

Simon Christensen and unanimously sustained. Elder Robert Watson, of Salt Lake City, and J. E. Hepper then addressed the people assembled on the principles of the Gospel, the necessity of living up to them ourselves, as well as teaching them to our children and endeavoring to get them to live up to them. Elder William A. Seegmiller, who recently returned from a mission to the Society Islands, testified to the truth of the Gospel and the great joy he had had in laboring for its advancement. Counselor Joseph S. Horne reminded the Saints that one of the sins of omission which many are guilty of is the failure to observe the first commandment given to our first parents in the Garden of Eden. Elder William H. Seegmiller, president of the Stake, stated that as a Stake we have not as yet paid our allotment to the monument fund; he also encouraged all to remember our obligations to the Lord as regards our tithing; encouraged the Saints to faithfulness and diligence in the observance of all the commandments of God.

The choir sang an anthem, "Let the Mountains shout for Joy," and the conference was adjourned for three months, with benediction by Patriarch C. N. Smith.

The Richfield choir furnished the sweet singing which was much appreciated. Owing to the inclemency of the weather there was not as large an attendance at the meetings as there would otherwise have been, yet the testimony of all was that we had an excellent and enjoyable time together.

SIMON CHRISTENSEN,
Stake Clerk.

A GREAT REUNION.

REXBURG, Fremont Co., Idaho,
November 29, 1895.

Thanksgiving Day was appropriately observed here, all business houses being closed, and everything putting on a general holiday appearance. In the evening a grand character ball was given under the auspices of the Rexburg First Ward Primary Association, which was well attended, and a good time enjoyed by all present.

The event of the day, however, was the Ricks family reunion. At 1 p. m. in the Rexburg First ward meeting house—the family to the number of 125 sat down to a very sumptuous dinner, which was heartily enjoyed by all present, after which tables were cleared, seats arranged, and a family meeting held, at which addresses were delivered by President T. E. Ricks Sr., Bishop T. E. Ricks Jr., Nathan Ricks, Jonathan Ricks, Tabitha Ricks and other members of the family, all of which tended to encourage the rising generation to follow in the footsteps and to emulate the worthy example of their grand sire, Joel Ricks, or as he is always reverentially referred to by his descendants, Grandfather Ricks, in whose honor these yearly gatherings are held. Hyrum Ricks read a biographical sketch of Grandfather Joel Ricks, from which was gleaned the following: Joel Ricks was the first of his father's family to receive the Gospel in this dispensation; he arrived in Utah with his wife and nine children in 1843. In 1887 the first family re-

union was held in Logan, Utah; at which time he had a posterity of 200, who were members of the Church, and at this time has a posterity of over 600, who are scattered all over this intermountain country from Mexico in the south to the British possessions in the north. There are always from ten to fifteen members of his family in the mission field. Notable among his descendants is our worthy President Thos. E. Ricks, who is the oldest living son, and whose family alone covers the major part of his father's posterity. Letters were read from a large number of the Ricks family expressing regret at their inability to be present at the reunion, among whom were many from the missionary field. Reports were read from the missionary fund committee, which showed a large amount of grain and other things on hand for the support of the families of those who are now on missions. A committee was also appointed to make arrangements for the holding of the next reunion, and also to ascertain if some other date in the year would not be more suitable to the members of the family.

After the meeting closed the younger members of the family were regaled with candy, nuts, etc., and a general good time of rejoicing was indulged in, and one long to be remembered with feelings of joy and thankfulness.

IN LOCO.

SANTA CLARA NEWS.

SANTA CLARA, Nov. 26, 1895.

As it has been a long time since I have written to you last, I thought you would like to hear some news from Santa Clara again.

The people of Clara are enjoying splendid health at the present time. We have just recently had two missionaries returned from the European mission, Elders Edward Frel and Henry Gubler, and we were very much pleased to see them once again. They have both brought a different spirit of the Gospel of Christ than when they left us. They both say that all the riches of the world could not buy the experience and information they gained while on their mission. Santa Clara generally has four missionaries in the field; but at present we only have two, but we look for more to be called in the spring of the year. Last Sunday we had the honor of hearing from Elders David Cannon and H. Pickett that Clara was boasted of up north as a reliable people in sending forth so many missionaries to promulgate the everlasting Gospel, and that they stood in the front ranks of the St. George Stake of Zion in paying tithing. They are a first rate people as a rule; you cannot find a better set in Utah.

The crops this year have been pretty good but have brought a very low price. The winter weather has started and we have ice every morning. The deciduous trees have all shed their leaves.

People of Washington county are putting in their grain, and we look for a fair crop next summer if the water does not fail as it has the last.

We have just reconstituted our ward authorities; the two missionaries in the field at present are Elders John Graf

and John Stabell. They are doing a good work.

Theodore Graf is our school teacher, and as I hear, the children like him very well, and say they learn a great deal. The school children have gotten up a program for Thanksgiving. They will have an entertainment in the forenoon which will include songs, dialogues, recitations and music; in the evening we will have a beaux dance.

While traveling the Santa Clara creek the last week, I noticed very many hieroglyphic rocks, on which were engraved birds and animals of almost every description; also circles of different forms and many other things. Some partly civilized people must have inhabited this country years ago, or perhaps centuries ago.

Gypsies have just passed through town with their bears and monkeys.

We have not as yet proceeded with our new meeting house. I have given you the dimensions before—all we have done is the foundation.

MORE ANON.

THE WILL AND THE WAY.

MOAB, Grand county, Utah,
November 27, 1895.

I left Moab on the 19th inst., made Cane Springs the first night, 15 miles, where lives a man by the name of Haman, who is trying to make a home; started early next morning and made Hatch, Wash., 20 miles, for dinner; in the afternoon traveled through Dry Valley, to East canyon, ten miles, where I have commenced to build a reservoir to hold water for irrigating some as fine land as there is in the mountains, with a good prospect for plenty of water. I am asked why I leave home and start to make a new place when I have a good home. My answer is that I have seen such good places go idle so long without any one improving them that I have to. Why do not some of our young men who have not homes in some of these old settlements where they are crowded, get out and go to work and make homes before eastern parties come in—when they will have to be hewers of wood and drawers of water? The cause of so many idle men in the country is that the young men look to others to furnish them work instead of going to and developing some of the resources of the country. If a young man looks to others to furnish him work, so long will he be dependent on others. Some will say they have not the means; but the greatest capital is a will; I know, because I have started on places without any capital and made a home. Where there is a will there is a way. Are there young men who would be willing to start out in the morning before daylight to work, and when noon came all there would be for dinner would be a piece of dry bread? The writer has done that more times than once, and was satisfied because it was the best there was to be had and he expected something better in the future. As means increase wants keep pace—so after all man is as well off at the start as at any time as far as his wants are concerned, because his wants will increase as fast as his means. There is no place in life where, he can stop; he must keep