

Written for this Paper.

## AT ST. JOHN, KANSAS.

St. John, Stafford Co., Kan.,

Sept. 7, 1895.

Our party arrived at this place at 12:10 this morning, all well. We were joined at Hutchinson, on our way here from Burton, by Elders Wallace, Vincent, Bowling, Margetta and others, on their way to conference from their fields of labor. It was a happy occasion to meet friends from Utah. Elder Wallace was poorly in health, but will soon recover. He is fast improving.

After writing you from Denver, in the afternoon we took the Sixteenth street cable car, which runs through the heart of the city, to the eastern, northeastern, northern and southeastern boundaries of the city. The two rides with transfers, give the visitor a very good idea of Denver and its gardens and beautiful residences, and other points of interest, not leaving out the Union depot 700 feet long. The tower is 170 feet high; it is a beauty and cost \$300,000.

We left Denver just at evening, in a commodious spring-back chair car, arriving at Elsworth about 10 a.m., where we take a cross road over a branch of the Santa Fe railroad, 70 miles to Burton. We left Elsworth 15 minutes to 2 p.m. It is 68 miles from Burton to St. John, where we arrived at 12:10 a.m. We were met by the Elders, and on Saturday, the 7th, we held a Priesthood meeting and had a good time giving instructions. In the evening we had a general meeting. The tolling bell caused the people to fill the church. With others, I made some remarks to the strangers, which were received with every appearance of good will. We were removed from the hotel to the family of Mr. Calvin Glasscock, the gentleman who donated several lots to the Church, for the purpose of building a meeting house upon. There are some peculiar circumstances connected with these city lots and church building which I will mention. The items referred to I have gleaned from Elder George Baker, a former member of Mr. Bickerton's church.

Mr. Bickerton came to this place, St. John, in the fall of 1874. About one and a half miles northeast of our Mormon church building, Mr. Bickerton was heard to shout more than a mile away. He said it was revealed to him that a Stake of Zion should be built up. He procured a spoke, drove a nail in it, and planted it on those grounds, out of sight. Father Baker's daughter had an open vision, and told her father that she saw Mr. Bickerton endeavoring to build up a Stake of Zion, but he was confused, dwindled away, failed, and finally disappeared. Quite a number of the Bickertonites gathered here, but Mr. Bickerton could not find his stake after he had planted it. Miss Baker further said that in her vision a house was built on the spot where the meeting house now stands; Bickerton would fail, but there would be a success after. She saw the present church building, pointed out the spot of ground, and said it would be the county seat.

Brother Baker in telling us these things said that at the time of the vision, it was the corner of four counties. But with earnestness he said,

"Now here is the meeting house, or here, called church. There is the county court house. The vision is fulfilled, Bickerton is broken up and has disappeared into the shade." Several who left Mr. Bickerton have joined the Church.

The day of our arrival we held a Priesthood meeting with twenty-four Utah Elders present. In the evening we held a public meeting in the Church building which we nicely filled. Sunday, a Sunday school was organized, dedicatory prayer offered and a crowded meeting held, at which great interest was taken. The crowds which came, and some ten miles from the country, overflowed the church, and carriages were drawn up to the windows.

The good citizens of St. John clubbed together and hired the large pavilion or three nights. Sunday night, although a thunder cloud came up, there was a great crowd to hear a lecture previously announced in the town proper as an illustrated lecture by Elder Edward Stevenson, which was concluded on a part of the next evening, and a very interesting lecture followed by Elder Andrew Kimball.

On Monday, conference continued, and a free ride was tendered by the city. On Tuesday, the 10th, two meetings were held. A photograph of the church building and a great crowd grouped around was taken. In the evening a grand free concert was held in the pavilion.

The great interest taken by the people of St. John is rather marvelous. They have donated several lots, subscribed towards moving a beautiful church building on to the grounds, and now are about putting a windmill pump on the lots so that a lawn and shrubs may be planted. The mayor, officers, and several preachers turned, to an astonishing extent.

We are invited to remain over Wednesday and give a lecture in the pavilion, on our travels to Utah, experiences there, and our irrigation system. The water system here is very good. Water is twenty feet below surface and is pumped up by lots of windmills. The water seems to be very sweet and pure. It can be drawn up easily for irrigation purposes. The wind is almost constant here. Were it not so it would be very sultry. Our people say they perspire so easily, the atmosphere is so different from our mountain air. We are invited out often, and one Baptist said he would take in two Elders and furnish a fat sheep.

I expect that the minutes of the conference will be finished hence I leave that portion. Only I will add that the Church building stands upon an eminence and is a fine structure painted white. It is not surpassed by any of the churches in town. The six lots were donated to the Mormon Church by Mr. Calvin Glasscock, a merchant of the town. The citizens also donated \$50 to aid in moving the building which was purchased by the Elders. The dimensions of the six lots are in the aggregate 180 feet by 120 feet. The cozy little Church is 28x44 feet, 14 feet to the square and 18 feet to the center of the ceiling. The bell weighs 528 pounds. The steeple is 70 feet high. It was estimated that 300

souls occupied the Church at conference, and many were outside at the windows. Great interest was manifested and we are welcomed on every hand.

EDWARD STEVENSON.

## UTAH COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

CASTILLA SPRINGS, Utah, Sept. 14, 1895.—The first annual session of the Utah County Teachers' association was held at this noted resort.

The following organization was effected:

Vice-president, W. S. Rawlings,  
Secretary, Susan B. Swenson.

Corresponding secretary, Cora Groesbeck.

Executive committee: C. E. Christensen, of Springville; James A. Reeser, Spanish Fork; Z. S. Taylor, Payson; D. H. Robison, Pleasant Grove; W. R. Calderwood, American Fork; G. W. Child, Lehi; S. P. Egerton, Provo.

Chorister, J. A. Vance, of Alpine.  
Assistant chorister, T. R. Kelley, Springville.

Organist, Prof. Glier.

Prof. Stewart, of the University of Utah, spoke upon the subject of schoolroom ethics. Intellectuality is dependent upon morality. He wished to discuss the subject from an ideal standpoint, to assist the teachers in working out their ideals. All progress is the working out of the divine in the being. Sympathy and knowledge are the foundation of ethical knowledge. The same shallowness as is exhibited in politics and society is found in education. Deception is the chief step toward immorality. This shameness in education was particularly exhibited at the last Territorial fair. This same condition is brought about through false incentive, such as encouraging a desire for popularity—to have the names of pupils published in newspapers, etc. Virtue brings its own reward. The ultimate effect of every act is unavoidable, so true character must be content to wait for the slow but inevitable results; and character thus produced will be able to resist temptation. Morality proceeds from self outwardly. The child is a bundle of selfishness. His sympathy extends first to members of his own family, his playmates, his countrymen, his fellowman. Thus inaugurate the era of "universal brotherhood and peace on earth good will to man." Approbation sought for as an end becomes a demoralizing factor instead of a moral agent. Children may be spoiled by praise and applause. Approbation is moral only when it convinces the child of the harmonious action of itself with others and with the right. Sympathy should be reciprocal. Disapprobation to be moral must be saturated with sympathy—is manifested for the express purpose of producing reform, and especially is it effective when coupled with true approbation. Crystallized truths cannot be transplanted from the adult mind to the child mind unless conditions are created to make such possible. Moral conduct is the adjustment of acts to the highest ends, and must produce a sympathy that carries a consciousness of perfect action.

Dr. Maeser addressed the teachers