

THE FIRST BANJO.

(Booker's song, from "Christmas Night in the Quarters," by Irwin Russell, Scribner for January.)

Go 'way fiddle!—'fols is tired 'o hearin' you a squawkin'.
Keep silence fur yo' betters—don't you heah de banjo talkin'?

About de 'possum's tail, she's gwine to leeter—lad ee, listen!

About de ha'r what isu' dar, and why de ha'r is missin'.

"Dar's gwine to be a oberflow," said Noah, lookin' so emm—

For Noah tuk the Herald an' he read de ribber column—

An' so he sot his hands to work a-clarin' timber patches,

An' 'lowed he's gwine to build a boat to beat the steamah Natch z.

Ol' Noah kep' a nailin', an' a-chippin', an' a-sawin'.

An' all de wicked neighbors kep' a-laughin' an' a-psawin'.

But Noah didn't min' 'em—knowin' what was gwine to happen.

An' forty days an' forty nights de rain it kep' a-rappin'.

Now, Noah had done cotched a lot ob ebery sort o' beas'—

Ob all de shaws a-trabbelin', it beat 'em all to pice!

He had a Morgan colt 'an sebral head o' Jarsey, cattle—

An' d'uv 'em 'board de ark as soon's he heered de thunder rattle.

Den sech andor fall ob rain it came so awful hebbly,

De ribber riz immedly, an' busted troo de lebbees;

De people all was drowned out—'cep' Noah an' de critters,

An' men he'd hired to work de boat—an' one to mix de bitters.

De ark she kep' a-sailin' an' a-sailin' an' a-sailin'.

De lion got his dander up, an' like to bruk de pain'—

De sarpents hissed—de painters yelled—tall, what wid all de fussu'.

You c'u'dnt hardly heah de mate a-bossin' 'round an' cu-sin'.

Now, Ham, de only nigger whut wuz runnin' on de packet,

Got lonesome in de barber shop, an' c'u'dnt stan' de racket;

An' so, for to amuse he-se'f, he steamed some wood an' bent it,

An' soon he had a banjo made—de fust dat wuz invented.

He wet de ladder, stretched it on; made bridge an' screws an' apron;

An' fitted in a proper neck—'twas berry long and tap'rin'.

He tuk some tin, an' twisted him a thimble for to ring it;

An' den de mighty question riz: how wuz he gwine to string it?

De 'possum had as fine a tail as d's dat i's a-sinkin'.

De ha'r's so long, an' thick, an' strong—des fit for banjo-stringin'.

Dat nigger shaved 'em off as short as wash-day dinner graces;

An' sorted ob 'em by de size, frum little Es to bases.

He strung her, tuned her, struck a jig—'twuz 'Nebber min' de wedder'—

She soun' like forty-ebben bands a-playin' all togeder;

Some went to puttin'; some to dancin'; Noah called de figgers—

An' Ham he sot an' knocked de tune, de hap, lest ob niggers!

Now, sence dat time—it's mighty strange—d'ees not de slightest showin'.

Ob an' ha'r upon de 'possum's tail a-growin'.

An' cur's, too—dat nigger's ways: his people nebbber los' 'em.

For whar you finds de nigger—dar's de banjo an' de 'possum!

Correspondence.

Cannonville—New Location—Settlers Wanted.

CANNONVILLE, Iron Co.,
December 15, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

I thought a few lines from this place would be of interest to your numerous readers. We have had 24 hours of a nice warm rain, it is cloudy yet. We have laid out a new town, one and a quarter miles north of Clifton. We have a beautiful town site. We have changed the name of Clifton to Cannonville. The people have all moved up to the new town and are all comfortably housed. We are surrounded on all sides with timber for building and fencing, plenty of coal in sight of our doors, plenty of red and white sand rock for building close by. We have four miles of ditching to bring Pine Creek in, then we will have plenty of water. There are several farms for new comers close to town; first come first served.

Respectfully,
J. T. PACKER.

PANGWITCH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of the Pangwitch Stake of Zion was held at Pangwitch December 1st and 2d, 1877. There were present of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion James Henrie, George W. Sevy, and J. W. Crosby, Jr., and most of the local authorities of the Stake, also Elder Jesse N. Smith of Parowan.

President James Henrie called the attention of the meeting and the choir sang. Prayer. Choir sang.

The forenoon meeting was occupied by Bishop Seth Johnson of Hillsdale Ward, J. T. Packer of Clifton Ward, Andrew P. Schow of Escalante Wards and Elder Joel W. White counselor to Bishop Wm. King of Kingston Ward. Home industry and the principles of the United Order were the subjects specially treated.

The choir sang.

Benediction.

2 p. m.

After singing and prayer the bishops of the various wards being all present represented the spiritual condition of their wards. The majority of the people were trying to do right, a few were evidently on the road to apostasy. The bishops generally felt encouraged with the progress being made by the people under their charge.

Jesse W. Crosby, Jr., Superintendent of Sabbath schools, reported the schools under his direction in good condition as far as he had visited.

Elder Jesse N. Smith said he had received a letter from President Taylor, requesting him to attend the conference at Pangwitch. He was pleased with the reports of the bishops, especially that of Bishop King, where the people were working in the United Order; recommended the bishop of each ward to provide himself with a ward record; spoke of the advantage of young men becoming skilled in some useful trade. Singing. Benediction.

SUNDAY, 10 a. m.

Singing and prayer.

Elder James Huff, M. W. Warner, David Cameron, and R. C. Pinney, each occupied a short time, after which Elder J. N. Smith delivered an interesting discourse upon various topics of importance. Choir sang.

Benediction.

2 p. m.

Singing and prayer.

After the sacrament had been administered President James Henrie made a few remarks, he advised the people to avoid debt and extravagance.

The general authorities of the Church and also the local authorities of the Stake and of the several wards were presented for the vote of the people and were accepted and sustained unanimously.

Local authorities of the Pangwitch Stake of Zion:

James Henrie president, with George W. Sevy and Jesse W. Crosby, Jr., counselors.

High Council—Meltiar Hatch, David Shakespear, Jos. C. Davis, James Dickson, Joseph Haycock, David Cameron, John Houston, Samuel Henrie, N. P. Cloves, Elijah Elmer, Allen Miller, and James Houston.

Joseph L. Heywood, president of High Priests' Quorum; James H. Inlay, first counselor; second not chosen.

Alma Barney, president of the Elders' Quorum of Pangwitch; William Prince and Joseph Houston, counselors.

James Schow, president of the Elders' Quorum of Escalante, with Joseph H. Spencer and Lewis Dewel, counselors.

Joseph L. Heywood, Patriarch of the Stake.

BISHOPS.

Pangwitch Ward—George W. Sevy, bishop; William Proctor and Alma Barney, counselors.

Kingston Ward—Wm. King, bishop; Joel W. White and James Huff, counselors.

Hillsdale Ward—Seth Johnson, bishop; David Wilson and R. C. Pinney, counselors.

Escalante Ward—Andrew P. Schow, bishop; Edwin Twitchell and David R. Adams, counselors.

Clifton Ward—Jonathan T. Packer, bishop.

President Henrie wished all those indebted to the P. E. Fund to set-

tle the same and requested the Bishops to aid in the matter. Instructed the people to be prompt in paying their temple donations.

Bp. Wm. King spoke a short time upon the United Order. Nephi Packer was ordained a High Priest and set apart as counselor to Bishop J. T. Packer of Clifton Ward.

Choir sang.—Benediction.

JAMES B. HEYWOOD,
Clerk of Conference.

ST. GEORGE STAKE CONFERENCE.

Saturday and Sunday, December 15th and 16th, 1877, held in St. George City.

President John D. T. McAllister presiding.

Saturday, 10 a. m.

Meeting opened by singing and prayer.

President McAllister made some opening remarks expressive of a fervent desire that our coming together as a conference might be productive of great blessing to us.

Elder Evan M. Green taught that if we gain that full salvation purchased by the Redeemer's blood, we must govern ourselves by the principles of the Gospel; and bore testimony to the truth of the United Order.

Bishop Geo. W. Sevy, of Pangwitch, expressed his conviction that the only sure way to gain full salvation in God's kingdom is to be obedient to its laws. He gave a good report of his ward.

Bishop John Parker stated he had been a member of the Church forty years and still felt encouraged to continue in the good work. He made some encouraging remarks.

Bishop T. J. Jones, of Washington, gave a good report of his ward; the members were active in obeying the law of tithing.

Bishop George H. Crosby, of Hebron, said the people of his ward never felt better in the work of God than they do at the present time; they were diligent in attending to their tithing and other duties.

Singing.

Benediction.

2 p. m.

Singing and prayer.

A letter from President John Taylor on Temple donations, was read.

Also one on the same subject from Supt. Folsom, Mantl.

President McAllister instructed the Saints on promptly paying tithes.

Bishop Marius Ensign showed the necessity of praying, meeting together, paying tithes and offerings, feeding the poor, etc.

Bishop Robert Knell, of Pinto, reported the members of his ward improving in good works. He had made no call in vain upon any of them.

Bishop Goudy Hogan, of Leeds, after 33 years' experience in the church, bore testimony that when he was most active in discharging his duty he was most happy and most prosperous; considered it absolutely necessary for the Saints to become one in temporal as in spiritual things.

Bishop Charles N. Smith, of Rockville, spoke in favor of active organizations of Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations.

Singing.

Benediction.

6 p. m.

The acting priesthood of the Stake met and held an hour's session.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 1877,

10 a. m.

Singing and prayer.

President McAllister gave pertinent instruction to the bishops and other officers, on administering in their respective callings.

The Stake report of December 1st, 1877, was read.

A letter from Bishop Goudy Hogan, of Leeds, asking to be released from his appointment as Bishop of Leeds Ward was read.

Bishop Hogan was honorably released from the bishopric of Leeds Ward that he may more fully identify himself with Orderville organization.

The general authorities of the Church as presented and sustained at the October Conference in Salt Lake City, were then presented and unanimously sustained.

The local authorities of St. George Stake were then presented in the following order, and each sustained by unanimous vote.

John D. T. McAllister, President of St. George Stake of Zion, with Thomas J. Jones and Henry Eyring his counselors.

High Council of St. George Stake—James G. Bleak, John O. Angus, Wm. Empey, Erastus W. McIntyre, Samuel Miles, Richard Bentley, John M. Macfarlane, Erastus W. Snow, Charles Smith, John Lytle, Archibald Sullivan, Henry W. Miller and Milo Andrus.

Wm. Fawcett, President of the High Priests' Quorum and Wm. G. Perkins and John Lytle his counselors.

Wm. Squire president of the first Quorum of Elders; Erastus B. Snow and Geo. T. Cottam, his counselors. Headquarters at St. George.

Ephraim Wilson, President of Second Quorum of Elders; Casper Gubler and Jacob Bastian, his counselors. Headquarters at St. George.

John Hinton, President of the Third Quorum of Elders; Alma P. Spillsburg and Cyrus M. Jennings, his counselors. Headquarters at Virginia City.

Jefferson Hunt, president of the Fourth Quorum of Elders; Francis C. Lee and Wm. Gardner his counselors. Headquarters at Hebron.

Miles P. Romney, bishop First Ward, St. George; Wm. Fawcett and Geo. Jarvis, counselors.

Walter Granger, bishop Second Ward, St. George; Stephen R. Wells and Joseph Orton, his counselors.

James William Nixon, bishop Third Ward, St. George; Chas. A. Terry and Anson P. Winsor, counselors.

David H. Cannon, bishop Third Ward, St. George; Henry J. Platt and Mahonri M. Snow, counselors.

Thos. J. Jones, bishop of Washington Ward; Andrew Larson and Marcus Funk, counselors.

Marius Ensign, bishop of Santa Clara Ward; Samuel Knight and Jacob Tobler, counselors.

Wm. A. Bringhurst, bishop of Toquerville Ward; Geo. Spillsburg, and Charles Stapley, Jr., counselors.

John Parker, bishop of Virgin City Ward; Jas. Jepson and Le Roy Beebe counselors.

Charles N. Smith, bishop of Rockville Ward; Chas. P. Terry and Wm. L. Brundidge counselors.

William Snow, bishop of Pine Valley Ward; Harrison Burgess and Frederick W. Jones counselors.

Robert Knell, bishop of Pinto Ward; John Harrison and Neale D. Forsyth counselors.

Luke Syphus, bishop of Panacea Ward; Samuel N. Lee and George A. Wadsworth counselors.

Thomas S. Terra, bishop of Hebron Ward; John Pulsipher and Jas. W. Hunt counselors.

George Henry Crosby, bishop of Leeds Ward; Joseph T. Wilkinson and Alma T. Angell counselors.

John P. Chidester, presiding priest, Mount Trumbull branch.

Nephi R. Fawcett, presiding priest, Price City branch.

Geo. Prince, presiding priest, Middleton branch.

Dudley Leavitt, presiding priest, Gunlock Fort branch.

Edward Bunker, presiding priest, Bunkerville branch.

Milton Dailey, presiding priest, Harrisburg branch.

James Sylvester, presiding priest, Bellevue branch.

Jorgen Peterson, presiding priest, North Creek branch.

Moses Gibson, presiding priest, Duncan's Retreat branch.

Alonzo H. Russell, presiding priest, Grafton branch.

Evan M. Greene, presiding priest, Springdale branch.

James A. Lemmon, presiding priest, Northup branch.

Oliver de Mill, presiding priest, Shoonsburgh branch.

Chas. F. Foster, presiding bishop, Foster's place on the Clara branch.

Niels Sorensen, presiding priest, Pleasant Valley branch.

George M. Burgess, presiding priest, Grass Valley branch.

Jacob M. Truman, presiding priest, Fort Hamblin branch.

Lyman L. Wood, presiding priest, Clover Valley branch.

John E. Hammond, presiding priest, Eagle Valley branch.

Artemus Willet, presiding priest, Spring Valley branch.

Thomas A. Jeffery, presiding priest, Jeffery's place on the Clara and Dameron Valley branch.

Israel Hunzacker, presiding priest, Camp Lorenzo branch.

Zemira Palmer, presiding priest, at Orderville Cotton Farm branch.

Miles P. Romney, Superintendent of Sunday Schools of St. George

Stake, with Erastus W. Snow and A. R. Whitehead his assistants.

George Spillsburg, Superintendent of Sunday Schools in Toquerville, Virgin City and Rockville Wards, under the direction of Supt. Romney.

James G. Bleak, Clerk of St. George Stake and Historian of the Southern Mission.

Singing.

Benediction.

2 p. m.

Singing and prayer.

The Sacrament was administered.

Synopsis was read of Ordinance work performed in St. George from 9th January, 1877, to 15th December, 1877.

President McAllister delivered some excellent instructions, setting forth the responsibility which rests upon Latter-day Saints to officiate in a Temple of God for and in behalf of the dead.

Elder John D. L. Pearce, just returned from a mission to the Southern States, gave an account of his missionary labors in the missionary field.

Bishop Luke Syphus, of Panacea Ward, and Bishop Wm. A. Bringhurst, of Toquerville, gave brief reports.

Counselor Henry Eyring would like to see the more general application of the principle of union in temporal things. He delivered a general exhortation for all to discharge their duty, temporally and spiritually.

The following were presented and sustained as home missionaries—Jacob Gates (and to take charge), Edward Bunker, Milo Andrus, Charles Smith, Thomas Hall, Erastus B. Snow, Robert Parker, Evan M. Green, Edwin D. Woolley, jun., Martin Slack, Samuel L. Adams and Richard Bentley.

President Jacob Gates spoke to the bishops and people on the subject of making temple offerings to aid some of those who administer in the St. George Temple to live like the rest of us.

Elder Robert Gardner delivered a brief but very practical common-sense sermon on temporal things.

President McAllister said more labor is needed to continue the grading around the Temple block, and called for shade trees to plant around the block. He submitted to the bishops the propriety of ordaining our young men as priests, teachers and deacons in their respective wards. He referred to the article on dancing recently published in the DESERET NEWS; exhorted the officers and members of the Relief Societies and Young Mens' and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations to be diligent and faithful; enlarged upon the duties and jurisdiction of the High Council; cited the attention of bishops and presiding officers to pages five and six of the circular of the First Presidency; and concluded by blessing the choir and people.

Singing, and benediction.

JAMES G. BLEAK,
Clerk of St. George Stake.

Re-united at a Child's Grave.

Many years ago a young gentleman of Manchester, of good character and honorable connections, had the misfortune to fall out with his wife—a beautiful girl of only 18 summers. He speedily arranged his business affairs, and without formality took an abrupt leave of his wife and a sweet little babe. He travelled far and lingered long in many strange lands without communicating intelligence of his whereabouts, and without knowing or caring to know the fate of his dear ones at home. In the meantime the little one had passed away, and the wife, broken-hearted and disconsolate, kept the faith she had pledged at the altar. Many years had elapsed since her truant husband had left her, and in all that time it was her habit to visit the little grave of her dead infant with the same deep mourning dress she had donned the day of its burial. A few evenings ago it so chanced that fate brought her husband back to this city, who immediately upon his arrival, sought out the little grave, where by the dim twilight he encountered a strange figure in black. A heavy veil hid the face, but his was open and clear, and seemingly unaltered. The discovery of either's identity was but a moment's time—a groan—a shriek—and husband and wife firmly clasped in loving embrace.—The Richmond State.