

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

There was a very fair attendance at the Sunday School Union meeting held last evening, January 15th. Nearly all the city schools were represented, also the schools of Big Cottonwood, Sandy, Forest Dale, Union and Deaf Mutes.

The very excellent singing exercises were given by the Juvenile Choir of the Second ward, directed by Brother Ernest Bassett, whose labors in training the children of that ward are very commendable and gratifying.

Prof. Willard Done, as per previous announcement, gave a very instructive lecture upon the subject of "Sunday School Teaching." The speaker began his remarks with a brief history of Sabbath schools. In early days of this work the teaching was very much disconnected, there being no system, or plan, or definite purpose in view until the organization of Sunday school unions, under which was inaugurated harmonious work throughout the various Christian nations, until at present the work is so thoroughly systematized as to become a profession.

The history of our own Sunday schools is very similar. At present it forms one of the greatest "helps" in the Church, working harmoniously with all other church organizations for the development of the souls and faculties of the rising generation.

The old idea of teaching was to cram the minds of the children with the knowledge of words and phrases, without regard to the growth of mind. The modern and true idea of teaching is to place a child under the best circumstances for development and then give him an opportunity for growth, and instead of cramming his mind with words, or sentences, or ideas he does not comprehend, present subjects to him in such a way as to draw him out, and give him an opportunity to formulate ideas and thoughts of his own.

The first duty of teachers, as also of parents, is to study child nature, and seek to understand the children they have to deal with mentally and spiritually, to learn to feel as they feel, to look at things as they do. The more thoroughly the teacher understands the children the greater his success.

Give the children an opportunity to think for themselves. If, for instance, a child comes with a question for information, instead of giving a direct answer, question him upon the subject and lead him to see for himself, and by the exercise of his own judgment to deduce the information he sought. To do this successfully is true teaching. In this way the child learns to think for himself and learns to exercise his own judgment.

No teacher should attempt to teach his class unless he knows what he is going to teach, and should adapt his instructions to the capacity of his class—never cram the minds of his children with finished and matured information, but stir up their minds with earnest enthusiasm, and plant the seeds of knowledge and let the matured and perfected plant of

knowledge grow and develop in the minds of the children.

The golden rule of all teaching is that the teacher cannot impart to others that which he does not himself possess. A teacher must therefore possess the characteristics he wishes to develop in his pupils, mentally and morally.

The art of questioning, called the Socratic method of teaching, is one of the best means of drawing out and developing the minds of the children. Jesus was a Teacher of all teachers, and used this method of instruction to infinite perfection, as often instanced in the discomfiture of his enemies by a pertinent question. By this method the children are led to discover truths for themselves, and the more of this the better. Give in this way all the opportunity possible for the children to learn for themselves, as they most effectually learn to do by doing. The true teacher should do as little talking (or telling) as possible, and draw out by judicious questions the information or knowledge he desires to impart. A class or a school should not be bored to death by too much talking, either by teacher or superintendent.

"Aim high" should be the motto of our teachers and superintendents—not the quietest class or school, but the BEST. It is better to aim too high and strive to reach that ideal than to aim lower and reach our ideals.

Supt. Griggs offered a few excellent remarks, commending the faithfulness of the Sunday School workers during the past year, and expressed his pleasure in seeing so good a representation at these meetings of the officers of the Sunday Schools. He noted the better condition of those schools which were usually represented at these meetings.

Superintendents were requested to see that the annual reports for 1893 were sent in at once.

The names of Elders Wm. J. Kerr, Chas. M. Cannon and W. H. Chamberlin were presented as additional workers in the Sunday school missionary corps, and were unanimously sustained.

The Third ward school will furnish the music at the next meeting of the Union, the general program for which will be published hereafter.

Benediction was pronounced by Assistant Superintendent W. C. Burton, and the meeting adjourned for one month.

JOS. HYRUM PARRY,  
Secretary.

## DEATH OF WILLIAM R. SMITH.

William R. Smith, president of the Davis Stake, died at his home in Centerville January 16 at 7:30, after a long and severe illness, resulting from stricture of the bowels.

William Reed Smith was born near Farmersville, Ontario, Canada, August 11th, 1826, and was therefore in his sixty-eighth year. His father was a native of the New England States, but removed to Canada, where he married Mary Reed, mother of the deceased, who was the daughter of Major Reed of the British army. President Smith

was the youngest of nine children and was left an orphan in his early childhood. Fortunately he found a good home with a Quaker family by the name of Parish. From the time he was three years old until he was sixteen he was kindly cared for by this good family.

In the fall of 1837 the Parish family, with three of their sons and their families, came to the United States, settling in Stark county, Illinois. About this time large numbers of the members of the Church were moving into and building up the city of Nauvoo and it was then that the deceased became interested in Mormonism. In 1841 he was baptized into the Church and during the same year several of the Parish family did the same thing. After joining the Church Mr. Smith took up his residence in Nauvoo, where he remained for a year and a half, during the whole of which time, however, he was in a feeble condition from frequent and severe attacks of chills and fever.

At the expiration of this time he returned to Stark county, where he engaged in stock raising until 1849 when, in company with Austin Grant, he started for the Rocky Mountains, arriving here the same year. In 1850 he went to California where he spent considerable time in stock and mining business, made some money and returning to Utah settled in Centerville, where he continued in the stock business and where he made his home up to the time of his death. He subsequently took large herds of stock to California, where he disposed of them advantageously.

In the spring of 1855 he was ordained Bishop of Centerville, and in 1857 was made captain of the Carson Colony which left Carson valley near the middle of September and arrived in Salt Lake City during the following month after a very successful journey. President Smith resumed his duties over the Centerville ward, and under his immediate direction they moved during the Utah war of that period—1858—to Spanish Fork, but returned to their homes the year following after peace had been declared.

In the fall of 1859 he was elected a member of the Legislative Council to fill the unexpired term of Charles C. Rich. He was subsequently elected three times a member of the House of Representatives, and afterwards—in 1878—he was again elected to a seat in the Council. In 1874 he was elected probate judge of Davis county and held that office for nine years.

In June, 1877, he was appointed president of the Davis Stake, a position he held until the end of his busy and useful life. He also served as a missionary abroad and was at home a most ardent and faithful worker. In all of his offices of trust, both civil and ecclesiastical, he exhibited untiring energy, excellent judgment and first-class ability. He was ever known as one of the solid conservative men of the Territory. He leaves a large and well respected family to mourn his death.

## MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES.

A private letter from Elder John Nicholson Jr., dated at Moscow, Miss., Jan. 9th., relates a somewhat interesting incident in missionary experience.