

one who can remember, as I can, the early days, when the entire population—numbering probably six or seven thousand—was centered in Salt Lake valley except a few weak settlements reaching to Ogden on the north and Payson on the south. The people—recently plundered and driven from their all, were trying to build new homes in the desert,—for Utah, so fair to look upon now, was then a veritable desert—peopled by savages and devastating crickets. First a band of wandering pilgrims in a foreign land, then a provisional government as the State of Deseret, next a Territory, now a state! What will the future bring?

But there is something in this connection not so pleasant to look upon, the apparent bitterness of the past election and the attempt to prove an interference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with the conduct of the campaign. It may be answered that all elections rouse antagonism and personal abuse, but this should not be with the "Mormons," who aspire to something far better and purer. It is said a few men high in ecclesiastical authority endeavored to sway the election by "Church influence," that the Church was the unseen power endeavoring to elect some men and defeat others. But this cannot be substantiated. Even admitting, for the sake of argument, that certain dignitaries did try to influence men to vote for Republicans, they did so, not as presidents or apostles, but as private citizens, who possessed an undeniable right to vote as they pleased and get as many others to vote with them as they could. This was the case with every other campaign speaker, on either side. And besides, two, three or half a dozen men do not compose the Church. If any one may speak as the head and mouth-piece of the Church, it is its President, and he has most emphatically said he had never influenced any man, not even his own sons, to vote one way or another, and had no desire to use Church influence in political affairs. To any one who knows President Woodruff his word is sufficient.

Anywhere but in Utah men wrangle over politics, come to blows and even bloodshed and no one thinks of asking what Church they are members of, nor does any one enquire what position he occupies in his Church. Why should it be otherwise in Utah? Cannot a Bishop, or an Apostle exercise the rights of citizenship without first resigning his official standing? Such an idea would be absurd. An Apostle has the same right to work for his favorite candidate that the humblest citizen has, but he does this, not as an Apostle but as a citizen, and makes no attempt to influence any one by the authority of his Priesthood, either by command or constraint. In politics, therefore, he stands upon exactly the same footing as all other citizens. Let any reader should say I write thus because I am a Republican, I here remark that I am not, but have been for many years a Democrat. But I like fair play.

But the recent election presents another phase—an important one. If in a petty territory, whose population is less than that of many fifth class towns, an election engenders such partisan strife and bitterness among the Latter-day Saints, when will we be qualified to assume a higher position in the political world? It is evident there is need of a

great deal of improvement in these things. When it is necessary to fill a vacant office, why not hunt for the one who is best qualified for the place and unitedly elect him? But we differ as to who is the proper candidate;—yes, but that need not fill us with unkind or bitter feelings towards those who differ with us. There is, however, a monitor whose counsels in political as in all other matters we may follow with perfect safety, the Spirit of truth, who will never lead any one astray, but will lead us into all truth, whether religious, social or political. If all are guided by this spirit there can be no passion, bitterness or seriously divergent views. Men will differ more or less, as they are more or less intelligent, or have lesser or greater experience in the conduct of affairs, but the holy spirit induces charity in those who enjoy its influence, and unity and peace and good will to all.

I write this with no desire to find fault with or to teach anyone, but only to remind the Saints of what they already understand well, in relation to their high and holy calling as members of the Church of the First Born. And he who fulfills his duty as a Latter-day Saint will be sure to honestly and faithfully fulfill every duty devolved upon him by his citizenship in the state and nation to which he owns allegiance.

SANTIAGO.

TUCSON, Arizona, Nov. 11th, 1895.

ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morris, mentioned in the following sketch from the *Llanely* (Wales) Guardian, was the mother of the late Mrs. Daniel Leigh, of Malau, Idaho, and Grandmother of W. M., Joseph, Daniel and Samuel Leigh, Mrs. Nepht Campbell, Mrs. Fred Peck and Mrs. Herbert Jones all of them at one time residents of Malau.

The death took place Saturday morning, at Ollifspace, Llanelly, of Mrs. Elizabeth Morris, better known as the Llanelly centenarian. Up to recent date the aged lady had enjoyed wonderfully good health, but during the last few days it was seen that she was slowly, but surely, losing her grip of earthly things, and on Saturday the end came peacefully. The venerable lady celebrated the hundred and fourth anniversary of her birthday on Tuesday, the 5th of March last. The auspicious day was spent very quietly, although she received numerous congratulations. Mrs. Morris was a Llanellyite born and bred. In fact, she was only once out of town. Her husband was a collier, and many years ago he found it necessary to go to Blaize, where he was offered work under rather favorable conditions. But Mrs. Morris could not longer endure absence from the partner of her joys and sorrows. So shouldering a big heavy parcel, and taking her baby in her arms, Mrs. Morris began a long and weary walk to Blaize. The journey occupied five days, and Mrs. Morris was fond of recalling her delightful trip when it was over. That was about seventy years ago. Her parents were ardent churchgoers, but when she married Mrs. Morris followed her husband, who was a Baptist, and became a member of Adam church, Felthoel. She was a great admirer of "John Jones Felthoel." Many years ago Mrs. Morris underwent an opera-

tion for her eyes at the hands of the late Dr. Thos. Llanelly. For some years prior to that she had been deprived of her sight, but the operation was successful, and as a result her sight, almost up to the day of her death, was remarkably good. In spite of her advanced age, the subject of our notice retained possession of her faculties to an astonishing degree. She was a good conversationalist, and nothing pleased her better than to have a chat about the Llanelly that was in the "good old days." It is an interesting fact that the massive fireguard which occupies the hearth of the cottage where Mrs. Morris is now lying dead was the first article cast at the Old Llanelly Furnace in the time of the Rhyr. It certainly is a relic of the past as also is the old arm-chair in which she sat awaiting the "one clear call," which summoned her hence. The chair belonged to her mother, and is said to be about 150 years old. Of the fourteen children born to her only one survives, in the person of Mrs. Evans, who is now 66 years old. With them also is a boy of 14, who is the son of Mrs. Evans' daughter, and, therefore, great grandson of the subject of our notice. Early in the present year the attention of the Princess of Wales was brought to the case of Mrs. Morris by Mr. J. V. Evans, Llanelly, and her royal highness sent her a valuable parcel of clothing and flannel, which was much appreciated by the aged recipient. Mrs. Helen Watney, one of the Bahys, and a literary lady of some note, formerly of Llanelly, had always taken a lively interest in old Mrs. Morris, and had for some years not forgotten her on her birthday. Mrs. Watney, among others, will be grieved to hear of her death.

MILLARD STAKE CONFERENCE.

The regular quarterly conference of Millard Stake was held in Fillmore Sunday and Monday, Nov. 24th and 25th. We were favored with the presence of Elders John H. Smith and J. G. Kimball, of the general authorities, who aided most of the preaching, which was very instructive and faith-inspiring and was listened to by a large and appreciative audience. A short synopsis of the sermons could not begin to do them justice.

The reports of the temporal and spiritual condition of the wards were good, harmony and good feelings existing among the laboring Priesthood, and all the associations in good working order except those of the Young men. The Sabbath schools were reported by Superintendent Joshua Greenwood as being in a much improved condition. Elder C. Anderson reported the High Priest quorum and said the members of that quorum were on the lead at home, and quite a number of them had performed faithful missions in foreign lands. The members of the Stake presidency also reported, and spoke upon the general duties of the Saints.

The general and local authorities were presided by Elder C. Anderson and unanimously sustained.

The choir under the leadership of Elder William Beeson did excellent singing, and the selections were especially appropriate.

C. ANDERSON, Stake Clerk.