

most trying, and at the last three bars the tension giving way at the thought that the ordeal was over, the sopranos in particular—who could not hear the pianos—fell perceptibly from the pitch, the only mishap of this rendition. Three causes led to this. The state of the voices caused by the damp, raw climate of Chicago, to which we from the high altitudes dry, pure mountain air were thoroughly unaccustomed to, made it difficult to control the voices in singing softly after singing with full power. The excitement which buoyed us up through the whole, relaxing at the close, yet the most trying place of all three choruses. The insufficiency of two pianos accompanying 250 singers in selections which should in justice to themselves or such a chorus, have at the very least an orchestra of fifty pieces to accompany. The other choirs were by no means free from the same trouble. The accompanist going as far as to cease playing that the falling off might not be perceptible to the listeners. Our choir retired amidst cheers, applause and congratulations from many eminent musicians and the general impression was that they had fairly won the great prize.

Stephens on being asked by Presidents Woodruff and Cannon what his impressions were, said: "We have done the very best possible in our present stage of progress and I am satisfied." They in return fully agreed with him. At night when the adjudication was to be rendered there was some disappointment on account of Mr. Tomlins failing to appear to render the same. Mr. Thomas having quite unprepared to assume the task, the result being that no satisfactory statement of relative merit was given, the whole amounting to little more than awarding the prizes without giving adequate reasons therefore. The rest of this memorable trip had many interesting incidents. The Utah Day exercises, the music hall concert, the starting for home and arriving to give their concert at Omaha nearly ten o'clock at night, where they found a large audience patiently waiting, and a great floral harp five feet high occupying the stage. Their welcome home, where interest had risen to fever heat and preparations had been made by the choir members remaining at home and others to meet them and welcome them was all made impossible by the sad incident of the sickness and subsequent death of Mrs. Allison's little boy. All possible speed being made to reach home on her account, the train arrived about four o'clock in the morning. But even then many had remained up the whole night, and there were warm welcomes as all hastened to their homes. A few days later a grand reception was tendered them in the late Tabernacle, when the Governor of the Territory, Mayor of the city, and Presidency of the Stake and a couple of thousand citizens expressed their delight and welcome home. The whole was an event never to be forgotten. If ever to be repeated,—we hope the latter will end with a tour of the world—Why not?

Friday of the coming week will be the anniversary of the day of contest and the winning of the \$1,000 prize, and fittingly the choir will celebrate

it at Saltair on their own great inland sea, with perhaps thousands of their friends present with them to enjoy the re-union. The singing again of the songs they sang there, and to congratulate each other on the past and the future of music in their own mountain home.

SANPETE STAKE CONFERENCE.

EPHRAIM, Sanpete county, Utah, August 13, 1894.—The conference of the Sanpete Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held in Mount Pleasant, on August 11 and 12, 1894, according to appointment. Present—of the general authorities of the Church, President George Q. Cannon; of the Stake, the presidency; the High Council was well represented, also a full attendance of the Bishops of the wards.

The Fountain Green, Mount Pleasant, Moroni, Fairview and Spring City wards were reported by their respective Bishops; President Canute Peterson reported the condition of the Stake; the above reports representing the Stake as being in a good condition.

The general and Stake authorities on being presented received the unanimous vote of the conference. Statistical report of the Stake was read, which gives total of souls 13,368; for the quarter 14 marriages, 139 births, 177 children blessed, 31 members received, 25 members removed, 11 new members baptized, 132 children baptized; 2 excommunicated, 27 deaths, 301 drawing support.

President Cannon occupied the time, after the Bishops' and the President's reports were made, during the remainder of the first meeting, and the afternoon, evening and Sunday morning meetings. The subjects treated upon were the absolute necessity for us to keep the commandments of God, to seek advice of those who have had experience and whom God has appointed to give counsel and advice; if we desire to dwell with God we must become like Him; or we can never dwell with Him; we will have to be honest in our dealings with each other and that without being compelled to be honest, too, and be pure in our lives and in our thoughts; sustain the work of God in the earth, and among this people. The speaker deplored the manifestations of feelings of strife that had obtained on occasions of political excitement among the people and cautioned the Saints against a repetition of those scenes, and warned them that God will not be mocked, especially by men holding the Holy Priesthood; he cited the example of Israel after being delivered from Egyptian bondage being so stubborn and rebellious that none who were over twenty years of age when they left Egypt, except Caleb and Joshua, were permitted to cross Jordan, but died in the wilderness; all who set themselves against the work of God would be swept out of the way, for this is the nucleus of that kingdom that is destined to fill the whole earth, and this Church will never be left without the keys of the Holy Priesthood to lead it; a people will be prepared to meet the Savior when He comes, though they be few in number; the righteous only will be saved; the Lord has declared He will empty the earth of the wicked.

The instructions of President Cannon were listened to with the most profound attention by the large congregation present during conference. He said he believed it to be the largest gathering of people he had ever seen in Sanpete county.

The afternoon meeting was fully as numerous attended as the preceding ones had been. The Sacrament was administered and President Peterson, Elders Henry Beal, John B. Maiben, J. D. T. McAllister each gave exhortation and testimony to the Saints, which was received with marked attention.

After singing and benediction, conference adjourned for three months to meet in Moroni.

Like many of its predecessors, the universally expressed feeling is this has been the best conference we have had.

GEORGE TAYLOR,
Clerk of Conference.

IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

St. GEORGE, Aug. 19, 1894.—Dixie presents a prosperous appearance at this season of the year. Her orchards are full of fruit, her vines well laden, while the sorghum crop promises a better yield than common. Still the cry of hard times is heard and all claim there is no money and a poor market for the products of the country. We have sampled some as fine fruit as could be produced in any clime, the flavor of which was beyond comparison; and there is lots of it in Washington county. In every town one sees great platforms filled with fruit that is drying, for so far all the fruit is sundried in this region, and as a rule it is well cured; yet it is time that more method was adopted in its care and preparation for market. Evaporated or kiln dried fruit is demanded in the trade. The people should unitedly take up this labor and thus put on the market not only better dried fruit, but in the most approved form, so that it would catch the customer's attention. In the past the good, bad and indifferent have all reached the customer together, without being classified or assorted and all together suffered the bad name. Today it is necessary to meet competition, and the fruit of this country to be accepted on the market must be gathered and packed with more care so it will have a more presentable appearance. Then it will make a market and hold it and customers will seek Dixie fruit instead of it having to be hawked and peddled and then go for a song, the fruit raiser singing the song. Peaches and grapes are very plentiful and much fruit is spoiling for want of attention, as the prospective price for dried fruit is not the most encouraging, yet more thrift than in years past is observable and greater attention is being paid to the cultivation of the soil.

The future of Southern Utah is bright, for people are getting to appreciate her advantages and to understand her climate and soil, while the water question is being solved by practical methods that give assurance to the agriculturist and orchardist. For the past two weeks frequent showers have retarded fruit drying and hay making. Some of the showers have been accompanied with extremely heavy thunder. These showers have modified the heat so that this is one of