office, as a tenth of the increase of one bushel of seed; the total amount he grew was three hundred and thirty bushels. Another brother (Halliday) grew from one bushel of wheat, one hundred and eighty bushels. Thus, you see that we have plenty of food—sustenance for man and animal in abundance; and we wish for you to dispatch all the help you can. The work is great, and the workers are difficult to obtain. We pay a dollar-and-a-quarter per day to the common laborer, and from two to three dollars to craftsmen, in the form of the above produce, together with coffee, tea, sugar, dishes, clothes, boots and shoes, meat, &c., or in pure gold, if they wish. We expect that next season here will be the same as this season, except a bit better, and we invite all who can find their way here, and who are willing to remain after coming, and who will work to build Zion. May the blessings of Heaven rest upon you as you help to build the kingdom of God, is the prayer of your loving brother in the gospel of Jesus Christ,

"BRIGHAM YOUNG."

CONFERENCE MINUTES.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

THE conference for this county was held in the St. Silin Chapel, on the 21st of July, when four branches were presented, containing 12 elders, 9 priests, 2 teachers, and 3 deacons; baptized, 9, total, 80. Hundreds were congregated, and a good conference was had.—Alfred Clark, president; J. James, scribe.

WEST GLAMORGAN CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of this district was held in Trades' Hall, Swansea, on the 21st of July. Represented were 17 branches, containing 1 high priest, 66 elders, 38 priests, 31 teachers, and 14 deacons; baptized, 29; cut off, 17; died, 1; total, 534. Preaching was done by President Williams, Dr. L. Richards, Pugh, Henshaw, and others. The following afternoon, a meeting was held to drink tea and give speeches, in which President Phillips and the aforementioned elders took part. Thus ended one of the best conferences until now held in Swansea.—E. Williams, president; J. R. Roberts, scribe.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

The Pembrokeshire conference was held in Haverfordwest, on the 28th of July, when 10 branches were represented, containing 18 elders, 9 priests, 7 teachers, and 4 deacons; baptized, 14; cut off, 5; total, 185. Much valuable instruction was given by Elder T. Pugh and J. Morris, which, we hope, will remain in the memories of the Saints for a long time.—J. Morris, president; D. Williams, scribe.

 MISCELLANEOUS.

AUGUST.—The general average temperature of this month (60 degrees) comes so close to reaching that of July, that a warm, dry August frequently makes up for the low temperatures in the previous month. At the beginning of August we often have the heaviest rain of the year. July and August are consistently our warmest months, and frequently the wettest ones. Eastern and western winds dominate now, but when there is heavy rain the wind usually abates.

The harvest, generally, begins about the middle of the month, but towards the end in late seasons. The barley ripens first, and then the wheat and the oats. Apples and pears begin to ripen this month, and the plums to some degree. A variety of unusual marvelous flowers also bloom at about the same time.

LAME MAN AT THE TEMPLE.—Peter Williams says, in his observations about the faith of the lame man, mentioned in Acts iii, 1—11, as follows:—“As for the lame man, we do not consider that lameness, or poverty, &c., is a sign that God despises such; it is possible that they will bring their lame legs, sooner to the temple gate than many agile men;—but, pay attention, look on us, says the Apostle; and no doubt the Apostle looked on him as well, and saw that he had the same faith as Paul saw in the crippled man in Lystra: God gives faith, wherever he can give health.” Is not the above Peter, in these observations, as much a Mormon as Peter of old? Let everyone judge for himself.

DEBT AND UNKINDNESS.—He who runs into your debt, is likely to hate you for your generosity. Be a little harsh with him, and he will become your worst enemy.

CARE.—Remember that when each one takes care of himself, that all are taken care of.

DEPARTING.—“I am now about to do something that the Devil has never done,” said some priest to his flock while preaching his farewell sermon; “and that is, I am leaving you.”

RELIABLE WITNESS.—Some time ago in a civil court a lawyer asked a witness, how he knew that the man and woman there were husband and wife; and he answered, “Because I heard the woman scolding the man.” The witness was considered reliable.

BASIS FOR SPRINKLING.—We heard one woman asserting to her neighbor, when speaking of baptism, that sprinkling was the correct form, because she had a picture in her house showing John throwing water on Christ's head!

LIFE OF A SAINT.

Despised by the world
 Is how he spends his life;
 Frowns and scorn he's shown,
 While carrying his cross.
 No wonder this; for that is how
 Christ was treated too;
 He never said it would be better
 For his saints, than for himself.