

trod the verge of a mighty continent, and were experimenting on a gigantic scale! Thousands of miles separated from the old overgrown systems, with a mighty ocean rolling between, their government once established, and secured they were far enough removed from any influence or power they could exert. Here was a vast continent to be peopled;—a land rich in agricultural and mineral resources; whose oceans, bays, sounds, inlets and rivers, were the most magnificent on earth; and whose territory embraced every variety of climate, from the icy biting chills of the frozen north to the luxurious, perpetual spring of the torrid zone; embracing all the changing latitudes of the earth; capable of producing vegetables, fruits and grain, in all their rich varieties; whose virgin soil, unturned for ages, was ready to burst forth and umbosom its rich treasures at the behest of the husbandman; whose waters abounded in fish; whose vast waving ocean prairies of grass were capable of feeding myriads of stock, and whose majestic forests could supply a world with timber. Every material was here, in rich abundance, for the sustenance of man; the building of cities; the facilities of trade and commerce; the advancement of the arts and sciences; everything essential to the comfort and convenience of humanity. Where was there a country better adapted to try a governmental experiment in? Washed by the Atlantic on the east and south, and laved by the calm broad waters of the Pacific on the west. Looking over alike to the European and Asiatic worlds; with rivers majestic as the continent they drained; ready to convey on their bosoms the rich treasures of agricultural, mineral, and forest wealth; and flowing like so many great arteries through every part of this great continent. What could mortal man desire more than a place like this to work out his great political problem in. When a few materials had been gathered together from the nations of the old world, and their former rulers sought to bring them into bondage, they resisted the attempt and shrank from the yoke, and as God said "let there be light and there was light," so the founders of this republic willed themselves free; and by the mighty action of that united will they became free. Their oppressors discomfited shrank back to their old haunts, and left them to the free and undisputed possession of the continent. It is true that some portions still cling to their idols; but they were so modified by the action of the republic that they nearly assimilated. What was there now in their way? Who impeded their progress? Here was a free people; a nation born; healthy, vigorous and strong. A continent to be peopled and governed; the richest and best spot on the wide earth.

The Constitution was formed. That instrument provides for a Senate and House of Representatives, a President and Judiciary. They had no use for a King, consequently they neither made nor imported one. This was a representative government, a government of the people. The House of Representatives are chosen by the people. The Senate, two from each state, are chosen by the Legislatures of the several States; which are chosen by the people. The President is chosen by electors, chosen by the people, under the direction of State Legislatures; which Legislatures themselves are chosen by the people; hence it is emphatically a people's, or popular government. No King to serve; no autocrat to obey; no Lords spiritual or temporal to interfere. They had no privileged class to sustain; their object was to legislate for the farmer, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant; to protect trade and commerce, and to legislate equally and justly for the wants of all, and to protect all men in their inalienable rights. They had no conquests to make, no victories to boast of, except the maintenance of their rights. They were not enriched by devastation or plunder of war. There were no sacked towns or burning villages; none rendered houseless or homeless through their rapacity. Their mission was peace on earth and good will to man. Even the red man was protected by them in his rights. I have been very much pleased in reading Article III of an ordinance for the government of the United States northwest of the river Ohio, "The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights and liberty, they never shall be invaded, or dis-

turbed, unless in just, and lawful wars, authorized by Congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them."

Under a government just and equitable, breathing sentiments like the above, this country flourished, following the arts of industry and peace, as no nation ever did before; from a few scattered provinces she sprang forth like a young giant into life, energy and power. Population swarmed in by millions from Europe. Agriculture spread in every direction; new improvements were made; new settlements formed; new states organized; new territories formed, and cities built by hundreds and thousands, until from thirteen, she numbers thirty-seven states; and these not small states or provinces; but exceeding in magnitude, wealth, power and resources, many of the European nations. Her rivers carry on their bosoms for thousands of miles, in every direction, the rich produce of the country, and perhaps I am not out of the way in saying she has more steamers on her sounds, inlets, rivers and lakes than all Europe combined of the same class, and as magnificent as can be found in any country. Her railroads and telegraph lines spread like a net-work over this vast continent and they are now fast connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; while her canals are not inferior to any. She has made rapid strides in machinery and manufactures, and is now competing with the foremost of the old world; her trade extends to all nations; her vessels sail on every sea, and penetrate every bay, and sound, and inlet. Her flag is known and respected among all nations, and her wishes respected by all.

Thus has this nation, under the auspices of peace prospered as no nation ever prospered in this world. She prospered under the direction, the guidance and protection of the Constitution. Well might Joseph Smith exclaim "It was given by inspiration of God." In such a condition, surrounded by so many blessings, what might not have been her destiny? Had she still sought for and obtained the inspiration of the Almighty; had she still progressed in virtue, integrity, honesty and wisdom; with the riches, prestige and power of the earth, and the blessings and aid of the Almighty, she would have stood upon a platform elevated high above the nations of earth; kingdoms would have sought her protection, and nations her alliance. Emperors would have bowed to her dictum and acknowledged her queen of the world. Her conquests would have been, the conquests of truth over error; of light dispelling darkness; the conquests of virtue, integrity and honor. She would have been the rising national sun, whose luminous beams would have penetrated the political darkness of the nations; and from whose refulgent rays, new thoughts, new ideas, new principles, and new actions would have emanated. Her victories would have been obtained by moral suasion, and while her concentrated power would have made her a terror to evil doers, her prestige would have been wide as the universe. She would have needed no Mexican intrigues; no Cuban nor Central American filibusterism; California, Sonora and all Mexico would have sought the shelter of her flag, and Canada desired her aid. Central and South America would have sought her alliance. England, France, Russia, Prussia, Germany, Scandinavia, Italy, Spain, Portugal; all Europe; the East Indies, China, Japan and the world would have admired her wisdom, and sought her protection and friendship. Instead of which, oh, how humiliating is the picture! She who might have been queen of nations is now humbled in the dust and clothed in sack-cloth and ashes. Her young men have fallen in battle and her maidens mourn; divided and rent asunder by factions, military is taking the place of civil authority and "children are her oppressors;" her wise men have departed, and there is no one to point out the path of peace. The nations afar off point the finger of scorn and say, "Is this your model nation, this your pattern republican government? Behold her weak as us!" While she torn, mangled, bleeding, palpitating and helpless is dumb at the reproach.

In an evil hour she gave way; she forgot "the rock from whence she was hewn and the pit from whence she was dug." She gloried in her own strength and forgot the Lord her God; she aban-

doned the path of economy and industry, and engaged in suicidal fraternal warfare, and while she was indulging in riotousness and debauchery; in wantonness, fraud and corruption; exultingly exclaiming, "Is not this great Babylon that I have built by the power of my might," there was a hand writing upon the wall that made all knees tremble, "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting."

Oh, war! Thou fell destroyer of the human race! was it not enough that thou shouldst feed on the millions of Europe, Asia and Africa; but thou must seek to glut thine insatiable maw, with the bloody trophies of thine inexorable demands, on this the fairest portion of God's footstool?

Oh, man! Immortal man; made in the image of God; bearing the impress of Jehovah;—when wilt thou fulfil the high destiny for which thou wert ordained, by thy Creator? When wilt thou, empty pride, passion, jealousy, rage and revenge, give way to wisdom, humility, virtue, integrity, kindness, mercy, magnanimity, universal brotherhood, and a reverence of God and His laws? Thou couldst leave an old, effete misgoverned world. Thou couldst— with the help of the Almighty,—break the fetters of oppression with which thou wast bound; thou couldst, free and unmanacled, brave a world of mal-administration, weakness, wickedness and corruption; but thou couldst not be divested of self; thou broughtst thyself with thee, and oh! how fully hast thou demonstrated, in this Eden of the earth, the incompetency of man to govern without the inspiration of the Almighty.

But why talk of unpleasant reminiscences! Should I broach war on this day? It is unpleasant, but it is nevertheless a fact that we cannot ignore. It is a fact that has spread desolation and misery through the land, and has caused hundreds of thousands to bite the dust. Why is it? Have they sinned against God? Yes, but then they have sinned against themselves, as well as ignoring God. In possession of greater blessings than any other nation they knew not how to appreciate them until, like the fallen angels, they have felt their loss. What is the cause? The cry of loyalty or disloyalty are only empty words, and principles are what we are after, and not idealities. I cannot enter into the details; I have not time; I will barely touch upon them. Infidelity to God, and wickedness and corruption among men, are the leading characteristics; a violation of their own acknowledged principles, and a desertion of the Constitution. All Legislators of State, or United States governments; all Judges and Officers; all Governors and Secretaries; all Government officials, in all States, swear or affirm that they will maintain and uphold the Constitution of the United States. How have they kept their oaths? I shall not say at present. Extreme parties north and south have for years wantonly made war upon it; one party is what are termed the fire-eaters of the south; the other the abolitionists of the north; both men of the same mould; and had the northerners been born south and the southerners north, they would have occupied opposite positions: uneasy, extreme in their views, impatient of control, selfish in their feelings, desirous to govern and rule, they both belched forth their unholy sentiments. The southern party damned the Constitution and wished it obliterated or burned; the northern party said it was "a covenant with death and a league with hell," and some of their leaders did formally burn it. Men were at first shocked by these horrid notions; but soon it became familiar. They forgot their obligations and oaths, they made shipwreck of a good conscience, and went in for a universal carnival; and I am sorry to have to say that Congress have stepped down from their high position, and instead of acting the part of statesmen, have seemed to vie with each other, as to who should be the greatest champion, in tearing in pieces that instrument. They treat it as any stump orator or pot-house politician, would any sectional question in politics.

What shall I say of us? Shall we enter a complaint, or, talk of our wrongs? No! A thousand times no! We are in the possession of so many blessings, temporal and spiritual, that the little evils are swallowed up by the greater blessings. We will thank God that we live in the age we do, and our motto shall be, "Peace on earth and good-will to man." As part of the com-

mon brotherhood of the nation we will perform the part of good citizens; rally round the cause of right; maintain inviolate the Constitution of the United States; seek to God for wisdom in every emergency, and for further light on all subjects, social, political and religious; cleave to the truth; and if all men forsake this great bulwark of human rights, let us rally around it, and save it from pollution and destruction, and hand it down uncontaminated and undefiled to our children and children's children, and be our motto a United Flag and the Constitution of the United States.

After the oration another gun was fired and Eardly's band played the "Star Spangled Banner."

The Hon. W. H. Hooper then addressed the vast audience assembled, expressive of his feelings at hearing the patriotic sentiments expressed in the song and oration which they had heard. He reverted to the struggle for independence, and to the efforts made by the revolutionary fathers to secure freedom of thought, speech and action; and pointed to the labors accomplished by the people of this Territory.

After some more music, the Hon. F. H. Head made a few remarks, recalling an old legend of the Crusaders, how the soldiers of the cross, in a terrible struggle for the possession of Jerusalem, were reinforced by those who had fallen in previous battles, their spirits coming to aid their sorely beset comrades in the strife for final victory. He asked, might we not apply this beautiful legend, and believe that the spirits of our fathers who gave the nation being, were watching her progress and aiding to secure her continued and permanent greatness, until she fulfilled the high destiny before her.

More music, and the Hon. Geo. A. Smith complimented the children upon their fine appearance, discipline and good order, which manifested their knowledge of the reasons why the celebration was being held. He was pleased to see them learning to value the principles which our fathers had so nobly maintained; and believed that many of them would live to see this American continent one country, a united country with the old flag.

Mr. J. M. Hardie sang the "Marsellaise;" several toasts and sentiments were read; Mr. John D. T. McAllister sang "Hearts and Homes;" Hon. Joseph A. Young returned thanks to the processions from the various wards, and those in charge of them, for the promptness with which the suggestions of the Committee were carried out, and gave some good advice with regard to their returning.

Choir sang an Ode to Liberty by Miss E. R. Snow; and President B. Young dismissed the assemblage with his blessing.

The processions then moved off in order, and returned to their respective wards, in several of which arrangements were made to spend the afternoon and evening in mirth and enjoyment.

We saw no quarreling, contention, intemperance, nor disorder during the day. All was peace, good feeling and harmony. The Committee are entitled to praise for the manner in which they carried out the published programme. Gen. Burton, as Marshal, performed the duties of the office in his usual efficient manner, aided by his assistants.

The proceedings of the day were happily terminated with the grand ball in the Theatre.

THE THEATRE.—The Ball at the Theatre was a success on Thursday evening. The immense stretch of flooring, formed by the parquette being covered over on a level with the stage, gave room for such a number to join in the "mazy dance" as is seldom seen "on the floor" at one time. The decorations are very artistic, and display much skill and taste. The company was large and embraced citizens of all classes, while harmony reigned throughout the evening.

We are glad to see, by the announcement of the Presidency, that the present condition and decoration of the Theatre will be taken advantage of for holding some other mammoth parties, two being announced, one for the 16th—Battalion party—and one for the 24th—Pioneer party. The opportunity thus afforded for old friends and acquaintances, from various parts of the Territory, to meet and in social re-union recall the stormy past and compare it with the sunshine of the present, will no doubt be taken advantage of by great numbers, who will appreciate the thoughtfulness of President Young in thus providing for their coming together.

RECOVERING.—Pres. H. C. Kimball informed us on Thursday evening that he had received a telegram from his son Heber P., dated Omaha, 3d, who had arrived there with his brother, Brigham W. on their way west. The health of the latter was improving, which will be pleasing news to the many who have been anxious concerning him.