

Jensen, the sacrament was administered. Elder Lorenzo Snow spoke of the personal gain of faith which the individual receives by responding to the duties of building meeting houses. He spoke on the principle of revelation and how it was the source of knowledge both for individuals and the Church.

The choir sang, "O, My Father."

Elder Geo. Teasdale spoke of the nature and workings of the Spirit of God, and referred to the wonderful revelations given to us through this Spirit regarding our pre-existent state and our future conditions.

The choir sang the anthem "Daughter of Zion," and benediction was pronounced by Bishop A. Zundell.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Singing, prayer by Bishop G. C. Dewey.

Elder A. Madsen spoke of the blessings we enjoy as Latter-day Saints.

Elder Groesbeck, a M. I. missionary, bore his testimony and related some of his missionary experiences in New Zealand.

The choir sang a selection.

Elder Chas. Kelly spoke of the awakening of the young men and the missionary work being done among them. He bore testimony that the Lord has raised up Prophets in our day and that we have them among us to instruct and counsel us.

Elder W. L. Watkins spoke of the individual work of the Saints in performing their daily duties, and rejoiced in the blessings we enjoy.

The choir sang an anthem.

Benediction by Bishop P. C. Jensen. 2 p. m.—Singing. Prayer by Bishop Thos. Harper. Singing.

Elder Lorenzo Snow referred to the time when he embraced the Gospel and a revelation which he received at that time. Spoke of the principle of obedience and said that we should train ourselves to it as we would always have some one to preside over us.

The choir sang.

Elder Geo. Teasdale spoke of the great privilege enjoyed in listening to such pure intelligence as we had heard during the meetings.

The choir sang an anthem and after benediction by Elder John D. Burt, conference was adjourned.

NEPHI ANDERSON,  
Stake Clerk.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 14th, 1898.—People who come to Washington anticipating a good time this winter are greatly disappointed in the season's outlook. Ladies who spent the autumn in planning the winter's campaign have so far found no use for the costly toilettes intended for the dazzlement of mankind—the money for which in many cases was not easily coaxed from the pockets of pater familias in these hard times. Perhaps the most dissatisfied clique in Washington's "406" is the diplomatic corps, whose members are accustomed to brilliant seasons in their own and other foreign capitals. The omission of the time-honored New Year's reception, and the merging of the first evening reception by the President and his wife (which has already been given exclusively in honor of the corps diplomatique), into a joint reception for that body, the judiciary and both houses of Congress—are innovations not relished by the representatives of kings and emperors. It smacks altogether too much of "Republican simplicity," and brings them down too nearly to the level of plebeian clay to suit their titled highnesses. Besides, it will allow no opportunity for displaying the splendid toilettes above mentioned. An invitation from the President being equivalent to a command, the diplomats must, perforce,

attend the jumbled function; but the accustomed brilliant show of court dress, jeweled orders and decorations, which have hitherto been the conspicuous features of the diplomatic receptions and made them the most gorgeous functions of a Washington season, will be missing.

Another much-criticized departure in this first evening reception of the McKinleys, is the omission of the officers of the army and navy from the list, which will rob it still further of the glory of gold lace and brass buttons. Separate cards of invitations are to be issued for each evening in the series of White House functions, so that the guests bidden to attend on Jan. 19th, will not be expected on any other following reception, unless especially notified by a second card of invitation; but as the President has set his foot down against having cards of admission presented at the door of the nation's house, it is to be feared that the invited guests—whether ambassadors, Supreme court justices or senators, will be crushed quite out of recognition, but the uninvited, well-dressed contingent. It is safe to predict that all these innovations will be rescinded before the present administration is a year older. Secretary Porter is responsible for most of them—and he is new to so-called "society" in Washington. Experience is the best teacher, and the old order of official functions was established by those who thoroughly understood the exigencies of the case.

According to the blue-book of official etiquette, the President and his wife are not compelled to accept any invitations whatever—and to do so, in ordinary instances, would be the worst possible "form." President Cleveland never entered any private house, in Washington or during either of his administrations, though his young wife broke the rule on two or three occasions for ladies' luncheons. The McKinleys, however, are scheduled for several semi-private functions in the near future. They will dine with secretary of state and Mrs. Sherman on January 20th; with secretary of war and Mrs. Alger on Jan. 22nd; with attorney general and Mrs. McKenna, Jan. 24th; with postmaster general and Mrs. Gary, Jan. 25th; with secretary and Mrs. Gage, Jan. 31st; with secretary and Mrs. Bliss, Feb. 4th. Vice President and Mrs. Hobart have invitations out for a reception, in honor of President and Mrs. McKinley, on the evening of January 28th. They give a dinner to the President today. On Jan. 26th occurs the usual diplomatic dinner in the White House. On Jan. 27th, the President goes to New York, to attend the National Manufacturers' banquet at the Waldorf; and on February 22nd, he attends the reception of the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia. It seems to be understood that when the President accepts a dinner invitation this winter, the other guests need not be limited to the official circle. Hitherto, on the rare occasions when a President has consented to "dine out," he has been expected to meet only the members of his cabinet. Mr. Arthur was the greatest dining out President we have ever had. He was seldom known to refuse an invitation, whether to meet his own special favorites, or other prominent people of the day, including visiting "lions."

The period of mourning prescribed by official etiquette for the President's mother having now expired, the senatorial homes are generally open to callers on their "day," which is Thursday, and most of the hostesses have crowded drawing-rooms. The ladies of the cabinet will resume their receptions on Wednesday, Jan. 19th. The celebration of New Year at the Russian embassy, which was deferred on account of the mourning aforesaid, occurred on the 12th instant, and was an occasion of

note, being a bit out of the common. The new minister from Russia, Count Cassini, has not yet arrived, but is ably represented by Mr. De Wollant, chargé d'affaires of the legation. New Year festivities always include a ball, which is looked forward to with eagerness by the younger members of the smart set. The tables were spread with all manner of strange delicacies, prepared in Russian style, and every one who came, (an enormous mob, of course), partook without being asked, as is the custom. In the czar's country on the great national holiday, Count Cassini, who is now on his way from Paris, is middle-aged, rich and unmarried—and therefore it goes without saying that he will immediately become a social star of the first magnitude. He is said to be very fond of society, and to be imbued with the true Russian spirit of friendship for Americans. During his residence in Hamburg, some years ago, he gave entertainments so brilliant that they have become historic, and it is presumed that his stay here will be marked by the same lavish hospitality.

Equal in interest to the Russian celebration is the annual New Year's feast in the Chinese legation, which was also postponed this year to the evening of Jan. 25th. Mme. Wu is a most gracious and charming hostess and her weekly receptions are always crowded. Though speaking little English herself—beyond "alle lile"—her husband, the minister, is fluent in the language; and she has also the assistance of Mme. Kwai, the American wife of the recently appointed attache.

Diplomatic receptions the all that save society from utter stagnation this month. Perhaps the largest one of the week was that by Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote, who were assisted by their eldest daughter in welcoming the several hundred callers. The young girls, Misses Lillian and Audrey Pauncefote, presided over two attractive tea-tables, placed in the big ballroom, into which the second drawing-room opens. No home in the diplomatic circle is more attractive than that of the British ambassador. The building belongs to the British government and was constructed with an eye to entertaining, with its vast parlors and finest ballroom in Washington. Lady Pauncefote and her daughter give several balls with a great many dinners every winter and none are more popular.

Perhaps next in public favor come Baron Hengelmüller and family, of the Austrian legation. Nobody in society misses their weekly reception, and a bid to one of their balls is considered an honor second only to a White House invitation. Mme. Von Hengelmüller, who is considered the most beautiful woman in Washington, is a Russian by birth, daughter of a distinguished Russian statesman of the last generation. As the Countess Dunin Borkouska, she was married at the age of 16 to her countryman, the Baron de Taczanowska, and was for a number of years one of the belles of several European courts. After her first husband's death she married Baron Hengelmüller, who was then representing his country in Paris, and came with him to Washington three years ago. Having lived at court all her life, it is said that the ultra-democratic atmosphere of the American capital is not altogether congenial to the lovely countess, who, however, is too wise and kind to make any uncomplimentary comparison between her present and past diplomatic stations. The youngest daughter of the first marriage, Mlle. Felicie Taczanowska, ably assists her mother in the many splendid functions which are given in the Austrian legation. Miss Julia Dent Grant, grand-daughter of the late ex-President, is now a guest of the Hengelmüllers, and a ball will be given in her honor on January 22nd.