

neers. As soon after the camp had been formed as was convenient, he, with a number of others, walked up to Ensign Peak as it is now called. On the way they passed what is now known as the Temple Block, and while walking over the ground President Young stopped and struck the ground with his cane and said, "Here we will erect the Temple of our God." The land round about was covered with sagebrush; a more uninviting prospect probably never met the gaze of a civilized man for the erection of a temple or the building of a city; desolation reigned on every hand; not a tree was to be seen except in the distant mountains or some little clumps of willows and some cottonwoods and birch, which lined the streams in the valley. The country was so dry and parched that it had no appearance of fertility excepting the dry bunch grass which grew in patches here and there among the sagebrush. Yet, under these peculiar circumstances, President Brigham Young was led to make this statement, and today the Latter-day Saints see the realization of his prediction. Nearly forty-six years have passed since he uttered it, but on the identical spot which he then struck with his cane and said should be the site for the Temple, the Temple has been reared and stands in solemn grandeur as a witness that God is able to speak and give promises through His servants in these days as in days of old. President Young's prediction has been as remarkably fulfilled as the predictions of the other prophets, Isaiah and Micah, concerning the house of God which should be reared in the mountains. Certainly the world, if they would only be willing to receive a testimony concerning God's power and willingness to reveal the future unto man, could perceive the evidence which is furnished in this and other instances that God does have inspired men in this age as well as in past times.

GEORGE Q. CANNON.

### SALT LAKE'S FIRST SURVEY.

General Jesse W. Fox, the veteran surveyor of this Territory, yesterday exhibited in the News office the original plat of this city, made in the year 1847 by H. G. Sherwood. What we know as Plat A comprises the whole of Father Sherwood's survey, though in order to give symmetry to the upper right hand corner of his map he added a few blocks in what is now known as Plat E. In those early days—the first year of Utah's settlement—drawing paper was not to be had; so a bit of sheepskin was pressed into use; and upon its smooth and rich-colored surface the blocks and lots and streets and squares are accurately and indelibly delineated. One sees at first glance the Temple Block, from the southeast corner of which the survey started; and there are also Emigration Square, where now the city and county building stands; the Old Fort Block, afterwards called the Sixth Ward Square and now Pioneer Square; and the Nineteenth Ward Square, now occupied by the Utah University. The sheepskin is about a foot by twenty inches in size and is attached to a wooden roller, while the scale of the map is one inch

to forty rods. At the top appear the words, "Map of the Great City of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, N. A.," and the name of the surveyor. The relic bears lightly and well its burden of forty-six years, during forty of which it has been in the possession of the present owner. It is of course greatly prized by Brother Fox, and as the years roll on it will increase in value. From present indications the close of another half century will find it still unblighted by the breath of dimness and by Time's disintegrating touch.

### REMOVING THE OLD PORCH.

"I worked at putting up the cornice on that building forty-two years ago," said George Romney, of Taylor, Romney & Armstrong Co., as he glanced up at the workmen engaged in removing the porch in front of the News building, which presents quite a changed appearance today.

"That was in 1850," continued Mr. Romney, in response to an inquiry, "when I first came to Utah. It is a long time ago, and there have been a good many changes since then. All of the workmen except two or three engaged on that building are dead now. I remember I was one of the youngest there. The circumstance of working at the cornice was deeply impressed on my mind by an incident at the time. My father was foreman of the carpenters, and I dreamed that he fell from the scaffolding and was killed. This dream startled me so that I shall never forget it. Of course my father did not meet with any accident; but a little thing like that will sometimes make a deep impression.

"When the building was completed it was occupied by a Church store, with Edwin D. Woolley in charge. I was engaged by him to haul some of the crockery for the store across the plains, and got half of it for my pay. That is where I got my dishes for housekeeping when I came here.

"The porch was not there till about twelve years later, when I put it up, being then foreman of the carpenters on the public works. We covered over the old steps that were in front. From 1850 until '62 there were a number of changes in the occupants of the building. One of the storekeepers was John Needham, who crossed the sea from Liverpool at the same time I did, in 1841. His name was painted on the steps, with others, and may probably be seen there yet."

A search behind the debris for the suggested names brought to view more that was reminiscent of early days in Utah and of men many of whom have passed into the great beyond. Beneath the wooden steps of the porch, which have stood so many years' wear and tear, was a broad flight of red sandstone steps which lead to the main door of the building. Painted on the stone balustrades on each side of these steps may now be seen the names:

JOHN M. HORNER,  
THOS. S. WILLIAMS,  
WM. H. HOOPER,  
JNO. NEEDHAM,  
JNO. R. ROBBINS.

Of these five gentlemen, three are dead. Mr. Needham is now a resident of Logan, and Mr. Horner lives on the

Sandwich islands. The occasion of their names being placed in the situation described was their joint occupancy of the building as a firm of general merchandise dealers. They started business on the premises in 1854.

At that time the News building held its place as one of the largest in the city. In views of the town taken in 1853 it appears, next to the Tabernacle, as the most prominent. When first erected it was occupied as a store, the first consignment of goods that were sold in it having been purchased by the late Edward Hunter and Edwin D. Woolley, who went back to the states for that purpose in the autumn of 1849.

Previous to 1852 the News occupied a small building east of its present quarters, but in that year it took possession of part of the present premises, and remained there for a considerable period. It was in 1852 that the building was plastered, and the manner of work shows the comparative value of labor and some classes of materials in Utah at that early day. The means of holding the plaster to the walls was attained by boring holes into the adobes with an augur. This was no light task in a three-story building, but nails were not to be thought of. They had to be hauled by ox team over a thousand miles, and enough for the purpose would have cost a small fortune. A man with an augur, at from \$2 to \$3 per day, was good deal cheaper than nails.

One of the salesmen who will be remembered in the store of Horner, Williams, Hooper & Co., is Samuel W. Richards of this city. Before the firm started in business, the portion of the building they subsequently came into possession of was occupied partly by the store which had been originally instituted in it, and partly by the post-office. This latter institution in those days had a more pretentious approach in comparison with the surroundings than it has had at any time since, for a broad flight of neatly cut stone steps makes quite a presentable appearance.

Before Mr. Williams embarked in his enterprise with the firm named, he was one of the proprietors of a general merchandise store located where the Deseret bank building now stands, and where the store backyard took in the whole of a city lot stretching twenty rods east from the corner and ten rods to the north. The advertisement of Williams & Blair, at that place, appears in the early issues of the News.

Speaking of Mr. Williams, an old resident of this city said today: "I remember him quite well, and how he got broke and afterwards made a raise and started in with Mr. Hooper and others in the News corner. Back in '51 and '52 he did a good business. At that time there was a heavy trade east in the pelts of wolves and other wild animals, and these were plentiful here. They were hauled to the frontier by teams, and shipped from there to New York. Mr. Williams paid for them out of his store, and of course took in a big lot. He shipped a large consignment east, and anticipated getting a good price. But when the pelts got there they were down in the market. He could not realize anything from them, so he left them on the commission agent's hands