

# TWENTIETH YEAR AS CHOIR LEADER

Evan Stephens Tonight Passes  
The Nineteenth Milestone in  
His Directorship Career.

HE REVIEWS HIS LIFE WORK.

Some Nice Things Said of Singers and  
Organists Past and Present—  
Triumphs of Organization.

When Prof. Evan Stephens raps on the music rack at the tabernacle tonight with his baton at the choir rehearsal it will be the signal for the ushering in of the twentieth year of his directorship of one of the most famous bodies of singers in the country.

Nineteen years ago tonight the little Welshman from Willard first undertook the task, and how well he has succeeded is a matter of Utah history, not that his fame is confined to the passive state for Evan Stephens's



PROF. EVAN STEPHENS.

Who Tonight Enters His Twentieth Year as Leader of the Tabernacle Choir.

name is known throughout the United States wherever there are choral singers.

This morning the veteran leader admitted with that characteristic smile and blush that he was on the eve of reaching the twentieth milestone in his directorship career, and then, after some leading questions, proceeded to review his work in the past, the pleasant and unpleasant features, successes and failures, the bitter and the sweet.

"Then followed our own Salt Lake Elizabethan, which we had introduced," he said, "our first tour to San Francisco and surrounding cities; the Denver Elstedfolds where we did something better and more profitable than entering into a competition."

"Among the most notable of our home concerts, perhaps, was the company of one which the audience wanted to have back again, and his own compositions were sung. In the Part I of an oratorio upon a Book of Mormon theme, the first part of an opera, besides the 'Pioneer Ode' and other things not since rendered.

"I had almost forgotten the great pleasure day and the great pleasure

judgment day, when it was all a blaze at any place might set all in a blaze at any moment, as it was highly dangerous."

"Here before me was room for only less than one-half the number of people that will be present at the regular choir practice tonight, and every foot of the platform was filled up with chairs and extra benches even to seat the singers who were to meet with me that first night."

NEW CHOIR LOFT.

"I speak of these things as I believe they lead up to what I consider the most important move of my first year. The new choir leader brought about an enlarged and improved basis made the new singing arrangements, the west end of the building necessary. In brief, this led to a change which did away with the defect in acoustics to a marvelous degree. The old decorations had been taken down and we had a choir platform which would seat 500 people. The acoustic properties of the building were

## Constipation

Should not be neglected. It leads to more serious troubles. It shows that the important functions of the liver are imperfectly performed. The best medicines to take for it is the mild, gentle and purely vegetable castor oil, Hood's Pills, which act on the liver and bowels, cure biliaryness, constipation, morning and sick headache, break up colds, relieves uncomfortable fullness after dinner.

## Hood's Pills

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came almost perfect, and I plead guilty to being the means of bringing this about. True, Archdeacon Dom C. Young had taken full charge of the choir, but it was my rough plan he was working out.

"In about four months all was ready and the choir, over 300 strong, gave its first concert. This was repeated at the April conference. From the proceeds the choir was placed upon its feet financially and, in fact, was enabled to pay nearly \$10,000 toward the cost of the platform and the seats.

"The choir became such an attraction at the meetings that it became necessary to throw open the galleries. In the public at nearly every meeting.

### NOTABLE EVENTS.

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rendered service from, perhaps, one year to 19, and some were even born with me under their predecessors, or even earlier. To such belongs at least a part of the glory included in the honor I am giving.

The choir has never numbered less than 200 active members since my first meeting with them. At present there have been over 600 enrolled members during the greater part of the time, and all without money and without price; nevertheless they have never paid, taking all into consideration, any other body of singers in the world, as they ought to be.

"As in all things in life perhaps the events I mention have only been the lesser to the main event—our regular life's labor: the event of

### SUNG TO MILLIONS.

"We have sung during the past 19 years to about 1,000,000 people, averaging 3,000 at session, 50 sessions a year. We have done our little part as missionaries in singing the Truth.

"We have been rehearsals and meetings, the purpose of which we have equalled, only the others take lead in an historic sense. It is to the members—most of all, capable and faithful members—to whom gratitude is due for all."

"People went on to state again that he could do nothing, the faithful cooperation of singers and accompanists and besides his choir he had trained 35,000 of young Utah who had grown up and a number joined his

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