

## A GOLDEN WEDDING.

By request of Brother Cyrus Tolman I mail you a copy of a paper that was read on his golden wedding day, Nov. 28, 1896, when the people of the ward met and appropriately celebrated the occasion. A. G. B.

The celebration of a golden wedding is an occasion of such rare occurrence, that it naturally gives rise to reflections peculiar to itself. The mind peers back through the dim distant past till it brings to view the young couple starting out hand in hand to act together on the stage of the unknown future, and it follows them through the various scenes in which they are called to take part until it views them in the present, mature in age and experience.

In the year 1820 on the 6th of April Brother Cyrus Tolman was born in Winslow Township, Hancock county, Maine. At the age of seventeen he moved to Iowa and was married in the early part of the year 1843. In the beginning of the year 1845, he heard the first Gospel sermon and with his wife was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the following April by Amos Davis, in Linn county, Iowa.

Before the year 1845 closed Brother Tolman was left a widower with one child. During the next year, however, he formed an acquaintance with Alice Bracken, who was born in England, Jan. 31, 1832, and crossed the sea with her parents in the year 1841. The Bracken family settled in Nauvoo but moved to Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1846, where, on the 28th of November (this day just fifty years ago), Alice was married to Bro. Tolman, and since that time has shared with him the vicissitudes of pioneer life. They have lent a hand in the settling up of five different places; have had born to them thirteen children, the first of whom was born at Fort Bridger on the journey across the plains, the emigration train resuming its course the next morning as usual. This was in September, 1848, and on the 20th of that month the company arrived in Salt Lake City.

Brother Tolman remained in Salt Lake City one year. With his own hands he made the adobe and built a small house in the Twentieth ward. In the fall of 1849 he, with three other families, moved west and made the first settlers at Tooele, he that fall, plowing seven acres of land—the first broken up there; and ten years after serving as a member of the Tooele city council. During this time Brother Tolman had amassed considerable property for the times, but the winter of 1855-6 being so very severe and followed by summer of the grasshopper war, he was stripped of everything in order to live, selling his last cow for bread. He sold a yoke of cattle for eleven bushels of wheat, and went to Ogden for it. The summer of 1857 also was lost by the move of the people south at the time of Johnson's army entering the Territory.

In the spring of 1860 Brother Tolman took his family (having in 1858 married Margaret Utley of Tooele) and moved south, locating in Fountain Green for two years, then moving on to

Richfield, Beaver county. Things went on as usual in a new place until trouble with the Indians arose. The settlers were robbed and plundered to such an extent that in the spring of 1866 President Young saw fit to send teams and move them north.

Sister Alice Tolman started on the journey with a young babe but four days old. Again everything was gone financially, stock stolen by Indians, property in the shape of homes and a half interest in a grist mill abandoned. Brother Tolman took up another place in Tooele, and set out a large orchard. Things went well for a few years, and he was able to build a comfortable brick house. In the meantime he had located also a place in Rush Valley, Tooele county, taking up a large farm there in 1874. By the year 1879 water had failed in both places. His orchard died, and in 1881 he, with his wife Alice and four of their married sons, moved to Goose Creek, Cassia county, Idaho, where he has since resided.

During all these years earning a living and building homes has not been the only work going on. In Tooele he was ordained a Seventy when the Forty-third quorum was organized. He has acted as presiding Elder several times; was a member of the High Council of the Cassia Stake, and in the spring of the present year was ordained a Patriarch. Thirteen years ago he listened to a very impressive sermon preached by Elder Lyman of the council of Apostles on tobacco. Although having been a heavy smoker for forty years, he formed a new resolve and from that time has never touched the poisonous weed.

Brother Tolman takes special joy in the work for the dead and has spent considerable time in the Temple. His own posterity numbers 121. Two sons are on missions; one in the spirit world, the other one, Judson I. Tolman, is now in the Southern States, filling the hearts of his father and mother with joy and satisfaction.

## MALAD STAKE CONFERENCE.

WASHAKIE, Utah, Dec. 16, 1896.—The Malad Stake quarterly conference convened at Portage, Utah, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12th and 13th, 1896, commencing at 10 a.m.

President Lorenzo Snow and Elder Seymour B. Young were in attendance and gave much valuable instruction which was greatly enjoyed.

The attendance was lighter than usual, which was, no doubt, due to the bad condition of the roads.

The reports of the Stake Presidency and the Bishops and other officers in the Stake showed that the people in general felt well and were in a prosperous condition, though there was room for improvement.

The topics discussed upon mostly were tithing, temple work, the word of wisdom, and the necessity of leading a pure life and keeping the Spirit of God at all times.

President Snow in speaking on the Word of Wisdom, said that we should educate ourselves to abstain from the use of much meat, did not think that it was proper to take life except in cases of absolute necessity, for animals possessed souls that were immortal and

were entitled to life. In order to usher in the era of good will spoken of in Isa. II, 6-9, mankind must set the example, and in this the Latter-day Saints should take the lead. He also said that we as a people have much to encourage us. When we feel gloomy we should reflect upon the wonderful privileges and blessings placed within our reach through the Gospel.

A synopsis of the discourses of President Snow and Elder Young could not do justice to them.

The children of the Sabbath school assembled in the meeting Sunday morning and gave good attention to the speakers. Prof. D. P. Jones and his able choir rendered sweet music for the meeting.

L. D. JONES,

Secretary pro tem.

## PAROWAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of this Stake convened in Parowan meeting house, Saturday and Sunday, December 19th and 20th.

There were upon the stand Apostle Heber J. Grant, Elder David H. Cannon of St. George Stake, Elder M. L. Sheppard of Beaver Stake, President Uriah T. Jones and Counselors Francis Webster and Henry Leigh, members of the High Council and Bishops of the several wards of this Stake.

After the usual opening exercises President Uriah T. Jones made a few timely remarks, explaining that the time of holding our Stake conference had been changed in order that Elder H. J. Grant could be with us. He reported briefly the condition of the Stake, which was very favorable, the various quorums, associations, and Sunday schools, with few exceptions, were in excellent condition, the members, generally speaking being alive to their duties, but there was still much room for improvement.

The speakers during the conference were Elders Heber J. Grant, David H. Cannon, Wm. H. Coray and M. L. Sheppard. The brethren seemed to enjoy a rich flow of the Spirit of the Lord, and spoke very pointedly upon the following subjects: Tithing, Word of Wisdom, the divine mission of Joseph Smith, restoration of the Gospel with its different keys and powers, educating and caring for the youth, the duties of parents with regard to their children, first principles of the Gospel, duties of those holding the Priesthood and duties of the Saints generally.

The general and local authorities and standing list of home missionaries were presented and sustained by unanimous vote of the conference.

Saturday evening, the Parowan choir under the able leadership of Prof. Durham, and assisted by Bro. David Edwards of Paragonah and Bro. R. C. Easton, the noted tenor singer of Logan, gave a grand concert in the Parowan meeting house which was an entire success, both financially and otherwise and was the largest gathering of the kind held in Parowan for many years.

Sunday forenoon was occupied by the Sunday school, at the close of which Elders Jones, Cannon and Grant spoke to the teachers and children upon the subjects of obedience, punctuality, and faithfulness in the discharge of duty.