

## OCCURRENCES CONNECTED WITH THE FAST.

It is proper to preserve, as a matter of history, a record of some of the occurrences and features connected with the day of fasting and prayer, to which purpose the 23d inst. was devoted, information of which has been communicated to us. It is entirely contrary to the custom of the Latter-day Saints to take a course, in connection with their exercises of religious worship, calculated to create an artificial fervor, or morbid excitement.

On the day of fasting and prayer there was no departure from what is usual in respect to the behavior of the people, or the policy of the speakers and presiding officers. In the direction of creating an undue enthusiasm, and yet many persons were markedly affected. In one of the wards of Logan, for example, incidents occurred which occasioned general surprise as well as gratification. The room was crowded. The presiding officer announced that the meeting would be given into the hands of the congregation, and that individuals might arise and speak or pray as they felt led. Our informant who was present states that he rather expected to see brethren and sisters who commonly occupy the time at fast meetings in the ward, succeed each other on this occasion. But instead of this a youth, a mere boy, whom all knew well, but who was seldom if ever known to do the like before, arose and addressed the congregation, bearing a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel. He was followed by six other youths, near his own age, each of whom spoke briefly but with an earnestness and sincerity which none could doubt, and which indicated that their souls had been strongly wrought upon by a super-human influence.

Some of these youths wept while speaking, confessed their faults and asked forgiveness, and all, we understand, bore strong testimonies to the truth of the work of which the Prophet Joseph Smith was, under God, the founder. Some of them had never before in their lives uttered a word in public, and in at least two or three cases, the past record of the speakers in respect to religious matters gave no ground to expect such action on their part, they having never before, so far as their friends were aware, manifested a devotional spirit, or taken interest in religious exercises.

In this city there were many cases

of little children, whom one would suppose entirely too young to engage intelligently in religious exercises or devotions, who scrupulously and voluntarily kept the fast and took part in family and public worship with interest and earnestness quite surprising.

Some of the features of the day, though as real as specific circumstances which occurred and can be narrated, cannot, however, be as easily conveyed to the mind of a reader not a personal witness of or participant in them. Among these were the remarkable blending together of the hearts of the people, producing a unifying effect; the abundance in which the spirit of prophecy was poured out, and the freedom with which the gift was exercised; the comforting, cheering and faith-inspiring spirit that characterized the exercises of the day; and last but not least the firm assurance multitudes of Saints received during their worship and fasting that all would be well with Zion, no matter what present appearances might indicate.

That these were features of the day can be testified to by thousands, and an account of it which omitted to mention them would be incomplete. No doubt in many others of the Stakes and Wards there were occurrences and manifestations of a similar character, but the above is given in illustration of the general nature of the day and some of the phases connected with it.

## THE GOSPEL IN HIGH PLACES.

It is perhaps not generally known that in the course of his powerful argument made before the Supreme Court of the United States in the Idaho test oath case Hon. F. S. Richards introduced the "Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." Thus a condensed expression of the fundamental doctrines embodied in the faith of the "Mormon" people, being made a part of the argument, is squarely before the highest tribunal of the nation. The fact is one of great interest, because, the articles being *multum in parvo*, a comprehensive idea of the Gospel is given to the learned Supreme Bench in a small compass.

"The articles of Faith," which were constructed by the Prophet Joseph Smith, and are published over his name, have been of great service in directing attention to the religion of the Saints. They are so terse that even a busy person can

find time to scan them. Many people in different parts of the world have been struck with their beauty, simplicity and consistency. These features have induced them to investigate further, leading in numbers of cases to conversion. We have no idea, however, that such an effect will be produced upon the honorable judges. But the introduction of the Articles was pertinent to the case, as showing the unjustifiable character of the test oath, which practically excludes people from the privileges of citizenship on the ground of religious belief and actions that are legally and morally innocent.

## CHRISTMAS DAY.

Tomorrow will be Christmas, the most universally observed day of all others among civilized peoples. It is a time of rejoicing, giving and good cheer. At such a season the hand of the well-to-do should be open in giving liberally to the poor. This holiday feature is remarkably conspicuous in this community. The donations for the benefit of the needy are unusually large this season. The contributions have fairly poured into the hands of those who have undertaken the pleasant duty of dispensing good things for the relief of those whose stores are scanty. No one within the boundaries of this Territory need go short of substantials, while what may be termed extras or even luxuries will be within the reach of most of the poorer people.

The Saints, above all people ought to observe the day with thanksgiving, and should act in all things in the spirit of moderation.

This Christmas tide reminds us of a remark made by the first Napoleon, in reference to Jesus Christ. In conversation with Montholon, the great soldier asked the latter: "Who was Jesus Christ?" The individual to whom the question was addressed, declined to answer. Napoleon proceeded thus:

"I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself have founded great empires. But our empires were founded on force. Jesus alone founded His empire on love, and to this day millions would die for Him. I think I understand something of human nature, and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man. Jesus Christ was more than man. I have inspired multitudes with a devotion so enthusiastic that they would have died for me. But to do this it was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my looks, my words, my voice. Who cares for me now removed as I am from the active scenes of life, and from the presence of men? Who would now die for me? Christ alone