

Columbia. The Deseret Dramatic Association, the Deseret Musical Association and the Schools, presented a very pleasing and graceful appearance, as, indeed, the entire procession. The 13 young gentlemen representing the original colonies, the 35 young ladies, representing the States, and 9 young ladies representing the Territories, were particularly attractive.

Presidents Young and Kimball and others joined the procession opposite Pres. Young's office. But we must hurry on to

THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE BOWERY.

On the stand, which was very tastefully decorated with evergreens, fruits, bouquets and garlands of flowers, we noticed several of our leading citizens, including Presidents Young and Kimball, the Hon. J. M. Ashley, Chairman of Committee on Territories and some other gentlemen, with the members of the Committee of Arrangements.

After "Hail Columbia" by the band and the National Hymn by the Musical Association, prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Elder Geo. A. Smith. Another song preceded the reading the Declaration of Independence, and after "The Star Spangled Banner" by the band, the Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon, delivered the following

ORATION:

FELLOW CITIZENS:

We meet to-day to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the grand and glorious birth of our Nation. Eighty-nine years ago, this day, the Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled, solemnly published and declared to the universal world, that the United Colonies were and of right ought to be FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES. A nation was ushered into being which had for its basis these impregnable and self-evident truths, enunciated in the immortal Declaration of Independence.—"That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;" a broad foundation upon which to rear the glorious fabric of free government, under which all the nations and peoples of the earth might enjoy the fullest civil and religious liberty.

To us who dwell in these mountains, the anniversary of that memorable day is endeared by ties of a peculiar character. With many, 4th of July orations may seem trite and hackneyed, but with our peculiar faith and views there are a thousand reasons why we should reverence this day and find food for constant reflection and thanksgiving in contemplating the momentous consequences which followed the Declaration of Independence. The self-denial and patriotism of the Revolutionary Fathers have produced magnificent fruits; and though they could not foresee all the consequences of that act, yet, a sufficient degree of the spirit of prophecy rested upon them, to give them glimpses of the glorious future of the country for which they battled so nobly, and for which they risked so much that she might be free.

"Whatever may be our fate," said John Adams, after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, "be assured that this Declaration will stand. It may cost treasure; it may cost blood; but it will richly compensate for both. Through the thick gloom of the present I see the brightness of the future as the sun in heaven. We shall make this a glorious an immortal day. When we are in our graves, our children will honor it; they will celebrate it with thanksgiving, with festivities, with bonfires, with illuminations. On its annual return, they will shed tears, not of subjection and slavery, not of agony and distress, but of exultation and gratitude and of joy. Sir, before God, I believe the hour has come. All that I have, all that I am, all that I hope for in this life, I am now ready here to stake upon it; and I leave off as I began, that live or die, sink or swim, survive or perish, I am for the Declaration. It is my living sentiment, and, by the blessing of God, it shall be my dying sentiment—Independence now and Independence for ever."

These were the sentiments which animated the signers of the Declaration of Independence; these were the hopes in which they indulged. They anticipated, and with good reason, the most glorious consequences from their sacrifices. Throughout that long and dreary struggle, when in poverty and in distress they had battled with the proudest nation of the world for the freedom of themselves and their country, they had felt the sustaining hand of that Power which is greater than man; they knew that it was God, and He alone, who had given them such signal victories over their proud and implacable foes. Such signal deliverances as they had experienced gave them the strongest reasons to have the highest anticipations respecting the future destiny of the country which they had been the instruments, in the hands of God, of liberating.

While the Fathers of the Republic indulged in the brightest anticipations of the glorious future that awaited the people of the United States, they were, nevertheless, harrassed by fears that the people themselves would prove unequal to the trust reposed in them. It was an experiment such as the world had never seen, and such as Europe scoffed at and denounced as utopian. Monarchists had declared that man was incapable of self-government, and cited the history of previous republics to sustain their position. From the disorders which had disfigured the annals of those republics, the partisans of despotism had drawn arguments, not only against the forms of republican government, but against the very principles of civil liberty. They decried all free governments as inconsistent with the order of society, and indulged themselves in malicious exultation over its friends and advocates.

Imbued with a feeling of deep anxiety for the welfare of their country, Washington, Madison, and other wise leaders lifted up their voices in tones of solemn warning to their countrymen, indicating clearly the dangers to which they were liable. Though they were confident in the integrity of their own motives, and were satisfied as to the propriety of establishing such a form of government, yet they were fully aware that its success and perpetuity depended altogether on the integrity and correct deportment of the people. They fully realized that, by the indulgence in local prejudices and party animosities, under the guidance of ambitious leaders, occasions might easily be found or created for the introduction of sectional agitation and strife, that would result, unless checked, in the dismemberment of the Union. They were not blind to the evils which monarchists predicted would attend the republic; neither did they pass off the stage of action without solemnly warning the people against the fearful dangers of disruption. They knew that the safety and preservation of the Union, and all the blessings of a free government, were dependent upon the integrity of the people—that so long as they abstained from local prejudices and attachments from separate views and party animosities, and accorded unto all the same privileges they claimed for themselves, so long the Union would be preserved intact. The following is the sentiment of James Madison, one of the most faithful and zealous founders of our Government, when entering upon his eightieth year, drawn from him by the portentous approach of a danger similar to that with which the Union has been so recently threatened in an aggravated form:

"In all the views that may be taken of questions between the State governments and the General Government, the awful consequences of a final rupture and dissolution of the Union should never be lost sight of. Such a prospect must be deprecated—must be shuddered at by every friend of his country, to liberty, to the happiness of man. For, in the event of a dissolution of the Union, an impossibility of ever renewing it is brought home to every mind by the difficulties encountered in establishing it. The propensity of all communities to divide, when not pressed into a unity by external dangers, is a truth well understood. There is no instance of a people inhabiting even a small island, if remote from foreign danger, and sometimes in spite of that pressure, who are not divided into alien, rival, hostile tribes. The happy union of these States is a wonder; their constitution is a miracle; their example the hope of liberty throughout the world. Wo to the ambition that would meditate the destruction of either."

Animated by a like spirit, Washington, so truly called the Father of his country, uttered the following language, in his farewell address to the people of the United States, upon retiring from office:

"I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations; let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally. This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controled or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy. The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries, which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty. Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind, which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight, the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomented occasionally riot and insurrection."

How accurately they have described the evils to which the Republic was liable, we, who live to-day, are fully aware. Yet there was no necessity for these evils to have existed, grown and flourished. The Constitution was an instrument devised by the highest human wisdom, and was admirably adapted for the purpose for which it was designed. No better instrument was ever framed by human intellect. Under its wise provisions and guarantees, the people of every section and of every creed, on this great land, could dwell in peace and in harmony, and enjoy the most extensive rights consistent with good order. And its benefits need not have been confined to this Continent; but the people of every nation and of every land could become partakers of the blessings which are guaranteed, and dwell in peace and security under its aegis. But the views of its framers have not been carried out. The love of place and of power has risen paramount to the love of country; and those who should have been the most faithful defenders of the Constitution have been its most deadly foes. Instead, therefore, of a united and happy people, dwelling in peace and security, we have witnessed the sad spectacle of a divided nation, and have heard the tramp of marshaled forces rushing to battle one against another in deadly conflict.

While the Constitution was properly respected, and the wise admonitions of its framers were attended to, the nation became great, prosperous and happy without a parallel in history. But to have a people truly great and permanently prosperous, there is something more needed than a good Constitution, a perfect form of Government and liberal laws. With virtue and honesty in the people, and a disposition to strictly obey and comply with the laws, imperfect and faulty though they may be, an illiberal form of Government, and an inferior Constitution, do not check progress or entirely debar the subjects of such a Government from enjoying much real happiness.

But that Government which we have guaranteed unto us, under our Constitution, has never been excelled, if indeed it has ever been equalled, in the liberality of its provisions for the rights and enjoyment of its citizens. Under its benign working, when properly administered, man can enjoy the most perfect liberty compatible with his well-being, and progress to the highest point of excellence and greatness attainable in a state of mortality. There are no checks, no limits to his progress. His path is unobstructed by any obstacle which perseverance and energy cannot overcome.

So impressed were the Revolutionary Fathers with the perfection of the system of government which had been established, and the great benefits which would be wrought out for humanity by its operations, that they indulged in fond hopes respecting the spread of the principles of Republicanism throughout the earth, until not only the people of this continent would be benefitted by them, but the governments of other continents and countries would be so leavened by their influence that freedom would become the common boon of all people. Though their labors were confined to this land, and to the establishment of free government here, yet their great and philanthropic hearts beat high with hopes for the emancipation of the toiling and down-trodden millions of other lands, and they jealously watched and guarded every movement, knowing well that any misadventure on their part would injure the cause of liberty every where throughout the earth. The peace and happiness of the whole race of man were the objects for which they labored; and this was the aim which they kept constantly in view in the Declaration of Independence, in the framing of the Constitution and in all their acts in founding the Government. And had the people of these United States lived up to the Constitution, and the principles and precepts which the Fathers bequeathed to them, instead of there being division in our nation, and a deadly internecine war being waged between two sections, we would have gone on increasing in greatness and power until we would have annexed the world and extended the blessings of free government unto all people.

But the liberty which has been granted under the Constitution has been abused. The evils which the wise founders of the Republic dreaded, but which they hoped their posterity would avoid, have been suffered to grow and develop, until they have threatened to undermine and destroy every vestige of liberty. Washington urged upon his fellow-countrymen the necessity of harmony, honesty, industry and frugality; he warned them, as we have seen, of the dangers to be apprehended from indulging in party spirit. To the disregard of those counsels, the dangers which now environ the Republic are directly traceable. Politicians have sacrificed the interests of the country upon the altar of party; and instead of asking: "what is just? or what is right?" and maintaining justice and right at all hazards; each one has inquired "what is expedient? or what will best subserve the interest of myself and party?" These latter considerations have paralyzed the arm and calloused the conscience of nearly every public man in latter times. It was while under their influence that Martin Van Buren, when appealed to as President of the United States to defend American citizens in their rights when assailed by Mobocratic violence under the sanction of a State government, gave utterance to that expression which has made him so infamous in our eyes, "Gentlemen, your cause is just, but we can do nothing for you."

What are to be the results of this course? Are the hopes of the good and the virtuous and the patriotic of our own and other nations, respecting this land, to be blasted? Shall the advocates of despotism take fresh courage, and point to our difficulties as an evidence of man's incapacity and unfitness for self-government, and draw arguments therefrom against republicanism and in favor of despotic government? We answer, no; the voice of inspired prophecy and the experience of the past, blend with the hopes of the framers of the Declaration in emphatically answering, no. They with full confidence in the Divine Power, which had thrown protection around them like a wall of fire, gave that instrument to the world with the most sanguine hopes in the bright and glorious future which awaited our country. Yet this work was but the forerunner to a greater. They reared a temple of liberty amid the noble pillars of which the infant kingdom of God, then in the future, could gather strength and vigor and power to protect and perpetuate the edifice that gave it early shelter. While all others throughout this wide-spread republic celebrate this day because it is the anniversary of liberty and freedom to them, we doubly rejoice, for not only do we see in it the birth-day of civil and religious freedom, but the day-star of that glorious morn that would usher in light to chase away the night of ages, truth to drive error back to its dark bounds, and redemption for all mankind, till a regenerated world, emancipated from the slavery of sin and death, should bask in the eternal sunshine of salvation, exaltation and glory. They, through the dim vista of the future saw faintly the dawning light of that bright day; we looking from the past to the future, nearer to the effulgence of its glory, can see with closer vision its brilliancy, and feel already the heavenly warmth of its rays as they shine around our hearts.

If those to whom the sacred trust was committed should not prove true to their integrity, there is a people who revere the Hand by which the boon was bestowed, honor the men who were the chosen ones to usher in the birth-day of freedom to the world, and will cling to the Constitution till its blessings are enjoyed by every land trodden by the foot of man. Here before me to-day, and throughout these mountain valleys, is a people by whom the Constitution has steadfastly and constantly been honored. Driven by violence and in defiance of every constitutional guarantee from their homes, they have here, in the desert, reared a bulwark of union around that palladium of liberty, the Constitution, which violent hands defied and insulted in seeking to wrest from them their constitutional rights. While outside the limits of our settlements there have been discord, factious opposition, strife and frightful war, here there have been peace and its blessings; the spirit and letter of the Constitution have been honored by the people, and men have enjoyed their heaven-bestowed rights and privileges. Look around you and witness the growth of industry under the most adverse circumstances; contrast the bleak and forbidding sage-covered desert that met our eyes when they first beheld the spot that to-day has witnessed this grand celebration, with the fruit-laden orchards, the thriving gardens and farms, the elegant houses that rise on every hand; compare these fruits and flowers now lying before me with the roots and berries on which the naked and savage Indian eked out a miserable existence; then let your ears listen to the sounds of strife, borne on the wires to our peaceful homes, and the wail of anguish and sorrow that so lately arose through the land; and from these try to estimate some of the blessings of peace, liberty and happiness which all in this broad land may enjoy under the Constitution of our country, and as a consequence of the act we have this day assembled to commemorate.

We celebrate the day and honor the memory of the Revolutionary Fathers because they were the men who pioneered the way for the work in which we are engaged—because it was the initial step, in these latter times, in the pathway of endless and universal freedom; and when the rising glories of our country shall shine with effulgent splendor, and the children of every land shall enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom, we shall celebrate the day we have now assembled to commemorate, and honor the memory of those who have made it notable and glorious for all time.

The band played played "Yankee Doodle," and W. C. Dunbar, Esq. sang a song, chorussed by the D. M. A.; after which the Hon. J. M. Ashley was introduced to the assembly.

He stated how far it was from his thoughts, when he entered our beautiful city, at half-past one in the morning, that he should meet so large an assemblage of his fellow citizens celebrating the anniversary of our national freedom, or of being asked to say a word. He had been kindly waited upon at his hotel, and had received a card of invitation which he availed himself of. He was delighted, and felt as they say in the Methodist church, "that it is good to be here!" (a laugh). He knew something of us as a people;