

# BRIGHAM YOUNG ACADEMY EXPLORING EXPEDITION.

As the day approaches for the Brigham Young Academy Exploring Expedition to start, the interest increases in the undertaking; not only throughout the State, but in various parts of the United States. Certainly no exploring party could wish for wider advertisement than it has received. An eastern paper opens a long article on the subject as follows:

"While the country has been pouring the vials of its wrath upon 'Roberts of Utah,' and calling the strongholds of Mormonism every evil thing that can be safely said in print, there has been organizing among the people who have been the butt of so much abuse an expedition that will, if all goes well, solve some of the most interesting historical and archaeological puzzles of this continent. The expedition will start in the early part of April to thoroughly explore the ancient ruins and general geography of Mexico, Central America and South America. The party will consist of professors and students of the Brigham Young Academy and Church Normal Training School of Provo City, Utah. It will consist of three teachers and about twenty-two students, young men ranging from 17 to 26 years. All will be provided with two horses, a saddle, a pack saddle, rifle and ammunition, camp outfit, shovel, pick or ax, tent, and, in fact, everything necessary for a long journey overland."

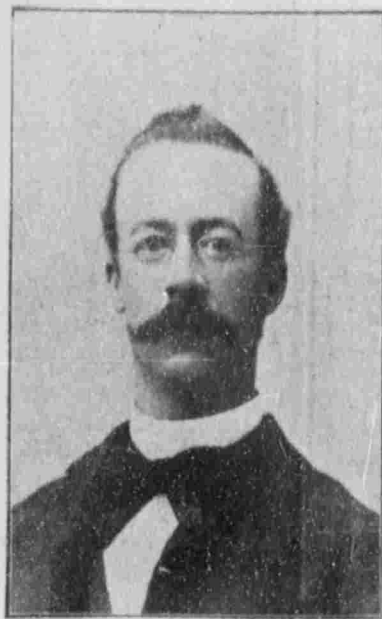
## THE SEND OFF.

On Monday night, April 13th, in the Brigham Young Academy, the explorers will be given a grand ball, such a one as they will be likely to remember in the jungles of South America. It will be a State affair, invitations having been issued to prominent people in every State in Zion. It is already beginning to attract attention as the social event of the season. The members of the exploring party will, it is said, be dressed in the brown duck uniform which they are to wear on their journey southward, and will thus be conspicuous among the gaily dressed people who meet to do their honor.

On the following day there will be a banquet, with plates sufficient to accommodate five hundred people. It will be prepared by the teachers and students of the Brigham Young Academy. At this social there will be exercises appropriate to the purpose of the undertaking. The Academy has fully determined that it shall be such a send-off as will warm and cheer the boys when the days of trial come, as they no doubt will, only too soon.

## THE MARCH SOUTHWARD.

Arising from the tables at noon on Tuesday, April 17, the company will mount their horses and ride to Spanish Fork, where the first camp will be pitched; fourteen tents in all. It is not likely, however, that the boys will cook their own suppers, as the good people of Spanish Fork are making extensive preparations for the occasion.



WALTER M. WOLFE,  
Professor of botany and zoology, Brigham Young Academy. In charge of the botanical and zoological department, South American expedition.



BENJAMIN CLUFF,  
President of the Brigham Young Academy. In charge of the South American expedition. Correspondent of the Deseret News.



JOHN B. FAIRBANKS,  
Vice President, Utah art association. Artist for the South American expedition.

A party is to be given in honor of the explorers, and those who know the people of Spanish Fork and their love for the academy, do not doubt that the entertainment will be worthy of the occasion.

The next day, April 18th, the party will take dinner at Santaquin, and spend the night at Nephi, where another fete is preparing. Whether the boys will be able to stand so much jollification remains to be seen. In view of the fact that they have worse things to face in the future, they will perhaps gladly round up their shoulders to it.

On the 19th the party will noon at Wales, and spend the night at Ephraim. The next noon will be at Mayfield, and the night at Gunnison. April 21st will see them take dinner at Salina. In time to reach Richfield at night for a celebration, in which the whole county will probably take part.

Here the party will rest for the Sabbath, and start the next day in time to reach Kanab. The day following they will reach Beaver, where there will be two days' rest—April 25 and 26. Parowan will be reached on the evening of the 27th, and the two days following will be spent in Panguitch; which town declares that it will not be outdone by any city in the north in the welcoming it intends to give to the expedition.

Kanab will be reached on the evening of May 1st, and then the tune changes. No more fetes or parties. The next day the company will start across the desert for Lee's Ferry. As yet the route through Arizona has not been definitely mapped out.

## THE PERSONNEL OF THE PARTY.

It will no doubt be interesting to know something of the character and ability of the people who are making this remarkable venture. President Benjamin Cluff is a man about 40 years of age, in the full vigor of a splendid manhood. He is the son of pioneers, and may indeed be called a pioneer himself; which fact, to people who have known Utah in the early days, is a sufficient guarantee of pluck and hardihood. President Cluff is a graduate of Michigan University, and has been president of the Brigham Young Academy since 1892. The growth and development of that institution during the last eight years is a strong tribute to the executive powers of the man. He is intensely practical and matter-of-fact; so much so, that people have accused him of lack of imagination—a mistake made in the estimation of most men of great enterprise. The fact is, his mind is continually full of gigantic projects, but he has the rare merit of putting

his imagination always into working harness.

Prof. Walter Wolfe, a graduate of William's College, Mass., has for a number of years been in charge of the natural science work of the academy. He is known as a thorough scholar, an enthusiastic teacher, and an able writer. He will have charge of the botanical, zoological, and geological divisions of the party, the main purpose of which is to furnish the museum of the academy with specimens.

John Fairbanks is so well known as an artist that little need be said of him. He is a student of the art school of Paris and is known for his fine work in landscape painting, some of which adorn the walls of the Salt Lake Temple. Mr. Fairbanks will have charge of the department of art work and photography, and will no doubt fill his portfolio with sketches that will greatly enhance the value of his future work as a painter.

The young men chosen to make up the body of the party are sons of prominent men throughout the State, their fathers being pioneers and they themselves fully accustomed to "roughing" it. They have been selected not alone for their physical hardihood, but also for their mental alertness, and especially for the fact that they are young men of strong moral and spiritual en-

dowments. For however else the party shall distinguish itself, President Cluff is determined that this expedition shall undertake its work in the fear of the Lord, and prosecute it in such a manner as to call down His blessings upon it.

## ORGANIZATION.

The party will be organized on a military basis. Each man will have two horses or mules, one to ride, the other to pack his outfit. It is hoped by exchanging animals every other day that they will be able to make the journey without breaking down. Two new Studebaker wagons, well equipped with excavation tools, cooking utensils, scientific instruments, and provisions both for men and animals, will accompany the cavalcade. The party will be divided into such sections as will best serve the purpose of exploration and the exigencies of camp-life.

Not least important of these divisions will be the squad detailed to furnish the camp with game. In addition to the usual pack-saddle equipment, each man is furnished with a .38-55 Remington rifle—a gun warranted to carry a mile; also with a most formidable bowie knife, which has more shots in it than the best gun ever invented. A number of shotguns and 22 rifles are also in the

equipment to furnish diversion on the road and supply the party with small game.

Each two members have a wedge tent about eight feet in diameter and with a single roof pole eight feet high. There is just comfortable room for a bed. When the party reaches the torrid zone a hammock will no doubt have to be provided for each man, as it is hazardous to sleep on the ground; not only because of poisonous reptiles, but because of insects and vermin much smaller but no less dangerous to life.

## THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE EXPEDITION.

is, of course, to study the ruins of ancient America. While Latter-day Saints are fully convinced of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, both from the testimony which God gives to everyone who will seek it and also from the indisputable internal evidences of the book itself, every Elder in the field has realized the need of external corroboration. Surely in a country so full of ruins as Central and South America there must be no end of proof substantiating the divine claims of this work.

Every schoolboy among our people has no doubt stopped to wonder at finding a river north of the Amazon named Maroni. No doubt the wonder will be increased to learn that this river lies in what was called by the Book of Mormon the Land of Moroni. But how, they ask, could the name be transmitted to our day? The problem is simple enough. The Indians have lived in this country continuously since the day of the Nephites. Who is more natural than that they should perpetuate this important Book of Mormon name? No doubt every prominent land mark had it retained its Indian name, would be equally suggestive.

Will the party succeed in discovering the ancient site of Zarahemla? From all accounts the place where it should be is now an almost impenetrable forest. President Cluff recently received a letter from a citizen of the United States of Colombia declaring that the party could not ascend the valley of the Magdalena river with horses, owing to swamps and jungles.

It seems almost too much to hope to set foot on the site of the ancient Nephite capital; but why not? At any rate we shall never discover it by not trying.

## SIGHTS BY THE WAY.

An eastern paper thus points out what will probably engage the attention of the expedition.

"The party will cross the Colorado river at Lee's Ferry, enter Mexico near Batepito, Sonora, and begin work in the Sierra Madre mountains. All places of interest will be visited on the way, stops made at the City of Mexico, the ruins of the Yucatan and Guatemala visited, and the route of the Nicaragua ship canal studied. The greater part of the work will be done in South America along the Magdalena river, and in Ecuador and Peru. The return home will be by steamer and rail via San Francisco. The company expects to be absent fifteen or eighteen months, but

much longer time may be consumed.

While it is intended to collect specimens in botany, geology, zoology, mineralogy, etc. the main object of the expedition will be the exploration of the Central American country. The students from Utah will try to discover the origin of the colossal architectural remains of the cities of Palenque, Uxmal and Mitla, which some think are the work of the Toltecs, those strange beings whose name has become a synonym for "architect," who brought to the valley of Mexico the first elements of civilization and left behind them, to crumble into mysterious ruins, monuments of gigantic dimensions, temples and cities of magnificent construction."

## THE OLDER CIVILIZATION.

"The students will also delve into the mysteries of the Aztecs, who succeeded the Toltecs and adopted many customs which horrified the Spanish later by their barbarities although the Spaniards were by no means gentle conquerors themselves. The expedition will endeavor to trace something of the lost history of the two peoples, and settle the vexed question of just who the Toltecs were, when they disappeared, and what induced them to 'trek' away and leave the Aztecs in complete possession of the land they had so marvelously beautified with their gems of architecture. It is known that the Toltecs came from the north and that the Aztecs came from the same quarter, but the mysteries about them are numberless, and these it will be attempted, to throw light upon by a systematic search among the ruins of the southern part of the continent."

## THE MODERN CIVILIZATION.

"The customs and habits of the people, especially of the Indians, and the products of the countries will receive attention. The members of the expedition will mingle with the people of the districts visited and will try to discover by personal investigation relics that will tend to throw light on what has been hidden from these students who have confined their efforts to museum research and excavations among central ruins. Attempts will be made to secure some proof of the truth of the startling theory that the great temple of Palenque was modeled after the temple of Solomon. It is thought that somewhere will be found the key to the mystery of the several hundred small pyramids surmounted by colossal stone statues, some explanation of the origin of the superb vase that designed the flower temple of Oajaca, and modeled the vases and statues that rivaled those of Egypt and Etruria.

"The time stated for the expedition to be away is not too long, when it is considered that a vast field of research is before the students and the great importance of the discoveries that they believe will result."

## DIFFICULTIES TO BE OVERCOME.

No doubt, the enthusiasm of the party has greatly overrated the pleasures (Continued on page eighteen.)

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