

OLD FOLKS' DAY 1891.

THERE is no annual recreation in Utah more popular than the Old Folks excursion. It originated in the spirit of pure charity and sincere respect for the aged. It has grown in public interest and has become one of the institutions of "Mormon" social life. Making no distinctions on account of race, religion, politics or nationality, it is thoroughly cosmopolitan and humanitarian. The purpose in view is the happiness and encouragement of men and women who are nearing the line of the future life.

Thursday, June 18th, was fixed upon as Old Folks' day for 1891 and Springville, Utah county, as the spot for the outing. The Rio Grande Western had generously proffered free transportation, the Springville people tendered free entertainment for the company, and the street car lines agreed to carry them to and from the depot without charge. The benevolent public also were liberal in donations, and the committee were cheered in their labor of love by the hearty co-operation of all whose aid was invited.

The morning was delightful. A few white clouds gave to the deep blue of the sky a lovelier hue, and the air was clear and bracing while the sunbeams chased away the faintest traces of cold. The old people were seated on the train without fuss or hurry, and a little after 8 o'clock fourteen coaches and a baggage car were pulled out of the depot by engine 143, an immense locomotive decked with the Stars and Stripes. The cars were first class, the road-bed smooth, the train hands courteous, and the company in splendid spirits. Aged passengers were taken up at the stations south of the city as far as Draper, but no further stop was made until Provo was reached.

There were on the train 515 persons between 70 and 80 years—235 men, 280 women; 75 between 80 and 90—42 men and 33 women; and 4 who were 90 and upwards—all men, viz. Wm. Tucker, 90; W. Anderson, 92; Thos. Graham, 93, and J. B. Lewis, 95; total, 594—281 men and 313 women. There were the lame, the halt, the blind and the deaf, but very few, however, who were not in possession of all their faculties, and two or three persons of color. It was a merry company and the pleasure of the trip was heightened by interchange of courtesies greetings of old acquaintances, renewal of former friendships, the distribution of genuine lemonade, cake and candy, and appropriate songs and glees from the Old Folks choir led by our old friend E. Beezley. One noticeable thing while traveling through the train was the well-dressed

and neat appearance of the old people, showing that they were well cared for, or able to care well for themselves. There were no signs of neglect in person or apparel.

When Springville was reached the train halted a little distance south of the depot in front of Packard's Grove. There were crowds of children and grown people, a band of music and ringing cheers to greet the company. An archway formed of bunting and evergreens with the words "Veterans Welcome," opened the way to the rear of the grove where were the stand and refreshment tables. The old folks walked on a path covered with sweet new mown hay to chairs arranged in front of the stand. On the right of the path were drawn up in line over 200 young men and young ladies dressed in white and turkey red, with red, white and blue turbans on their heads and similar colored bands and rosettes on their arms. These were the waiters, and behind them were stretched long tables tastefully arranged, loaded with delicacies, adorned with flowers and decorated with national flags.

The stand was soon occupied by Presidents Wilford Woodruff and George Q. Cannon, Presiding Bishop W. B. Preston, President Jacob Gates of the Seventies, the Presidency of Salt Lake Stake, President A. O. Smoot of Utah Stake, Bishop Nephi Packard of Springville, the Old Folks' committee and choir, the Springville brass band, committee and choir, and a number of prominent ladies and gentlemen. A table was set to which all press reporters were cordially invited. The stand was gaily adorned with streamers, mottoes, the stars and stripes, etc., and the fine trees overhead, swaying in the gentle breeze, made a grateful shelter and gave frequent glimpses of the lovely azure sky above. It was a glorious sight when the veterans were seated and the Springville brass band, dressed in handsome uniform, struck up a patriotic air.

Mr. Don C. Johnson conducted the exercises in excellent style. The Springville choir sang

SPRINGVILLE'S SONG OF WELCOME

To the Veterans Visiting us June 18th, 1891.

Tune—"Mandor"
 Veterans here we gladly greet you,
 Welcome to our lovely town.
 We will try to entertain you
 With the very best we own.

You deserve consideration,
 We make no partition wall,
 And we wish on this occasion
 Pure goodwill to show to all.

Gratefully we all remember
 Honors that to you we owe,
 You have passed the life's December
 And our love we wish to show.

We would so reveal affection,
 While you stay with us to-day.

That from mutual recollection
 It may never fade away.

When our mortal lives are ended,
 When we pass to other spheres,
 May our pleasures be extended
 Through unending happy years.

WILLIAM OLEGG.

Prayer was offered by the chaplain Bishop Packard.

Hon. F. C. Boyer then delivered a brief speech of welcome to the old folks of Salt Lake city and county, praising the originators of this movement, and congratulating all present at the harmony existing among them in putting away for the day all sectional strifes and differences of views. He read a poetic welcome written by Mrs. Lucretia H. Mower, a Springville septuagenarian.

President George Q. Cannon, being called upon to respond, said Old Folks' day was a red letter day in the lives of all who participated in its enjoyment. He was glad to see these appropriate manifestations of respect to the aged. Honoring old age was the test of the civilization of a people, an evidence of their advancement. He expressed his pleasure at seeing so many persons of opposite opinions putting aside their religious and political differences and meeting as citizens, and members of the great human family. He invoked upon them the blessings of heaven.

Mrs. Lillie Boyer Gleason sang, with much feeling, "Bring Back the Old Folks." The following address was then forcibly delivered by Mrs. G. E. Anderson:

THE OLD FOLKS

What memories cluster around this hallowed name; the names of parents now with us and those departed to a better land! They always have the warmest corner in our hearts, the holiest shrine in our memories.

Our old folks, whom we honor today, from the septuagenarian to those hoary locks crowned with the star of a hundred years, where else upon the broad earth can such a sight be witnessed? Veterans from every clime, patriots from all lands, here seated beneath the cool shade of Utah's verdure, swept by the vivifying breezes from Utah's grand mountains, bending above us the bluest of blue skies. Here, co-mingling with each other, is seen the type of many nationalities; the sturdy Briton, who first saw the blue Albion vales, the land of Shakespeare, Hampden and Cromwell, coursing in their veins is the blood of the Plantagenets, they have brought to our glorious America, and infused into our blood, that liberty loving spirit so prevalent in the breasts of loyal Americans. Some present here today first breathed the air in bonnie Scotland, the land of Scott, Livingstone and Burns, the home of the blue bell and heather. Natives of Scandinavia swell the ranks of our Old Folks' party today, the freedom loving spirit of the old Norsemen burning in their veins; Denmark's low sea girl isle furnishes of her sons and daughters to make up the numbers of our Old Folks' jubilee. The sons from the "ould sod" swell our numbers in honor of this our jubilee.

Sunny France, classic Italy, romantic Spain and many other nationalities are