

THE EVENING NEWS

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Friday, June 2, 1871.

TWO DAYS MEETINGS AT OGDEN.

There will be public meetings held at the Tabernacle in Ogden on Saturday and Sunday next, the 3rd and 4th of June, commencing at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning. It is expected that the First Presidency, several of the Twelve and other Elders will be present.

Because of a remark which David made in one of his sermons to the effect that "the days of our years are three score and ten," the opinion has become very general that when a man reaches that age he has filled the measure allotted to him on the earth, and he is apt to regard himself, and is also regarded by others, as a very old man. David, himself, at that age was called by the chronicler "old and stricken in years," and did not live beyond the threescore and ten. But we know of no good reason why man, by pursuing a proper course, may not live far beyond that period. An authority, equally as good as David, predicts that the days of the people of God shall, at some period, be as the days of a tree. And if a man could live to the age of some trees, he would likely be satisfied with life and its labors, and his existence would be a blessing to himself, to his posterity and to mankind.

So strongly has the idea fastened itself upon the minds of the majority of people respecting the limit of human life being not far from seventy years that many persons as they approach that age, whether they feel or not, persuade themselves into the belief that they are quite aged and that they ought to feel and act so. President Young, who yesterday completed his seventh year, is a very excellent illustration of a man cultivating the opposite feeling. Although he has reached this age, no person who associates with him, thinks of him as an old man, or speaks to or of him as though he were any other than a man in the prime of his intellectual and bodily vigor. The reason of this is that he does not view himself in any other light. He has never yet regarded himself as old. One of the characteristics of approaching old age is a distrust for those pursuits and occupations which interest the youthful and middle-aged; another is a growing indifference to acquiring knowledge that in earlier life would be valued, the feeling, apparently, of the old person being: "Oh, I am growing old; I shall soon pass away; it is therefore not worth my while paying attention to this subject." And under the influence of these thoughts, the enjoyments of life are disregarded, the functions of the mind are suffered to fall into disuse, and the old person soon finds himself cut off from the world around him, isolated in thought and feeling, and ready to pass away from a world in which he has ceased to take interest. In these respects President Young is a remarkable exception to the majority of men of his age. Probably since previous period has he ever taken a greater interest in the affairs of life than he does to-day. No public social gathering or amusement is fail to be completed without him, and he enters with as much spirit into the enjoyment of such associations and pleasures as if he were twenty instead of seventy. In seeking for knowledge, we know of no young man more inquisitive in investigating principle or more determined to master details, than he is. With his commanding life he could scarcely exhibit more zeal in this direction than he does. There are other causes, of course, which contribute to make him the hearty, cheerful, energetic and joyous man that he is. His evenly balanced temperament, his temperate habits, his strict observance of the laws of life, the continually exercised faith of the people, and above all the blessings of the Lord, make him what he is.

Yesterday being President Young's birthday it might be expected that numerous congratulations would be tendered to him; but one of the most pleasing features of this day was the surprise that awaited him in his own house. His counsellors, two of his brothers and another friend or two happened to be with him in the afternoon; he sent word to his family to make preparations to entertain them at dinner as he expected them to dine with him. At dinner time he passed from his office towards the dining room, accompanied by his guests, when he was met by a party of children, drawn up in two lines, who recited him singing a sweet little song of welcome, composed for the occasion. He was then informed that he was wanted in the parlor, where he found a company of about eighty ladies and gentlemen, nearly every one of whom was a relative, or connection of his family, who tendered him their congratulations. From the parlor the entire party proceeded to the dining room, where a sumptuous repast was prepared. All this was a complete surprise to President Young. His family had kept their intentions secret, and all the preparations had been made in the house, and the invitations had been sent out, without his having the least idea of what was going on. Every person seemed to know all about it but himself, and this made the occasion a veritable surprise to him. He remarked that after this no one could induce him to believe that there was kept a secret in the family.

The company numbered eighty-seven, and after they were seated and before taking a blessing upon the food, the following address, written by a member of the President's family, was read by his private Secretary, David McKenzie, Esq., which read as follows:

President Brigham Young,
Beloved Husband, Father and
Friend,

Wishing to carry out to the letter the programme of this auspicious day, in which a brief address is intended, we beg your indulgence for a few moments.

Realising our inability to know much history and sketch a bright record of the past, we have selected the few facts of

surprise in order to add to the effect, and enhance the pleasure resulting

from our efforts to give you an agreeable entertainment in celebrating this, the seventieth anniversary of your birthday.

It is a subject of mutual congratulation that your eventful life has been prolonged to this period; and no testimony of ours can confer as appropriate a truthfully representing our appreciation of your worth and goodness. If the world knew you, as we know you, all parts of the inhabited civilized earth would, this day, echo one grand, unanimous expression, wishing you long life and happiness; and your broad heart, overflowing with love and kindness, would meet a corresponding warm response from the appreciative bosom of humanity.

No man living has been invested with as many responsibilities involving the interests and welfare of mankind, and no man ever discharged public duties more faithfully; and yet, with all this, your kindness to, and care for the comfort, convenience and well-being of your numerous family, are deservedly forgotten. On the contrary, efforts might be more appropriate, for inasmuch as all the powers of language couched in the most eloquent strains of expression would fall far short of reality and the deep feelings of our hearts, as to seemingly deserve the holy altar of gratitude. Words are insufficient; may God help us to fully illustrate the sentiment in our lives.

Although your life has already numbered the years which have now far exceeded the allotted time of human existence, we are still living under the New Dispensation, comprising the prolongation of the life of man, we may through the blessing of God, anticipate many future years added to your life.

In wishing you many returns of the day, we are not prompted entirely by personal and selfish motives, for we desire that your earthly instrumentality in the hand of God for the good of Zion, in the establishment of His Kingdom, and the promulgation of truth for the amelioration of the condition of degenerated humanity.

In the full exercise of all your mental and physical faculties, may you long live to be a blessing to the world, with intelligence and virtue until the Priesthood of God is triumphant; and may you enjoy the satisfaction of seeing your family simulate your noble example. May you live till the rulers of every nation on earth shall acknowledge the wisdom of God in your administration, seek unto you for counsel, and recognise you as, you truly are, the friend of God and man.

May you live till your soul is satisfied.

Lion House, June 1st, 1871.

To this address, which awakens a sympathetic emotion in all who listened, President Young responded, with deep feeling, as follows:

"To my family, as well as to the friends who have honored me with their presence, it is perhaps due to say, that this celebration is truly a 'surprise' to me; and, indeed, I must say it is a most agreeable one."

The whole affair has been quite unexpected, not a word has been said to me, nor wish given by any person in reference to it.

The kind feeling evinced in the address which has just been read, and which so magnificently participated in by my family and the friends present, before me together with the same presented, is very affecting to me. I am full of thought and reflection to give expression to my feelings. But I hope to show, in my future life by example, that I merit your good feelings and wishes; and I trust to see my children and family continue to abide by the command given them.

"God bless you all, peace be with you."

It was a never-to-be-forgotten scene to behold a aspiring青年 in the full flush of manhood, to all appearance not more than fifty years of age, sitting like a patriarch or prince at the head of his family, surrounded by a few of his numerous descendants, and beloved and revered by all. The President said in his discourse on Sunday, the 31st ult., it was revealed, previous to the death of the Prophet Joseph, that his name should be had for good and for evil before the nations of the earth. With a family, and a people such as he presides over, to love, honor and obey him, he can afford to bear with some equanimity, whatever evil the people who do not know him may choose to speak of him.

This idea of bottling the heat of the sun may seem ridiculous or impossible to unscientific, or unreflective minds; but whatever may be thought of such a fact it has been accomplished by a professor at the College of Sainte Anne, in Charente Inferieure, France. The method of accomplishing and demonstrating this singular fact is as follows: A vase, constructed for the purpose, is exposed to the sun's rays for a quarter of an hour, when it is hermetically sealed with a cork, through which a small hole is bored. Before this hole a powerful lens is placed, and the imprisoned heat, or rays of the sun are made to converge on the wick of a candle placed at about a yard off, the result being that the candle is immediately lighted.

Mr. Ericsson the famous engineer, is in the possibility of utilising the sun's rays, and Ericsson's solar engine has been talked of considerably; but we believe nothing practicable or useful has as yet resulted from his investigations; the discovery of this French professor may hasten the solution of this problem, and lead to a means of utilizing, at will, the rays of the sun, so as to supersede coal and other kinds of fuel in the generation of steam, and for various and manifold purposes in domestic life & in the arts and manufactures.

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