

they had been published two weeks earlier.—[E.S.]

FROM CARSON COUNTY.—Elder Christopher Merkle and son, Riley Stewart, James and Simpson Riddle and N. Dodge arrived from Carson Valley on the 17th inst. They left Genoa on the 18th of November, expecting to make the trip through in 15 days by the new route, but in consequence of the cold stormy weather during the whole journey they could not make speed, got out of provision; could get none from the Indians nor find any game, and as a last resort killed one of their horses about 175 miles out. All was going on about right in that distant part of the Territory. Mr. James Townsend arrived there in 20 days from this city by the Northern route.—[E.S.]

INFORMATION WANTED BY Mrs. Sarah Wight, of Grand Saline, Cherokee Nation, formerly Miss Sarah Hatfield, of her uncles John, Joseph, James and Abraham Hatfield, sons of Joseph and Nancy Hatfield, from England. If either of those persons are residents of this Territory they will confer a special favor on Mrs. Wight by reporting themselves the first opportunity, and any information concerning them or their whereabouts will be thankfully received by her, and if directed to us will be duly forwarded.—[E.S.]

T. S. WILLIAMS & Co.'s train, reported on the way in from Fort Bridger last week, arrived on Monday evening, the 17th. They lost 15 head of oxen more this side of Weber, and were 9 days on the road from there in. The snow on the east side of the Big mountain was seven feet deep, and they were three days and two nights getting over, during which time their cattle were without feed and were not unyoked, but Captains Moore and Knowlton, who were in charge, succeeded in overcoming every obstacle, tramped and packed the snow and got the wagons over contrary to our expectations.—[E.S.]

DOINGS AT THE CAPITOL.

FILLMORE, Dec. 13, 1855.

JUDGE ELIAS SMITH—Dear Sir:—

The two branches of the Legislative Assembly met in their respective rooms, in the south wing of the State House in this city, on the 10th inst., at 10 a.m. The Hon. A. W. Babbitt, Secretary, called the roll of the members elect to the Council, all of whom were present, and administered the usual oath to the following named members:—

FROM GREAT SALT LAKE COUNTY.—Heber C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells, Albert Carrington, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff.

FROM DAVIS COUNTY.—John Stoker.

FROM WEBER COUNTY.—Lorin Farr, Lorenzo Snow.

FROM UTAH AND JUAB COUNTIES.—Leonard E. Harrington, Benjamin F. Johnson.

FROM SAN PETE COUNTY.—Isaac Morley.

FROM MILLARD COUNTY.—John A. Ray.

FROM IRON COUNTY.—George A. Smith.

The Council proceeded to organize, unanimously electing Heber C. Kimball, President; Thomas W. Ellerbeck, Secretary; Leo Hawkins, Assistant Secretary; Alexander McRae, Sergeant-at-arms; Samuel L. Sprague, Messenger; Hiram B. Bennett, Foreman; Parley P. Pratt, Chaplain; George Hales, Public Printer. The customary oath was administered to each of the officers.

At 10 a.m., Mr. Bullock, Chief Clerk of the House during the last Session, called the roll of the members elect; all were present, except Hon. William A. Hickman, Representative from Green River county.

Secretary Babbitt made a few explanatory remarks touching the lack of sufficient and proper furniture, &c., and administered the oath to the following named members:—

FROM GREAT SALT LAKE COUNTY.—Jedediah M. Grant, Wm. W. Phelps, Albert P. Rockwood, Edwin D. Woolley, James W. Cummings, Hosea Stout, Samuel W. Richards, Jesse C. Little, William Snow, Paines H. Young, Gladus V. Spencer.

FROM TOOELE COUNTY.—Ezra T. Benson.

FROM UTAH COUNTY.—James C. Snow, Aaron Johnson, Lorenzo H. Hatch.

FROM JUAB COUNTY.—Jacob G. Bigler.

FROM SAN PETE COUNTY.—George Peacock.

FROM MILLARD COUNTY.—John Eldredge.

FROM IRON COUNTY.—Isaac C. Haight, Jesse N. Smith.

FROM DAVIS COUNTY.—John D. Parker, Jesse Hobson.

FROM WEBER COUNTY.—Jonathan C. Wright, James Brown.

FROM CARSON COUNTY.—Enoch Reese.

The House organized by unanimously electing Jedediah M. Grant, Speaker; Thomas Bullock, Chief Clerk; Jonathan Grimshaw, Assistant Clerk; Alfred N. Billings, Sergeant-at-arms; Jacob F. Hutchinson, Messenger; Chandler Holbrook, Foreman; Joel H. Johnson, Chaplain; and each took the oath pertaining to his respective office.

The Council and House were respectively informed of their organization, and readiness to attend to business.

His Excellency Brigham Young, Governor of Utah; Hon. A. W. Babbitt, Secretary; Hon. J. F. Kinney, G. P. Stiles, and W. W. Drummond, Judges of the Supreme Court; Hon. J. L. Heywood, Marshal; Hon. T. R. King, Probate Judge in Millard county; and the Hon. Asa Lyman and Erastus Snow were tendered the freedom of the Council.

After concurring in a motion for a joint session at 2 p.m. of the 11th, and appointing a joint committee to wait upon His Excellency the Governor and inform him that the two Houses were organized and ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make, the Council and House adjourned until 1 p.m. of Dec. 11, with a view to give the officers an opportunity to prepare more conveniences for the dispatch of business.

The Hon. Secretary has evinced much zeal in his efforts to suitably furnish the Assembly Rooms, but owing to various circumstances much remains to be done before they are appropriately fitted up, though the Secretary is diligent in causing improvements daily.

Dec. 11, 2 p.m., the two Houses met in joint session in the Representatives' Hall. The committee introduced His Excellency the Governor, who made a few very appropriate remarks and presented his annual message to the Assembly, which was read by Mr. Bullock; received and 1000 copies ordered to be printed.

Hon. H. C. Kimball, President of the Assembly, appointed Counselors Geo. A. Smith, D. H. Wells and A. Carrington, and Representatives W. W. Phelps, E. D. Woolley, H. Stout, S. W. Richards, J. C. Little and W. Snow a special committee to take into consideration and report upon the mode of procedure requisite in the initiatory steps for admission into the Union as a State.

The members of the Assembly have been quite busy at settling themselves in lodgings, which, in addition to the uncompleted furnishing operations of the Secretary, has tended to retard business a trifle, as yet, but we expect soon to be under full headway in law making.

Truly yours, ALBERT CARRINGTON.

Returned Missionaries' Party in the Social Hall.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29, 1855.

At 5 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Seth M. Blair, manager pro. tem., and opened by prayer from Milo Andrus.

There was present of the First Presidency of the Church, Jedediah M. Grant, who arrived after the dancing commenced, and managed the proceedings of the party.

Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball were not in attendance in consequence of indisposition, also Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop.

Of the Twelve Apostles, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Ezra T. Benson, Wilford Woodruff, and George A. Smith, were present.

Besides, between fifty and sixty others, returned missionaries.

President Grant said he expected the missionaries would all dance, and dispense with the necessity of calling upon them by number; and those missionaries that cannot dance, and do not try, we shall consider have not fulfilled their missions this evening. He then led off in the dance, which he executed in right good earnest. The whole company caught the electric spark, and "good earnest" characterized the exercises of the evening.

The hall was beautifully lighted by two large chandeliers hung from the ceiling. On the west wall were suspended two profile likenesses, life size, executed in oil, of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. They were painted in Nauvoo by David Rogers of New York, in the year 1842, and are the property of President B. Young, and are the truest delineations of the features of those distinguished individuals in existence. The north and south walls were decorated with various paintings in oil, and some copper and steel plate executions. The drapery of the curtains, and the disposition of articles of furniture in the room gave it a comfortable and imposing appearance.

After their hardships and toil, hunger and thirst, narrow escapes and weariness, and suffering the abuses of this inhospitable world, the returned missionaries felt glad to breathe in security the air of comfort around them, and to inhale the spirit of welcome that Brigham, our great leader and common father, gave to them on their return.

After the company had exercised in dancing for some time, Elder William Willes, returned missionary from India, was introduced by the manager to sing, "The Hive of Deseret," composed by himself. The composition and the manner in which it was sung had an enchanting influence. We felt like bees in autumn, far from the hive, striving and longing to gain the warm, hospitable and secure shelter of home. With the last words of the song, the hallucination passed off, and we found ourselves at home with our wives and children and friends, ready to engage in the dance.

At 7 o'clock, supper was announced, when the company repaired to the basement story, where they partook of a substantial repast. None went from the hospitable board dissatisfied; the tea and the coffee were excellent, there was plenty of sugar to sweeten with, and no draining of cream jugs, for there seemed to be a perfect flow of milk and, not honey, but good tea and coffee.

It is not my design to give you a full list of the substantial we partook of, I need only say they were well prepared and in abundance. The hand that provided them is a liberal one, and every soul blessed it.

As to the style in which the supper was served up, and the tables set out, I need only say that Mr. Wm. C. Staines superintended the arrangements.

After supper the dancing again commenced, which continued for some time, when songs were sung by W. Willes and sister P. P. Pratt.

When the evening was well advanced, and the party had exercised themselves much in the dance, President Grant addressed the returned missionaries as follows:—

I had anticipated that President Young would have been with us to-night, and also President Kimball; that we would have had the privilege of listening to their instructions, and of receiving at least their welcome blessing upon the heads of these my brethren and sisters.

It is in consequence of indisposition they are not with us.

I will say to the missionaries returned, you are welcome. The prayers of your brethren you have had; you have had their united faith. When assembled in their prayer circles they have implored the Almighty in your behalf.

You have had the faith of the quorum of the Twelve, being one always with the First Presidency; you have had the faith of all the concen-

trated authorities in this capital of the saints of God in the last days.

You have returned home where our blessing of welcome meets you; and when we bless you it extends also to your wives and children, and to all you inherit, and they inherit what you inherit; your increase is their increase; your extension is their extension; and your circle and circumference is theirs; your heaven is theirs, your enjoyment is theirs, and all your estate, and dominion, and all the Almighty has, or may bestow upon you in this or in the next state of being is theirs. Your families are immediately and jointly associated with you, and do and will forever partake of all your blessings, and of all you possess.

You have traveled much over this wide world; some of you have crossed the briny deep to different climes and zones of the earth. You have been tried; your lives have been jeopardized often. You have been in situations where nothing but the power of God could sustain and deliver you. You have felt to trust in God. And the feelings of your brethren that preside over you, are, that you have done well, you have done your duty; you have traveled and preached the gospel, and kept yourselves pure, and have come home with God's Spirit upon you.

And all the elders from abroad, who were never here before, that have labored conjointly with you in different parts of the world, who have bid adieu to their native land to preach the gospel to others, and to come to Zion they are also welcome, they share our blessing with you who went from here. They have been blessed through the same fountain that has flowed to bless you.

You are here in these valleys bequeathed to us by the God of our fathers, for which we should be thankful. We can go forth in the dance, and our hearts are made glad. But these are pastimes, toys for children. The primary object we have in view is to build up the kingdom of God. This should engross our thoughts continually, at home and abroad. It should engage our talents and exertions here as elsewhere. You should not bury your talents when at home, but exert yourselves to sow the seeds of righteousness and immortality in the hearts of the saints, the principles that have inspired you while you were abroad preaching the gospel, which were revealed by holy prophets, sent from heaven by angels, and preached by prophets and apostles. You should exert yourselves to throw around them that favored influence you enjoy for their growth in righteousness and sanctification, and to prepare them for the great things that await us all.

For great things await us, not merely in theory, but in reality. Have not the saints of God—the kingdom of God—to grapple with, not only towns, cities, and nations, but with the world?—yea more, it has to cope with the universe, and give life and light to it, as well as to this lower creation.

There can only be one Adam, and that is the ruling power—that man who holds the keys of the kingdom of God on earth—that man is the Adam of the earth, he is God's mouthpiece, his presiding officer, and the only man who has the legal right to preside, and to turn the key of power, the key of life and death, and hold forth the sceptre of righteousness to the nations.

We live in the city where the keys of the kingdom of God are, where the choicest blessings of the Almighty are. And from this place—from this Territory, from these mountains, and from those keys I have alluded to, salvation has gone through you to all nations, and must through you and others go to every land and clime.

The relationship you sustain to your brethren who preside over you, to the Church of God, to the world, to the heavens, to your God, and to all the Gods that surround him, to the prophets, and to all the saints that dwell in the eternal worlds, is the reason why we regard ourselves thus, and have so great a work to perform.

We are led to reflect, while we rejoice at your return home, that some of our missionaries who went from here at the same time you went, have been called to another field of action, they have emigrated to another world. Bro. Orson Spencer is among that number. He has departed from this life. He died in St. Louis. After the fever had left him, he gradually declined until he fell asleep. With his surviving friends—with his family we deeply sympathize; also with others who are clad in mourning. But we do not mourn for them as for those who apostatize and die without hope.

May the God of heaven bless you; may his Spirit dwell with you, and with your families, and remain with you and with them; that you may go and return, meet and part, and continually be blessed. Whatever you do, keep the Spirit of God with you, that you may be blessed. And by all the authority and right given to me under the hands of the prophet Joseph, and the ordinations I have received from under the hands of our present prophet, and from those that were ordained by Peter, James and John; and by the light of the Holy Ghost in me, I bless you all in the name of Jesus Christ; and may the laurels you have entwined around your brows remain here untarnished forever. May your families be blessed from generation to generation; and may the increase of heaven be upon them; may they be like Ephraim and Manasseh breaking forth on the right and on the left until they cannot be numbered for multitude. And if you have not brought your thousands with you from the nations to swell the concourse of saints in Zion, may you increase until you are like the sands of the sea, and the stars in the firmament for number. May the blessings of Joseph, of Brigham and Heber, and all the priesthood of God be and abide with you from this time henceforth and forever. Amen.

Parley P. Pratt then said:—

I say amen to what has been said by President Grant, and acquiesce with the blessings he has pronounced upon you with all my heart.

I feel inclined to offer a few reflections.

I have had peculiar feelings in this assembly while meeting with many with whom I have associated during the past year on the western

coast, where they were laboring in conjunction with myself; where they were concentrated with me from the distant islands of the sea, and far off continents of the earth. Not only this, but I have been privileged to mingle and renew my acquaintance with persons from almost every nation and clime upon the globe, that have been out ministering the gospel, and have returned for the first time to this place.

I have beheld them, contemplated them, rejoiced in the light of their countenances this evening, and felt happy with them, and the beloved members of their families. And I have reflected on the difference of an assemblage of this kind enjoying themselves as we have in the feast, and in the dance, with songs, and with music, when compared with similar doings among the children of men abroad in their promiscuous assemblies. And I have thought that if there was a person, or an assemblage of persons on the earth, who have good reasons to come together and feast, and rejoice in the name of the Lord, and have a right so to do, it is these very persons, male and female, I have beheld together this night. It is the sisters who have cheerfully, and without a murmur, and even joyfully consented to part with their husbands, with those that are the dearest to them of all things on earth, to part with them for months, and even for long years. While mountains, deserts, and continents have intervened, and oceans have rolled between, they have passed dreary years in loneliness and as widows; while their husbands, for the gospel's sake, wandered far away in strange lands, and among strangers of another tongue, depriving themselves of the darling scenes around their own firesides, and from every thing on earth they held most dear; crossing deserts, climbing mountains, ranging the islands of the sea, and distant continents, among pestilence and famine, war and distress of nations. I say, who should rejoice in the dance? who should go forth and associate together with joy and thanksgiving to the God of Israel, with music, and feasting, and joyfulness of heart, if it is not these my brethren and sisters?

And while we feel to mourn and sympathize with those who have lost their husbands and fathers while on foreign missions; while we feel to mourn for ourselves that we are left without their society, yet we feel to say it is well with them. They have laid down their lives in a good cause, and a crown of glory awaits them. If we mourn, it is for their absence, and not that they have lost anything. If we mourn, it is because we have suffered the loss of their society. But we sorrow not as those without hope.

While I feel more than I can express towards these my brethren and sisters; while I feel a heart full of gratitude and love towards our First Presidency for opening the way for this enjoyment, we can only say it is not complete because they are not all with us.

I would express one wish in behalf of myself and my brother missionaries, which is, that we may all be found as ready to part with our wives or husbands, for the gospel's sake, as we have to come here and associate with them in the feast, and in the dance.

If we do this, and do it faithfully, and with all our hearts, we shall be counted worthy from time to time to mingle together as occasion may require, and associate with angels and the spirits of just men made perfect.

I trust the day is not far distant when we shall be privileged to assemble in heavenly places, where there is no veil between us and those who have passed into the eternal worlds, and meet among the assemblies of the sanctified.

May God bless you, I cannot pronounce more than my brother has done; but I say, may God bless you with all the blessings he has expressed, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Geo. A. Smith spoke:—

I have been highly delighted with the enjoyment of your society this evening, and also in listening to the blessings which have been pronounced upon your heads.

I am very grateful for the privilege of beholding your faces. I have read in the old scriptures when a boy, that the Lord would have fishers and hunters in the last days, who should fish and hunt for the house of Israel throughout the earth, in every hole and corner thereof; but I never dreamed that I should see the day, that I should actually attend a splendid party of those fishers of men the old prophet referred to, after their return home from their hunting and fishing excursions.

It is a new thing to me to enjoy a privilege like this, although I have been connected with the Church from boyhood.

I know the Lord has called you to fill a high and responsible calling; and you have traveled with the gospel to those who are wicked and an adulterous generation; yet in the great day of accounts you will find your reward in the fruits of your missions, as bread that has been cast upon the water, and gathered after many days.

In the great day when God shall make up his jewels, you will find to the fullest extent the blessings that have been pronounced upon your heads. And by the missions you have fulfilled, and the sacrifices you have made, you have not only secured to yourselves imperishable laurels that will be as crowns of glory on your heads; but you have planted the seed that will continue to swell, to grow, and increase until it shall overcome every institution that is not of God.

However small may be your missions in your own estimation, or in the estimation of others, they are nevertheless mighty in the overthrow of the wicked institutions of men.

Ezra T. Benson spoke.

As I have the privilege I wish to express my feelings in connection with my brethren.

While President Grant was speaking and invoking the blessing of God upon your heads, the reflection ran through my mind—are these my brethren and sisters? Are they the chosen of God? Yes. Are they worthy of the blessings