

Lake a near neighbor to the county seat, giving it direct railroad communication with the same. Another great object of the scheme is—and one which the taxpayers of Fremont are not slow to see—it would decrease the voting strength of southern and central Fremont and thereby decrease the probabilities of moving the county seat from St. Anthony to a more central part of the county.

When the people of Fremont heard of this move they were very indignant, and justly so, too; for when the county of Bingham was divided some two years ago, and Fremont county created, all parties to the contract were agreeable to the present county lines, and pledged themselves not to tamper with, or in any manner seek to change them; and now after the space of two short years for some of the parties to the contract to thus break their given pledge was something that the people of Fremont were not prepared to believe possible. The founders and taxpayers of Fremont will, however, prove themselves equal to the occasion. Fully realizing that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," they have got up a strong remonstrance against any dismemberment of their county, which has been very numerously signed by the taxpayers, and forwarded to the legislature, who, it is hoped, will be successful in frustrating the nefarious scheme of the Binghamites and their allies.

The Rexburg Literary society will hold its regular weekly meeting Saturday evening, March 2nd, when the following subject will be debated: "Resolved that the hope of reward does more to diminish crime than does the fear of punishment."

Our district school, which has been closed for some time on account of sickness, resumed its sessions Monday, Feb. 25, with a very large attendance of scholars.

The Rexburg Dramatic company will soon place on the boards the drama *Above the Clouds* and the farce *Rendezvous*. The members of this company have attained a high degree of excellence and the people of Rexburg look forward with pleasure to their reappearance before the footlights.

The First ward Sunday school held a very creditable review last Sunday, which showed the school to be progressive and up to the times in all Sunday school studies. Great credit is due Supt. Thos. E. Bassett and his able assistants in bringing their school to such a high standard of proficiency.

The Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. A. societies of the Second ward held a very interesting joint session on Sunday evening last, which was well attended and a very instructive program rendered.

Pres. Thos. E. Ricks, assisted by the Bishopric of the Salem and Rexburg Second wards, held a very interesting meeting in the Teton Island district school house on Sunday, Feb. 24. The building was crowded to overflowing. A good spirit prevailed and some very valuable instructions were given. During the meeting President Ricks called for a vote of all those who desired to be organized into a ward. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of a ward organization. It was, however, for the present deemed

advisable to give them a branch organization, which was accordingly done, with Elder George Hubbard as presiding Elder. This branch comprises part of Salem ward and part of Rexburg Second ward, and contains 180 souls. It covers an area of three square miles. Some weeks ago a Sunday school was organized in this district with an enrollment of eighty-one scholars; at which time the following brethren were sustained as officers: Wm. Widdowson Sr., superintendent; Jos. Rigby first, and Fred Parker second assistant; Wm. Widdowson Jr., secretary. More anon. IN LOCO.

EIGHTY-EIGHT YEARS.

Yesterday, March 1st, 1895, President Wilford Woodruff completed four-score and eight years of life upon this mortal sphere, having first opened his eyes to earthly light on the first day of March, 1807. By a happy coincidence his wife and helpmeet, Sister Emma Woodruff, also came into the world on the first of March, her natal year being 1838. The double anniversary, so auspicious to the family and so interesting and important to the Church of Christ, was happily and appropriately celebrated yesterday. Every attainable member of the family as well as the intimate associates of the worthy couple, and a large number of friends, met by invitation at the Annex to the Salt Lake Temple at 1:30 p.m., and a few moments later the exercises began in one of the large lower rooms of the building.

President George Q. Cannon called the assembly to order at 1:45 and announced as the opening exercise the singing by the Temple choir, "I need Thee every Hour." Prayer was offered by President Joseph F. Smith, after which a duet, "Beyond the Shadows," was sweetly sung by Sisters Hull and Winder.

President Woodruff made the opening remarks. He briefly expressed his pleasure at meeting with so many friends, his only regret being that there was not room enough for ten times as many, whom he would have been pleased to greet on the occasion. As to himself, he sometimes felt that he was living on borrowed time; still, as long as the Lord wished or permitted him to live, he hoped to be able to magnify his calling and to do good.

President Lorenzo Snow remarked that it was the privilege of Latter-day Saints, by observing the laws of life and becoming familiar with the language of the Spirit of the Lord, to live long upon the earth, and that, too, in the possession of their faculties of mind and in health and vigor of body. He congratulated President Woodruff, and saw no reason why a man so well preserved might not live to be a hundred years old, or even a hundred and twenty—the age of Moses, the leader of Israel in ancient days.

Elder Franklin D. Richards referred to the fact that in answer to the prayers of the Saints the Lord had given President Woodruff back to His people, when, a year or two ago, he himself thought his work was finished and he felt ready to go. The speaker also pointed out that in the present age of the world, with its inventions and advancement in all directions, eighty-eight years of life to such a man as

President Woodruff was equal to eight hundred years in the life of the antediluvians in the accomplishment of the purposes of heaven to which such men gave their attention.

President George Q. Cannon made pleasant allusion to many of the personal characteristics of President Woodruff as noticed in long and intimate daily association with him; his honesty and simplicity of character, his guilelessness, his activity and energy—the latter qualities being, in the opinion of the speaker, an explanation of the President's health and continued life.

President Joseph F. Smith bore testimony to the remarks of the preceding speakers as to the goodness and nobility of our honored leader and joined in all the congratulations and good wishes that had been expressed. He had been intimately associated with President Woodruff since 1867, first in the Council of Apostles and later in the First Presidency, and knew how susceptible his heart had been to the impressions of the Spirit of God.

"Come,"—the solo being sung by William Pardoe, and the chorus by the choir—was next given, after which the assembly took a recess to the upper room of the Annex for refreshments. These were abundant and appropriate; and after a blessing had been pronounced by Elder Heber J. Grant, a large number of young brethren and sisters quickly served the food to the audience. Before beginning the repast, a flash-light photograph was taken of President and Sister Woodruff and their principal guests, who were seated on the dais at the north end of the room; and after the meal, the assembly repaired again to the former place of meeting, where the exercises were resumed with the singing of an anthem, "The Spirits of the Dead," by the Temple choir, the words being by Elder John Nicholson and the music by Elder C. J. Thomas.

The succeeding speakers were Sisters Zina D. H. Young and Bathsheba W. Smith; also Elder Moses Thatcher, who related a striking dream and what he accepted as the interpretation thereof; in the same connection he remarked that surely no man could better bear the sorrows of his every act reflected from every point of view than the noble man whose anniversary we were this day celebrating.

The other features of the afternoon proceedings were two recitations by Miss Babcock, the reading by Bishop O. K. Whitney of a poem written for the occasion by Sister Emily Hill Woodmansee, a solo, "God is my light," by Sister Maggie Hull, who also sang the solo part in a pleasing rendition (solo and quartette) of "Oh, My Father!" The poem by Sister Woodmansee was as follows:

INVOCATION.

(Written for the eighty-eighth birthday anniversary of President Wilford Woodruff, by Emily H. Woodmansee.)

All powerful, gracious Father!
The Holy One, and true.
O'er Thou our aged leader,
And all his powers renew;
Still make Thy servant equal
To carry countless cares;
Still strengthen Zion's chieftain
In answer to our prayers.

O! list the supplications
Of all Thine Israel
Throughout the stakes of Zion,
Where praying people dwell.