

BATTALION AND PIONEER FESTIVAL.

Soon after the return of President Young from his southern tour on the 19th of May last, a general invitation was extended by him and his Counsellors to those who served in the "Mormon Battalion" and to those who were of the Pioneers of 1847, to attend a grand festival at the New Theatre in Great Salt Lake City, on the 16th of July, in commemoration of the organization of the Battalion in the wilderness on the banks of the Missouri in 1846, in pursuance of which all of those in the Territory, whose circumstances would admit, to whom the invitation was extended, however distant their place of residence, availed themselves of the opportunity thus offered them of meeting and having a jubilant season with their former associates and companions with whom they shared the toils, the dangers and sufferings attendant upon the services the Battalion and Pioneers performed.

Not having been of the number we were not present at the festival, but we had the privilege of meeting and striking hands with many old friends and acquaintances from distant settlements, north and south, who came to participate in the festivities of the occasion, whom we had not seen for many years, some of them not since the exodus from Nauvoo, and among whom were those who, to our certain knowledge shared largely in the persecutions of the Saints in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois and Iowa, and never faltered under the most adverse circumstances—men who were ever ready to perform any service or to endure any hardship deemed necessary for the salvation of their friends, as was and is evidenced by their acts, not among the least of which was the leaving of their families and those dependent upon them for support and protection in the wilderness, beyond the confines of civilization, to serve their country at the call of its ungrateful rulers, in the war with Mexico, the results of which are too well known to require special notice.

Of the five hundred men who composed the Battalion, including officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, there were one hundred and eighty-one present at the festival, as reported; namely, of Company A, Capt. Jefferson Hunt, thirty-four; of Company B, Capt. Jesse D. Hunt, thirty-nine; of Company C, Capt. James Brown, thirty-six; of Company D, Capt. Nelson Higgins, thirty-eight, and of Company E, Capt. Daniel C. Davis, thirty-four. Captains Hunt, Brown and Higgins were present. Capt. Hunter is supposed to be living somewhere in California, where he remained after the Battalion was disbanded in 1847, and Captain Davis died on the plains as he was returning to Iowa in 1849 or '50. Of the one hundred and forty-three Pioneers there were fifty-five present which, together with the wives, mothers, sons and daughters of the "Battalion boys" and Pioneers and a few special guests, swelled the number who participated in or witnessed the festivities of that joyous occasion to about eight hundred.

The hour appointed for the commencement of the festival was two p.m., and shortly thereafter the party commenced, and continued till seven, when a recess of about an hour and a half was taken, after which dancing was resumed and continued till ten in the evening, when it ceased, and President Young addressed the assembly, much to their edification, nearly three-quarters of an hour, followed by President Kimball in a short speech. Captains Hunt, Brown and Higgins each addressed those present a few minutes. Several songs were sung by Mr. J. D. T. McAllister; after which dancing was in order, which was continued till four o'clock in the morning, when the festive amusements of that memorable and interesting occasion were closed by the benediction of President Brigham Young.

A BUNCH OF KEYS.—A few days since a bunch of keys was left at our office, said to have been found by some person in Mill Creek Canyon, which the owner can obtain on identification.

AUCTION SALE.—Little & Hardy have announced to the public that they will, on Thursday next, (to-morrow) at the store lately occupied by Hooper, Eldredge & Co., sell at auction, an extensive assortment of watches and jewelry—no old refuse trash, but an entire new stock, never before offered for sale in this market, which the owner wishes to convert into "Legal Tenders."

CALIFORNIA NEWS ITEMS.

At the Democratic State Convention, which met at Sacramento on the 8th inst. Ex-Gov. J. G. Downey of Los Angeles, was nominated for Governor, and A. W. McKinstry, of Tuolumne, for Lieut.-Governor. For members of Congress, John Bigler, of Sacramento, John B. Weller, of Alameda and ——— Whitesides of Yuba, were put in nomination. A platform, constructed by a committee appointed for that purpose, was adopted unanimously, consisting of nine planks—some wide, others narrow. The planks are described as placed together in the following order:

1. That the Democracy of the State of California are in favor of an unalterable adherence to the Constitution of the United States, with all its guarantees of civil liberty unimpaired.

2. That we are in favor of the restoration and preservation of the whole American Union; that we recognize to its fullest extent the right and duty of the Government to resist by every constitutional mode rebellion or insurrection against its lawful supremacy; but we recognize that right solely for the purpose of restoring its constitutional authority, and for no other purpose whatever.

3. That it is the duty of the State of California, as a member of the Union, to yield obedience to all constitutional acts of Congress and the Federal Executive, and that any individual, of any party, who shall endeavor to incite insurrection or rebellion within her borders, or disaffection and discord among her people, is a traitor to her best interests.

4. That the aim and object of the Democratic party is to preserve the Federal Union and the rights of the several States unimpaired; and they hereby declare that they do not consider the Administrative usurpation of extraordinary and dangerous powers not granted by the Constitution—the subversion of the civil by military law in States not in insurrection or rebellion—the arbitrary military arrest, imprisonment, trial and sentence of American citizens in such States where civil law exists in full force and vigor—the suppression of freedom of speech and of the press—the open and avowed disregard of state rights—the fanatical attempt to place the negro on a social and political equality with the white race—and the employment of unusual test oaths—as calculated to preserve or restore a union of the several States—or perpetuate a Government "deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed."

5. That we are opposed to all secret political organizations and societies, as dangerous to the liberties of the people and destructive of our republican form of government.

6. That we claim and demand as inalienable rights, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press, and further declare that Government agents should at all times be held to a strict accountability to the people, and that all errors of such agents should be liable to the full and free exercise of untrammelled popular discussion, for the purpose of correction by the ballot box.

7. That we denounce and unqualifiedly condemn the Emancipation Proclamation of the President of the United States, as tending to protract indefinitely civil war, incite servile insurrection, and inevitably close the door forever to a restoration of the union of these States.

8. That we disapprove of all Congressional laws tending to substitute a paper currency in California in place of our own metallic circulating medium.

9. That the spirit and meaning of the Democratic platform of this State are comprised in the words, "The Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was."

The planks, which seem somewhat closely joined together make quite a wide concern, and probably covers more ground than the "copperheads" as the Democrats are there generally called, will be able to maintain in the approaching contest; but in the event that those who have emigrated to the Pacific slope this year were allowed to vote, it seems to be admitted that the Union party would be badly beaten.

There was great rejoicing in all the principal cities and towns in the upper part of the State, on receipt of the news of the late Federal victories, and a large quantity of powder was burned. In Shasta three hundred and fifty guns are reported to have been fired, and in few places there were less than one hundred. The professed Unionists rejoiced, as stated, with "exceeding great joy."

The Union, in an article on the emigration to California this season, speaks quite disparagingly of its character, which it represents to be largely of the "copperhead" order. At least ninety nine out of a hundred of the emigrants, it is alleged, would vote the "Peace Democratic ticket," if allowed the right of franchise. It is averred that men who have been in the Confederate army, as many of them have, are not calculated to make desirable citizens of that State, as in the event of a conflict, they would be likely to take up arms again against the Government.

It is predicted, however, that peace will continue in the Golden State, unless armed Secessionists shall resist the laws of the United States or of the State, against which precautionary measures have been and will continue to be taken.

A doctor Beers, formerly from Brooklyn, N. Y., recently in San Francisco, killed his wife and daughter, a girl about ten years of age, and then opened a blood vessel in one of his hands and bled himself to death. Murders and suicides in that State appear to be more frequent as time progresses, and insanity seems also to be more prevalent.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday, the 15th inst., as some men were at work on a water ditch or canal, near Ogden, a portion of the bank, which was somewhat steep on the upper side of the ditch, caved in, and seriously injured two men, named Warner and Turner, the former fatally, as believed by our informant, Dr. Anderson, of this city, who was sent for to attend the sufferers by the casualty immediately after its occurrence.

FROM THE MISSIONARIES.—We have been favored with the perusal of a letter from Franklin Merrill to his father, Albert Merrill, of this city, dated New York, July 5th, announcing that in company with Joseph Romney and twelve others—the last of the missionaries who left Florence—he should sail for Liverpool on the morning of the 6th, in the steamer Mersey. They were all well and their spirits buoyant in anticipation of the future.

NEW WOOL-CARDING MILL.—During a cursory stroll through Pres. H. C. Kimball's grounds, we visited his unique carding-mill. The machine, (an imported one) with its appurtenances, is of somewhat miniature proportions, but most finished in all its parts. Besides working up his own wool, this little machine is capable of doing a considerable amount of work to order; and being within the city limits will afford a favorable opportunity for the carding of small (or large) quantities of wool on short notice, without the necessary outlay of time, including team expense, in conveying it a greater distance. The rolls we saw were of good quality. The amount of water used in propelling the power was very small—a fortunate circumstance at the present low stage of the mountain streams.

INFORMATION WANTED.—Whoever knows of the whereabouts of JOHN CROUCH, who came to this Territory in 1856, will confer a favor by reporting to Daniel Tyler, at Washington, Washington co., U. T., or to this office.

JUAB COUNTY ITEMS.

NEPHI, July 15, 1863.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

Always feeling interested in reading the communications which appear from time to time in our welcome visitor (the News) and having a few spare moments, I will try and pen a short one, which I hope will prove interesting to your numerous readers.

MEETING AT OUR NEW SOCIAL HALL.

On Friday evening last, we had the pleasure of being addressed by the Hon. G. A. Smith, Judge Kinney and Elder A. Lyman.

G. A. Smith spoke some time in his usual humorous and interesting style, relating many incidents concerning the doings of our Federal judges and U. S. officials in regard to their conduct during their sojourn among the inhabitants of this Territory, and concluded by introducing to the assembly Judge Kinney—our expected Delegate to Congress.

Judge Kinney arose amidst the smiles of the people, which showed that he was welcome. He spoke for some time, remarking that he had started on this tour in company with his esteemed friend, G. A. Smith, that he might become better acquainted with the people and their wants, and felt pleased to see the improvement which had taken place since his last visit to this city, and in fact in every place he had passed through.

He made some excellent remarks on the relationship between this people and the general government, and brought forth many facts to prove that if any of the citizens of the United States were worthy of the fostering care of the parent government it was the people of Utah, for they had settled in the most sterile and uninviting portion of the public domain. Their sons had opened the gold fields of California; had fed and protected thousands of emigrants; caused the desert to blossom as the rose by their industry had erected many towns and cities. They had also assisted to erect the telegraph, and for years had furnished the overland mail with food for man and beast. He concluded by saying that

he should be proud to represent in the councils of the nation such a loyal, industrious and united people as inhabit this Territory.

Elder Lyman spoke a short time, and felt glad to meet with his friends, G. A. Smith, Judge Kinney and the citizens of Nephi. He continued a short time on the same subjects as his predecessors.

CROPS.

Our crops of wheat and oats are not as good as in former years, but sugar cane, corn and potatoes look well. I will here mention that those who follow the system of summer fallowing their land, raise more grain than those who either let their land raise weeds or crop year after year on the same land.

IMPROVEMENTS.

In regard to improving, I can truly say that the people are more spirited in building, etc., than I have ever seen them before; but there is a lack of joiners and several houses are at a stand-still for want of workmen in that line. I am glad to see so much good lumber seasoning at our new meeting-house. We are in expectation of seeing it finished in the course of three months. More joiners are needed on that building.

The frame of a new grist-mill has lately been erected, much larger than our old one. The mill is owned by Mr. John Hague, and will be finished this fall.

Messrs. Adams and Jones have erected a shingle machine at the nail factory, at which place I noticed several sets of sugar rollers, of a first-rate quality, lately made by the above firm.

Messrs. Andrews and Bosnell intend to put in their saw-mill a four feet circular in a few weeks. They have sent to the Eastern States for a first-class carding machine, which is expected on this fall.

NEW ROUTE—NEW CANYON OPENED.

In accordance with a request made by Pres. Young, the citizens of this place, Goshen and Summit have been working a road through lower Salt Creek canyon, which is finished with the exception of a bridge, which the people of Goshen are to build. This route to Great Salt Lake City will shorten the distance, some say, from ten to twenty miles.

SOCIAL HALL AGAIN.

This evening Mr. T. A. Lyne and Mr. H. L. Raymond are to give a dramatic and musical entertainment.

MORE ANON.

SAMUEL PITCHFORTH.

P.S.—We expect to have a nomination meeting in a few days, when our friend Kinney will not be forgotten.

S. P.

MINUTES

Of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Davis County Branch of the D. A. & M. Society, held at Farmington, July 6, 1863.

Hector C. Haight was unanimously re-elected President.

Judson L. Stoddard, of Farmington, Lorenzo W. Roundy, of Centreville, Wm. S. Muir, of Bountiful and Christopher Layton, of Freedom were re-elected Directors, as also was James Leithhead, Treasurer.

It being considered advantageous to have more Directors, the following named persons were chosen and appointed to act in that position, viz:

John K. Crosby, Jesse N. Perkins and Henry Tingey, of Bountiful.

William Reeves, of Centreville.

Thomas S. Smith and Henry W. Miller, of Farmington.

Joseph Egbert and William Paine, of Freedom.

The following resolutions were then unanimously passed, viz:

That our annual Fair be held on Friday and Saturday, 25th and 26th September.

That Hector C. Haight, President, be a committee to wait on the County Court and request the use of the Court House, at Farmington for holding the Fair; and also to request the services of the Deseret brass band during the time the Fair will be open.

That the following named persons be requested to act as judges on these several classes of articles to be exhibited:

On Horses: Thomas S. Smith, Christopher Layton and David W. Sessions.

On Cattle: William R. Smith, Sidney B. Kent and John S. Smith.

On Sheep: Jesse N. Perkins, John Ford and Edmund Webb.

On Grain and Vegetables: Lorenzo W. Roundy, Richard Jones and Edward Phillips.

On Fruit and Flowers: Daniel Carter, Joseph Egbert and Zachariah Cheney.

On Farming Tools: Reuben Broadbent, Thomas F. Fisher and Ira Oviatt.

On Home-made Cloth, Yarn, etc.: Mrs. J. P. Barnard, Mrs. P. G. Sessions, Mrs. H. W. Miller, Mrs. A. B. Cherry and Mrs. E. Phillips.

On Needle-work, Embroidery, etc.: Mrs. H. C. Haight, Mrs. Daniel Carter and Mrs. T. S. Smith.

On Horse-racing: Judson L. Stoddard, Lot Smith and William Atkinson.

A adjourned till second Monday in September.

HECTOR C. HAIGHT, President.

ARTHUR STAYNER, Secretary.