DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - - August 4, 1869.

Correspondence.

ECHO, July 25, '69.

Editor Deseret News:—Far up through the Weber River gorge, near the bold, precipitous headlands that mark the mouth of the famous Echo Kanyon, reposes the quiet little cantonment of Hennefer. Its existence is distinguished by no microscopic circle, either upon Engineers' or other published map of the country. Its site wrests from the forgetfulness of by-gone years the camping-place of the Pioneers, at the mouth of Hog's Back Kanyon, where many of them supposed their toilsome march must end, and where, to all human appearance, further penetration of the mountain fastnesses defied all human sagacity. This plateau, on the south or left bank of Weber, skirts the eastern basses of the precipitous ranges dividing Weber from Great Salt Lake valley, for a distance of some two miles above the head of the Narrows. Rising some thirty feet above the river, it extends an inviting prospect for settlement; but the rugged steppes of the mountains are comparatively dry. To supply this fatal defect, the waters of Weber have recently, at great expense, been rendered tributary; and now several thousand acres of good farming and grass lands await the magic wand of the husbandman.

Hither drawn, originally from personal incentives, I found myself very sociably registered among the festive paraphernalia of the Anniversary day of the Pioneers—the memorable Twenty-fourth—the first commemoration of the day at Hennefer.

At "dewy eve," and trespassing upon the continent hours of slumber, a liberty pole, some 70 feet without top-mast, was reared and, amid cheers for the Old Flag, the stars and stripes were sent streaming from its halliard-block.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH AT HENNEFER.

Forty-seven guns at sunrise awoke the inhabitants from their reveries, some, perhaps, for a moment, apprehensive of a renewal of past scenes of Indian hostility, but happy again in the reassurance of peace; and the national flag was unfurled, a welcome from all to the dawning of the twenty-second anniversary of the entrance of the Pioneers into Great Salt Lake Valley.

At 9 o'clock the children, in some dozen or more conveyances, started, under vigorous salutes from the artillery, Capt. T. J. Franklin, on an excursion to Lost Creek, a delightful drive of about four miles, the procession being preceded by an escort of cavalry, carrying the stars and stripes. The citizens of that place had been invited to participate in the festivities. All the children upon the line of procession, desirous of participating, were conveyed back to Hennefer, where they were returned about noon, to be regaled by a bounteous repast prepared in their absence.

After dinner the inhabitants assembled under their new and spacious bowery, where the order of exercises was.

I.—Opening prayer by Bishop Chas. Richins.

II.—Music, "Star Spangled Banner."

III.—Oration by James McKnight, Esq.

IV.—Music, "Yankee Doodle."

V.—Toasts:

1. The Pioneers—may their memory be perpetuated forever.

Responded to, in an interesting speech, by Elder Thomas Woolsey, one of the Pioneers, in which he rehearsed many interesting reminiscences of their eventful journey. He was one of the hunters; killed for the camp, with his own rifle, some 72 buffaloes. The perils and toils of that journey, he said, were untold. That company had placed their lives, their fortunes, their honor and their all upon the altar of their holy religion. It is a sacrifice we all shall be required, sooner or later, to make. He referred to the singular fact of a crow having followed the Pioneers' camp all the way to the valley and returned with them to the Missouri. The tree in which it rested, now called the "lone tree," a forked cottonwood, is yet standing at the mouth of the kanyon where they camped. There was no apparent possibility of getting any further west. The succeeding morning a party were sent to reconnoitre. The bird took the lead. At night they returned to report, having found a pass over the "Hog's-back." His exhortation to unity of action, equality, and valor in defence of the truth was appropriate and pertinent.

Music, "The Bolton Dance."

2. The Holy Priesthood—with credentials from Heaven, the legitimate rule of the nations.

3. The Nauvoo Legion—the hosts of Israel and the chariots thereof.

4. The Pacific Railway—a mighty engine of the gathering, may it scatter the wealth of the people into the laps of the Saints.

5. To all present—the old, as beacons, may their lights never grow dim; the young, as yachts upon life's sea, with the pilot of faith on board, the light of truth gleaming before them, may they never strand upon the sunken reefs of a world's degeneracy.

With the sweet strains of the string band, the juvenile dance commenced. Every couple of those six cotillions was composed of a juvenile and an adult—the father, or elder brother, with his little daughter or sister; the mother, or elder sister, with her little son or brother. It was a spectacle, a tableaux, at once a masterpiece of purity and paternal care. Many a little cherub there went through the giddy changes of the cotillion whose infant feet had but trodden upon the blossoms of a third or fourth spring. At dusk the children's dance terminated, and all went home to supper.

At 9 o'clock the adult population convened, with a liberal representation from Lost Creek, Echo, some from Coalville, Salt Lake City, and elsewhere. The Bowery was brilliant with carbon lights. Every available spot was occupied, and, when

"Music arose with its voluptuous swell,"

the blithe and grave, the silvered and the gay went forth in the dance joyously. There was no "privileged few," no "elite," no aping of "royalty," or "putting on airs." There was indeed an exuberance of unaffected grace and dignity, the well-spring of true intelligence, brotherhood, and refinement of soul, with which no gaudy exterior or trappings of caste can compare.

During the evening, the songs, "Putting on Airs," "City I Love so Well," "We've Lived and Loved together," and "Steam Leg" were sung with fine effect. At midnight the fantastic tripping was stilled, the music ceased, and the assembly, called to order, was dismissed by solemn benediction.

Not a discordant element interrupted the harmony of those social hours.

The stand was festooned in front with native flowers, bouquets and evergreens; in rear with wreaths, and "Zion's Welcome—Children—All," in colors, formed of leaves and flowers. Among the mottoes upon banners were, "Hope of Israel," "Hail to the 24th." A little girl scarce three feet high, was clothed in regalia upon which was inscribed, "Mother's Pet." A little boy, same size, similarly clothed, was labeled, "Father's Treasure." One little "Tom Thumb" sported a pennon mottoed, "Bully for Hennefer."

Immediately after the intermission, at 10.30 p.m., James Hennefer was nominated and unanimously elected delegate to the convention at Coalville to-morrow (Monday) to nominate candidates for the ensuing annual election.

The Committee of Arrangements, Messrs. Joseph E. Foster, Edward Richins and Thomas J. Franklin, for their unwearied exertions to enhance the happiness of all present, were unanimously tendered the thanks of the assembly.

So far as I have learned, this was the most general celebration of the Pioneers' anniversary throughout the Weber range of counties.

The oration, wholly impromptu and brief, "had in it the ring of the true metal," and was received with acclamation. It may be furnished you for publication.

At Coalville, a few days since, a citizen somewhat under the influence of excess of alcohol, determined to pass the guards placed to prevent ingress and egress about the locality infected with small pox. Being persistently denied, rampant he went for his revolver and, while flourishing it too freely, was knocked down by a cobble-rock in the hand of a bystander. Law and order are but illy promoted by the devotees of Bacchus.

ANON.

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1869
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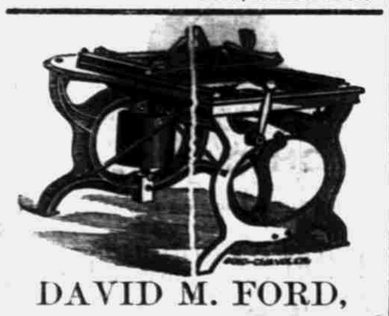

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