

## PROVO U. S. R. R. CELEBRATION.

PROVO, Nov. 25th, 1873.

The train, with about one hundred persons, left the depot at Salt Lake City at a quarter past eight, and reached Provo at twenty minutes to eleven. There was a concourse of several thousand people at the depot in Provo, including the mayor, the civil and religious authorities of Provo and Utah county.

The First Presidency, the Twelve residing in the city, Hons. Wm. Jennings and W. H. Hooper, F. Little and Theo. McKean, Esqs., Bishops Hunter, Sheets and E. D. Woolley, and a large number of other gentlemen, and many ladies, were in the party.

The proceedings of the celebration opened with music by the Provo brass band, when the following address of welcome of Mayor Smoot was read by John B. Milner, Esq.—

Mr. President, Board of Directors and Stockholders of the U. S. R. R., and friends of progress in internal improvements.

Ladies and Gentlemen.—It is with profound feelings of gratitude to the Dispenser of all blessings that I have the honor to welcome the advent of the iron horse to our hitherto comparatively isolated city. In doing so I cannot but commend the energy displayed by you in pushing the road to its completion to Provo during a period of financial depression resulting disastrously to so many roads. I have personally witnessed the indefatigable labors and energy of your construction agent and his very efficient corps of assistants and workmen, whose labors have been highly commendable.

On behalf of the citizens of Provo, as its executive officer, I tender you our congratulations and thanks that our city is now linked by bands of iron to the metropolis of our Territory and the leading cities of the nation, and that through the agency of steam, produced from the two devouring elements by the hand of science, the distance between us in point of time is materially lessened, and as our intercourse with each other will necessarily increase and our commercial relations be more fully developed, it is reasonable to hope that our fraternal feelings with our sister cities will be proportionately increased. It is pleasing to notice that the other end of yonder rail, pointing southward, as with the finger of prophecy, indicates that at no distant day the southern cities, towns, and villages of our Territory will enjoy the blessings we have now met to celebrate, and that the whole of the settlements of our wide spread Territory will very shortly be brought into closer proximity.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to offer you a hearty welcome.

Music by the brass bands, followed by this speech by Hon. Geo. A. Smith—

Mr. Mayor, Citizens of Provo and Utah County generally—We thank you, in behalf of the President, Directors, stockholders and employees of the Utah Southern, for the kind sentiments and liberal views you have expressed, and the hearty welcome which is extended to us on the present occasion by the appearance of such a vast number of persons, and the rich and glowing sentiments expressed. We thank you all for your kindness and the exertions on this occasion, and to the Mayor and the inhabitants of Provo and Utah County generally we express our thanks and gratitude for the efficient manner in which they have contributed their aid and the efforts of our neighbors, and we are exceedingly thankful that we have been enabled, under adverse circumstances, to accomplish this purpose, which, in accordance with the sentiments expressed by your honorable Mayor, will evidently and in a short time we hope extend south and into the southern cities of our Territory with the same iron band. We are thankful to our heavenly Father that he delivered us from persecution, from the hands of our enemies, gave us these

valleys to improve and inherit, blessed the desert land and made it fruitful, and blessed the labor of our hands to form connections by telegraph and by railroad with the rest of mankind. With these sentiments and the sentiments expressed by your mayor, and we heartily accord with them, for this welcome may God bless you all. Amen.

Music, after which David McKenzie, Esq., read the following address by President B. Young—

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: Assembled to celebrate the completion of the Utah Southern Railroad to this city, I gladly join in your rejoicings, feeling a deep interest, in common with you, in the successful progress of a work fraught with so many benefits to the people of this Territory.

I deem this a fitting occasion for briefly tracing our progress in the grand and steadily "onward and upward" march of praiseworthy improvement.

Soon after the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fayette, Seneca County, State of New York, on the 6th of April, 1830, with six members, the people removed to Kirtland, Ohio, and at once began erecting buildings, opening streets, preparing to build a temple, which they completed; resumed the publication of the "Evening and Morning Star," after the destruction of the printing press, by a mob, in Jackson County, Missouri, in 1833; then published it under the title of "Messenger and Advocate;" sent missionaries to various portions of the United States, Canada, and Europe; founded colonies near the western borders of Missouri, and labored zealously and indefatigably for the welfare of mankind, until they left their hard earned homes in Kirtland and the adjacent regions.

In 1831, when forming their settlements near the western borders of Upper Missouri, the Saints found a region sparsely settled and but rudely improved, and, with their characteristic love for improvement, at once established schools, soon superseded the hominy block and the grater, by mills driven by horse and water power, published the first number of the "Evening and Morning Star" in June, 1832, then, if I rightly remember, the only newspaper published in Missouri outside of St. Louis, Jefferson City and Booneville; published a book entitled the "Book of Commandments," and, through unity and industry in every possible and laudable improvement, were rapidly acquiring desirable and very commendable surroundings, when they were driven into still more sparsely settled adjacent counties, where they again began, with untiring patience and unflagging energy, the improvement of themselves, their children, their few neighbors, and everything around them. This course was pursued, and prosperous settlements were dotting the prairies as by magic, until their expulsion from that State in 1838. At the time of this expulsion Gen. Clark remarked to the Saints: "You must not be seen here as many as five together; if you are the citizens will be upon you and destroy you, but you must flee immediately out of the State." Still he wished the Saints to remain, if they would only forsake or discard their religion, for said he, "You are an industrious people; you have done more in three years to build up the country and improve it, than the old settlers have done in sixteen years."

After the expulsion from Missouri, their scattered numbers were gathered on the left bank of the Mississippi river, at a small town named Commerce, now Nauvoo, in Illinois, in the spring of 1839, and they there again began to exhibit that wonderful, unflagging zeal for improvement. In the next five years preceding the massacre of the Prophet and Patriarch, Joseph and Hyrum Smith, an extensive city site was laid out; large numbers of commodious dwellings were erected; the lowlands drained; many public edifices reared; the walls of a costly temple raised to the first story; numerous schools put in operation; a University and other charters obtained; and several thousands of happy and industrious people were building up a great and prosperous city in a locality previously so uncouth as to be shunned by all but few.

Other flourishing settlements were made in various parts of Kan-

cock County, and across the river in Lee County, Iowa; and fields, orchards, flocks, herds, happy homes, and a peaceful and intelligent people were rapidly adding to the wealth and strength of our nation.

During the less than two years next after the massacre of the Prophet and Patriarch, the Temple was completed; a site selected in the Mississippi river for building a dam for manufacturing purposes, and all possible improvements encouraged and prosecuted to the utmost, until the power of religious intolerance turned efforts for continued and increasing improvements into preparations for leaving the State of Illinois.

Such were some of the labors of the Saints, partaking of the spirit, zeal and energy of their leader, the Prophet Joseph Smith, the founder of the great latter-day work, which the Lord of Hosts has commenced, and which he will watch over for good, unto its final consummation in accordance with His Divine will.

In February, 1846, the Saints began crossing the Mississippi river on their way to these distant valleys, and, making resting places at Garden Grove and Pisgah for those who were to follow, where we immediately provided school-houses, temporarily using tents for that purpose; and filling a requisition from our Government for 500 men to aid in the then war with Mexico, crossed the Missouri river, and erected several hundred log-houses; made many dug-outs; built a grist-mill, and, according to our inviolable custom, school-houses; divided the people into wards, with Bishops and Police, and conducted all matters for the benefit, to the utmost, of a camp at its halt in Winter Quarters (now Florence) on the right bank of the Missouri, several miles above where now is Omaha.

That year we carried the standard of true civilization to California, establishing there the first library, and soon began publishing the "California Star," the first newspaper, so far as I am aware, printed on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Shortly after that date, the "Frontier Guardian" was published in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In April, 1847, the Pioneer Company, numbering 143 men, 3 women and 2 children, began their journey westward, in search of a location where we could unmolestedly serve the Lord our God in accordance with His commandments.

I well remember that, when riding in advance of that company with my then First Counselor, Heber C. Kimball and others, to search out the route for the wagons to follow, we were carefully watching for and frequently conversing about a route for a railroad across the continent.

That company reached the present site of Salt Lake City, on the 24th of July, 1847, and at once began its survey into streets and lots, and, aided by Capt. James Brown's detachment from the "Mormon Battalion," the erection of a fort for the comfort and security of the families who arrived that season, to the number of some 3000 persons.

In 1849, Prest. George A. Smith presented, in the legislature of the provisional State of Deseret, a memorial to Congress for the construction of a national railroad to the Pacific coast, which said legislature adopted. In 1852, he presented a like memorial in the legislative assembly of the Territory of Utah, which was also adopted, under the following title: "Memorial to Congress for the construction of a great, national, central railroad to the Pacific coast." Pages 225-6 of Laws of Utah, published 1852.

It is thus clearly shown that, from the time of our leaving the Missouri river, our attention was drawn to and our influence exercised in favor of an inter-oceanic railroad, and so continued until the completion, early in 1869, of that great work, the Union and Central Pacific Railroad, to the construction of which the inhabitants of Utah rendered most efficient aid.

Few, if any, hailed the advent of telegraphic facilities with more joy than did the people of Utah, as evidenced by our furnishing and setting some 600 miles of poles for the first overland telegraph line, to hasten magnetic communication with the intelligence of the world. Since the completion of that line the "Deseret Telegraph Company" has stretched its wires to an aggregate length of 1000 miles, connecting all our principal cities, towns and mining camps, and penetrating South Eastern Nevada, Northern Arizona, and Southern Idaho.

Soon after the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad, the people of Utah, unaided by Government grants, began the construction of the Utah Central, and speedily completed it between Ogden and Salt Lake City; the Utah Southern, designed to connect with the Texas Pacific, was then commenced at the earliest practicable date, and has been prosecuted as rapidly as means and other facilities would permit, and we are now assembled to celebrate the result of this labor.

We are on the point of connection with Franklin, in the extreme north of the Territory, by our own railroads, a distance of some 170 miles nearly due north and south, with branches to Little Cottonwood and Bingham Canyons, in Salt Lake County and American Fork in Utah County, and the road from Echo to the coal beds in Summit County, to lend their powerful aid in facilitating travel and transportation, so necessary to the rapid advancement of our agricultural, manufacturing, mining and all other material interests. And we hope to continue, until the inhabitants of this beautiful and thriving city are in railroad communication with that extensive net-work of roads ramifying our great country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and extending into Canada and Mexico.

Furnaces are busily occupied in smelting the rich, argentiferous galena and copper ores so abundant in our mountains.

Having thus briefly sketched a few of the prominent items of our history, I again refer to the conditions under which our labors have been performed.

It is true that the angel, commissioned to restore, in this our day, the fullness of the everlasting gospel, found Joseph but a youth and comparatively unlearned, he having had but limited opportunities for education in the then wilds of Western New York; but, from that date, until so foully massacred with his brother Hyrum in Carthage, Hancock county, Illinois, on the 27th June, 1844, in the 39th year of his age, he assiduously applied himself to studying the English, German, Hebrew and other languages, and gaining all information of worth from every available source, especially through revelation from Heaven, the fountain of all light and knowledge. As many of you know, his was a life of no ordinary character, driven from place to place, surrounded by implacable enemies, thirsting for his blood, harassed by vexatious law suits, and, worse than all, by the dark plottings of false brethren which culminated in his foul murder, yet, through all these vicissitudes, he never ceased his exertions to improve himself and his brethren.

Believing in his teachings, the teachings of the Savior, through His servants, the Latter-day Saints have from the beginning striven to emulate his pure and noble example, and, notwithstanding the same spirit of opposition that sought to destroy the prophet Joseph and the work of the Lord has unceasingly labored to throw every obstacle in the way of our social, political and intellectual advancement, we have great reason to feel thankful for the results already achieved.

From the arrival of the Pioneers in 1847 until now, the people of this Territory have at all times labored assiduously and untiringly, amid many adverse circumstances, for the prosperous settlement of the "Great American Desert" and the regions bordering, and for the best and most rapid development of the resources of these valleys and mountains. As some of the results, under the blessing of Israel's God, our cities, towns and villages are now numbered by hundreds, and extend from the Soda Springs, in the Territory of Idaho, some 230 miles north of this city, to the settlements in Arizona, some 400 miles south. Orchards, gardens, and farms have widely multiplied where barrenness has had sway for ages; commodious dwelling, school and meeting houses are fast supplanting the ruder buildings that circumstances at first compelled; numerous factories have relieved the slow and tedious processes of hard labor in the manufacture of textile fabrics; saw and grist mills have been multiplied to meet increasing wants; our publications have increased from the small-sized "Deseret News," first published weekly by Dr. Willard Richards in 1850, to the "Deseret News," published weekly, semi-weekly, and daily; the "Juvenile Instructor," semi-monthly; the "Woman's Ex-

ponent," the "Salt Lake Herald," weekly, semi-weekly and daily; the "Ogden Junction," semi-weekly and daily; the "Provo Times," daily; large editions of the "Book of Mormon," "Hymn Book," "Answers to Questions," "Catechism," and other publications, not forgetting the famous "Keenapitchinin." Ah! I also must not omit to mention the little "Cactus" in St. George.

Education, in all that is useful, so obviously underlies true human progress, that a slight allusion in detail may be interesting to many and serve to show the importance we have always attached to the education of our children, under the most adverse circumstances.

President George A. Smith, now my first counselor, in settling Iron County in the winter of 1850-51, did not wait for the erection of a school-house, but began teaching, with the few elementary text books then in possession, and by the light of the sage and greasewood camp fires. The first building erected in that county was a goodly sized, substantial block-house, for the use of meetings and schools, thereby impressing upon the minds of both old and young the importance of what, from first to last, we as a people have always considered a paramount duty, to diligently seek useful information from every available source, at all times and under all circumstances. With what success this duty has been prosecuted, under numerous disadvantages unknown to the world, let the 38,000 school-children of our young Territory answer.

Turning from the brief glance at our material and educational interests and advancement, I deem it fitting to remark that from July 24, 1847, to this auspicious day we are celebrating, our legislators, our judges, our county and city officers, our justices of the peace, all holding authority, in each and every department, and the whole people, with comparatively fewer exceptions than I am aware of elsewhere, have labored assiduously for the broadest enjoyment, by all, of the rights and privileges designed by our Creator for our benefit; to prevent the least encroachment upon the rights of any, no matter of what name, faith, or nation; and to spread the area of freedom, uniting with everything conducing to the true progress of the human family in all that is in anywise beneficial, and to discourage, prevent, and eradicate, to the utmost of our influence, means, and opportunities, all that in the least degree militates against the welfare of our fellow beings, doing all possible good to all.

In speaking of the acts of the children of men, it has been wisely said: "By their fruits ye know them." A few of the fruits produced by this people, during the past forty years, have now been passed in a review deemed best to be very brief, and in my reflections I often wish that the whole world would do themselves the justice to carefully and candidly scrutinize our course, all our acts and purposes, anywhere and everywhere, when we have been true to our faith, from our earliest history till now, and learn, by our fruits, whether we are not ever true and fast friends to all our fellow beings, so far as they will permit, and ever zealously laboring to the utmost for the most rapid improvement in all things conducive to the temporal and eternal welfare and happiness of mankind.

Friends and fellow-citizens: Permit me to again congratulate you in now being in communication with all steam lines by sea and land throughout the world, and to wish peace, union, and abundant prosperity to your beautiful city, and to all who are laboring to promote true progress, and advance commendable improvements.

At the conclusion of the President's address three cheers were given, followed by music.

S. S. Jones, Esq., read a poem for the celebration.

After more music, came a speech by Hon. Wm. Jennings. Then followed more music, a very short address from F. Little, General Superintendent of the road, music, toasts, music, a short address from Hon. J. M. Bernhisel and music.

The proceedings were concluded at twenty-five minutes to 1 p.m. with prayer by John B. Milner, Esq.

A grand ball is to be held in the evening.