

PRIMARY ASSOCIATIONS.

WILLARD CITY, June 30.—Having completed a very successful visit to the Primary associations of the Cache Stake, in connection with Sister Aurelia S. Rogers, president of the Davis Stake organization, I thought a short synopsis of our journeyings might prove of some interest and benefit to others working in the same cause.

By invitation of the Box Elder Stake officers, Mrs. Rogers visited the quarterly conference held in Brigham City on June 11th, and which proved to be one of special interest, as was also the entertainment given by the little ones in the Ope a house the same evening. Great credit is due the president Vio Reese and her counselors Phena Matson and Amelia Gbrael for untiring energy and perseverance in their labors among the children.

After attending the conference of the Y. L. M. I. A. of the same place on June 14th, Sister Rogers and myself visited the little town of Millard, attending a special meeting of the association and the regular meeting of the Primary. The attendance at both meetings showed decided interest. The singing was cheerful and refreshing. Miss Minnie Owens has displayed valuable talent in composing music full of cheerful harmony, suited to the capacity of children and appropriate to our Primary hymns.

Leading Willard, we traveled into Cache Stake for the purpose of attending a series of eight conferences designed by Sister Jane E. Mollin, president, and Sisters Mattie Blair Hansen and Emma Pike counselors, for the purpose of meeting the greatest number of children possible as it is not always convenient for the little ones to travel long distances to attend one general Stake conference. Their method was to group from two to three towns, holding a conference every June in each town, alternately.

On Monday the 19th the Logan conference convened in the Stake Tabernacle, comprising Logan, Providence and Greenville. The attendance was very large and the presence and instructions of the Stake presidency, Orson Smith, Isaac Smith and Simon E. Mollin, was very encouraging to the persistent workers in this field of labor. The children maintained most excellent order throughout the day, and the exercises were well chosen and ably rendered, particularly those of a musical nature. Ten children had walked a distance of three miles from Providence twice a week to attend the practices under the kind instruction of Brother Wallen, who has taken great interest in the musical education of the children. Would that we had more such brethren willing to devote a portion of their time and talent in the interest of the Primary work.

It would be impossible to mention all the creditable parts rendered on the program, but special ones might be noticed for the encouragement of others, viz: a trio of little boys playing the harmonica, triangle and whistle delighted the audience, as did also the violin solos by two little girls; also a violin duet by a boy and girl. The

parents turned out in large numbers which greatly encourages the children and officers in their good work.

Tuesday June 20, the conference convened in Hyrum jointly—Millville and College wards. The presence of measles in the town kept many at home, the attendance was good, and interest and good order prevailed throughout the day. One of the most attractive features, was a band of little boys with harmonicas and drum, playing with commendable skill; also a boys' glee club of six members, who sang very nicely.

On Wednesday the 21, we visited Paradise, where a conference was held for the children of that place and of Aron. There the lively singing was a credit to the very young leaders and members taking part, and all the exercises were well rendered. There, too, they had a little harmonica band.

In Wellsville, on the 22nd inst., the conference for that place, Baxter and Sterling, was very successful. The large house quite filled was a very cheering sight. The order throughout the day and lack of all confusion in seating the great body of children was largely due to the watchful care and assistance of the ward Deacons, whose prompt attendance on such occasions is highly appreciated. We wish the services of a Deacon were deemed a necessity by the presiding authorities of each place and were always available.

At Mendon, on the 23rd, there was another scene of rejoicing, the people from Petersborough joining in the exercises, which were all praiseworthy. Near the close of the meeting the large assembly was cheered by strains of lively music from the Mendon silver band, composed of young men and one young lady, who deserves credit for gracing this position. All had been once members of the primary and were also members of the harmonica band years ago. We accepted this as a very pleasing compliment from the big primary boys, who were invited inside to play for the children. The leader, Brother Robert Sweeten, stated that at the organization of the band the boys voted to abstain from all intoxicating drinks.

We had a happy "send off" to Smithfield, where the children of Hyde Park and Benson met on the 24th. There grand preparations had been made, and the tabernacle had been transformed into a bower of beauty with flowers and festoons. In front of the pulpit hung a long drapery of red, on which were artistically arranged with flowers of the Sago city the word "Welcome." The stands were all adorned with beautiful flowers, and each officer was gracefully presented with a choice bouquet. In addition to these sweet tributes, the boys presented us with dainty bunches of pansies, all of their own raising this spring. You may be sure we felt highly honored. Too much cannot be said in praise of the exercises, especially the singing under the direction of two young ladies who waved the baton.

On Sunday we rested in Richmond, and on Monday, the 26th, held conference there with Lewiston and Coveville. There, too, the stands were tastefully adorned with flowers, plants and festoons. The house was crowded,

the parents turning out en masse to enjoy the exercises and encourage the little ones. Every feature of the program was well rendered. The most enlivening one was the boys' harmonica band of thirteen members led by two boys who were deprived of their sight. One year ago none but the leaders could play these little instruments and the proficiency attained was truly wonderful.

On Tuesday, the 27th, we met with the good people of Newton and Clarkston, when a lively interest was manifested, twelve or fourteen wagon loads of parents and children driving from Clarkston. The class exercises were exceptionally good. All were prompt, and spoke in clear, distinct tones. The leader of the choir and most of the members were present to help the little folks with their singing.

Sister Rogers took the early train for home and the people of this the last conference were much disappointed at not meeting her. At every place she was extended the most cordial welcome, as the lady who first thought of organizing the children of Zion into Primary associations. Truly the bread cast upon the waters has returned after many days, and the Primary seed is yielding a rich harvest of good among the children of the Saints.

In every place we advised more care in teaching the words of our Primary and Sunday school hymns, that the children may sing with more force born of confidence in a knowledge of words as well as music. We suggested that it was better to select fewer songs and learn them thoroughly by repeating them in concert, or as class exercises, or recitations, than to have many songs and not learn them well. We also encouraged the boys to sing more by forming glee clubs, which would create confidence and ability to sing alone. We advised both boys and girls to persevere in their musical education—in instrumental music of all kinds as well as in vocal.

A more efficient and energetic corps of officers would be hard to find than at present acts in these associations. They appreciate and acknowledge the great assistance given them by the stake and branch authorities, also the hearty co-operation of the parents.

By the system of conjoint meetings we were enabled to meet with upwards of 2000 children, among them over 550 boys, besides a host of young ladies who are rendering most valuable service in training the little folks. Hundreds of parents were also assembled to meet with them, but who could not have journeyed any long distance to attend the meetings.

Praying in concert is a most impressive exercise, holding the attention of even the smallest child. With it they get accustomed to their own voices in correct forms of prayer. We trust that other laborers will take fresh courage in the grand mission of love assigned them among the people of Israel.

LILLIE T. FREEZE.

The Pacific Coast association of fire chiefs has issued a circular calling upon firemen to observe special precautions against fires on July 4th. The association advises that no fire apparatus be used in public parades.