

OPENING OF LIBERTY PARK.

THE PROCESSION—THE PARK AND PAVILLION—THE CEREMONIES—THE SPEECHES IN FULL.

THIS morning opened with a cloudless sky, and the bright sunshine, streaming down upon ground pleasantly moistened by the recent rains, made everything look brilliant and joyful without sultriness or oppressive heat. The day selected for the opening of the fine park which the City has wisely secured for public pleasure grounds, although usually a busy time, was very appropriate, being the anniversary of a period famous in the annals of American liberty—the day of the battle of Bunker Hill. Crowds of people came in from the settlements in Salt Lake and Davis Counties, and at an early hour the principal streets were thronged.

The best carriages in the city were pressed into the public service, and shortly after 9 o'clock proceeded to the residences of invited guests and conveyed them to the City Hall, where the flag of our country waved from the liberty pole. Here was formed, under the direction of Marshal A. Burt and his aides,

THE PROCESSION.

At the head was the United States flag borne by Officers Helaman Pratt and James E. Mahn. Next came Croxall's Silver Band, then a carriage with Mayor Jennings, ex-Mayor Little, Hon. Wilford Woodruff and Gen. D. H. Wells. These were followed by the municipal and county officials. Next the Sixth Infantry Band in the Julia Dean ornamental band wagon. The Governor and Secretary of the Territory, with General McCook and other Federal officers. Followed by ex-officials of the city and county.

Next the speakers of the day and the Editor of the News.

Territorial officers.

Hons. Brigham Young and Jacob Weller.

Fort Douglas officers.

Martial Band, led by Professor E. Beesley.

Carriages containing well known citizens, etc.

The streets were lined with pedestrians, many of the stores were closed, and the stars and stripes showed in various places, giving animation to the scene.

At 10.15 the procession started from the City Hall moving westward to Main Street, thence South to Seventh South Street, thence east until the street leading south to the Park was reached. A large concourse was assembled at the arch at the entrance. The procession passed under the arch southward past the groves, and thence moved eastward and northward almost in a circle until the pavillion was reached. This temporary building is erected in the center of an open space surrounded on three sides with a fine locust grove, affording a grateful shade. It faces the east and at the rear is a very large dancing platform covered with asphaltum.

The pavillion was decorated with banners and mottoes bearing the names of the various States and Territories, the pillars were draped with the Stars and Stripes, and the National flag graced the front opening.

The officials and invited guests occupied the seats which rise from the front, affording a full view of the audience from every part. Carriages filled with occupants were drawn up at some distance within the open space, and an immense audience stood in front of the pavillion.

His Honor Mayor Jennings called the assembly to order and announced the object of the ceremonies, which were conducted by Marshal Burt.

Croxall's Silver Band rendered a selection, "Goblin," in splendid style.

Deputy Recorder H. M. Wells then read the resolutions of the City Council in relation to the opening of the Park.

The Union Glee Club, led by Prof. C. J. Thomas, sweetly sang "Hail Smiling Morn."

Then followed the dedicatory prayer by Alderman A. H. Raleigh.

The Sixth Infantry Band, led by Prof. L. Stigler, performed "The World's Peace Jubilee" with magnificent effect.

Next came the following oration:

T. B. LEWIS.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:

One of the most momentous events recorded in the annals of the

modern world, was that of the war between the American colonies on the one side, and the mother country—Great Britain, on the other—commonly known as the war of American Independence.

The fire that burned in the hearts of those who fought for this independence against a proud and powerful foe, was kindled upon the plains of Concord and Lexington, and behind the redoubts of Bunker Hill. That of the last mentioned having transpired on the 17th day of June, 1775—just one hundred and seven years ago to-day.

Yes, one hundred and seven years ago, democracy was born in this Heaven favored land of America.

I think the Hon. Mayor and gentlemen composing the Council of this beautiful inland city, this city the pride of the Territories, the queen of these everlasting fortresses, redoubts thrown up under the direction of Him who plans the battles of the forces of nature and directs the movements of men, could not have selected a more suitable day, upon which to open this attractive portion of our city, with appropriate ceremonies, to its appreciative citizens; and here, in the presence of this assembly dedicate and consecrate this spot to the sacred name of liberty.

A spot rendered more dear to our hearts, when we appreciate the fact that the germ from which this miniature forest has grown, was brought from eastern lands, across broad plains, effected by weary marches. A few years ago and this was an uninhabited wild.

But those who pioneered this land, with their accustomed forethought, looked forward to such a time and place, and prepared the foundation of this beautiful grove, within whose delightful shade we can come and hold sweet intercourse with our fellow men. These trees, planted in the early history of the Territory, are living monuments to the memory of Brigham Young and his associated pioneers, and while we enjoy the fruits of their labors we honor the men who planned for our enjoyment. But when I look and inspect these grounds, I note the evidence of much labor, time and means, expended, in addition to that already mentioned, to make this park a place of resort for the citizens of our metropolis and our friends who may visit us. The prosperity and success of this work, thus far is due to the intelligent supervision of our present popular Mayor, and his most active and energetic predecessor, assisted by the able and representative men of the City Council. To them we tender our grateful acknowledgements and express our thanks to the committee of special arrangements of this day's proceedings, for the pains and care taken to make this day a success. Long may they live in the hearts of the people.

We realize that all who are present, and those who may come after, feel that here, on this ground, as well as elsewhere in all this broad land, we are a free people, appreciating the immunities of that liberty purchased at the cost of blood of honored and honorable men, some of whom sanctified the soil of Bunker Hill.

The day is appropriate on account of the thoughts and feelings associated with the events that transpired on the day which we commemorate. Events big with importance; occurring as they did in the very twilight of that stupendous undertaking in the affairs of men, that not only revolutionized a nation, but revolutionized the thought of the then, future world.

It may be worth your time and attention on this occasion, to enter into a retrospection of the past, to dwell for a season upon the conditions and circumstances of the people that stood at the foundation of our Republic and grasp some of the causes that impelled them on to a series of actions that resulted in so satisfactory a success. A success that left to those who came after them, a government, republican in form, full of promise, broad and comprehensive, replete with power to secure and protect all individual rights, even to the age of progressive ideas and liberal thought, and at the same time possessing a power to maintain the sovereignty of government in the hour of internal commotions and the direst agitations.

This success came at the close of a long and bitter strife. A struggle under the most unencouraging circumstances. But the results were complete, grand and glorious. Let us trace some of the many causes that led to this struggle; perchance,

while so doing we may become animated with the same spirit of pure devotion to those lofty principles that inspired them, and catch, it may be, some of their characteristic zeal, and, I may say, unsullied patriotism; and with that old historic determination, created anew in us, seek to perpetuate those heaven descended doctrines of free thought and equal rights, and by virtue of the strength received from their sacredness, transmit them to our posterity.

The most potent cause presented to my mind, "was that found," in the language of the historian, "in the natural disposition and inherited character of the colonists."

The reasons offered by their fathers, for leaving Europe and coming to this western world, made an enduring impression upon them. The remembrance of the many acts of unkindness and oppression they had received had no tendency to induct into their hearts a love for European institutions. "For six generations they had managed their own affairs," and their situation and surroundings would naturally lead them to a republican or democratic form of government.

Their fathers had left the lands of kings and potentates. The broad Atlantic lay between them and the thrones of monarchs. Their eyes had never beheld a crown, and the treatment they had received from those who wore these coronets of imperial power was not of such a nature as to win their admiration or respect. I have no doubt but that the personal character of George III, had much to do in forming the determination of the American colonists. His total disregard for all civil rights, and his narrow-mindedness, calling to his ministry men of the same type as himself, thus forming a government the natural tendency of which was to alienate the hearts of the colonists against him and his kingdom. His despotic sway drove men from him rather than drew them to him. Again, the colonists had obtained considerable experience in their wars with the French and the Indians; and through them had established a confidence in their own ability to defend themselves and their country against any encroachment upon their rights from any power especially that they had learned to detest.

In religion they were not orthodox, but had dissented from the established Church, and sought to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, allowing the God of a free world to shape and form that conscience through the contact of the influences into which he had led them. They seemed to partake of the nature of the very elements that encircled them. The sound of the rushing waters amid the New England hills, seemed to find an echo in their hearts and send a thrill of liberty and freedom through them. The very mountains and vales into which they went to erect their homes and their altars, reverberated with the songs of independence, and the air they inhaled but made more healthy and strong, and vigorous the bone, sinew and muscle of those who were born to be free men.

Can you wonder that they had the hardihood to endure the struggle?

These are the men of whom Franklin wrote to some of his English friends, even at this early date: "Americans will fight. England has lost her colonies forever." Who ever heard of a people who had lived under the benign influence of republican government consenting to go back to the thralldom of monarchical institutions. True they have retrograded, but under vitiating influences.

Another cause advanced by the historian was the incitement of France. It is held, and I think justly so, that France would never have agreed to the treaty by which Canada was ceded to England, had not France entertained the idea that by so doing the English colonies would thereby become so strong in the north that "they would renounce their allegiance to England." This opinion is certainly corroborated by the statement of a French statesman made soon after the cession of 1763. "There, now! said we have arranged matters for an American rebellion, in which England will lose her empire in the West." How prophetic.

But the grand direct cause was "the right of arbitrary government," that the English government claimed against the colonies. The colonies denied this right, and being composed of the material of which

I have spoken, they boldly asserted their position and resisted.

For some time the English government merely claimed this right but made no effort to enforce their claim; it was only in the attempt to enforce it that we find the opposition of the colonies aroused. This opposition commenced about the time of the treaty of 1748, and was continued up to the time of the hostilities. One of the positions taken by the colonies was, that in antagonism to the doctrine of "taxation without representation." With indefatigable labor, associated with bravery and endurance, they succeeded in their efforts, and erected the noblest type of representative government known to man, and to us the people of America they have transmitted this gift, bequeathed this glorious legacy.

It is a fact founded in history, the conquests of the Roman empire particularly furnishing the examples, that when nations through conquest or other means gained possession of provinces, established their authority, withheld the right of representation from the people, they "the people became serfs—mere 'things'—upon which royalty feeds its ravenous appetite for power, gratifies its insatiable thirst for pomp and luxury, while the people dwell in the darkness of ignorance and superstition, the avenues of progress closed against them, and thus forbidden to enjoy the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

But more repugnant to the feelings does it become in a republican government, any system or policy that denies the people the privilege of a proper representation. He who advocates such a doctrine now has lived his life in vain; has not kept pace with the growth of man nor the expansion of man's power to think; is decidedly behind the spirit of the age, and has certainly failed to inhale the pure atmosphere of our institutions.

Other causes of great magnitude could be enumerated, but let these suffice. Those advanced were sufficient to arouse our watchful forefathers to activity; indeed, they had not been slumbering, but were fully wide awake, watching with eager eye the advancing tread of the enemy upon their liberties; an enemy who was preparing to rivet the chains of bondage upon the people. All the while the fires of resistance steadily burning within the bosoms of the would-be-free. There was no fanaticism manifested. They had given the entire subject thought, accompanied with prayerful consideration. They had made a full and complete calculation of the cost, and had arrived at the conclusion that possibly it would cost them their all, even life itself. Still they hesitated not. They were undaunted. No idle misgivings entered their hearts. Not a thought of yielding or giving up as the martial power of the enemy frowned upon them. They were not disciplined soldiers either. Up to the very hour of action they were pursuing their vocations in the fields and workshops, but the trusty musket was ever close at hand. This was the condition of things, when about 5 o'clock on the morning of April 19, 1775, the first firing of that long and severe war of the revolution, broke upon the plains of Concord. Sixteen of the colonists fell, there being only seventy in the action. The rest fled; their provisions and stores having been removed previously to a place of safety. The echoes of the shots aroused the minute men, and they came pouring in from all parts of the country, and men the enemy at Lexington, and had it not been for the heavy reinforcements and the superior discipline of the British troops, the total route and ruin of the latter, at that place, would have been a recorded fact of history to-day.

The result of this battle spread like fire through the land. The whole country was thoroughly aroused. The first shot for democracy had been made. The faithful devotees of freedom gathered in around Boston, until, soon, an army of 20,000 had assembled. The English also received large reinforcements; and, with the arrogance of a despot the commander issued a proclamation denouncing the colonists and branding them as rebels and traitors, a title they would have justly earned had they failed.

General Gage made preparations to rally out of Boston and devastate the surrounding country. The Americans to meet this movement, seized, and fortified Bunker Hill, a height which commanded the peninsula, and Boston as also did Brees Hill, which stood a little further on,

The Americans numbered about 1500 and were worn out with fatigue and hunger. Imagine little army, tired and exhausted with but little ammunition, facing a powerful foe backed by a fleet. The Americans fought brave men as they were, but were compelled to yield to the overwhelming force brought against them, and at the point of the bayonet were driven from their position leaving the brave Warren upon the ground slain, as a part of the price for the liberties they were purchasing.

Although defeated, the Americans were not discouraged. In this engagement they learned their enemies were not invincible. They had tried British steel powder, and now went forth to gain that the object for which they had started could be obtained in the end.

Sympathy to the cause spread through the North and the South. War was the cry from every corner. The people were every day growing upon them. This spirit feeling grew and expanded until its culmination was reached in the Declaration of Independence, a declaration from the mother country and a union of the colonies effected. In this union existed their strength through which they gained the victory which they fought.

I shall not go farther into the details of the war. We all know and the beneficent results. I have mentioned of the events narrated being appropriate to the occasion to commemorate. The doing of June 17, 1775, come down to this occasion, and the love for freedom for which they sacrificed their all, fills our hearts, and respond to the cry that comes through these long 107 years. Noble sires, we hold in honor your remembrance your sacred name and to-day we renew our determination to perpetuate the principles you fought so nobly to establish. We are prepared to unite our efforts with those of all lovers of our country, to maintain and support that glorious document, the Constitution of the United States of America, presenting to us as a legacy for us and for our children.

Under thisegis we are assembled here to-day, joyous with the happy surroundings; our hearts overflowing with love for gratitude to the heroes of '76. We invoke the guidance of spirits of those grand old men. May their influence, or the influence that influenced them rest upon our nation, that as Americans we may never yield or feel the sacred rights they have bequeathed to us. May we continue to be a free and a united people, found active in the development of the vast resources of mind and earth.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will call your thoughtful attention to this comparison of our situation with that of the people and the period of which I have been speaking. I ask you to look upon this beautiful city, and with its cities and towns of our Territory. Behold our fair daughters and the sons, reared in homes beautiful and happy; homes made doubly attractive on account of the energies of loving hearts to make them homes—the rewards of both toil. Stand and admire our temples, our churches and our schools. Cast your eye over our fields, meadows and our orchards. Look with the mind's eye view our wide and extensive valleys, refreshed by streams of pure water, that descend from these mountain peaks with almost irresistible force, within and beyond the limits whose margins are found flocks of herds in great number. Gaze of wonder and admiration upon the mountains, grand, noble and mighty in their majestic fastnesses—deposits of the character of the land they encircle and the firmness of the women whose virtue and fecundity is represented by the pure virgin snow that crowns the summits of these lofty peaks.

Go with me and climb the mountain sides, there we find timber supply sufficient for the erection of churches and school houses—those mediums through which man is redeemed from the condition of ignorance, superstition and religious bigotry. Enter the recesses of these depositories of literature's riches and calculate the enormous wealth stored therein awaiting removal at the hand of industry, to be brought forth and made to help in the work of the future redemption, cultivation and education.