

The next room, a few steps higher than the one just described and scarcely separated from it by an archway, occupies the northeast part of the building. This room is beyond all comparison the grandest and loveliest in the entire structure. Its overhead and side decorations are a perfect ecstasy of delicate and luxurious color, its magnificent ceiling a sight worth a voyage round the world to see. No tongue can express, no pen depict in language the marvelous work that has here been accomplished. Like an inspiration, it defies man's best endeavors. Occupying semi-circular alcoves to the east, and high enough to give a fine effect, are two choice paintings—one representing the Hill Cumorah, the other Adam-ondi-Ahman. The chandeliers are of themselves works of the highest art, the floor is richly carpeted, the furniture is among the finest ever produced on the continent. The prevailing color of the walls is a warm brown, and the effect produced by the contrast with the colors of the twenty Grecian columns that adorn the sides is effective in the extreme. All these columns, all the woodwork indeed, furnish evidence of superb skill in handcarving. Bracket chandeliers from the columns and abundance of light from reflected and cleverly arranged lamps cause the hall when illuminated to take on an appearance of overwhelming loveliness. Two colossal triple mirrors occupy places in the east end, and ascending from this point a narrow flight of stairs leads to an apartment at the extreme east appropriately furnished and designed for the use of the president of the Temple.

But we are not yet ready to leave this enchanting part of the building, and three smaller rooms, leading off to the south from the main room, attract our attention. The first, to which we ascend by a few steps, is decorated in rose-pink and gold. Its workmanship throughout is costly, the brackets, columns, etc., being handcarved and the mirror being one of the largest and purest in the building. An art glass window of great size and beauty adorns the south wall. It represents Moroni delivering the plates to Joseph Smith; and the graceful pose of the angel as well as the eager yet timid expectancy of the youth are presented with wonderful accuracy. The furniture of this room is mahogany.

Another small room, reached by a short ascent from the main floor, is a vision of almost supernatural beauty. It is circular in form and resplendent in blue and gold with borders and panels of red silk velvet. It is paved with an artistically designed native hard-wood mosaic, the blocks being mostly no more than an inch square, finely polished. Through the dome which furnishes the ceiling, the light streams through seventeen circular and semi-circular jeweled windows, taking a thousand hues as, softened and subdued, it reaches the interior. The large art window to which the south side of this exquisite little room is given, is a work of surpassing loveliness. It represents the moment in the life of Joseph Smith when he, trusting in the words of the Apostle James, sought wisdom of the Lord, and received as an answer the visitation of two

heavenly beings, one of whom, pointing to the other, said, "This is my beloved son; hear him!" The benignant expression of the two divine personages, their compassionate yet noble attitude, the posture of the lad half in adoration and half shrinking in childish fear, are all delineated with consummate and charming fidelity.

The third small room leading by a couple of steps' ascent from the main room is done in sage-green and gold with furniture and trimmings to match. It also has an art-window, a large plate mirror, and is in all respects as handsome and perfect a little spot as taste and skill can make it.

In these three small rooms last described the most sacred ordinances for the living and the dead are performed.

Passing now finally from the main large room previously referred to, we enter the southeast reception room, not a large, but a most charmingly colored apartment. Cornice and carpet are deep and rich in tone, and the contrast with some of the more delicate hues of which we have seen so much is restful and pleasing. Its woodwork is massive and beautiful. Three other rooms, a suite extending westward toward the main corridor and staircase, answer the purpose of additional reception rooms. In one of them will be noticed a handsome mantelpiece of bird's-eye maple, with base and facings of Utah oaks.

Making our way now to the southeast tower, and again essaying the circular stone stairway, we ascend to the second floor of the edifice and enter a large, light, comfortable but plain room to be used as the library and recorder's room. It is homelike in its appointments, has eight silver chandeliers and a good old-fashioned home-made carpet upon the floor. Three semi-circular windows to the north, hung with rare silk curtains, give us a nearer glimpse of the splendid ceiling of the large northeast room on the lower floor previously described; and here we find the proverb contradicted: it is proximity, not distance, that lends enchantment to the view.

From the library we enter a long corridor leading to the west, ranging along the sides of which are six rooms elegantly carpeted and furnished for the presidency of the various quorums of the Priesthood. The most striking of these are the rooms of the First Presidency on the right, and of the Twelve Apostles on the left of the corridor. In one of the former apartments is the art window representing the Temple and bearing the inscriptions which we have used as a text in the beginning of this article.

Turning to the right in another short corridor we note two other rooms, also for the use of quorums in the Priesthood. We are now at the northwest corner, and again climb the tower stair; noticing that in this tower every floor is supplied with fire hose conveniently disposed, so that in case the unexpected, we might almost say the impossible, should happen, adequate remedy and protection would be at hand. In the top of the opposite tower beyond the elevator, is a permanent reserve tank with a capacity of seven thousand gallons of water.

Reaching the next landing stage, the third floor, we enter at once the upper or grand assembly room, which

occupies the whole extent of the building except the towers; being 120 feet long, 80 feet wide and 38 feet high, with a seating capacity of about 2200 persons. The gallery is of graceful sweep; it is railed with bronze and is reached by circular stairways in each of the four corners. Nothing could surpass the beauteous grandeur of this vast hall. The elevated seats for the Priesthood at either end, the choice hand-carved decorations of dais and balcony, the broad auditorium, the artistically panelled ceiling and frescoed frieze, with innumerable permanent lights mingled in the cornice, and five dependent chandeliers—all combine in presenting to the mind a scene that will be equally imposing by day or by night. The seats in the body of the hall are reversible, so that the audience can face the speaker from either stand. The latter are white and gold with red velvet trimmings and seats.

Here the dedicatory services will be held tomorrow and on the succeeding days according to the program published; and from here, when each service is ended, the audience will descend again by the stairway in the northeast and northwest towers to the first floor and thence into the open air, the exit from the ground being by the east and north gates of the block.

We take leave of our readers now feeling assured that if they have followed us attentively and have observed the various points of interest in passing, they will agree that from foundation to turret the holy building is wanting neither in solidity, symmetry nor purity. Expense has not been spared, and the Saints we are sure will be glad of it. Their diligence and zeal and liberality have reared and now finished an edifice that in all respects is among the grandest upon the earth, and in at least one respect possesses no counterpart outside of Zion. The completion of a Temple means more to our minds than the mere finishing of a costly pile of masonry. It means that an enduring bond of unity between time and eternity has been welded; it means that the heavens are brought that much nearer the earth; it means that the faith which enables a people to honor God in keeping these His commandments will enable them also to prevail mightily with Him in securing their own salvation and the redemption of mankind. This is a blessed day for Zion and the sons and daughters of Zion in all their abiding places. May its peace and joy and strength abide in all their hearts forever!

THE NEWS is in receipt of a splendidly printed and an elegantly bound and illustrated guide to Salt Lake City, entitled "The City of the Saints." Nothing neater or more complete within a limited compass has ever been issued here or elsewhere, and those who are disposed to question Utah's ability to cope with the world in the matter of elegant printing and binding should obtain a copy of this publication and be satisfied at once. George Q. Cannon & Sons Co. are the publishers.