

He who is the Father of all be a Parent
and Protector in your declining years

With deepest affection,

Your Brethren and Sisters,
THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF THE
LATTER-DAY SAINTS COLLEGE.

A beautiful silver mounted cane was
presented by the Temple workers.

The anniversary exercises were attended by several persons who were baptized by President Woodruff in Great Britain nearly sixty years ago, while he was filling a mission there which lasted from 1837 to 1841. There were also some present who accompanied President Woodruff home from Great Britain in the year 1841, crossing the sea in the ship Rochester.

NEAR THE GATE.

To President Wilford Woodruff, on
His Ninetieth Birthday, March
1st, 1897.

Thou' favored Prophet of the Lord, most high,
So near thou standest to the Holy Gate,
Which entrance to the Great Tribunal leads,
Where sit in council, O'er the world's affairs—
And things respecting worlds innumerable—
The Eloheim, Jehovah, God and Christ,
That as we look on thee, our thoughts revert
To Moses, when, upon Mount Sinai,
He talked with God, and then to Israel,
We listen for thy voice to speak God's word
Unto His chosen sons and daughters now,
As Moses spake to Jacob's children then.

Not out of Egypt, but from every land
Is Israel gathered in this latter time;
Not unto Canaan, but to Deseret,
A land of promise and a home of peace
To all who love and serve the one true God;
And thousands still are gathering year by year.

But ah! too much like ancient Israel,
Hard-heartedness and stubbornness of will
Oft hold us from receiving precious gifts
And blessings which the Lord would fain bestow
Teach us, thou friend of God, to better know
And understand and serve and worship Him.
Teach us humility; and plead for us,
That all our hearts may be softened be, and pure;
That we may follow closely after thee,
And with thee stand, at last, inside the gate.

As Moses' bands were staided and upheld
By Aaron and by Hur upon the mount,
While Israel prevailed against her foes,
So may thy counselors, George and Joseph,
stand
Forever firm, as they have ever been,
Sustaining thee, while Israel of today
Shall triumph over all opposing powers.
And may thy days and years be lengthened out!

To lead the Saints from underneath each ban,
Which now curtails their efforts and their aims,
To victory and honor, full and free,
When they are humbled, purified and cleansed
From all their pride, self-will and covetousness.

And may they better learn to prize thy worth,
To emulate thy meekness and thy faith,
To fully trust and truly venerate
The man who stands so near the Heavenly Gate.
L. L. GREENE RICHARDS.

CONSOLIDATING SCHOOLS.

ST. GEORGE, Feb. 15th, 1897.

On the school question again I venture to ask a portion of your valuable space, and shall take as a basis excerpts from the Governor's late message to the Legislature on that subject.

After referring to the vital importance of education in determining the influence and character of the people of this State, his excellency says: "It should be the aim to increase constantly the efficiency of the schools, yet there should be manifest a wholesome regard for the rights of the citizen to see that the burden of taxation are not greater than he can bear and to spend his money with such

discrimination that the best possible results may be attained."

Further on, in relation to radical changes suggested by the State superintendent of public instruction, he remarks, that the most important of these is his recommendation that the present school district organization of county schools be consolidated into a single district in each county to be controlled by the county board of education, and says, if it shall be found upon investigation that the change, if made, would increase the efficiency of the district schools and at the same time diminish the aggregate expense, it should be adopted."

Not having the privilege of perusing the State paper of the superintendent of public instruction it is impossible to wisely question the general grounds of his argument, but I will present a few reasons for my believing "the most important change" would not "increase the efficiency" or "decrease the aggregate expense of the district schools."

The present county school organization consists in a county superintendent with three trustees in each school district. The former is the choice of the majority of the county as manifest through the elective franchise; the latter too, but as the manifest choice of the citizens of the school districts to which they severally act.

These servants of the people generally have been unceasingly interested in the cause of education, providing, as best they could, accommodations and conveniences in and around the school rooms; have been at hand patiently to hear the complaints of parents, teachers and scholars when required—answering appeals and understandingly adjusting differences that have existed. The county superintendent and county court or board of commissioners also attending to their duties in this connection.

In years past, the county superintendent received a small compensation, but later a fair salary is given for services rendered. None of the school trustees in these parts, save perhaps in two or three districts, have received a monetary consideration for their labors in this direction, and those receiving have been allowed only a nominal acknowledgment.

In the change proposed, it is presumed that the office work of the county superintendent will devolve on the county board of education, comprising three or more persons. It will be impossible by correspondence to fulfill their duties. They could not travel to perform the service essential to the proper establishing and conducting of the public schools of this and like counties at the same expense as a superintendent does. If at one time one member of the board of education only shall travel to set the schools to order, how much better may that one be than a county superintendent?

So far as suggesting plans for carrying out the purposes of the common school in the respective locations, any three of the trustees with the county superintendent, and his receiving from time to time wise suggestions from the State board, might more than equal the combined county board in understanding the varied interests of each district, for it seems if the change takes place that the said board would

and should be residents of one locality. Besides, in case of simultaneous calls being made by two schools, say fifty or a hundred miles apart, one or both of the schools must remain demoralized, awaiting action of the board when perhaps it was only a trivial disarrangement that could be set right in a few minutes if the trustees, as now, were on the spot.

Again, jealousies are liable to, and do, arise in counties because all or the great majority of the officers are of one locality. In consequence of the existence nowadays, of rings and cliques, this feeling is sometimes justly aroused in men fully as competent and not less ambitious to be useful in certain lines.

Further, it has been the prevailing custom, per force of circumstances which in a very great measure still exist, that when it became necessary to build school houses or improve them, they were built, etc., by voluntary subscription, or if an assessment was instituted, it was collected not in cash altogether but in produce and labor that would as well subserve their purpose without creating hardship to any one. By this means every small village was able to provide reasonably suitable schoolhouses. The school board suggested would scarcely submit to this procedure, and consequently buildings would linger from year to year unfinished, except some wise, legal provision was made to obviate it, because forsooth the necessary cash cannot be found in the district.

For these and other reasons, the ground is taken that the efficiency of the said schools would not be increased or the aggregate expenses decreased.

JOSEPH ORTON.

Written for this Paper

THE GREEKS OF TODAY.

(Copyrighted 1896 by Frank G. Carpenter).
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HE trouble between the Greeks and Turks may end in the dismemberment of the Turkish empire. The loss of

Crete, it has again and again been prophesied, would be the beginning of the end. Crete is the key to the Dardenelles and the Bosphorus. Fortifications here could easily command the entrance to the Black sea, and if the Greeks hold Crete it is a question whether they will not hold it for the Russians. This is what the English feared when they prevented Greece from taking the island in 1869. This was shortly after the marriage of King George to a Russian princess, and the English were afraid that his wife would turn his feelings toward Russia. This danger exists today. Queen Olga is a Russian of the Russians. She is, you know, the cousin of the present czar. She was the niece of Alexander II, and her daughter not long since married a Russian prince. I spent some time in Athens just before the Princess Alexandra was married, and during my stay had a chance to learn much about the royal family. I had an interview