

priceless gifts by our Heavenly Father, will he not require usury at our hands? He will. But he has made us agents to ourselves, which makes us responsible for the way in which we use the talents he has given us, for the manner we expend the gold and silver, the wheat and fine flour, the cattle upon a thousand hills, and the wine and oil, for they all belong to Him; and we too belong to Him, but he has created man after His own image, and endowed him with a germ of independence that will crown him a God through his faithfulness. He requires us to devote these godlike powers to our own advantage, life, wealth, beauty, comfort, and exaltation by giving to His cause—the cause of righteousness—universal triumph over sin. Then do not hoard up your gold; if you do, it will canker, but put out every dollar to usury. Instead of your souls being bound up in your cattle and other property, put all where it should be placed for the benefit of the kingdom of God on earth and for His glory.

I have merely touched this subject. I wish the Elders, and we have many talented Elders, to verbally follow out this subject in the afternoon, and then physically follow it out by rightly using your cattle and wagons, your silver and gold, and your time and talents, then God will bless us. Amen.

### THE NEW THEATRE.

Honored with an invitation from President Young to be present with our family at the dedication of the Theatre, last Thursday evening, we were pleased to avail ourselves of that courtesy, and as there has been, and still is, a general interest among the citizens of the Territory in the erection of such a building among us, we have concluded to give as full a report of the proceedings as the space at our disposal admits: preparatory to which we shall say something of

#### THE BUILDING.

The Theatre is situated on the corner of State and First South streets, on a lot belonging to President Young. In its unfinished condition, it is an object of attraction to persons visiting the city, and when completed, it will doubtless be an ornament to the city and a credit to its projector and builder. In dimensions, its ground plan is eighty by one hundred and forty-four feet, with walls forty feet high to the square. From the ground to the top of the decking, it is sixty-five feet, and the dome when finished will be twenty-five feet still higher—making in all ninety feet from the ground. The rock work, three feet thick—since twenty feet above the ground; the remainder, or upper story, being of adobies, two-and-a-half feet thick. The roof is self supporting and "hipped" all round.

The front entrance of the building has an open porch of twenty by thirty-two feet, supported by two Grecian-doric columns. Directly in front are the principal doors leading to the parquette and dress circle, and at the sides are the stairways leading to the three galleries. As the Theatre has only been opened for a short season, in an unfinished state, we will only say of the accommodations that there is a parquette, dress circle, family circle, and first and second galleries, which will doubtless be ultimately finished, providing fully for the convenience of the audience in hearing and seeing. The orchestra, of course, is directly between the stage and parquette. The stage, so far as the mechanics are concerned, is entirely finished, but the artists will likely have yet considerable occupation for their pencils and brushes; the scenery which has been presented to the public already, is certainly very fine and creditable to those who have painted them. It is altogether a very fine stage, with an opening at the drop curtain of thirty-one by thirty-feet, and shows on the flat twenty-six feet,—the whole depth of the stage being sixty-two feet and forty feet high.

The ground on which the building is erected was first "broke" on the 1st of July last, and probably two hundred men, "off and on," have been engaged in one way and another in its erection, as teamsters, as mechanics, as laborers and as artists. The superintendence of the building was entrusted to Mr. Wm. H. Folsom, who has certainly gained for himself great credit as an architect and practical builder, and while we cheerfully and unreservedly accord this meed of praise, we would neither satisfy ourselves nor the many who have visited the building during its erection did we suppress the expression that, over and above all and everybody, the practical sense and skill of President Young has constantly and everywhere been manifested. When finished, it is probable the building will have cost one hundred thousand dollars, if not a much larger

sum, and for that outlay, we believe, we are again indebted to President Young.

#### THE OPENING.

On more than one occasion we have seen President Young embarrassed by the multiplicity of his friends, and presume that in issuing his invitations for the opening night of the Theatre, his difficulties were in no wise diminished. It is no simple task to confine within the limits of hundreds what cannot be encompassed by tens of thousands. On Thursday evening the members of the High Council, the bishops, the city, county and territorial officers; the workmen on the Theatre, the public hands, etc., with their families, were the invited; but finding the building insufficient for the whole, many had to reserve their tickets for the "First Regular Night of the season"—Saturday.

Reserved seats were placed on the stage, immediately before the curtain, for the First Presidency, and a few others. At the opening hour, these were occupied, and the President called the assemblage to order. His first remarks were few and pertinent, allaying any apprehension that might exist of insecurity from an "untried" building. He requested attention and order throughout, and wished the people to apprehend nothing though a bench should roll over, or a plank split a few inches—none were to see in either circumstance the building falling upon them. Not a person had been seriously injured while working on the Theatre, and with ordinary care nothing need occur to mar their happiness. With this assurance a feeling of "being at home" came over the audience, and everybody was prepared for

#### THE DEDICATION.

The choristers of the occasion sung an opening hymn:

"Lo! on the mountain tops appearing,"

and President Daniel H. Wells offered up the following

#### PRAYER:

Our Father who art in Heaven, we thy children herein assembled now present ourselves before Thee to render unto Thee our thanksgiving and praise, and to propitiate thy favor and thy blessing. Incline unto us thine ear, O Lord, while we invoke the guidance of thy spirit in prayer and supplication before thee. We do most sincerely thank Thee, our Father, for our families and friends and the associations in life with which we are surrounded, for life and health, food and raiment, the pure breezes of the mountain air, and the gushing fountains from the mountain dell. We thank Thee for our "Mountain Home," its peace and quietness, freedom and prosperity, the great and abundant mercy and blessing, peace and prosperity which thou hast extended unto us, and which we do more fully appreciate as we witness the turmoil and strife, war and desolation which so alarmingly prevail in our unhappy country. O Lord, let the faithful and honest service of the lifetime of thy servants in thy cause attest their appreciation of thy wisdom, goodness and power, in the timely deliverance of thy people from the midst of their enemies, where now contending factions are destroying each other, and for the prosperity and happiness which has so eminently attended their efforts in making settlements, cultivating the earth, building up towns and cities, and establishing wholesome government, rational enjoyment and social order in this land which thou didst keep in reserve for the habitation of thy Saints. Accept our gratitude, our Father, for the privilege we now enjoy of assembling within these spacious walls for the purpose of consecrating and dedicating this building, which has been erected for a theatre, wherein thy people may receive amusement and recreation. In the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the authority of the Holy and eternal Priesthood of Almighty God, we consecrate and dedicate this building with its surroundings above and below and upon each side thereof, unto Thee, our Father and our God. We dedicate the ground upon which it stands, and the foundation of the building, and the superstructure thereon; the side and the end walls, and the chimneys upon the tops thereof, and the flues within the walls, and the openings for ingress and egress, and ask for thy blessing to rest upon them, that the materials used in the construction of the walls may cement together, and grow stronger and stronger as time shall pass away; to this end we dedicate unto Thee, our Father, the stone, the adobies, the brick, the hewn stone, and mortar of which they are composed, and all the mason-work thereof, and all the timbers, within and above and upon the walls, and the framework thereof for the support of the floors, the galleries, the stage, the siderooms, stairs and passages and entrances thereto and therefrom, for the support of the roof of the building, the rotunda and towering dome, the posts and the beams, the rafters and the joists, supports and the braces and the fastenings thereof, the mortices, the tenons with the bolts and bars and plates of iron and the wooden pins, that it may be strong and enduring, and be able to bear up and sustain the assemblings of thy people who shall congregate in this building or upon the promenades, and

arbors or observatories upon the top thereof. We dedicate the basement story of this building, the rooms and apartments thereof, and fixtures for warming the house; the partition walls, the columns, and pillars, and the water-table round the outside, and the stone steps leading to the upper entrances, the outer court, the flagging and columns thereof. And we dedicate the parquette, circles, galleries and rooms adjoining for the people, the orchestra for the music; and for the actors and performers the stage upon which we stand, and the green room, and rooms adjoining above and round about for dressing rooms, for furniture, for painting and other conveniences and the passages, doorways and stairways leading thereto and therefrom; the rotunda and towering dome, the floors and the roof of the building and the shingles and the decking, and all the lumber of which they are composed; all the doors, the hangings and fastenings thereof, the pannel work, the wainscoting and finishing, and the windows and casements, sash and glass, the ceilings, lath, plaster and canvass, and all the nails, screws, bolts, glue, putty, paint or other materials used for the construction and finishing of this building, all and every part and portion, so far as it is completed, we consecrate and dedicate unto Thee, our Father, that it may be pure and holy unto the Lord our God, for a safe and righteous habitation for the assemblings of thy people, for pastime, amusement, and recreation; for plays, theatrical performances, for lectures, conventions, or celebrations, or for whatever purpose it may be used for the benefit of thy Saints. And we also dedicate and consecrate unto Thee, our Father, the furniture of this house, the benches and seats, forms, and chairs, carpets, sofas and tables; the mirrors, paintings, curtains, and draperies, with the hangings and fastenings; the sceneries and castors, pulleys, ropes, hinges and fixtures pertaining thereto for keeping them in their proper places, and for moving and changing them about; the lights, lamps, chandeliers, and the footlights, and the oil and candles thereof, with the places and fixtures pertaining to them, with all the tanks and vessels to hold water, and dishes of whatever name and description, with the stoves and pipes for warming the rooms; the clothing, dresses, and costumes for the actors, and the wardrobes, chests, trunks, and closets to preserve the same; upon all and every part of which together with this edifice be pleased to let thy blessing rest, that it may be preserved against accident or calamity by fire or flood, by tempest of rain, hail, or snow, or hurricane, or tornado, by the lurid lightning's flash, the thunderbolts and vibrations from the heavens above, or earthquakes and tremblings of the earth beneath, but may it forever stand as a monument of the skill, industry, and improvement of those who have labored thereon or in anywise contributed thereto, and of the enterprise and ability of thy servant Brigham who is the projector and builder thereof as also a monument of the blessing and prosperity which thou hast so eminently conferred upon thy people since thou didst bring them forth into this land. And we pray Thee to bless those who have labored upon this building, the architect who designed, drafted and directed the work, the foreman, and mechanics, and laborers of the various departments who have performed or shall continue to labor thereon. And we render unto Thee, our Father, our most humble thanks and gratitude that no accident hath thus far befallen any one in the erection of this building, but that all have been preserved; and we pray that thy goodness and mercy may continue to all who shall hereafter labor upon or occupy this house, that they may continue to experience thy protecting care. And we pray Thee to bless this Dramatic Association, the actors and actresses, and all who shall perform upon this stage. O Lord, may they feel the quickening influences of thy holy spirit vivifying and strengthening their whole being and enabling them to bring into requisition and activity all those energies and powers, mental and physical, quick perceptions and memories necessary to the development and showing forth the parts, acts and performances assigned unto them, to their own highest sense of gratification or desire, and the satisfaction of the attending audience. Bless also all those who are associated with them to aid and assist them in preparing and fitting the costumes, shifting the scenery, attending to the lights and fires, the stage managers and committees on costumes, on the selection of plays, the assignment of characters and those who copy them out; also the door keepers and those who dispose of or receive the tickets, or help or assist in any other manner or way, may thy blessing attend them that they may be faithful and diligent in all the work assigned unto them. Bless also the musicians with their instruments who play in the orchestra or other places, and those who sing for the amusement and gratification of thy people who shall assemble in this Theatre, and enable them to discourse sweet melody to the enlivening of the soul and cheering the depressed spirit, and to the delight and benefit of thy saints. And wilt Thou, O Lord, preserve for ever this house pure and holy for the habitation of thy people; suffer no evil or wicked influences to predominate or prevail within these walls, neither disorder, drunkenness, debauchery or licentiousness of any sort or kind, but rather than this, sooner than it should pass into the hands or control of the wicked or ungodly, let it utterly perish, and crumble to atoms; let it be as though it had not been, an utter waste, each and every part returning unto its native element; but may

order, virtue, cleanliness, sobriety and every excellence obtain and hold fast possession herein, and the righteous control and possess it, and holiness unto the Lord be forever inscribed therein. And now, our Father, we ask for thy blessing to rest upon this meeting. The services and further exercises we dedicate unto Thee, and the performances, music and singings which may follow; and wilt Thou bless the audience assembled here this evening and those who shall attend hereafter to witness performances in this Theatre. As the unstrung bow longer retains its elasticity, strength and powers, so may thy people who congregate here for recreation unbending for awhile from the sterner and more wearying duties of life, receive that food which in our organization becomes necessary to supply and invigorate our energies and vitality, and stimulate to more enduring exertions in the drama of life, its various scenes and changes which still in thy Providence awaits us. In the name of thy beloved Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, accept, we pray Thee our Father of these our offerings, our dedications and supplications before Thee, all of which we humbly ask in his all-prevailing name. Forgive wherein we may have thought, said or done anything amiss, for Jesus' sake. Let thy truth prevail upon the earth, the power of the wicked be broken, thy Zion arise in its brightness, put on its strength, its power and its glory, and become the head of the nations and its laws go forth and become the laws of the whole earth, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mr. Wm. C. Dunbar, assisted by the choir, and accompanied by the orchestra, sang "The Star Spangled Banner," with exceedingly good taste and force. We do not think that we ever listened more agreeably to—

"Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust!'"

#### ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT YOUNG.

Following the programme, President Young facetiously introduced himself to the audience, and delivered a short address on the benefits of rational enjoyment. His introductory was: "The capacity of the human body and mind for improvement and development." Generation after generation of men had lived upon the earth, and from neglect of their duties they had passed away and had failed to enjoy the privileges and blessings which the All-wise Creator had placed within the reach of his creatures. They had lived and died without learning the object of their existence on the earth. He alluded to the notions entertained by some "unco godly" Christians against amusements, because of the evils sometimes attendant at places of public resort; but it was for the Saints to neither follow the traditions of the one, nor to fall into the errors of the other. He had himself been so "piously" raised that he could never have thought of visiting a theatre, and like other youngsters, under such an influence, had his doubts that if even listening to the vibrations of "the fiddle" was not a step in the direction of Davy Jones. His sarcasm was biting, appropriate and amusing.

The Lord looked upon the children of men as they were, saw their deeds and understood them, and so should the Saints understand what was in the world, and learn to choose the good and eschew the evil. It was not to learn evil; but to know the duplicity and falsehood of false men, guard against the inroads of vice, and to pursue that undeviating course of rectitude and virtue that invariably led to happiness and honor. There was nothing lovely in the world, nothing delightful but the Lord had created it for the good of his children, and it was the abuse, and not the proper use of anything, that constituted evil. Men could make evil of going to the Theatre; they could make evil of anything; but they did not expect to do wrong in going there. Brother Wells had prayed that the building might crumble to the dust and pass away as if it had never been, sooner than it should fall into the hands of the wicked or be corrupted and polluted; and to that he said amen. He was glad to see his brethren and sisters, to witness the joy of their countenances and to know that they were happy and that their eyes were resplendent with joy and contentment. It was joy for man to meet his friend and to rejoice with him. The happiness of men and women was—much of it—of their own creation. The Lord had created the elements and sustained the works of His hands; but the Lord did not plant the seed, sow the grain, build their grist-mills, nor yet bake their bread for the support of their bodies. He did not raise factories and construct machinery for the use of man; but He expected of men the development of that intelligence that was planted within them to provide every thing for themselves: the Lord was not going to build houses and habitations for them to