FIRST THANKSGIVING.

Early Proclamations of New England Governors—Washington's Proclamation Jan. 1, 1795—Why We Have Cause to Rejoice This Year.

Written for the "News."

Thanksgiving dawned on a people this year, that have a case for deep and sincere thankfulness. Americans offered up words of gratitude to God, words of prayer, words of faith that will waste all to one feeling of love and kindness. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, the spirit of peace has swept back the tide of war and brought to our nation a deeper love and a more sincere patriotism for America "the land of the free and the home of the brave." The sun shines today on a prosperous and happy people. The soil has given up its produce in abundance. The wheat, corn, and potato fields have yielded as they have never yielded before, men have found it easier to work for duties to perform, and have found more than daily bread, as of which they had never thought in all health and prosperity have attended our people. True, the reckoning season of war has been abroad in the land and at sea, but the God of battles has aided the indomitable valor of our soldiers, and our flag still waves over a nation whose destiny is in the hands of God. True, there is poverty and distress in the land, there are some who are weeping by the side of those who are fasting, but the act of the American people is, on the whole, far better than the inhabitants of the monarchical governments of Europe.

We cannot but see that in proportion to the hold we hold in a greater measure than other nations, it is because we have a God-given ability to work for rights, because that through our hearts and pride, the Great Father makes known His will to the children of men. We are wont to let our Pilgrim blood, which down through the centuries of time has put air and courage into the veins of Virginian blood, demonstrated which gave us the courage and strength of our Pilgrim Fathers. We have in our hearts a deep veneration and a high regard for liberty. This is why we are a nation of our successes.

Back in 1621, Governor Bradford, who was governor of the original New England colonies, proclaimed the first general Thanksgiving Day in America. Bradford's proclamation looked as black as a thunder-cloud for the little band, and only the strongest faith in God could have kept them from despair. Thanksgiving, when the crops were withering for lack of rain and the yields gave no sign of grain. Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware The rain descended and the crops were saved, and Americans have been indebted to God ever since for the favor.

When the Pilgrims brought sorrow and tears to so many homes, while it seemed to overwhelm the colonies of war and financial yet we have come to a period of the spirit of 1621, and offer our thanks to God for the blessings of war.

The Thanksgiving among the Pilgrim colonists was not heralded far and wide but its record is:

Our forefathers being assembled in our gates, as we are now met on a festival day, they as we were after a special manner to give thanks unto God, who had preserved them in all our labours, they have in a special manner given thanks unto God, and a big bear beside, served the company almost a week, at which time many of the Indians coming among us, were amongst us, and three of their men, one of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted; at which time they went out and killed five deer which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our Governor and on the Captains, and others.

Proclamations for Thanksgiving and special days of worship were issued yearly by the governors of Plymouth colony and by the Bay colony. The Massachusetts Hutchinson says:

"The commonwealth every spring, appointed a day of fasting and prayer, to implore the divine blessings upon the ensuing year, and in the autumn, a day of thanksgiving and public worship, to acknowledge the favors received during the year past."

During the adherence of the colonies to the crown, the proclamations were issued with the British coat of arms and the motto, "God save the King."

As the trouble between the colonies and the mother country increased, no Thanksgiving was given by the royal governors, but in 1774 the people of the different colonies were united in celebrating the Thanksgiving day of that year. The proclamation was issued in Massachusetts Bay in Hancock and signed by the council. The people were exhorted to be grateful to God for all His favors and blessings. It was a fervent exhortation of their rights, even to the last extremity, has given them the sword of patriotism, with no alternative, but to resist to the last, rather than to surrender their rights and liberties, and to consider the measures necessary for their defense, and establish such a form of government as may secure to them the same, and with a merry cheerfulness endure the hardships of war, in support of God, their rights as the inheritance of God. He has them by the hand from step to step, so we have seen those states emerge from the oppression, to assert their native right to freedom and independence in an united declaration, which the impartial world must justify.

In 1780, John Hancock issued the proclamation for Thanksgiving, after we all the colonies to observe it, and quoting his article with the sentence "God save the people of the United States of America."

In the library of the state department at Washington are kept all the proclamations issued by the Presidents of the United States. The first of these was signed by George Washington and the last by Benjamin Harrison, the twenty-first. The second one was issued by James Madison; then it stops and Thomas Jefferson, the third President, failed to issue any until Lincoln's proclamation in the early sixties, which was a proclamation with.

As the President of the United States of America.

We see the calamities which afflict other nations, and the blessings of the United States affords much room for thankfulness and acknowledgment, therefore, I have thought fit to recommend to the people of the United States a day of thanksgiving and prayer to Almighty God, for the benefits received, and that all divisions and animosities may be healed and cemented with the blood of brothers, and that the unity of government which constitutes us one people, may be preserved unimpaired for all ages to come.

Given under my hand and seal of the United States, this 3rd day of February, 1815, in the 39th year of the independence of the United States.

JAMES MADISON.

By the President:

JAMES MONROE, Secretary of State.

President McKinley's proclamation to observe Thanksgiving this year was a concise and well-worded article, fitting the occasion and the high national office, and that all Americans both at home and abroad united on this holiday and gave thanks to him, who rules the destiny of the nation.

LEVI EDGAR YOUNG.

STAKE CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Hoxsider Stake.

Brigham City, Utah, Nov. 14, 1898.

The quarterly conference of the Hoxsider Stake of Zion was held in the new tabernacle Sunday and Monday, Nov. 13 and 14.

The weather was most favorable and a large attendance was present at each of the meetings.

There were present on the stand during the conference President Lorenzo Snow, Elder John Henry Smith and Elder Rudger Clawson of the Council of the Twelve, besides the Stake authorities.

On Sunday morning the Sunday school children occupied the galleries and sang a hymn in excellent manner.

Elder Rudger Clawson was the first speaker. He reported the condition of the Stake as being improving. The various organizations of the Stake were in good working order. The best of feelings existed between the Bishops and the other officers and people. The Saints are bearing fruit in the good work being done in all departments. He spoke of the excellent showing made by the Beaver, Bear River, Three Mile, and other wards in building fine meeting houses.

Referring to himself, the speaker said that he had not realized how much he had loved the Saints in Hoxsider Stake until his recent calling to the Apostleship, which presumably would change the relationship existing between himself and the people of the Stake. He bore testimony that to whatever success he had attained in life, it was due to the principles of seeking counsel of his presiding brethren.

Elder John Henry Smith spoke eloquently of the blessings of our western home and the grandeur of our mountains. He spoke of the effect that the living Spirit of Christ had had on the world in inspiring them to charitable and beneficial works.

In the afternoon Elder Geo. F. Gibbs was the first speaker. He spoke of the great blessings we enjoy in being permitted to take leaves of this estate and showed the necessity of taking care of them and serving them. He said we should be careful not to let spirit contrary to the Spirit of God take possession of our tabernacles.

President Lorenzo Snow spoke of the importance of the experience we are passing through in this life. He said that after the Saints of ancient times had passed through the ordeal of which we talk, but first we must be tested in temporal things. When that time comes, he said, we will have an opportunity to develop his particular talent. Our spirits are immortal. Our identity can never be destroyed. We will always have our agency. After a time we shall have perfect control of our bodies. Don't be discouraged, he said, but all will be well in the end.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Bishop A. Goodliffe reported the Bishopric ward in to a good condition, with the Salina ward in good condition, with the Salina feeling well generally. He believed in being obedient to the authorities whom God had placed over him.

Bishop Wm. Mecklenburg said the Bear Valley ward is quite scattered. Its organizations are all complete with active officers of their kind. He spoke of an open door which is a few months ago, a strong testimony in regard to the Prophet Joseph Smith. He knew he was a true prophet, and had seen the fulfilment of his prophecy. One end of residence of his martyrdom and said she was at the meeting when President Brigham Young spoke and appointed as the martyred Prophet.

Elder Adolphus Middleton said the people are anticipating a great temporal work in sustaining thousands of people in the Stake, which is a great economic in the Stake, calls that are made upon them, as well as being generally prosperous. This is evidence of God's faith on us, and we are a chosen people. He spoke on the redemption of the dead, a work that many of the Saints are engaged in, especially in taking among the poor, are manifesting great interest in.

Elder Chas. Kelly said he had been a member of this Stake for thirty years. He had seen the development among the Saints. He said President Snow's coming said in early days that if this people would allow President Snow to lead and guide them, they would find the Lord would extend kindness. He referred to the United Order and the early institutions here in the Stake.

President Snow said he was obtaining property in the people here. Though things have changed now, he said, the spirit of the United Order is in us and among the Saints of the Hoxsider Stake.

Elder John Henry Smith said God gave us faith in the Gospel and this faith enabled us to receive the testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith. We are established with the doctrines of the churches; they lacked the spirit and power to bring conversion to our minds. We have changed the whole condition of our lives, made clear the Scriptures, the characteristics of the morning and evening of life. Our faith without works is dead, being alone. The work of the Lord became wonderful to us, and we have learned the details of our lives and we feel we must conquer the evil within us and make it subservient to the good. We were loaded in temporal affairs and it developed our souls. The moderated as well as the energetic, the other side of our nature, may be possessed with faith, must be educated side by side in this great school. This is no easy school. Many difficulties must be overcome. It enters not only into the spiritual but the temporal affairs and affends more in our walks of life. It is not given all persons, the weak as well as the strong, to become industrious and perform their parts without enforcing the duties God has placed them, and all will be rewarded according to their works.

Afternoon session, 2 p. m.—The home missionaries for the Stake were presented and unanimously sustained.

Elder Clawson said the Park City relief fund from the Stake amounted to $131. He read a letter from the Bishop of Park City acknowledging the receipt of the above amount.

Elder Wm. L. Watkins said we have gathered from Babylon, we have acquainted with the principles of life and salvation. The Lord's hand has been manifested in gathering the Saints from the influences against them. We have entered into covenant to keep the commandments of God. Faith enables us to receive the principles as they were presented to us in the world. All various organizations of the Stake were in good working order. The best of feelings existed between the Bishops and the other officers and people. The Saints are bearing fruit in the good work being done in all departments. He spoke of the excellent showing made by the Beaver, Bear River, Three Mile, and other wards in building fine meeting houses.

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Women Wrecks. Every once in a while the newspapers tell the sad story of some once beautiful woman who has been ruined by the opium, became physical wrecks. Once her ambition to seek temporary strength in the opiate morphine was first taken. Once she was found on many occasions, taken to the opium dens.

The story is an old, but ever now one. A woman finds herself suffering from weakness, nervousness, despondency and irritability. She cannot divine the cause, and her family physician at once suggests a tonic. Her sufferers in the same way tells her that a wee drop of opium, brandy drops, she, of course, will relief." by other physicians will give temporary relief. And that is the beginning that ends in a madhouse. The opium habit, which the opiate described may safely infer that there exists disease or at least weakness of the delicate organs that constitute her a woman. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which contains no alcohol, no opium, no narcotic, no other stimulant in medicine, will promptly put these organs of the right, and make her strong and healthy in a woman's way. It dissipates away with nervous exhaustion and nervous prostration and local treatment. It cures in the privacy of her home. It gives vigor and vitality to the organs upon which depends the performance of the human race.

Mrs. S. A. Allbaugh, of Austin, Lonoke Co., Ark., writes: "After two months of great suffering I was cured by the use of other medicines from the same address. I declared with my family physician, without any good results, I was induced to send for your Favorite Prescription, four of his physicians declared it was the best medicine for all female weakness and suffering. I have to all persons within the United States, the 26th day of February next, or a day of public thanksgiving and prayer. The great Ruler of nations has so ordered that great success and hearty thanks render their assent and hearty thanks for the great Ruler of nations for the manifold and great blessings bestowed on us as a nation, particularly the prosperous state of our constitutions of government which exists and by their union establish liberty with order, for the observance of our rights, foreign and domestic, and for the remarkable success with which we have been in the pursuit of this order in the suppression of the spirit of insurrection, and generally the prosperous course of our affairs, public and private, and at the same time humbly and reverently beseech the Author of these blessings graciously to pursue them to a happy conclusion. Our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our dependence on the Divine Being for continuance of our present blessings, and for the remarkable manifestations of the power of God in our behalf, and we do now, in the name of the United States of America, and in the name of the President of the United States, and in the name of the Congress of the United States, and in the name of the Supreme Court of the United States, and in the name of the Governors of the United States, and in the name of the Legislatures of the United States, and in the name of the Judiciary of the United States, and in the name of the Army of the United States, and in the name of the Navy of the United States, and in the name of the Militia of the United States, and in the name of the Volunteers of the United States, and in the name of the Citizens of the United States, and in the name of the Congress of the United States, and in the name of the President