

—Yesterday was Utah's day at the Columbian Exposition, and according to previous announcement an interesting program was carried on at Festival hall. Owing to other special attractions on the grounds on the same day (prominently the doings at the California state building), the attendance at Festival hall was not so large as might have been expected, only about three thousand people being present, while the spacious hall will seat about double that number. The 24th of July, Utah Pioneer day, had formerly been decided upon for Utah day at the World's Fair, but this was afterwards changed to the 9th of September, the day on which Utah, forty-three years ago, was granted a territorial government—that is, the day when the organic act creating said Territory received the executive signature.

The festivities yesterday were announced for 12 o'clock noon, but it was fully half an hour later when the proceedings commenced. At that hour the Tabernacle choir was occupying the space in front of the great organ in the west end of the hall. On the platform or stand immediately below were seated the following distinguished ladies and gentlemen, mostly citizens of Utah: Caleb W. West, governor of Utah; Presidents Wilford Woodruff and George Q. Cannon of the First Presidency, R. C. Chambers, president, and E. A. McDaniel, secretary, of the Utah World's Fair commission; Colonel H. C. Lett and E. L. G. Drey, of the Utah Commission (under the Edmunds law); Charles Crane, of the National Commissioners to the Columbian Exposition (residence at Kanosh, Millard county, Utah); President Wm. E. Hubbard, of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce; John T. Caine, ex-sele-gate to Congress; Mrs. Emily S. Richards, president of the Ladies' Territorial board; Mrs. Electa Bullock, of Provo, and Mrs. J. T. Gilmer, of Salt Lake City, both members of said board; Mrs. Carlisle, daughter-in-law of U. S. Secretary Carlisle, and other gentlemen and ladies of prominence.

R. C. Chambers, of the Utah Territorial board, presided in the meeting; he delivered the opening address and afterwards introduced the other speakers.

The Tabernacle choir sang the "Star Spangled Banner," after which Mrs. Emily S. Richards, in behalf of the ladies of Utah, made a short address of welcome to all nations represented at this grand gathering at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Governor Caleb W. West then delivered the oration of the day in his usual eloquent and masterly style. Referring to the relative positions of Utah and California, he stated that on the same day that Utah's prosperous neighbor on the west (California) was clothed with statehood, Utah was placed in her swaddling clothes, being favored with a territorial form of government. This was the first recognition by the parent government of the young colony which at that time (1850) was struggling for existence in the midst of Indians, crickets and grasshoppers near the shores of the Great Salt Lake. The speaker could refer with pride to the brave pioneers of Utah, and particularly to that famous band, consisting of 143 men, 3 women and 2 children, who, in July, 1847, first planted

the vanguard of civilization on the present site of Salt Lake City. "And," said the speaker, "I am pleased to state that we have one of these illustrious men with us today in the person of President Wilford Woodruff. (Cheers.) That man, now eighty-six years of age, was one of those noble sons of America who risked his life for the sake of his friends." The speaker contrasted the shaky old wagons and slow-going oxen with which the Utah pioneers of 1847 crossed the plains and mountains, with the stately Pullman cars in which the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir and their friends entered Chicago a few days ago, and also contrasted the present prosperity of Utah with its desert features less than fifty years ago. The speaker concluded by drawing comparisons between Utah and its neighbors and all other states in the Union. "If," said he, "we can not compare with them as yet in regard to wealth and numbers, we do claim one thing: None of them shall go ahead of us in our devotion to our country. We have come to the World's Fair to help bear a part of its burden and reap a part of its glory. We ask for Utah only the recognition she deserves." The governor's speech was listened to throughout with marked attention.

The choir sang the "Pioneer Song," after which Prof. F. Radcliffe of Salt Lake City, who travels with the choir, treated the audience to an organ solo.

President Wilford Woodruff, after a few introductory remarks, gave a brief outline of the journeyings of the Utah Pioneers from Winter Quarters, on the banks of the Missouri river, to the valley of the Great Salt Lake, a distance of over 1000 miles, in 1847, and now he personally, according to a resolution formed in his own mind, had planted the first potatoes in the valley before he ate a meal there, after his arrival with the late President Brigham Young, on the 24th of July, 1847. He also referred to the fact that Samuel Brannan and others tried to persuade the pioneers to go to California and not settle in the great desert valley, where Salt Lake City now stands; but that President Young and his friends who were with him were determined to plant a colony in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains, which they did most successfully. The President, in alluding to the visit of the Tabernacle choir to the World's Fair, said that the idea was broached to the First Presidency by a man who commenced his career in life as a shepherd boy, the present Professor Evan Stephens, and that it received the sanction of the leaders of the Mormon Church; and the success that the choir has scored, not only in the contest on this ground yesterday, but at the different cities where they have given entertainments since they left their homes in the mountains, was very gratifying. The speaker finished by extending an invitation to honorable people of the whole world to pay Utah a visit, that they might become acquainted with her and her citizens, "and," said the President, in alluding to speakers and representatives of the different religious denominations, "if they have no stand to preach in and they desire to be heard, we will tender them the use of our large Tabernacle."

Professor Willard E. Welbe treated the assembly to a beautiful and artistic violin solo, consisting of a melody of Hungarian air; he was heartily applauded.

President Geo. Q. Cannon then delivered an interesting speech on the causes that led the Mormon Pioneers of 1847 to settle in what is now Utah, instead of proceeding to California and Oregon, which at that time were offering great facilities to those who would come and settle within their borders; that the pioneers who came with President Young were in search of a home where they could live in peace and worship God according to their own conscience. A privilege of this kind was of greater importance to them than anything else; and in order to obtain this boon they would rather settle in a desert country and put up with all the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life in such a land, than to enjoy the natural advantages which a better country afforded, if they in such a land should be subjected to the fruits of that kind of religious intolerance and bigotry which they to their sorrow and loss had been accustomed to while residents of the states in which they had formerly resided.

The next on the program was an organ solo rendered by Mrs. J. B. Hamilton, who was followed by R. C. Easton, Esq., who, according to request, sang "O my Father, thou that dwellest," etc., as a typical Mormon hymn. To the encore he responded with "Annie Laurie."

The proceedings were concluded with a selection by the choir, and were throughout spirited and interesting. At different times while the speakers were delivering their addresses, they were heartily applauded, and the music especially seemed to be highly appreciated by the audience.

ANDREW JENSON.

FROM THE FAIR GROUNDS.

WORLD'S FAIR GROUNDS, CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 8, 1893.—Knowing you were kept informed through press dispatches of our general movements, I have waited for more particular news before writing again. My last was written just as we were going to the concert hall at St. Louis. The press criticisms which have come to hand from that city are very flattering. No account I could give of our work could be more interesting to our people at home than the extract from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* which has appeared in the *News* already.

From the time we arrived in Chicago until today our time has been fully employed in viewing the sights of this great city and the more wonderful sights of the White City. We have been received and treated royally, and especially by the World's Fair management. Instead of free tickets each day, which would entitle us to go into the grounds but once, we were each of us presented with a complimentary pass, which enabled us to go in and out at pleasure, a privilege for which we were extremely grateful and which added much to our comfort, as we could, without expense, come out and get our meals.

As a token of our appreciation of the goodwill and courtesy of the director