

room as this in Europe. Neither Paris nor St. Petersburg has anything to compare with it. It is so big that if you should take the Plaza of St. Mark's at Venice and roof it over you might have something like it. This great room has corridors running around it. It has three wide galleries about its four sides, and enormous pillars, each as big around as a dining table, uphold its mighty roof. The roof is so high above the floor that you could put a ten-story building inside of this room, and it would not touch the ceiling. There is a fountain in the center of the floor, the spray of which will be caught by thousands of incandescent globes and by a number of arc lights and turned into diamonds.

This vast hall is to be decorated for the ball. The great pillars will be wrapped in gold and white. Ten thousand yards of white and gold cloth will be draped in the shape of canopies from the ceiling. There will be stands for the President and his party, covered with cloth, and throughout the whole hall, hanging in strings of feathery green, wrapping the pillars and hiding every rough or coarse place, will be such masses of green and flowers as one room has never before seen. The parlor of the east room during the receptions of President McKinley will not be so beautifully decorated as will be this great room the night of the ball. It will take car loads of smilax and tons of ferns to supply the needs. Men are now at work gathering this smilax in the south, in preparation for it. Thirty car loads of palms and palmettos will be needed to stand in various places about the floors, and there will be dozens of wagon loads of flowers. When finished, out of the green will shine many hundreds of incandescent electric globes, and the whole will be a very fairy land.

Just one word about the banquet. The kitchens are already being built. They are to be used for only one dinner, and they will cost more than \$2,000. They are to form an annex to the pension office for the time. The dining room, will be in the rooms adjoining the hall, just across the corridors, and the tables will be such that three thousand persons can be fed at once. There will be somewhere between two and three hundred waiters, and it is estimated that after the ball is over it will take a score of women more than a week to wash the dishes. At Cleveland's inaugural ball it took twelve thousand knives and forks and an equal number of cups and saucers to supply the guests, and during that night there was eaten two thousand pounds of terrapin, two thousand pounds of turkey, three thousand loaves of bread and three hundred and fifty gallons of ice cream. It will be remembered that this was a bad night. Much greater preparations are being made for the dinner this year. The 'feed' will cost a dollar, and there will be enough on hand to serve at least ten thousand persons. There will be three hundred gallons of terrapin, eight thousand chicken cutlets, seven thousand sweet bread patties and ten thousand assorted sandwiches. There will be three hundred gallons of consommé, three hundred gallons of chicken salad, two hundred and fifty Smithfield hams and one hundred and eighty turkeys. There will be one thousand eight hundred quarts of ice cream and two hundred gallons of coffee. It is estimated that eighty thousand oysters will be needed and

two hundred and fifty gallons of crab salad. The number of pieces of china furnished will be fifty thousand, while ten thousand napkins will be on hand to wipe the mouths of the feeders. A large part of the food will be brought here from Philadelphia in a special train provided for the occasion.

President McKinley will probably read his inaugural. The oath will be administered by Chief Justice Fuller, and the new President will kiss a Bible provided for the occasion. When Cleveland was last inaugurated he was sworn in on a Bible that was given him by his mother. Mrs. Lincoln was presented with the Bible with which her husband was sworn in, and Mrs. Grant was given that used at the ceremony of General Grant's first inaugural. Hayes took the oath twice, Saturday and Monday, as the 4th of March came on Sunday that year, but the book which he kissed in the presence of the people on the east portico was handed over to Mrs. Hayes. The book used March 4th will likely become the property of Mrs. McKinley. It will, of course, be opened at random, and there will be some curiosity to know the verses of the Bible upon which President McKinley's lips fall. The superstitious watch for such things carefully, and it is curious how chance sometimes thus brings good words to a President's lips. President Arthur, for instance, kissed the first and second verses of the 31st Psalm, which are as follows:

"In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Thy righteousness.

"Bow down Thine ear to me: Deliver me speedily; be Thou my strong rock for a house of defense to save me."

There are some interesting things about how Presidents have taken the oath of office. Jefferson was the first President inaugurated here. A great fuss has been made about his riding on horseback to the Capitol instead of taking a coach. I have seen it stated that the reason for this was that his coach did not come in time. He was sworn in in the Senate chamber, and his inaugural procession was formed at the navy yard and marched through the city. Washington was sworn in on the site of the present subtreasury building in New York when he first became President, and at the beginning of his second term the oath was administered at Philadelphia. Chief Justice Marshall gave Madison the oath, and Madison, as will McKinley, wore at this time an entire suit of clothes made from American wool by an American tailor. Monroe was the first President inaugurated in the open air. John Quincy Adams was sworn in in what is now statutory hall in the Capitol. His inaugural address was forty minutes long, and he read the oath from a law book, as he took it Jackson gave his address on the east portico of the Capitol and rode on horseback to the White House. He gave a big reception the night he was inaugurated, and at this furnished wine, ice cream and orange punch, together with other eatables. The first General Harrison rode on a white horse down to the Capitol. He would not accept the carriage which the whigs of Baltimore gave him, but preferred to ride, it is said, as the Roman emperors did along the Appian Way. He took the oath in front of the Capitol, and though it was cold and stormy would not wear an

overcoat. The result was that he caught a cold which is supposed to have hastened his death.

It was a bad day when Polk was inaugurated, and Zach Taylor came in among the clouds. When Frank Pierce was sworn in it was cold, cloudy and snowy and Benjamin Harrison came in and went out with a blizzard. Buchanan was inaugurated on a bright and sunny day, as was also Abraham Lincoln. There was a great deal of danger of assassination at the time of Lincoln's inauguration. He had a troop of military about his carriage, and there were armed men in the procession in front and behind him. There were many wagons in the line of march, and there was a great car drawn by six white horses, upon each of which was a blanket labeled "Union." On this car there was a pyramid of seats, and upon the seats sat a number of little girls dressed in white, holding the banners and bearing the coats-of-arms of each state and territory. Mr. Lincoln read his inaugural address from the east portico of the Capitol. His voice was clear and strong. His manuscript was a printed copy, plentifully interlined. The address was well received by the crowd, and there was no public disturbance.

Vice-President Johnson was sworn in in his room at the hotel. Only about half a dozen men were present. Chief Justice Chase was asked to administer the oath, but there was no Bible at hand, and one had to be sent for. As Mr. Chase pronounced the oath he held one end of the Bible, and President Johnson held the other, and as the chief justice closed President Johnson kissed the book. He then had a few words, talk about the cabinet, and walked off to his room in the hotel, on the floor above. President Garfield was sworn in with his wife and mother on the platform behind him. Immediately after taking the oath he turned and kissed his wife and mother. The crowd went wild over the act, and it was noted in the newspapers as one of the touching events of the occasion.

Frank G. Carpenter

TO THE MAORI SAINTS.

OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY OF
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,

February 17, 1897.

Dear Brethren and Sisters: We sincerely hope that at your approaching annual Conference in Wairarapa the Lord will abundantly bless you. We have read with much interest of the zeal and hospitality of the Maori people, and returned missionaries have reported the large attendance and good feeling, which is always manifest on such occasions. We understand that your conference at Papawai will in all probability be attended by a large number of Elders and Saints, and that many Maoris who are not members of our Church will assist in making it a success. We especially appreciate the efforts of our friend Tamahau in his preparations for receiving and welcoming the Saints.

We therefore send loving greetings to all of you:

To the Latter-day Saints, that God