

wayside. Then came a moment that seemed propitious for presenting their claims for recognition. Utah was now United States territory; its settlement had passed beyond the stage of experiment; permanence, growth and ultimate prosperity were well-assured. The pregnant year of 1849 had come, and its early symptoms were in the highest degree significant and promising. Numerically weak but sincerely valiant, Utah was ready to assume the obligations and responsibilities of statehood. Early in March a convention was held in Great Salt Lake City; a constitution was framed and adopted, the name Deseret was selected; and a petition to Congress, borne by Almon W. Babbitt as delegate, was sent to Washington asking for admission into the Union.

This was long before the days of the iron horse, or even the pony express. Days, weeks and months might elapse before the people heard again from their petition; but American government they were determined to have; so they forthwith proceeded to elect officers of the provisional state, and in July their representatives convened in legislative assembly. Not until September of the following year—September 9, 1850, as our coat of arms tells us—was the petition answered, and then instead of statehood, Utah was given a territorial form of government. It took time to get the news from the national capital to the distant colony, but as soon as practicable thereafter, Governor Brigham Young, our first governor, took the oath of office, and the laws of the provisional state were adopted and legalized for the new territory.

As already said, this first statehood convention met early in 1849—in the month of March. The second one also met in March, but seven years later—1856. Again was a constitution framed, again the name of Deseret chosen; and George A. Smith and John Taylor were chosen delegates to present the matter to Congress.

Seven years more elapsed, and the flames of civil war made the continent lurid with their fury. Utah was still out in the cold, but still craving admission. The project was agitated during the close of 1861, and the idea of again asking for statehood met with such favor that in January, 1862, the third constitutional convention was held. The memorial to Congress was entrusted to George Q. Cannon and William H. Hooper as delegates; a few weeks later these delegates were elected senators for the proposed state; at the same time John M. Bernhisel was elected representative in Congress, and pending admission, territorial delegate also; and in the following June the memorial and constitution were presented in each house of Congress. No action having been taken on the petition, the legislature of the state of Deseret, which had formally but hopelessly kept up the semblance of its regular sessions, met for the last time in 1865, and passed out of existence forever.

Seven years had been the interval between the first and second, and the second and third of these unavailing endeavors to obtain permission to enter the Union of states. A hiatus of ten years now intervened, and we come to the notable convention of February,

1872—a famous gathering, participated in by leading men of all parties and various factions in the Territory. Barring the somewhat incongruous attempt of one delegate to defeat the movement by immediately moving to adjourn sine die, this able and representative gathering was characterized by thoroughness, statesmanship, liberality and eloquence. In less than two weeks it had formed a state constitution and memorial to Congress and elected as delegates to present the same, George Q. Cannon, Thos. Fitch and Frank Fuller. Four days later these delegates started for Washington and a month afterwards the Legislature, again hoping for favorable action on the Territory's petition, elected Wm. H. Hooper and Thos. Fitch as United States senators.

Again a lapse of ten years, and the Territory fifth constitutional convention was called into existence—April, 1882. During that month it framed and adopted a constitution; in May the people ratified the instrument; in June the convention reassembled, prepared a petition and selected as delegates to present the same to Congress, John T. Caine, William H. Hooper, James Sharp, William W. Riter, F. S. Richards, D. H. Peery, and W. D. Johnson, Jr.

This petition, like its four predecessors, fell upon unwilling ears; but still another attempt, the sixth, was made. The convention met in June, 1887; it completed and adopted a constitution on July 7th, and in October adopted the usual memorial. Upon the work of that assembly, as upon those that had gone before, the sympathetic historian had had to write, "love's labor lost!"

If I have gone thus hastily over the six distinct and determined endeavors of the people of Utah to secure for their commonwealth a place in the Union, and for their star a corner on the flag, it is not that I might now go into detail concerning the steps and stages of progress during more recent times leading up to the position we this day occupy. Rather would I ask you to bestow a moment's attention upon certain comparisons and results—unique and noteworthy—that deserve a passing thought. It has shown that in less than two years from the arrival of its first settlers, Utah declared herself ready for statehood and anxious to assume its responsibilities—an instance of precocity for government that, when all conditions are recalled, has no parallel in American history. If this was not an example of a state being built in a day, it represents as nearly that phenomenon as the movement of mankind and the course of communities have yet been able to do it. We have seen that not only once or twice, but six times, were our requests presented with all attendant form and circumstance—and as many times depled—an incident that is almost without a parallel in the history of American commonwealths. The minutes of the Congresses before which these several petitions were brought, reveal that indeed few at any time were the champions of the new state feeble and scattering the voices raised in its favor—a circumstance which, taken in connection with all the conditions, is hardly less remarkable than the other incidents noted. But by far the most ex-

traordinary comparison—as it is also the most infinitely gratifying—remains to be drawn. With a unanimity that was scarcely ever witnessed upon a proposition of any magnitude, much less upon so important a question as the extending of the Federal sisterhood by admitting another member into the family circle, first the committees of both houses of Congress, and then the houses themselves, gloriously carried Utah's enabling act to its consummation. Hardly a voice was raised against it, either in the recesses of committee room or in the open publicity of congressional session. Indeed, sentiment throughout the land was turned overwhelmingly in our favor; and the movement was so marvellous and irresistible that human explanation can scarcely be found for it. Brief as my remarks must necessarily be, I would be guilty of ingratitude did I fail to mention, as would the people of Utah did they fail to appreciate, the unremitting offices of prominent and influential friends, not resident of the Territory, who felt that the time had come for her emancipation, and who ardently and untiringly labored to effect that end. On an occasion of general rejoicing like the present, their friendship should be remembered and their services properly estimated in the realization of our and their endeavors. So that, if on this day of our gladness we can think without reproaches of the delays and disappointments of the past, with how much more satisfaction and pride can we regard this record of the present! Surely the people of Utah are to be congratulated that, among all the anomalies and peculiarities of their history, none is more remarkable and eloquent than this most hearty invitation, this universal welcome to an honored place at the national board.

Reminiscence may now give way to grateful consideration of the duties and responsibilities about to be assumed. In the Governor's proclamation which has just been read, we note the first move toward the realization of the boon that awaits us. The succeeding steps are not many, but they are important to the last degree. We must enter upon them with earnestness, with thoughtfulness, with patriotism. I plead for the revival and manifestation of the spirit of 1776; for the courage, the charity, the exaltation of character that marked the fathers' course, and which have made these United States of America the greatest nation on the earth. I would rebuke and banish narrowness, sectionalism, intolerance and trickery in every garb and form. Upon the shining robe of the fair new state there must be neither patch nor stain. Time enough has been given, and enough still remains, for the calm study of all the questions that now more closely confront us. In charity toward one another; in loyalty to the pattern which is given in the inspired national Constitution; in ambition to follow the right, whose path may sometimes be stony but is always straight; in devotion to our posterity, our country and our God, let us prepare a charter which shall be a credit to us, a comfort to those who may hereafter live under it, a delight to all who shall scan it.

This is the duty of the present! If one today might know how we shall fulfill it, the telling of our future were