

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,  
Uttered or unexpressed.

Prayer was offered by Elder R. S. Collett of Uintah.

The choir further sang:

Ye simple souls who stray  
Far from the path of peace.

Elder Barnard J. Stewart, a returned missionary from England, was the first speaker. He expressed his satisfaction at meeting with the Saints of Zion once more, but felt his weakness in being called upon to address those assembled. The speaker had labored principally in the city of London, where, said he, the mission was gradually improving although its condition was not what the Elders would like to see it. His mission had been of a two-fold nature, for in it he had experienced joy and sorrow—joy in knowing that his message was to save humanity, but sorrow at seeing the deplorable condition into which the great bulk of the people was drifting. The Elders in that great metropolitan Babylon were doing all in their power to enlighten the people upon the principles of the Gospel. It was a hard task, nevertheless, because of the results following a misrepresentation of our religion, but for all that, the Elders were pressing forward and God was blessing them in their labors. Outdoor meetings were the rule in that city and the distribution of Gospel tracts was being carried on quite extensively.

Elder Stewart referred to the opposition the Latter-day Saint Elders had to contend with, and also called attention to the methods of attack resorted to by those antagonistic to the Mormon religion. Many of those representing outside denominations and claiming to follow the meek and lowly Jesus, exhibited a spirit of hatred and bigotry towards the Elders, that was in no wise characteristic of the spirit of Him whom they professed to follow. The speaker prayed that the time would come when the Saints would be properly understood; and pleaded with the youth of Zion to uphold the principles of the Gospel whether at home or abroad.

Elder John M. Knight, who had been doing missionary service in the Indian Territory, was the next speaker. He referred to the mission as being in a flourishing condition, and called to mind the recent cyclone at Fort Smith, Ark., which was attended by such terrible results, but which, however, miraculously passed by the Mormon Elders and those who had accepted their message. Success was crowning the efforts of the missionaries on every hand, and those accepting the Gospel were influential people of the South, who had been close investigators of the principles before embracing them. Prejudice was fast being allayed and Mormonism was beginning to be seen as it is, notwithstanding the efforts of those attempting to thwart its progress.

Elder Knight, in conclusion, referred to the great work of the Gospel. It was no fable but an actual reality, and the time would come when mankind would have to so confess. It was necessary that the Elders who had been out in the mission field keep the harness on, for if they did not they would lose the Spirit of God—the great essential to remaining steadfast unto the end. There was a great work to be performed at home, and it was just as possible to remain faithful at home and to work vigorously for the spread of the Gospel, as it was to do so in the missionary field. The speaker urged attention to the commandments of the Lord, and assured all that would give heed that God would bless them as He had promised.

President George Q. Cannon next addressed the congregation, expressing delight at being privileged to listen to the testimonies of those who had returned from missions. Their testimonies

gave evidence of the blessings that God had bestowed upon them, and their experiences were very similar to those encountered by nearly all who had gone out to preach the Gospel. The nations were yearning for the truth, said President Cannon, and it was the duty of the Elders of Israel to deliver it to them, leaving the results with the Father. The speaker hoped the Saints would keep their second estate, for therein was eternal salvation.

The choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation,

No longer as strangers on earth need we roam.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Seymour B. Young.

### YAQUI GOLD COUNTRY.

Of late, the press has contained many notices of the Yaqui country, in Mexico, and gold seekers, discouraged by the rigors of an Alaskan winter, have turned in that direction to prospect for the treasure, writes Consul Kendrick. For the past few months as many as 20 prospectors each week have fited out in El Paso, Tex., and departed over the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific road for the Yaqui territory. Reports coming back from them have been generally favorable. A few days ago, a rich vein was struck near Guaynopa, which runs 8,000 ounces of silver and 11 ounces of gold to the ton. But, however rich the deposits may be, I would not recommend that any one seek his fortune there with a mere pan and a pick. There is, without doubt, considerable gold there; but, to be worked profitably, plenty of capital and the most improved machinery are requisite.

The Yaqui gold country is reached by taking the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific road to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, for Casas Grandes, 150 miles to the southwest. From Casas Grandes to Sahuaripa, in the state of Sonora, on the eastern edge of the gold fields, the distance is 140 miles via the following points: San Diego ranch, Colonia Pacheco, Colonia Garcia, and Chuachupa. Wagons can be used as far as Chuachupa, and the roads are tolerable. From this last-named place to Sahuaripa, the distance is 55 miles, over a new mountain trail. The burro is the only means of transportation. After winding among the defiles of the mountains, the prospector will enter the valley of the Yaqui river. Many extravagant stories have been told of the existence of placer and quartz gold in this valley. The Yaqui Indians have extracted gold in meager quantities. Until recently, the admission of miners to this territory was denied by the Indians, and this probably caused the exaggerated reports about the deposits of the precious metal. Until lately, the Indians rebelled against certain laws of the Mexican government; but now a treaty with them is in effect, and they are peaceable. For many years, the Indians have sold gold to traders, but it has been impossible to determine how rich the deposits are. As I stated above, it will require plenty of capital to mine it profitably.

It is a virgin country from Casas Grandes to the gold fields. Plenty of deer, bear and turkeys can be found to supply the traveler with fresh meat. Springs and small streams of fresh water are numerous. As far as Chuachupa, corn, flour, potatoes, and other necessities can be purchased from settlers. Prospecting in the Yaqui country is relatively cheap. Everything purchased is paid for in Mexican money. The climate is healthful, and work can be prosecuted for 365 days in the year. The mining laws of the republic of Mexico insure the prospector

full protection and enjoyment of anything valuable he may find. Under the present law, with a small expense for "denouncement," three months are given the miner to ascertain the value of his find, and acquire the ground if its importance may warrant. The yearly taxes are \$10 per claim of 2½ acres, and the property is held without further obligation on the part of the owners.

The Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific Railroad was constructed as far as Casas Grandes, about eight months ago. The length of the line, as it is at present operated, is 150 miles, Casas Grandes being the terminus. On the 13th instant the road was formally inaugurated by Gov. Ahumada. A special train carried the governor and his staff, and prominent citizens of El Paso, Tex., Ciudad Juarez, and Chihuahua, Mexico. In his speech, Gov. Ahumada talked of the commercial relations between the two republics, and declared that, as governor of Chihuahua, he would welcome and aid every legitimate enterprise started by Americans. He said that Mexico was ushering in a period of unprecedented industrial activity, and along with the invitation to capitalists to invest in the resources of his state, he promised to assist in every way to extend the trade relations with the United States.

The Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific railroad is owned principally by New York parties. It penetrates a section rich in resources and heretofore almost inaccessible. The chief interests along the line are mining, stock raising and farming. The lumber industry in the Sierra Madre mountains is in its infancy, and at present only supplies the local demand. The exports are confined to ores and cattle. The district from which the road draws produces about 100,000 head of cattle annually, the bulk of which finds a market in the United States. The principal farmers and cattlemen tributary to this road are the Mormons, whose colonies aggregate 10,000 persons. The main product of the mines now in operation is silver ore, which goes to the smelter situated in El Paso, Tex. Enough gold is found in the ore to pay the expenses of getting it out of the ground. On account of the increasing output of the mines along this road, caused by its construction, and the fact that new prospects are to be worked and new mines opened, a smelter is to be erected in Ciudad Juarez.

Following is a list of the principal mines tributary to the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific road, with their location and output per month of silver ore: Estrella, near Guzman, 500 tons; Esperanza, near Guzman, 200 tons; Bismarck, near Guzman, 500 tons; Negrita, near Guzman, 100 tons; Wabash Mining company, near Sabinal, 50 tons; Sabinal Mining company, Sabinal, 50 tons; Grant and Smith mine, Sabinal, 500 tons; Boozie mine, Sabinal, 50 tons; Corralitos mines, San Pedro, 2,500 tons; Dos Cabezas, 250 tons. There have been recent discoveries of gold, silver, copper and lead, which, in a short time, will call for recognition. The owners are prosecuting development and getting their properties ready to work. It is the ultimate object of the promoters of the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific railroad to extend it to the Pacific coast. This would increase the volume of exports, adding, perhaps, semi-tropical fruits to the commodities already exported. The country to the southwest of Guerrero is said to be well adapted to the production of oranges and lemons.

The Pocatello Advance Publishing company, at Pocatello, Ida., was attached by the Sentinel Publishing company of Boise Monday for \$300, the sheriff taking possession of the property.