

superintendency, bore a powerful testimony to the integrity of the young men of Zion to the cause of truth, and especially those carrying aloft the banner of Mutual Improvement. The aids to the general and Stake boards were God-fearing men, having at heart the interest of the young people. There was a glorious destiny awaiting the youth of Zion, and it behooved all to keep themselves virtuous and unspotted from the sins of the world.

Elder Willard Done spoke of the objects of Mutual Improvement work, and paid special attention to the great need among the young people of a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that the skepticism now abroad in the land would have no effect on them in their life's journeyings. The cultivation of a greater degree of spirituality was an object of Mutual Improvement work, and in the associations, those taking part should be given every opportunity of bearing testimony.

Elder Thomas Ashworth rendered a vocal solo, *There Is Light Beyond the Shadows*.

President George Q. Cannon made a few closing remarks, in which he referred to the advantages afforded the young people of today, as compared with those enjoyed by the young in earlier years. He spoke reminiscently of his own experience when a youth as a preacher of the Gospel, and testified to the different conditions now existing with reference to becoming acquainted with the work of the Lord. The Mutual Improvement associations were doing a good work, and God would bless those who were engaged in them. In the work of the associations, the spirit of the Lord should be depended upon, and inspiration would follow the teachings given.

The choir sang the anthem, *From Afar, Gracious Lord*. Benediction was pronounced by Elder Rodney C. Badger.

#### INTERESTING LETTER FROM MANILA

Manila, Philippine Islands,

Oct. 6th, 1898.

I thought I would write and tell you something of my journey from Salt Lake City to Manila, a distance of nearly eight thousand miles. As you know, we left Salt Lake on the 29th of June, and went to Ogden via the Rio Grande Western, and there we were switched onto the regular Overland Limited that leaves Ogden at about 2 o'clock p. m. Arriving at Terrace, the first division west of Ogden about supper time, we had coffee steaming hot right out of the railroad hotel, and in about twenty minutes we were off again. The next morning at about 8 o'clock we stopped at Wadsworth, expecting to get coffee there, as we had to change engines and so had about twenty minutes to spare to eat, but we were disappointed, as they had neglected to send on word of our coming and it was with a hungry feeling that we drew out of that station. But we telegraphed ahead to Reno, Nevada, to have coffee ready for us, and we arrived there in about two hours, when we had our breakfast.

We ate a light lunch for dinner and about 5:30 that evening we arrived in Sacramento, Cal., where the Red Cross ladies had coffee and a good lunch awaited us. After eating a good supper we proceeded on toward the setting sun and finally arrived in Oakland, just across the bay from San Francisco, but seven miles distant.

We arrived in Oakland about 10 o'clock, and after the passengers had stepped off the train in the depot we switched off and curved back about a mile and side-tracked, where we remained until morning. Then we were taken back to the depot and got off

with all our things and went straight to the ferry.

We got to San Francisco on the ferry at about 6 o'clock and marched into a very large room they have in the new ferry depot, and there the Red Cross ladies served us with coffee and a good substantial lunch, after which we marched out to Camp Merritt, about five miles from the water front. Then in Camp Merritt we pitched our tents and fixed a place in the ground for the military cooking outfit and got everything fixed up in good shape. The sand there was about three feet deep and very disagreeable, especially when the wind blew and we were eating, for the wind would blow the sand into our plates in spite of all we could do, and it was with great pleasure that we heard we were going to move over to the Presidio. This we did and at the Presidio we pitched our tents and made everything military shape and were pleased with our surroundings very much.

The bay was but a quarter of a mile from our camp and we used to go down every day after drill and go in bathing. You may think it odd that I should have had a shark in my hands, but it is true, for I picked one up on the shore of the bay one day—a little fellow about a foot long. The waves had washed it high and dry upon the shore and left it where I found it.

The Red Cross society had a tent pitched near ours and there was a lady always there in charge. There were tables and writing materials and stamps furnished the boys free of all charge. They were very kind to us all and deserve praise for their efforts to make the soldiers happy. We were there until the 22nd of July, when we marched down to the Pacific Mail Steamship company's docks and went aboard of the big transport *Rio de Janeiro*, which was going to take us all to Manila.

There was a big crowd there when we went aboard and while we were looking over the side talking to some young ladies who had come to see us off, our pictures were taken to be published in the papers. Then we cast off the ropes and cast off into the bay, where we anchored and the next morning at 10:30 o'clock our anchor was raised and we commenced the long voyage toward the west. While running down the bay the whistles of a great many steamers in the bay and of a large number of factories, etc., in the city, blew, and cannon were firing salutes from the ports as we passed. Finally, in a couple of hours or so, the line steamers that came along with us loaded down with people, turned back and we continued on out to sea and before long were out of sight of land.

We saw nothing except water and sky for eight days, and it was with great joy that we sighted land, and when we arrived in Honolulu we were very handsomely received.

After the same passage—excepting for the two days just before entering the bay of Manila, when we had it pretty rough—we finally arrived off Cavite, which is just across the bay from Manila and but seven miles distant from it. Here the South Dakota boys were landed and then the great ship hoisted anchor and swung slowly around and headed toward Manila. We ran right between the Olympia and Charleston, two of Dewey's ships, and anchored right in among all our battleships and a lot of our transports. After a day or so longer we were landed and marched through the city to where the Utah artillery were quartered. The boys were all glad to see us and we to see them.

They did good work on the 13th of August, the date of the taking of Manila, and the boys have some very

interesting accounts to relate of the bombardment of Manila. After having been assigned quarters with the rest of the boys and having got all straight and settled in military shape, we all felt more than satisfied with our surroundings for we were more prepared to go out and pitch our tents in some marshy place near the trenches, from what we had heard.

This would have been so had we got here sooner, for the boys had just come into their present quarters a few days before from the trenches, where they had to wade around in mud, and even to lay down in it, with the rain pouring down all around.

We could not be more comfortably located if we were in Fort Douglas or any other American fort than we are here, for these barracks belonged to the Spanish engineers before Manila was taken and were built apparently for military use. We have two large pools of water to bathe in, one for Battery A and the other for B.

Several of the boys have bought monkey-keys, and I have one which we call "Battery," and you would enjoy seeing them playing and climbing about, up and down posts, ropes and anything that happen to be handy. Then we have about a dozen cages of birds, several different kinds—one kind is what they call the parakeet and is a beautifully colored bird resembling the parrot, but no larger than a robin.

We drill every morning; some mornings we have the foot drill, and I think it would interest you to see us, for we go through all the movements, at command that we would if in real action.

We were called out several times, for word had come that the natives were about to make an attack and all troops were to be in readiness to march at a moment's notice to the trenches. We got everything ready, filled the limbers that we attached to the canon with water and infact got all prepared to start right off at a minute's notice to fight the insurgents. But we were not called out; everything seems quiet now, and we are all living peacefully in our military home. We can get a pass to go out every two days if we are not on any duty, such as guard, etc. And then we get a chance to look over the ground where the battle was fought and to look through the city, etc. and see all that is most interesting.

Some days ago I and several of the boys got a pass and went down to the river, where we got a boat and were taken out to look over some of the big battleships laying in the bay. We looked over the Olympia, Dewey's flag ship, and saw the admiral himself and thought him a very fine looking old man in his admiral's uniform. We saw also the Baltimore and one or two more.

There was a hole in the steeldeck of the Baltimore which was made by a Spanish shell, but no one was injured by it, which seems wonderful, for there were so many sailors and marines aboard of her during the engagement. Then we were taken over to the largest cruiser in the world (at least I have been told it is the largest) the English cruiser called the "Powerful" and she certainly was a powerful boat and a big one, too. The English sailors were very civil to us and showed us all over the great ship, and we would not have missed seeing it for a good deal.

We were all through the big Catholic Cathedral at Cavite, where the insurgents murdered the priests, and saw many things that were very interesting. We saw the land batteries that helped to make it hot for Dewey, and just off the shore about two hundred yards were about ten Spanish battleships that had been sunk in the engagement on the first of May. You could just see the masts and funnels and they all looked a sorry lot.

A base-ball match has been made up