

pated in a pleasant excursion of two hours on the Mississippi river, on the excursion steamer Pargond, which H. W. Brolaski, master, had kindly placed at our disposal.

It would be presumptuous, at least for a stranger who has spent but one day in this great city, to attempt any description of the many interesting things we saw. There were so many things to engage our attention that the mind is burdened in trying to recall a tithe of them. We met many warm-hearted friends who endeavored in every way to make our visit a pleasant one. Among these none labored more effectually than Messrs. W. B. Bectold and Andrew Wunsch of the firm of Bectold & Co., publishers and book binders with whom the DESERET News company have had many mutually agreeable business associations. Through these relations they became acquainted with some of our party and when they met on 'Change and were by them introduced to our party they devoted themselves exclusively to furthering our enjoyment. Many of us will remember them with warmest feelings as long as we remember our pleasant visit to St. Louis.

Tonight we sing in the immense music hall in the Exposition building, and to an audience the largest that has yet greeted us; and after the concert we continue our journey to Chicago.

P.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 1, 1893.—Continuing my journey from Denver on the evening of August 29th, I arrived at Kansas City the following day at 5 p. m. I proceeded at once to Independence, ten miles distant, and after a short stay returned to Kansas City, where I had the pleasure of meeting the excursion from Utah, 418 strong, which arrived about 11 o'clock in the evening. Today I accompanied them on their visit to Independence, where they were taken in their own special cars on the Missouri Pacific Railway. We arrived at the depot in Independence at 9:30 a. m., and immediately proceeded in carriages provided by the citizens of that place, and on foot to the Temple lot (about a quarter of a mile northward) where the Hedrickite brethren had erected a temporary stand on the south side of their meeting house for the occasion. The visitors and a large number of the citizens of Independence crowded around and listened very attentively while the choir sang "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning," with a harmony of voice the like of which has never before been heard on that sacred spot. As the inspired words were repeated and the sweet voices of 250 singers rang through the air on this beautiful summer morning, the hearts of at least a majority of those present were touched as perhaps they had never been touched before; for the multitude was certainly listening to one of the beautiful songs of Zion in the land of Zion, where ere long a Temple of God will be erected; "and the glory of God shall rest upon it." Yes, and the spirit of prophecy came upon many, whispering in unmistakable terms of promise that the time for the redemption of Zion is drawing nigh.

The singing of this hymn composed all the services held on the Temple

lot. Complying with the invitation of the mayor, to whom the members of the "Reorganized Church" had tendered the use of the new church, lying across the street from the Temple lot, the congregation proceeded thither. The church, which is said to have a seating capacity of 1400, was filled in a few minutes, while large numbers were unable to gain admittance. The members of the choir having taken their position on the stand and immediately below it, and quietness having been restored, Mayor Mercer stepped forward and welcomed the visitors in a brief address, to which responses were made by Presidents Woodruff and Cannon.

The choir then rendered the hymn "Light and Truth" in superb style, after which Mr. R. C. Easton the distinguished soloist, gave the hymn, "O my Father thou that dwellest," assisted by the choir, in the same spirit and with the same effect as when he rendered this beautiful piece in his masterly style during the dedication services in the Salt Lake City Temple in April last. This was followed by the choir singing the Temple anthem "Hosannah" (the House of the Lord is completed) in connection with "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning," all of which was well received by the audience whose enthusiasm was considerably stirred.

This concluded the services at Independence, and the visitors returned at once to the depot where the train stood ready to take them back to Kansas City.

The spirit which characterized the proceedings at Independence throughout was excellent on the part of the performer; the feelings of the citizens seemed to be exceptionally good toward the visitors, and the caption, "Welcome by a friendly mob" which headed an article about the visit published by a Kansas City newspaper is very suggestive. The difference in feelings existing toward the Saints now and that which led to the expulsion by mob violence in 1833 is very striking; and it would seem to indicate that the present inhabitants of Independence do not endorse the cruelties inflicted upon our people in this goodly land sixty years ago, though one of the editors of an Independence paper told me only yesterday that the old spirit of hatred toward the Mormons still existed in Jackson county. The open hearted and kind reception tendered us today, however, would indicate that he is not backed up to a very great extent in these views.

It is very much to be regretted that the time allotted the visitors in Independence was so limited; only two hours were spent there altogether. There are a few points of historical interest in and around Independence which they would have enjoyed very much to see; but time did not permit more than a few of them to rove as far as the public square, before they found it necessary to return to the train.

The Kansas City Star gives a fine report of the proceedings in Independence in this evening's issue, and yesterday it published a short but fine editorial on the event of the visit of the Mormons to Kansas City, extending to them a hearty welcome.

The Kansas City Times of this morning published a lengthy article on the Mormons, replete with historical points, based on information which the reporters of that paper gleaned from the excursionists themselves immediately after their arrival at the depot last night. Also the Star had a reporter on the ground; both prepared their articles in a spirit of fairness and kindness, aiming to give correct information to their readers. Other Kansas City papers also speak highly and respectfully of the visit of the Mormons to their city, although some of them get things badly mixed through being incorrectly informed.

ANDREW JENSON.

RECEIVING THE ELDERS.

In a letter received by David McKenzie, Esq., of this city, from Elder Heber C. Iverson, dated Pollard, White county, Tennessee, the writer says:

The work of the Lord is progressing favorably in this part of our Master's vineyard. We find, almost universally, that the hearts of the people are being softened toward us. The old prejudice is fast disappearing and people are now, as never before, becoming desirous of hearing us, and in the majority of cases that is all that is necessary, for they invariably change their opinions of the Mormons after listening to the humble testimonies of the servants of God who are inspired by His Spirit.

I will relate an experience which we had to give you an idea as to how we have been getting along in the work since I arrived here, on the 12th day of July, 1893. We have held some fifteen or sixteen meetings. In many neighborhoods it is almost impossible to hold meetings enough to satisfy the people, for, as they say when the Mormons preach, they hear something new. Solomon says "There is nothing new under the sun," but to them it is new for they have never before heard it preached. Frequently we hear such expressions as the following which an old gentleman, over 70 years old, gave vent to after one of our meetings. Said he: "I have heard more Scripture taught during the few minutes I have listened to these Mormons than I have heard in all the rest of my life put together."

Now for the one experience that I was about to relate. Elder Beaman and I had left an appointment at Holmes Creek school house for the first Sunday in August. On the morning of the first Saturday in August, as we were preparing to leave Smithville for Holmes Creek, our postmaster informed us that a card had just arrived for Elder Beaman which conveyed the news that those who had charge of the school house at Holmes Creek had decided to shut their doors against the Mormons. We had received a letter from Elders Duke and Gardner, in which they stated that they had two appointments for Sunday. Immediately upon finding ourselves without an appointment, through this information from Holmes Creek, we concluded to join Elders Duke and Gardner in filling their appointments. After our meeting Sunday morning we distributed all our tracts and re-