

is such an abundance of material in Holy Writ that a compendium account can be gathered in than the need of scarcely anything to be inserted by the hand of man. These passages would easily be committed to memory by pupils and some of the choicest gems of sacred poetry be added in each chapter.

This is the plan followed in the schools of Switzerland. That little country stands at the head of all nations in educational matters. The plan works well, yet it needs hardly be said that the schools of Switzerland are non-sectarian. Besides the true principles of Christianity, a general church history both of the Old and the New Testament is contained in the textbooks, and a carefully revised and condensed Bible is used in connection with it, so that when the children leave school altogether they cannot remonstrate with their teachers and with the state for being allowed to grow up like so many wild animals.

Although Sabbath schools do a great deal of good, they cannot reach every child as the day schools do. More than nine-tenths of this people want their children to become Christian; why not make a practical step in that direction; and let those who object to their children receiving religious training be allowed to keep them at home during the hours devoted to that instruction.

A. A. RAMSEYER.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 7, 1897.

KANSAS CONFERENCE

The Kansas conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convened Friday, June 18th, at their church on Zion Hill, St. John, Kansas.

On the evening previous, a social was given by the Church here in honor of the Elders in attendance, and outside friends of the Church, which proved a very enjoyable affair to all taking part. A splendid though impromptu program was rendered, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, recitations, etc. Among the most prominent numbers of the same were songs by Elders Sam Kirkman, which were received by applause; duet by Elders Minor and Dalley; recitations by President Jack and Elder John M. Knight. Elder Will Knight also figured in the program, making quite a "hit," and all enjoyed the evening greatly. At the proper time refreshments were served, consisting of ice cream, cake and lemonade. The entire affair proved very pleasant and enjoyable.

During conference splendid discourses were delivered Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings; also Sunday morning and afternoon. Among the principal speakers were President Wm. T. Jack, Elders Minor, Dalley, Noble, Harper and others, there being in attendance about twenty-two Elders. The branch of the Church now at Raymond, Rice county, had several representatives present. All meetings were well attended, and all were well satisfied with the conference.

Our citizens regret much to part with Elder Sam Kirkman, who was released during the session; he seems to be one of us, having been with us so long. Elder Gibby, who had to return home on account of his health, has made many friends among us, although most of the time absent, who sympathize with him in his trouble and hope for him a speedy recovery.

So far as we can learn all the visiting Elders during conference were well taken care of, making many friends, and new ones will give them hearty welcome whenever it is the pleasure of their organization to assemble in any meetings whatever. On Sunday, June 20th, the ordinance of baptism was administered to John B. Smith and Miss Cora Baker, who were also con-

firmed. This is in fact a harvest resulting from the faithful endeavors of some of the Elders here, in charge, and in all probability but the beginning of more to follow.

It gives us pleasure to record the fact that the Saints' church of this city has by far the prettiest church grounds within miles of here; they are nicely sodded with bluegrass and many blooming flowers throughout the same. Not only do the members and particular friends of the Church, but our citizens in general, take a great deal of interest in the place, which is visited by many, none of whom can but commend the good work. They are loud in their praise of the endeavors of the Elders in charge to improve and beautify the church grounds.

On Saturday, July 3rd, the Latter-day Saint Sunday school and friends celebrated Independence day, by holding a picnic in a grove about half a mile from the city. The participants had a pleasant time and plenty of good things to eat, and all greatly enjoyed the feast.

Arrangements are about complete for the holding of a lawn fete by way of observing the Pioneer's Jubilee to take place in Salt Lake City during this month. A splendid program is in course of preparation, and a pleasant time is anticipated. Will report particulars later. With best of wishes,

July 9, 1897.

A FRIEND.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

An electric railroad of Cape Town has caused much trouble in the working of the submarine cable of the Eastern and South African Telegraph company. To avoid anchors this cable is looped around Table Bay, being brought in this way within about 900 yards of the tramway for a mile or more, and the consequence has been that whenever a car was started or the wheels passed over sand or other objects on the rails, the record of the telegraph receiver became irregular. No effective remedy was found until a second cable was laid alongside the first for ten miles and connected to the receiver at one end and to earth at the other.

A metallurgist states that a mixture of equal parts of aluminum and iron casts solid, but soon crumbles to powder spontaneously, and that the useful alloys contain but a surprisingly small proportion of aluminum. The amount added to steel is usually but two to four ounces per ton. This increases materially the soundness of the ingots and causes the metal to pour much more quietly, but a slightly larger proportion leads to picking of the ingots, and waste.

A new worm, living in colonies in the roots of asters and popularly known as "aster-worm," has been described by Rev. Hilderic Friend of Tipton, Eng., under the scientific name of *enchytraeus parvulus* Friend. It is the most minute member known of the order including the earthworms. Its length is only about an eighth of an inch yet it has thirty segments, the first six or seven being pellucid.

The "acid drops" of the confectioners are suggested by a British pharmaceutical writer as an effective cure for the tobacco appetite, smoking while the acid taste remains in the mouth being peculiarly nauseating.

Powdered pumice stone has been found by a German chemist to be an effective filtering medium for liquids containing precipitates—like barium sulphate—likely to pass through paper.

Ambergris has been already shown by Professors G. Gouchet and H. Beauregard to be an interesting calculus which is developed in the rec-

tum of the sperm whale. This calculus is composed of crystals of ambra mixed with varying proportions of black pigment from the rectal lining and with star-coral debris, and when freshly removed is soft and not at all pleasant in odor. After preservation in an air-tight tin case for some years, the faecal odor is lost, or transformed into an agreeable perfume that gives the material a value of \$250 to \$600 per pound. Little weight is lost and this is not a case of slow desiccation which can be imitated or accelerated by the withdrawal of water. Continuing the researches, M. Beauregard now finds that the change is due to a microbe, which he names *Spirillum recti Physteris*, and which appears slowly to destroy the offensive odor and to produce the delicate perfume. It has not been determined whether this microbe is capable of producing disease in the whale or in man.

Perhaps the most marvellous cemetery known to science is the sheet of chalk which seems at one time to have covered the country from southern England to Central Asia beyond the Sea of Aral, having an area of about 3,000 miles long by 1,000 miles broad. This enormous bed was formed entirely of the microscopic remains of minute sea animals. Isolated patches of the great sheet now remain, that of England being more than 1,000 feet thick, and covering the island south-east of a line extending diagonally from the North Sea at Flamborough Head to the coast of the English Channel in Dorset.

Delirium tremens has been studied by Dr. Jacobson, a Danish physician, from records of 247 recovered cases. He finds that while chronic alcoholism is a necessary condition to the evolution of the disease, it is not sufficient alone to bring about an attack, which requires also some toxic agent, such as may result from bacteria or from diseases of the digestive tract, the kidneys or the liver. It is especially liable to be complicated by pneumonia. It resembles itself an infectious disease, having a stage of incubation, a duration of about four days, and ending with a critical sleep. No treatment appears capable of shortening the disease.

Spring and others have shown that metals may sometimes alloy at temperatures far below their melting points, and another remarkable discovery of similar kind is Berthelot's recent combination of oxygen and hydrogen at temperatures below 300 degrees C. The action seems to depend largely on the presence of a third body, as in the well known combustion through the influence of spongy platinum. With baryta, 77 per cent of a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen soon disappeared at 250 degrees, and the whole of it had turned to water in 26 hours. The baryta at first combines with part of the oxygen to form barium dioxide, which is then reduced by the remaining hydrogen.

Ossalin is a grayish-white fat prepared from beef-bone marrow, and recommended as an ointment base. It is claimed to be capable of taking up as much as 200 per cent of water, thus rendering the ointment easily absorbable. It produces no irritation of the skin, being mild and perfectly neutral.

A case of blindness from teeth-crowding has been put on record by Dr. J. E. Gemmel. A boy of eleven went to bed one night with normal vision, but awoke in the morning quite blind. The pupils were dilated, fixed, and not influenced by light. Investigation at last revealed the fact that the teeth were wedged together, when two permanent and four temporary molars were extracted. Sight returned in a few days without other treatment.