

considering that it was given me not more than two hours ago, I think this shows a rather short memory. I feel incapable of addressing this intelligent assembly on the subject that I have devoted no reflection to, and such seems to me to be presumptuous. But my mind is more particularly running upon our honored guest, Prof. Maeser. I would like, if I had the language and the felicity of expression of Dr. Talmage, for instance, to devote a little time to Dr. Maeser's praise, especially if Brother Maeser were not so extremely modest. But I will say a few words with regard to the institution of our Church schools. I remember very distinctly the first meeting that was held in the interest of Church schools; and it will never pass from my memory. As far as my memory serves me, the first intimation of a movement of this nature was in the present office of President Woodruff. There were the Twelve and President Woodruff. The Board of Education was then chosen, and I was selected by President Woodruff to be their chairman. I understood then, as I do now, that it would be more proper that President Woodruff should occupy that position, and fortunately for this organization he accepted it. The matter was talked over in regard to how the Church academies were to be supported. We had no money that we could command at that time. We were in a far worse condition financially than we are now. However, we felt that this matter was of so much interest and of such vast importance that action must be taken promptly. We made considerable preparation for the inauguration of this movement. Knowing our straitened circumstances financially, it was distinctly understood by President Woodruff, that there should be no appropriation made to the academies, except after a careful consideration of each case with full regard to the peculiar situation of the Church financially. We went to work, knowing that we would have to struggle with many difficulties in our path. This celebrated gentleman in whose honor this banquet has been prepared was there with us. His intelligence and long experience in these matters were very valuable to us, and he was then and still is the chief and foremost assistant in the Church Board of Education. And those who are present here understand very well his devotion, his supreme interest, his labors night and day, his thoughts and his feelings constantly exercised towards the advancement of this cause as well as the wonderful blessings that have been given him of the Lord, to aid and assist this great man. And his success from the first movement he has made in this direction has been wonderful. I think during the short period that we have had our school system in operation we have established an academy in almost every Stake of Zion. Brother Maeser says there are 42 such institutions. Just think of it, now; 42 in this short period. Well, it is marvellous. Today we had a meeting of the Church Board of Education, and we had a circular presented to us for consideration. It was a formula that was to govern the operations of our schools from the highest to the very lowest, and it was one of the finest

and most perfect documents that I have ever seen or expect to see, and it will go down to the ages to come. It is grand. If I had my way about it, it would be read at our next general conference, on the 6th of April. (President Woodruff—"You can have your way, President Snow.") It is a grand and glorious production, and those brethren who have prepared it were inspired in getting it up. They were Dr. Talmage and Captain Young.

I say, my friends, that the prospects for our Church schools are grand and glorious, and I have more faith and confidence in the great ultimatum and success of our Church schools today than I ever had before.

After another course,

DR. J. E. TALMAGE

spoke to the subject "Our Pioneer Teacher." It was an excellent address, and we regret that we have not space to produce it here. It is natural for man to yield at times to feelings of selfishness and pride; and even on this pleasant occasion, into which no unworthy thought should enter, I cannot wholly subdue my weakness in this direction; for my heart swells with pride at the reflection that I am privileged to be one of so distinguished a company, assembled for so honorable a purpose; and self-gratulations assert themselves, that I am honored with the request to speak to such a topic. Yet these feelings suffer an abrupt if not indeed a severe rebuke as I realize the incapacity of my mind to find words, and the inability of my tongue to speak them, in every way appropriate and suitable to this occasion. I could wish that I had for the time being the gift of eloquence and the power of poetic speech, that I might employ those heavenly endowments in honor and praise of our pioneer teacher. He is amongst us today, our honored guest on the present occasion. A few of the many who have been privileged to be pupils, and, later, associate teachers, under Dr. Maeser's tuition and direction deemed it proper to make the occasion of our worthy preceptor's withdrawal from the school room an appropriate expression of our love and esteem. The General Board of Education, through its worthy President, hearing of our purpose, promptly offered to co-operate with us, and thus add greater lustre to the name and person we here honor. A testimonial to Dr. Maeser has been prepared, engrossed and framed, and this I take pleasure in presenting to him. (The document, which is an elegant sample of the penman's art, and which was set in a beautiful frame, was here brought forward by the attendants.) This feeble expression of our esteem reads as follows:

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 7, 1892.

On the occasion of the retirement of Elder Karl G. Maeser, D.L.D., from his active labors as an instructor and a principal of our church schools, to devote his full time and attention to the duties of his exalted position as General Superintendent of the Church school system, we, the undersigned, having enjoyed for many years the privilege of students, and later, the honors of associate teachers under his immediate tuition and direction, do seek to express, though of necessity in a feeble and an inadequate manner, the esteem and the honor with which Dr. Maeser and his labors are regarded by us.

This we do with the approval and co-operation of the General Board of Education of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Dr. Maeser is in truth the Pioneer Teacher in the Church schools of our people, and since beginning his labors here he has held a foremost place among the educators of Utah. During the sixteen years of his most efficient and divinely inspired principalship, the Brigham Young Academy of Provo has advanced from the position of a lower grade school to that of an academy in fact, with worthy graduates counted by hundreds and present and former students numbering thousands.

We feel that we, in common with the youth of our people, owe to Brother Maeser an incalculable debt of gratitude for his precepts and example, and his whole souled devotion in the cause of education amongst us.

Our relations with him as our senior teacher, principal, brother and friend have been of the most pleasant nature and our affection for him is that of sons, for a loving parent.

While we feel that his removal from the field of active teaching is a loss, we find consolation in the knowledge that the scope of his invaluable labors is greatly expanded, and we rejoice that our relations with him will not be entirely severed, for in his capacity as General Superintendent of Church Schools we shall still regard him as a counselor and a director of our labors.

Our earnest prayers will be that health, peace and success may attend him in his work of love for the youth of Zion, and that the All-wise Father may long spare his life to us and our people.

In behalf of the General Board of Education.

WILFORD WOODRUFF, President,
GEORGE REYNOLDS, Secretary,
J. E. TALMAGE, D. S. D.,
WILLARD DONE, D. B.,
JOSEPH NELSON,
J. J. WALTON,
RICHARD HAAG.

Those who have been privileged with an intimate association with Dr. Maeser in the educational work regard him as indeed a father, because of his wise precept and worthy example. He is the high priest in the temple of our Church School system. He has proved himself the Moses in educational matters among this people. For fully a score of years he has led the host through the wilderness of adversity, meeting and overcoming obstacles, vanquishing foes, following steadfastly the cloud of glory and the pillar of fire created by the Almighty power from which issued his commission. In all the troubles of his journeyings, whenever the murmuring of the masses became too deep he has hurried to his Maker, to whose presence he was never denied admittance. In my heart there is an unmistakable testimony that his leadership has been inspired. I know that he has given his whole energy and soul to the cause to which God has called him. What man, what angel, what immortal being of any grade could do more?

Now that the dim outlines of the mountains of the promised land rise above the horizon, he retires from the active routine work of the field that he may visit, as circumstances require his presence, the various parts of Israel's camp, that he might ascend the hill overlooking the field and there invoke victory on the arms of his people. There are not many Moses among us; but honor to those we have! Honor to