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The life and travels of Gilbert Bishop,  
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Mr Editor Most of your readers are aware of the fact of  
my being called by the general conference of the church held in  
Salt Lake city Oct 6<sup>th</sup> 1874 to a mission to the United States and  
the Canadas. Perhaps some of the incidents of travel and observation  
since my departure from; may not be uninteresting; to most of your  
readers. I will therefore quote from my daily journal; Left Ogden  
city November 7-74 in company with Elders L D Wilson and  
L A Scofield at 9 AM left Ogden: Snow slightly covered the ground  
The day clear and pleasant: Nothing of note occurred to attract until we  
arrived at Echo station. Where I saw in large letters; the following words  
placed on the square front of a neatly finished building (Pride of the  
world Bakery and Saloon) If such be the pride of the world and  
the sagging attitude of a man holding to the railing in front of  
the Saloon; be the effect of an association with the words pride)  
Then allow me the quiet of home) My expectations were some what  
disappointed in passing Waksatch: which consists of a stationary  
Engine Station house cattle corral hayrack and a gang of  
Celestials Shoveling gravel. Eriugston quite a town Buildings mostly  
made of combustible materials. There are however some substantial ones  
composed of brick in the use of the U. S. R R company

From this point Willard the quiet of our hitherto company was somewhat disturbed; by the foul mouthing of two embriates: Snow at this point about three inches deep. Having disposed of the more disagreeable portion of our company; we went thundering on; and before crossing <sup>the bridge</sup> Knight had closed in on us and thus being deprived of the opportunity of casting a rainy glance at town or country sought that repose so much needed; by the use of two seats and cushion of the third with two slats placed across the seats we made quite a comfortable bed. But like that of Israh the prophet two short for a man to stretch himself upon. When again day dawned we were approaching the black hill country and halted at Sheridan Station <sup>the higher railroad station</sup> ~~Sheriffone~~ in Anaricoo altitude 8000-842 feet Cheyenne the capital of Wyoming situated on the southern slope of a ridge in the black hills is quite a pleasant summer residence. But how and in what manner the people make their living I know not; for surely the country will not warrant its settlement except for pasturage. In hundreds of miles about the same altitude obtains; and was it not for the U.S. company; Eastern Wyoming and Western Nebraska would so far as agriculture is concerned would be a thing of the past. The last half day of our travel down the plot river presented more evidence of satisfaction; and the nearer we approached Omaha the more of comfort we saw

Omaha once the resting place of the Oto Indians; in the short space of  
10 years has become the commercial metropolis of the west. And now the busy  
hum of industry has induced the red man to follow up his means of  
support to the low hills of Nebraska; and still further to drink  
from the rippling streams of rocky mountains. Our stay was but short in  
Omaha in one hour we took the Querry train for Council Bluffs city.  
on landing the commingled voices of score or more runners from different  
hotels; <sup>saluted our cars</sup> and naught but indifference on our part could we pierce our way  
through the crowd to the north western hotel; For a short time this  
afternoon I was employed in finding the residence of Samuel S. Bone  
wh. Maurice the Daughter of Ansel Belnap, Mrs Bone on being  
interrogated she was the mother of five children Mrs Bone on being  
interrogated as to the time of their birth and the death of some of  
them was not prepared to give the exact date. Without reference  
to his family Bible. The inquiry may arise why did you not visit ~~and~~  
~~why did you not examine that family Bible.~~ Here let me say to you  
that two important conditions has to be made; First a sufficient amount  
of pride removed to obtain access to such records; second and  
not least my pride must be considerably humbled when once the  
bozant spirit of youth disdains to associate with those whose  
moral purity might be contaminated by the presence of a man  
from Utah; the little information thus far obtained has been at a

one dollar and fifty cents; To ascertain his whereabouts I examined  
the county assessment roll; repaired to his residence; introduced  
myself to the remaining portion of the family; and from the roll  
I ascertained of the son-in-law with whom Mr. Kane was living  
his wife having Died Feb 15 1868. Had I of consulted my own  
feeling I should have bid them adieu forever; by so doing one  
important ~~part~~ part of my mission would have been frustrated  
hence on the following I sent a note for Mr. Kane to meet at  
my hotel; which he did supper and breakfasted at my expense  
On Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> took ~~the~~ the North western train for  
Chicago arrived ~~at~~ on the following morning breakfasted at the  
Palmer house one of the most magnificent hotels in the city,  
Spent the day in a fruitless search for Brother John;  
and in the evening took the Michigan Lake shore road  
for Grand Rapids; without difficulty found his residence:  
Although he was absent from home I was treated with all the  
respect due a brother. The city of Grand Rapids though young  
in its improvements; the site of this city has long been known  
and esteemed for its natural advantages. It was here that the  
Indian long since made there grand Depot. It was at this  
point that the missionary heard first ~~and~~ established his  
institution of learning; and taught the forest child the beauties

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of civilization! This has long been choicest dearest spot to the unfortunate Indian; and now is the white man's pride; like other cities of the west its transition from the savage; to the civilized state has been as sudden as its prospects are now flattering; who would have believe to have visited this place twenty years since; when it was only inhabited by a few families <sup>most</sup> of whom were of french origin! A people so eminent for exploring the wilds and meanderings of rivers that this place would now contain a population of twenty thousand; The rapidity of its settlement is beyond the most visionary anticipation; But its location its advantages and its climate; were sufficient to satisfy the observing mind that naught but the frown of providance could blast its prospects. The river upon which this town is situated is one of the most delightful to be found in the country; Not important and beautiful only for its clear silver-like water winding its way through a romantic valley of some hundreds of miles but for its depth and width its susceptibility for steam navigation and the immense hydraulic power offered at this point. Five canals are completed around the rapids sufficiently large to admit of boats passing up and down with but little delention. Several Steam boat are making regular trips from beyond the mouth of maple river to this place a distance of sixty miles; and from this to grand haven thence to Milwaukee and Chicago; Thus the city of Grand Rapids with its

navigable stream and water power of twenty five feet fall and abundance of crude material: Stone of excellent quality pine oak and other timbers within its vicinity saw but flawed. Such is the encouragement to the western Pioneer. The city plat is upon the bold bank of the river extending back upon an irregular plane some eighty to an hundred rods to rising bluffs; from the base and sides of which some of the most pure crystal like fountains of water burst out in bubbling springs pouring forth streams that murmur over the pebbly bottoms; at once a delight to the eye and a luxury to the thirsty palate. The town is delightful whether you view it from the plain upon the bank of the river; or from the bluffs that overlook the whole surrounding country. To ascend the bluffs you take a gradual rise to the height of a hundred feet when the horizon only limits the extent of vision. The scenery to an observer of beautiful landscape is truly picturesque and romantic. Back east of the town is seen a wide spread plain of bar oak at once easy to cultivate and inviting to the agriculturist. Turning westward to the setting of the sun you behold the most enchanting prospect. The din of the city below the broad sheet of water murmuring over the rapids the sun beams dancing upon its swift & gliding riple; the glossy river at last losing itself in the distant meanderings;

presents a scenery that awakens the most lively emotions  
But the opposite shore upon which you behold a fertile plain  
still claims no small amount of our admiration. Near the bank  
of the river is seen the little rude village of the more civilized  
Indian. The unceasing dwelling, these little churches and mound  
like burying place, the number and size of the mounds which  
mark the spot where lies the remains of the proud warrior and  
the more humble of his untamed tribe; but to plainly tell the  
endearments of that lonely place to the native aborigines; and how  
quick the mind will follow the train of associations to by gone days  
and contrast those reflections with present appearances. Thus we  
see the scenes of savage life; quickly spread upon the broad canvas  
of the imagination; The proud chieftain seated and his tribe  
surrounding the council fire. The merry war dance. The wild  
amusement of the red man of the forest; And as soon think of  
those present unhappy condition. The bright flame of those  
lately piles has been extinguished and with it has faded the  
keen expressive brilliancy of the red mans eye, the lonely river  
keen expressive brilliancy of upon which these light cones  
have so long glided is now almost deserted.  
it from this point that you can see in the distance the

lofty pine waving in majesty above the sturdy oak  
presenting to the eye a wild and undulating plain with  
its thousand charmes; such is the location; the citizens  
are of the most intelligent, enterprising and industrious  
character. The buildings are large and stately and handsomely  
furnished; the clatter of the mallet and chisel; the clink  
of the hammer. The many newly reared brick and stone  
buildings; and the skeleton boats on the river, speak  
loudly for the enterprise of the place. Mechanics of all  
kinds find abundance of employ and reap a rich reward  
for their labour; village property advances in value and  
the prospects are alike flattering to all what the result of  
such advantages and prospects will be time alone will  
determine.