

of his land for growing small grain, such as oats, barley, millet, kaffir corn and sorghum. Then plant a little more corn than commonly and in this way grow into the custom of producing more and better things than is contained in the one crop idea. A little gumption and some elbow grease will do the business.

A NOTABLE GOLDEN WEDDING.

Nephi, Feb. 23.—We had one of the most interesting times ever held in Nephi on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the wedding of President Charles Sperry and his amiable wife, Emily L. Miller Sperry, which occurred in the North ward meeting house on Monday afternoon, Feb. 21st, 1898. There was a happy gathering of the family and friends of Brother and Sister Sperry such as can never be forgotten. Our North ward meeting house is a very handsome building. It has just been painted and finished in a very creditable manner. The tables were laid for over one hundred persons. Then there was ample room for the family and friends to be seated around prior to partaking of the banquet, so that a program could be given before dinner. The family and guests were seated when two children tastefully attired made their way to the entrance door and led in their grandparents, and escorted them to their chairs in the centre of the stand amid the hearty applause of the assemblage. Then the following program was given, Brother James R. Black, a son-in-law, being master of ceremonies:

Chorus by grandchildren, Kind words are sweet tones of the heart."

Prayer—Bishop Thomas H. G. Parkes.

Father Charles Sperry welcomed his family and friends upon this joyous occasion.

A biographical sketch of Father and Mother Sperry was read by their granddaughter, Lily Black.

Song by the sons and daughters—My Mother's way.

Apostle George Teasdale represented the First Presidency, reading letters and telegrams from them and also from President James W. Paxman, who is now East on business, regretting their inability to be present, but sending their congratulations. Elder Teasdale reminded the assembly that this gathering would never have taken place but for the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth; this had brought us all to Zion; and he gave the reason why our city was called Nephi.

Recitation, Golden Wedding, by Jeanette Sperry.

An original poem, presenting a Book of Doctrine and Covenants and hymn-book, by Elder Langley A. Bailey.

Song, The Wedding Ring, Essie Sperry, granddaughter.

Lines of Congratulation from Frank S. Farnsworth were read.

Presentation of autograph book and sentiments from Sarah M. Love.

Who Shall Sing if Not the Children?—chorus by small grandchildren.

Song, Retta and Bella Sperry.

Song, A Golden Wedding, by Sister Sarah A. Cazier.

Quartet, Come unto me ye who are weary—by four granddaughters.

Recitation, My Grandmother, Mamie Black.

A song and chorus composed for the occasion by M. H. Sperry was rendered.

The program was concluded by the ordination of Father Sperry to the office of a Patriarch under the hands of Apostle George Teasdale and Patriarch David Udall. It was an impressive ceremony, the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren standing in a semi-circle, and the in-

vited guests standing while the ordination took place, producing an impression never to be forgotten. Then followed the banquet, some hundred and fifty of the family and invited guests, enjoying a sumptuous feast of the good things with which the tables were adorned; Elder Teasdale pronounced the blessing upon the food.

After the banquet was ended, a most enjoyable evening was spent in dancing, songs and recitations, Bishop William H. Warner opening with prayer, the family furnishing the music and program, which was a decided success. This is the first golden wedding celebrated in the State where the parties were married in Utah. They were the second couple who were married in the Territory. Brother and Sister Sperry came to Utah in October, 1847, and were married in the Old Fort by Apostle John Taylor on the afternoon of February 21, 1848. They have had eleven children, sixty-six grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren, and have lived in Nephi since 1851.

LANGLEY.

A FORECAST.

The terrible ratio of fatality to the number of lives exposed in the destruction of the Maine recalls the prediction of Commander Philo Norton McGiffin, who until Tuesday was the only American or European naval officer who had experienced the effects of modern explosives on board the war vessel of today. McGiffin, a Pennsylvanian by birth and a graduate of the Annapolis training school, directed the fire and evolutions of the Chinese squadron in its struggle with the Japanese fleet at the battle of the Yalu, off the coast of Corea. On board the Chen Yuen, the American, although not touched by a projectile, received injuries that resulted in his death.

After the close of hostilities the Pennsylvanian returned to his home near Pittsburgh, and in an interview predicted that in the event of conflict between the naval forces of first-class powers the death rate would prove so high that even the most bloodthirsty would be appalled. Continuing, McGiffin said:

"Although patterned after the modern fleets, neither the Jap or Chinese vessels were equipped with the guns or explosives that American and European powers have at their command, and yet the results were indescribable. At the opening of the Yalu engagement a single shell from the Chen Yuen killed more than half the crew of a Jap cruiser, and in turn the Jap Fushima, with two large shells and five minutes' use of its rapid-fire guns, utterly destroyed a Chinese armored vessel. The Chen Yuen itself, although afloat and able to make its way to Wei-Hai-Wei, was a shambles. Japanese shells struck the turrets and were deflected into the sea, but iron and steel splinters flew from the armor inside the turrets, mowing down scores of seamen. Men died standing on their feet from concussion. When shells got inside the armor the explosions cut entire gun crews to pieces. The battle stopped, not on account of lack of courage or ammunition, but for the reason that the crews of both fleets were so slaughtered and prostrated as to be unable to continue the fight. This was accomplished with guns and explosives far less accurate and powerful than those that first-class powers will use, and no man can conceive what will be the effects of ten minutes' fighting with the guns and deadly explosives now gathered on board European and American vessels."

McGiffin was rendered permanently blind and deaf by an explosion of a Japanese shell which did not even penetrate the armor of the Chen Yuen,

and his back and sides were filled with steel splinters. His lungs also were affected by the terrible concussion, and on the advice of his physician he started for Colorado, hoping to recruit his health. Unfortunately the commander became suddenly insane, and instead of reaching the Rocky Mountains, was taken to Bellevue hospital, New York. While confined there he imagined himself in the forward turret of the Chen Yuen, with the Japanese shells again pounding at its side. He ended his life in the insane ward of the hospital last April by firing a pistol ball through his head.

ITEMS FROM HYRUM.

Hyrum City, Cache Co.,

February 21, 1898.

In amateur parlance I will say it is some time since anything appeared in the "News" from here I think that Hyrum should also be heard from occasionally. In the first place allow me to congratulate you on the articles on education. Also the one warning the people against the early office seeker. Some people are writing that ninety per cent of the people are opposed to a unity on the silver question party but this is only the old story of the Tooley street tailors of London—nine in number—who addressed a petition to the House of Lords as "We, the people of England," etc. Such men are either heads of a political club or are chronic office-holders. In my travels among the people I find they are becoming tired of these disturbers and want peace. Some persons have an idea that the State has no other interests to care for than the cause of education, until debt has nearly brought ruin. It is said comparisons are odious; let us see. Hyrum a few years ago was besieged by some reformers with the cry, "Let us bond." But remembering the wise counsel of the founders of the State, whose motto was always, "Pay as you go," our people said "No," with a very large "N;" but it was said "you will not be called upon to pay it back; let your children pay." The wisdom of our people's decision shines out brighter as the tax notices come and go. Our city is free from debt. Our school district is also free from the same curse. Our leaders and many others are also free from debt. "Well," says some knowing one, "you are perhaps moss-backs or behind the times." Let us see:

Hyrum has a population of about 2,000 souls and our mortality for 1897 was 14. We have as good school buildings as can be found in any city of our size. The Central school has three large rooms well furnished. Then there is a neat brick school, \$2,400, in the south part of town, a substantial school house in the Third ward while the trustees rent two rooms in our beautiful church academy building, also one in the canyon, so that our 580 school children have every opportunity for a good education. Let me, before leaving this subject, give one more example:

President Orson Smith last spring started a \$50,000 college on a voluntary donation system with nearly all the money power of the county saying it can't be done. The building is being roofed and it still appears that where there is a will there is a way.

Hyrum has good church buildings and many very nice private residences; also an electric light company, and this is not bonded, either. It is a first-class plant, the wires are all covered with a three-ply, or insulated so that if a wire falls no one is hurt, unless the fellow picks it up and applies the end for a shock. The winter has been very severe, still the health of our people is very good. We have a large number of very aged people, a Mrs. Petersen, 94 years, Bishop Wright's