

CORRESPONDENCE.

TUSCON NEWS.

TUCSON, Jan. 1, 1897.

Christmas was celebrated here by the Catholics with great spirit. The grand cathedral now being built here is nearly finished, except in two towers, which are to have a height of about 150 feet. On Christmas eve a grand high mass was celebrated at midnight, there being one archbishop, two bishops and others of less degree officiating in priesthood. The church is lighted by seventy-four incandescent lights and two arch lights, and has an imposing interior with ten massive columns supporting the groined-arch ceiling. The building is of brick. A fair was held in it last week from December 8th to 12th inclusive, which netted the sum of \$3,400, which is to be used towards completing the edifice. The total cost will be considerably over \$100,000.

Arizona is prospering as well or probably better than adjoining states and territories, but it is remarked by many the great era of prosperity which was sure to follow the election of McKinley has failed to materialize yet, a fact emphasized by bank failures chronicled in every newspaper. The same old story is told—that the rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer, while trust after trust is being formed to clutch the throat of the laboring masses. What will the end be?

Does it remind the student of history of the condition of the French nation previous to the terrible revolution of 1792, when the poor and middle classes, oppressed beyond longer endurance by the aristocratic, priestly and moneyed classes, rose in fury and buried thousands in bloody graves? And does not like causes produce like effects? Who may foretell the end of all these things? If any such there be, it is they whose minds are enlightened by the Holy Spirit; they who by obedience to the laws of heaven keep themselves in touch with the holy priesthood and with the body of the Church—for the Scripture saith, "Obedience is better than sacrifice."

Tucson has some features which might with great advantage be imitated by other small towns in Utah. With a population of only 9,000 it maintains a reading room and free public library of 4,000 volumes, well lighted and open day and night.

A curfew ordinance has been in force many years, which forbids youngsters less than 12 years of age from appearance on the street after 8 o'clock p.m., unless in company with some older person. Parents are glad to have the assistance of the law in restraining their children from possible improper associations at night; and minors are prohibited from buying liquor or even entering any saloon.

The city also furnishes a free band concert once a week in the city park from May until November. There is a spacious band-stand lighted by electric lights, and during six months in the year the people—hundreds each night—enjoy the music rendered by one of the two fine bands in the city. The city pays the band a moderate

compensation, and it is money well spent.

Today roses and other flowers bloom in door yards, and the graceful pepper tree is at its best, while cottonwoods never lose all their leaves in our so-called winter.

Arizona is proving an unexcelled locality for the culture of oranges and lemons, fruit ripening a full month earlier than in any part of California, and the orange trees have proved capable of withstanding the greatest cold here without any protection. Lemons are not grown in this section but are unexcelled in and about Yuma, as is also the date palm, which latter has also done well at Piconix, in Salt river valley.

Arizonians are incensed at the recent utterance of Gov. Franklin, that in case of war with Spain not a man in Arizona would volunteer for service in the army. In such an emergency many would rally round the Stars and Stripes with enthusiasm.

J. H. MARTINEAU.

FROM SPRING CITY.

SPRING CITY,

January 7th, 1897.

Thinking a brief sketch of our old folks annual party would be interesting, I submit the following.

A committee was formed consisting of about thirty persons, male and female, to furnish and prepare a free dinner, which was spread upon the boards in the beautiful and spacious O.era house at noon yesterday, and to which were invited the old veterans above 60 years of age, also the poor, the widows and the missionaries' wives.

Much might be said as to the quality and quantity of the viands, but I will simply say they were "immense." Bishop James A. Allred and counselors sat at and near the head of the center table. The Bishop offered prayer and then all, to the number of 111, started in to dispose of what was before them, asking no questions for conscience' sake. The committee was ever present to supply every want, tea and coffee as well as all kinds of liquor were among the miscel.

When all were satisfied the tables were yet full, and the committee and those furnishing music, thirty-seven in number, brought up the rear at the second table, after which the marshal of the day, Samuel Allred, called them to order and presented the program.

Singing by the choir was followed by a speech of welcome by the Bishop in which he thanked the committee and spoke very feelingly of the blessings of the Lord of which we were the happy recipients; said we lived in "the land Bountiful."

Speeches, songs and recitations were next in order. Mother Matilda Allred, aged 88, stepping upon the platform made a spirited speech.

At 5 p.m. the committee passed refreshments, after which the most of the elderly people withdrew.

There were a number missed from our ranks, among them Father S. R. Aiken aged 93 who passed peacefully

away on the 15th of December last; also R. W. Allred aged 80; after passing through the mobbing of Missouri and Illinois he retired to rest on Oct. 4th, 1896.

The hall was cleared and those remaining enjoyed themselves in a square dance, as it might be called, for a round dance was not even hinted at, but J. T. S. Allred being called out took the floor for a step dance, notwithstanding he has passed three score and ten, and Father King (85) jumped up to help him. The dance closed at 8 p.m. PIONEER.

A SPANISH FORK BUDGET.

SPANISH FORK, Jan. 9, 1897.

Uncle George in his letter to you of the 29th of December last, while alluding to the satisfaction of the people of his city, over the results of their course during the boom, and the possession of a fine district school house, minus the encumbrance of a bonded debt, allows his pen to run in a very forcible but philosophical manner, on the downward trend of the influence of strong drink, and the saloon element in general, with its moral diseases of drunkenness, ho-dumlem and disregard of law and order.

Yes, I saw that evil—at an early hour this morning it was abroad; incarnate in the person of a young fellow who no doubt had been drinking all night—there was nothing of the jolly rollicking style in his endeavor to please the small audience he had on Main street at that early hour, but his staggering step and maudlin drunken song produced a sickening sensation, at the thought, that the object before us may have once been the joy and pride of one of Spanish Fork's good strong men, a mother's hope, a sister's love, but now alas as uncle George graphically describes it, a sickening spectacle indeed.

A police officer, who witnessed the scene and could have stopped the performance, failed to do so; but we rather think the good people of Spanish Fork will not allow many such performances in the future, but will emulate the example of their neighboring city of Payson, with a monster petition for prohibition.

Spanish Fork is one of the strong towns of the State, made so by the good sound sense of its inhabitants, in proof of which they have built during the past year a district school house, by a direct school tax, at a cost of about \$11,257 contract price. It is a creditable building, 60x70 feet, 36 feet to the square. The rising young architect, T. T. Davis of Provo, has won the esteem of the contractor, and the people of Spanish Fork generally, for his plan and oversight of the building. There are eight large class rooms, two of which, with the partition doors thrown open will make an audience chamber 21x64 feet; six cloak rooms, with 16 feet hallways. C. A. Marcusen's contract was \$9,832, while the heating apparatus or two furnaces is contracted to Blumenthal of Provo at \$1,200.

The principal carpenter, Eric Hansen, is of Spanish Fork, as also the painter, James Hulob, and the plasterer, Ben Isaacs. The building is being finished in good style, and presently the children's eyes, when