

to the unfinished work which our patriot forefathers have thus far so nobly advanced, that the nation, under God, may have a new birth of freedom.

Can it be that a mere handful of people may yet be the means, under God, of perpetuating the Constitution? We have been taught this. The proposition is not insane. Minorities have often been right where majorities have been wrong; and mere handfuls of people have accomplished wonders. Matthew Arnold commends the indistructible conviction of Plato that States are saved by their righteous remnant, by those who love righteousness and are convinced of the unprofitableness of evil; or, as Isaiah says, by those who cease to do evil and delight in the law of the eternal. A true religion makes righteous men. By devotion to principle, it may yet be said of Utah as Bryant said of America.

"Thine eye, with every coming hour  
Shall brighten, and thy form shall tower,  
And when thy sister's elder born  
Would brand thy name with words of scorn,  
Before thine eye,  
Upon their lips, the taunt shall die."

At the close of Elder Young's address Misses Mabel Cooper and Louie Felt sang a duet, "Tell us merry birds," in a very pleasing manner.

In the absence of S. E. Woolley, Superintendent of Tooele Stake, Assistant General Superintendent R. C. Badger read the following sentiment, written by him in behalf of that Stake, upon the

#### "EFFECTS OF MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT UPON THE INDIVIDUAL."

Self-culture is the only true basis of personal advancement. As soon as the mind is awakened to act for itself, so soon is the individual on the highway to success; and where can be found a more effectual school to bring about this most desirable condition than at the improvement gatherings?

The faculties once fully aroused, every spare moment is devoted to the acquisition not only of information upon the subjects before him, but also the attaining of skill in placing that information before his companions. These efforts result not alone in an increase of knowledge, but in the power to apply the same to the well-being of others.

That unconquerable energy which hitherto in its uncultured state seemed to propel its possessor onward in the path of wild recklessness is now with equal force directed toward improvement. Scattered thoughts now become united more logically. Out of chaos order comes. Vulgarities, where it existed, yields to more refined sentiments, looseness in conduct to pleasing manners.

The ambition is now intelligently directed, and all the nobler feelings of nature begin to predominate. Constantly drinking from the fountain of intelligence, his society is courted. His high aspirations touch the springs of action in his comrades and impel them forward. Whatever may be the natural endowments of the mind, they here find the proper channel for their

full exercise, ever drawing nearer that happy goal—the highest possible development of the eternal soul.

Progress is now written upon every page of life. A love of divine and eternal truth is so plainly awakened that in answer to constant pleading at the door of heavenly light, the Holy Ghost imparts a burning testimony of the truth, and with rapturous delight he breaks forth in the song of the heart, "I know that my Redeemer liveth."

He is built upon the rock. All his recreations and pastimes are directed with judgment, and become mere servants to lighten his burdens on the pathway of life.

With true philanthropy he seeks to inspire to self-action those who have neglected their opportunities. He is a champion of truth. In the fervency of his spirit he carries the message of life to the hearts of the honest. Like a giant filled with new wine he maintains the true principles of freedom. He struggles on against the rolling tide of infidelity and error until he reaches the haven of peace.

S. E. WOOLLEY.

The following sentiment on the "Effects of Mutual Improvement Association Work on the Community" was next read by Charles England, Superintendent of Oneida stake:

#### EFFECTS OF M. I. A. WORK ON THE COMMUNITY.

In presenting this sentiment our attention is first called to the title, Mutual Improvement Work. Mutual improvement or individual improvement implies the advancement of society as well. Where no individuals are, no society exists. When the individuals of society improve, that society improves accordingly. The individuals of any society cannot advance and leave that society in a normal condition.

Improvement means advancement and upon it are placed no restrictions. It is not limited to the ideas of any man, but is broad as eternity itself and gathers within its grasp all that is good and ennobling.

The Gospel is a plan of improvement, and society, through the work of improvement associations, becomes informed of its truths and the dealings of the Father with His children. His wisdom and intelligence are made known and His children learn to rely upon Him and look to Him for their guidance.

The individual when assigned a part to be rendered in an improvement meeting, goes to his library, scans the pages of the noble of the earth, gathers from the best of these noble, elevating ideas, and disseminates them to his fellow-workers. Society is thus brought in close relation with the good of all ages and with the best of their thoughts. It has derived the benefit of the hard study and research of the individual.

Were there no associations no part would be assigned, no authors scanned, no society benefited. Its effects are not confined to the prac-

tice of Gospel theology alone, as the term is usually accepted. It extends to the various sciences that contain in them any saving and redeeming qualities.

Look for a moment at the effect the "course of reading" alone has produced the past year. Scarcely a society but has had access to this work. In some instances the young have remained at home, pondering over the ancient Britons in their course, visiting, with Irving, Stratford-on-Avon; noticing the fidelity of the mighty Prophet Nephi; admiring the works of nature; or being inspired by the beautiful plan of redemption, instead of wasting time at the billiard table or saloon and letting the golden hours of their spring time pass to eternity unimproved.

Had there been no improvement work going on, England would not have been known among us as she is known today; the beautiful expression of Irving would have been unread, the virtues of the Prophet Nephi unknown, nature giving forth her beauties and pleasures unappreciated, and the Father of us all further from us. Night would still have been made hideous by the drunkard; mothers wait in vain for their sons to gather with them around the family altar of an evening in thanksgiving to their Maker.

It is not for a moment, however, claimed that these results have been thoroughly accomplished by improvement work, but such are its tendencies.

In brief, the effects of improvement work upon society are to make it peaceable, pure, virtuous, chaste, ennobling, to lead it to that standard of excellence that will admit of the Father of our souls taking up His abode with His children and reigning with them for time and eternity.

Superintendent Reinard Maeser, of Beaver Stake then read the following sentiment on "Mutual Improvement Association Work as an Aid to the Priesthood, Support to the National Government and a Factor of Universal Progress."

#### SENTIMENT.

*Mutual Improvement Association Work an aid to the Priesthood, Support to the National Government and a Factor of Universal Progress.*

RESPONSE BY R. MAESER:

The perfect liberty of any faculty of the mind lies within the range of its office. If it oversteps the bounds of its office it preys upon the fruits of the liberties of others. And as with the mind so with organizations. The Mutual Improvement Associations were established that they might be as aids to the Priesthood, and as such they have labored, not arrogating to themselves any offices beyond their legitimate provinces, but zealously working for the well-being and improvement of the members.

As aids to the Priesthood we can point with pride and satisfaction to the long list of missionaries now laboring in the various nations, spreading eternal truths, whose names are or have been enrolled