

amen while his brother was still praying or preaching, as he himself was through with the prayer or sermon.

He then dwelt at some length on the subject of respect to our Heavenly Father as well as our earthly parents and teachers, and remarked that when he arose in the morning the first to hear his "good morning" was his Father in Heaven, and also to hear his last "good night."

A few words of commendation were then addressed to the class, and according to promise the venerable teacher raised his hands and gave the children the following blessing:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by virtue of the Priesthood vested in me, I bless you that the angels of His presence shall have charge of you all the days of your life, that the destroyer shall have no power over you, and when you have passed away from this life that you may be numbered among the righteous in the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

The teachers in the audience were then urged not to slight the members of their classes, on the street or wherever they might meet them, but speak a kind word to them and teach them to honor and respect their Bishops and the Priesthood of God.

Elders Horne, Goddard and Reynolds each spoke briefly and the meeting was adjourned for one month.

The Sixteenth ward was asked to furnish the singing exercises at the next meeting, while the Stake Presidency would address the assembly.

The choir sang Come Unto Me, and benediction was pronounced by Elder L. A. Wilson.

CHARLES DENNEY,
Secretary pro tem.

DECEMBER WEATHER REPORT.

The weather during December, 1895, was much colder than usual, the temperature averaging about seven degrees below normal. The warmest period was about the 15th, when the maximum temperature occurred at the majority of stations. The coldest days were the 17th, 18th, 23rd, 29th and 30th. The precipitation was very deficient in all sections, especially in Grand and Wayne counties, where only a trace was recorded during the month.

The average temperature for the State was 21 degrees; highest monthly mean, 32 degrees, at St. George; lowest monthly mean, 2 degrees, at Fort Du Chesne. The highest temperature, 64 degrees, was recorded at St. George on the 12th, and the lowest, 24 degrees below zero, at Fort Du Chesne, on the 18th; range of temperature for the State, 88 degrees. The greatest local monthly range of temperature was 68 degrees, at Loa, and the least 44 degrees, at Salt Lake City. Average monthly range for the State, 56 degrees.

The average amount of precipitation for the State was .78 of an inch, which is .65 of an inch below the normal of Salt Lake City, computed for twenty years. The depth of the snow-fall averaged nine inches. The average number of days on which .61 of an inch or more of rain or melted snow fell, was four.

The prevailing wind for the State was north. The total movement of the

wind at Salt Lake City was 3,804 miles, and the maximum velocity 32 miles per hour from the northwest on the 15th.

During the month there was an average of sixteen clear days, seven partly cloudy and eight cloudy. The sunshine at Salt Lake City averaged 30 per cent, and at Grover, Wayne county, 77 per cent (estimated).

Lunar halos—Giles, 2nd.

Thunderstorms—Giles, 29th.

Hail—Giles, 4th.

Dense fog—Vernal, 2nd, 3rd; Salt Lake City, 14th. J. H. SMITH,
Observer Weather Bureau.

THE VENEZUELA COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Venezuelan commission has invited the governments of Great Britain and Venezuela to submit to it all the evidence in their possession to further the work of the commission, to be represented before it by attorneys, and all of this with the reservation that such representation and appearance shall not be deemed an abandonment of any rights or positions heretofore assumed. The full text of the letter is as follows:

Office of the Venezuelan Boundary Commission, Washington, January 15, 1898.

To the Honorable Secretary of State:—Dear Sir—I have the honor to state that the commission appointed by the President of the United States to investigate and report upon the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana, has organized by the election of Hon. David J. Brewer as its president and is entering upon the immediate discharge of its duties.

In so doing it has, after careful consideration, concluded to address you on the question of securing, as far as possible, the friendly co-operation and aid of the two nations which are directly interested in the now pending boundary differences.

It must have suggested itself to you, as it has no doubt to the President, that this commission, authorized to ascertain and report the boundary line between two foreign nations, bears only a remote resemblance to these tribunals of international character of which we have had several examples in the past. They were constituted by or with the consent of the disputants themselves and were authorized by the parties immediately concerned to pronounce final judgment. The questions at issue were presented by the advocates of the various interests, upon whose diligence and skill the tribunal might safely rely for all the data and the arguments essential to the formation of an intelligent judgment. Their functions were, therefore, confined to the exercise of judicial powers, and they might fairly expect to reach a result satisfactory to their own consciences, while it commanded the respect of those whose interests were directly involved.

The present commission, neither by the mode of its appointment nor by the nature of its duties, may be said to belong to a tribunal of this character. Its duty will be discharged if it shall diligently and fairly seek to inform the executive office of certain facts touching a long extent of territory in which the Uni-

ted States has no direct interests. Whatever may be the conclusions reached, no territorial aggrandizement or material gain in any form can accrue to the United States. The sole concern of our government is the peaceful solution of the controversy between friendly nations, for the just and honorable settlement of the title to disputed territory, and the protection of the United States against any fresh acquisition in our hemisphere on the part of any foreign state.

It has seemed proper to the committee, under these circumstances, to suggest to you the expediency of calling the attention of the governments of Great Britain and Venezuela to the appointment of the committee and explaining both its nature and objects. It may be that they will see a way, entirely consistent with their own sense of international propriety, to give the committee the aid that it is no doubt in their power to furnish in the way of documentary proof, historical narrative, unpublished archives or the like. It is scarcely necessary to say that if either should deem it appropriate to designate an agent or attorney, whose duty it would be to see that no such proofs were omitted or overlooked, the commission would be grateful for such evidence of good will, and for the valuable results which would be likely to follow therefrom.

Any act of either government in the direction here suggested might be accompanied by an express reservation as to her claims, and should not be deemed to be an abandonment or impairment of any position heretofore expressed. In other words, and in the lawyer's phrase, each might be willing to act the part of an amicus curiae and to throw the light upon difficult and complex questions of fact, which should be examined as carefully as the magnitude of the subject demands. The purposes of the pending investigation are certainly hostile to none, nor can it be of advantage to any that the machinery devised by the government of the United States to secure the desired information should fail of its purpose.

I have the honor to remain, Your obedient servant.

DAVID J. BREWER, Pres.

To Hon. Richard Olney, secretary of state.

It cannot be said that the commission is confident of a favorable response from both parties to the boundary controversy, although the courteous terms in which the suggestion is couched and the wide latitude of reservation permitted each party that may respond in the open spirit which characterizes the invitation, leads to the natural hope that it will be accepted.

Meanwhile the commission will proceed on the original line of inquiry, which promises to be a slow and difficult task, trusting to the abridgment of the proceedings later on by the production of evidence by both parties and the appearance of attorneys, when the proceedings may at once take on the form of a judicial trial, and the attainment of a conclusion be correspondingly hastened.

It was ordered that the rooms of the commission be kept open every weekday from 9 to 5 o'clock, and any person who has any suggestion to make will