

partook of the hospitality of kind-hearted youth. Many tears of joyous sympathy were shed, and silent prayers were offered for God to protect and care for the young who were so thoughtful for the aged. Over 300 sat down to the 'feast of fat things.' After all had partaken an excellent program was rendered, consisting of singing by the excellent choir belonging to the Mutual, music by our young and progressive brass band, songs, toasts, speeches, recitations, original poetry and other attractions from a number of our talented citizens, intermingled with hearty, old fashioned dancing until the hour of 12 notified all that it was time to seek refreshment in slumber.

COM.

### AN OLD "MORMON JAIL"

On the main street of the city of Liberty, Missouri, and but a few hundred yards distant from the Clay county court house may be seen the ruins of what at some time in the past has evidently been a substantial stone structure. The casual observer would pass with possibly no second glance at the crumbling mass of rock, although but a moment's observation would disclose the fact that the building had never been intended for an ordinary dwelling-house. The gable end nearest the street is still in a fair state of preservation. A window opening, with heavy iron bars and a strong door or shutter hinged to the casing, indicate very plainly that the building had been constructed with the intention of making it difficult for anyone, unfortunate enough to be given quarters therein, to regain his freedom.

By Liberty people this ruin is designated as "the old Mormon jail." In reply to an inquiry as to what the jail had been built for, a typical Missourian gave the reply, "Mostly for the Mormons." But what the Mormons had done to be cast into so uninviting a place, his memory could not recall.

There are at the present time but few land-marks to bring to the mind of one acquainted with the early history of this section of the state, the suffering endured at one time by a people whose religious views were distasteful to the other residents of what was at that time a wild frontier country, and of such relics this old jail is probably the most interesting.

In addition, however, to the circumstances connected with the driving out of the Mormons from Clay county, this section has derived, to use the words of a resident, "quite a reputation for other incidents of a sensational as well as historical character."

About two and a half miles from Liberty is the birthplace of Frank and Jesse James. On the old homestead the aged mother of the outlaws still resides, and beneath the sod near her favorite window rests the earthy remains of Jesse James. Mrs. James is seen quite often in Liberty, and it is stated that she regularly attends church there.

On a scaffold near the county jail, several parties who have disregarded the statutes for the protection of mankind, have fallen victims to the strong arm of the law. The latest "hanging" was that of Wm. Carr, who was executed but a short time since after having been convicted of murdering his own child.

Liberty is located about eighteen miles northeast of Kansas City on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and Hannibal & St. Joseph railways, and has a population of about 3,500. It is built on rolling land, and like most southern towns its business portion is built to face the four sides of the courthouse square. Six churches are located there, the Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Presbyterian, Catholic and

First Church of Christ, Scientist.

A fine structure used as a female college occupies a commanding position at the west side of the city, and on a high hill at the east side stands the William Jewell College. The last named institution was founded and the college building erected "befo' de wah," but several additions and new buildings have lately been added to it. Almost adjoining the college grounds is the cemetery, dating from the fifties. It apparently receives no care from any source, and there is nothing to show the fact that therein are buried in one grave twenty Federal soldiers.

During the Civil War there was some fighting near Liberty, and there are those who claim that the Federal bullets were so near that they entered the statue which surmounts the court house. Be that as it may, it is a fact vouched for by those who have investigated, that the statue is now the abode of numerous honey bees and that their entrances resemble bullet holes.

About twelve miles due south from Liberty is Independence, the county seat of Jackson county. There are no direct rail connections between the two cities, but Independence is reached easily from Kansas City, from which it is distant about ten miles, by either steam or electric railways.

Boarding the Ninth street cable cars at the Kansas City postoffice a ride of three miles brings one to the Ninth street station of the Kansas City and Independence Electric railway. The ride from this point to Independence is over beautiful, rolling lands, a few parks and pleasure resorts being passed along the route.

The first object of prominence in Independence seen from the car is the Reorganized or "Josephite" church and the first stop is made very near this structure. It is a large, handsome church, built of stone, but for lack of funds not yet completed.

Across the road southward from the Reorganized church property stands another church—a great contrast to the one first mentioned. A small, low frame building in which probably thirty to forty people could be accommodated, is, with the exception of an outhouse and a large box used for coal shed, the only structure on a beautiful tract of land comprising about three and a half acres, and which any observer would recognize to be one of the finest locations in the city for either public or private buildings.

This tract of land is known in Independence as well as by the readers of this paper as the "Temple lot" or "Temple site," it having been dedicated and the corner stone of a temple laid by Joseph Smith at a time when the Mormons resided in Missouri and expected to remain there.

Dotted here and there over the lot are small trees which leaf luxuriantly in the summer time. A rough barb-wire fence surrounds this plat of ground which is in reality only a small portion of the original tract known as the Temple lot. The small church mentioned above is used for religious services by the sect known as "Hedrickites" which has now but a very small following. Across the road eastward from the church lives a Mr. Halley, a former resident of Utah. Although very aged and so feeble as to be unable to walk, he distinctly remembers many places and old acquaintances in Utah.

Opposite the Temple lot to the south live two sons of a former Apostle of the Mormon Church, Jerome E. and Justin E. Page. These gentlemen are engaged in the blacksmithing trade, and hold the patents to a new invention in railway car construction. The theory involved in the invention is a railway coach or rather combination of coaches which are proof against telescoping or ditching in case of collision, and the perfect working model on

exhibition may be the nucleus of a system of railroadng minus the disasters now so frequent.

A short distance south of the Page residence is the Independence public school building, a handsome, modern structure. The court house and business portion of the city are a few blocks east of the Temple lot. The population of Independence is about eight thousand. Its churches number twelve, the Episcopal, Catholic, New German, Cumberland, Presbyterian, First Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Maple Avenue Methodist, Church of Christ (Hedrickite), First Presbyterian, Latter-day Saints (Reorganized), Christian and Westminster Presbyterian. Richard Hill is presiding elder of the Church of Christ or Hedrickite church and the usual church notice announces, "Preaching every Sunday at meeting house on the Temple lot at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 10 a. m. Young People's meeting at 6:30 p. m. All are invited."

Independence contains some very fine residences and along either side of the principal residence streets are rows of maple trees, the branches from the trees on one side of the street intertwining with those on the other side, forming long natural arches of branches and foliage.

While in Kansas City I had the pleasure of meeting with Elders George Done Jr. and Thomas H. Chambers of Smithfield, Cache county; Brigham F. Duffin of Woodruff, Arizona, and William W. Howard of Rockland, Idaho. They are pleasantly located at 1301 McGee street, are all in good health and spirits, and enjoying their work.

They gave the information that branches of the Church have been established in Independence and in Leeds, a small town southeast of Kansas City. They also informed me that recently one of their conferences had been held in the Jackson county courthouse at Independence, and what was more surprising, that one conference was held in the Missouri state capitol at Jefferson City, the building having been tendered them for the purpose free of charge. These incidents certainly prove that the bitter feeling which was held against the Mormons in this state sixty years ago has moderated with the growing up of a new generation.

J. FRANK PICKERING.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 28, 1898.

### THE GOLD CRAZE.

The people of California began yesterday a week's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of gold in that state. It is a singular fact that at the same time another discovery of gold, the first of importance in North America since 1848, should be drawing another great army of fortune-hunters toward the Pacific coast, in numbers not equalled since the rush to California in 1849.

The historian of California, H. H. Bancroft, is authority for the statement that 42,000 gold-seekers and pioneers entered that territory by the overland route in 1849, and 39,000 more came by sea. They took possession of gold fields of unparalleled richness. They were singularly favored also by a mild climate, land of great fertility, and easy access to timber and most of the material and supplies needed for the prosecution of the gold hunt. Their gold product rose from about \$10,000,000 in 1848 to \$40,000,000 in 1849 and to \$65,000,000 in 1853, when the point of maximum production was reached. Five years had sufficed to bring into view the beginning of the end of that wonderful bonanza. But large as are the figures of the gold yield for those years, consider what the average share per miner must have been. The average yield for each miner in the field