

in the list from their respective stakes, —the Stake Presidents— are requested to do so at once, that the list may be completed at an early date. They should send the lists to the First Presidency of the Church without delay, that they may know where from, and how many are likely to attend the second course.

The choir rendered in a beautiful manner, "Heavenly Father."

ELDER FRANCIS M. LYMAN

stated that he never before saw, and did not believe there ever was seen, such a sight as the gathering there assembled in the interest of Sunday schools—the largest ever held by the Latter-day Saints since the organization of the Church. In his travels among the people he had but little opportunity of learning directly the condition of the Sabbath schools, but careful attention has been given as opportunity afforded, and he had said much to encourage the workers and students in their labor of love. The Sunday schools are the most popular gatherings in the Church—surely more people attend—than any other save the general conferences. There is no more devoted class of workers than those engaged in the Sunday school work. At the same time there is much room for improvement in the method of teaching, as in nearly all instances he had observed the work was not as thorough as it should be. It is most important that everything that is done, every lesson that is presented, every subject handled, should be most thoroughly digested and not pass on to anything else until it is so well understood and memorized that it will never be forgotten. This was one of the great necessities of the schools. The mission of the Sunday school teachers is equal to any mission in the Church—in dealing with and handling the innocent youth, shaping their course and implanting in their hearts the great truths of the Gospel. As to jubilees, reviews, etc., Elder Goddard was right in that these gatherings should be reviews of the work of the school, and in which all should take part; there is too much superficial work in these preparations for show, and he trusted that in the future the reviews would be what they signify—a resume of the past work of the class or school for a given period of time. Alluding to the Sacrament in the schools, he said this is an ordinance regulated by church discipline, and one of great importance. It should be attended to every Sabbath morning with solemnity, its object explained to the children, and on no account should it be neglected. He had heard of some Bishops who thought it unnecessary. He wanted to say that where the Sacrament was neglected in the Sabbath school, there is something wrong. He believed no Bishop in all Zion had any right to question this matter, or to say that he will do as he pleases. It is not right that he should do so; yes, it is insubordination to the discipline of the Church, and no brother has a right to change the discipline in regard to the ordinances and government of the Church. This should not be varied from by any one of the Bishops. It has been decided and established by the highest authority on the earth as a right and proper thing to do. Our children are entitled to it, and should

not be deprived of it, but it should be administered with regularity and the object of it taught to the children. They are pure and innocent, and have a right to it. Elder Lyman earnestly exhorted all to become interested in the great work of the Sunday school, and invoked the choice blessings of heaven upon the labors of the teacher, superintendent and all faithful workers.

ELDER HEBER J. GRANT

spoke briefly upon the nickel donation fund, its necessity, and of it being strictly carried out. He said the work being accomplished at the Provo academy had been plainly laid before the Saints and the Deseret Sunday School Union board is called upon to meet the expenses of these courses, as they also have to meet the lithographing, printing and getting out of the Book of Mormon charts and cards, which they have distributed to all the schools, as also to pay traveling expenses of the officers of the Union board in visiting the different schools in Zion; the printing of circulars, the stamps and stationery, office rent and expenses, guides, lectures, etc., all of which takes large sums of money which the Union board have to pay. The nickel donation was instituted for the purpose of meeting these expenses, and it promptly met by all the schools it would be sufficient. One-fifth of the amount collected in each stake is retained by the stake officers for local Sunday school purposes and this leaves four cents per capita for the Union; but the trouble is that few schools have responded readily and faithfully to this call, and the expenses heaping upon the Union board have run them behind over \$1200. For over twenty years, up until 1892, the Union board made sufficient means out of concerts, jubilees and other gatherings to carry on the work of publication or Sunday school literature; but as the works demanded are increasing, the expenses have arrived at a point when it was found impossible to meet them only by the adoption of some regular contribution and something that was sure. With this object in view, the Nickel Day, the first Sunday in September of each year, was established. It should be the pride of every superintendent and officer of Sunday schools to see to it that on the day appointed, at least five cents is collected from every officer, teacher and student in the school, and if some are not able to pay that small amount once a year, others may be able to pay more than the amount and thus the grand total from each school would represent five cents for each member of the school. Where schools have not yet collected the full amount this year, it should be their desire to do so at once and forward to the treasurer, that the Union may be freed from debt. The amount paid in by each school is more than returned to them by the literature, charts and other publications from the Union without cost.

ELDER JOHN MORGAN

briefly reviewed the Sunday school work in the various missions of the world. We have schools established in all the missions in Europe, America, Mexico, Canada, the islands of the sea, and wherever prosperous branches of the Church are formed, a Sunday

school is organized. The same kind of literature used here at home is sent to them, and the Teachers and Elders utilize this material in the various languages. Reports of the condition and progress of the Sunday schools are received from the various missions by the union board and the progress is most gratifying. We did everything that we could legitimately to gain admission to the international Sunday school convention, where representatives of the various denominations meet together and discuss matters for the promotion of the Sunday schools in their creeds. But it was denied. We hope some day to be able to meet in such conventions, and when we do, it will be as great a surprise to them, as our Tabernacle choir has been to the music-loving people of the world; and we will come out as we are known and will be recognized for the good we have accomplished for the salvation of the human soul. The schools abroad in the various missions will gather fresh courage and renewed strength from reading of this vast gathering, the like of which, the speaker doubted not, has never been witnessed before on this earth, where so many, interested in Sabbath school work have been assembled.

ELDER GEORGE TEASDALE,

in representing the Sunday schools of Mexico, said they were deeply interested in this important work, and were striving to keep up with the suggestions and onward march in methods and manner of teaching. He bore a faithful testimony to the great good that is being accomplished by this institution.

ELDER ABRAHAM H. CANNON

said just after the St. Louis Sunday school convention he met several representatives from England who attended the convention and who had formerly been to Utah and been in the Tabernacle; they said that a building such as the Salt Lake Tabernacle would hold ten times the number of people gathered in their convention at St. Louis. Besides, the vast number engaged in this work, the excellence of the methods of instruction and labors of the teachers can not be excelled anywhere in the world for thoroughness and faithfulness. He believed this high state of perfection had been brought about by the inspiration of the Lord unto His servants. It is most necessary that we continue to adopt higher methods and work for advanced ways of teaching, that we may be in the van of Sunday School training in all the world.

GENERAL SUPT. GEORGE Q. CANNON

was exceedingly gratified at the manifest interest in Sabbath school matters. Those who had watched the progress from the beginning of this great movement and the influence exerted through it, ought to feel deeply gratified for the part they had taken; and the young today who are actively engaged in its promotion will, in the future, contemplate their labors with the greatest satisfaction. The earnest effort of Sunday school workers will be felt to the influence exerted upon the character of our work, in a broader comprehension of the Gospel, in raising and uplifting the whole people to a higher plane, and in producing a