

teachings were inspired of the Holy Spirit. The speaker had heard much corroborative evidence from many sources concerning the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, and in his investigations of Joseph's visions with heavenly beings, he had learned that they were verily true and was therefore in a position to testify to their truth. He remembered Mother Smith's remarks with regard to Joseph's mission and to the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints upon the earth in this dispensation. In conclusion Elder Coray grew very emphatic in his testimony of the Gospel and exhorted the Saints to remember what he had said regarding the Prophet Joseph and the latter-day work.

Elder John C. Outler Jr., was the next speaker. He said he had recently returned from a mission to the Southern States. There the Elders travel as did the Apostles of old—disseminating the principles of the Gospel from city to city and county to county. He had had much pleasure in his labors and had received a testimony that the Latter-day Saints were engaged in the work of God. He exhorted the young men of Zion to be diligent in the cause of Christ, that when they were called to go upon missions they might have a reason for the hope that was within them. He characterized the experience of a missionary as something invaluable and which could be gained in no other way than by going to the nations of the earth to preach the Gospel.

Elder Horace S. Eosign sang in a feeling manner the solo, *The Holy City*.

President Joseph F. Smith next addressed the congregation. He began by referring to the testimony of Elder Coray. He said that he had been in a position with the Prophet to know whereof he spoke. His testimony was true as many could bear witness. The speaker read to the congregation and commented on the same, the Prophet's account of his first vision, and also the visits of the Angel Moroni. President Smith spoke of other visions with which the Prophet had been blessed and closed by bearing his testimony to the truth of the work of God as engaged in by the Latter-day Saints.

The choir sang the anthem:

Song of the Redeemed.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder George Reynolds.

MARICOPA NEWS.

ARIZONA, Dec. 22, 1898.—The Irrigation congress convened at Phoenix on the 15th and 16th inst., and on the 19th the delegates visited our city and were fittingly entertained by our citizens, who decorated the Co-op. hall with fruits, flowers and suitable foliage to make it appear as a tropical garden. They also provided, in the midst of the tropical garden, a grand bouquet of the good things our valley produces. After dinner was over our host of distinguished guests rode out in carriages furnished for the purpose, to see our lovely country and perfect canal system.

The Maricopa Stake of Zion held its quarterly conference on the 20th and

21st inst. and the Saints enjoyed a time long to be remembered. For more than a year we have been working with faith and might to build a Stake tabernacle and through the blessings of the Lord were enabled to complete it for dedication. The main building is 75x45 feet, and 24 feet to the square; it has an arched ceiling. It also has a two story addition on the rear. The structure is of brick, cost about \$11,000 and stands as a monument to the faith and union of the Saints in this little Stake.

In view of the dedication of the Mormon tabernacle, special trains ran and many of our non-Mormon friends were in attendance.

Besides the local, Stake, ward, quorum and officers of the various other associations, we had with us Elder Brigham Young of the Council of the Apostles, Elder Wm. Paxman, President of the Juab Stake, Elder Jesse N. Smith and Joseph H. Richards, of the Presidency of the Snowflake Stake, Bishop John Hunt, of Snowflake ward, as well as other visiting brethren and sisters.

At the opening session, Sunday afternoon, President Collins R. Hakes gave a brief history of our Stake building, and Brother Brigham Young offered the dedicatory prayer. Addresses were made by our visiting and local brethren during the conference; and the strong testimonies which were borne and the sound instructions given were a source of comfort and strength to the Saints and a surprise and admiration to the strangers present. All the general and Stake officers of the Church were unanimously sustained.

The health of the people generally is good, and all things are reasonably prosperous with us.

BEN. F. LE BARON,
Stake Clerk.

NEWS NOTES.

A peculiar accident happened in the vicinity of Freshwater, Cal., Christmas evening. While engaged in trimming Christmas trees, Ethel Getchell lost an eye. She requested her brother to hand her a pair of scissors. He threw them to her with some violence, striking her in the left eye, entirely destroying the sight.

Harry Waldhy, a bank cashier of Adrian, Mich., keeps many cats in his barn. When asked why he did this he said: "When I get up in the morning and things go wrong with the hired girl and the children and the household generally I don't scold and storm. I just grab an ax and go out to the barn and kill a cat."

A sailor named William Brown, from the ship *Queen of England*, was run over and badly mutilated near Port Costa, Cal., on Saturday night. Brown was seen shortly before midnight with some other drunken sailors and after leaving them was killed by one of the freight trains that pass about that time, but was not found until about 2 o'clock in the morning. The unfortunate man was about 55 years of age and leaves no relatives in this country, so far as is known.

A badly decomposed body was found floating in the bay near Port Costa,

Cal., on Saturday morning. It has been identified as that of Gus Anderson, who for some years was a well known character along the water-front. Of late years Anderson has earned his living by digging clams, and as he drank to excess it is supposed he fell overboard while drunk. He leaves relatives residing in San Francisco.

The San Joaquin and Kings River Canal and Irrigation company, Cal., has filed upon 30,000 inches of the water of the San Joaquin river, the point of division being near the junction of the river and Fresno slough. The estate of Miller & Lux is the principal stockholder, and the purpose of the filing is to contract the water supply of the San Joaquin. It is understood that a couple of large canals are to be built south and west of the river for the irrigation of land in Fresno and Merced counties.

A distressing and probably fatal accident happened at Round Mountain school house, twenty-three miles northeast of Fresno, Cal., on Friday night. "Santa Claus" was nearly burned to death. The school house stands in a sparsely settled district out of the line of the road and with little facilities for communication with the world. Centerville is the nearest town. When it was known that Santa Claus was going to visit the Round Mountain school house, and that a Christmas tree was among the attractions, the children flocked to the place from far and near. The mothers and grown sisters of the little ones were there, too, and a score or two of men went to see the fun. There were over 200 persons in the school building when the accident happened. The Christmas tree with 100 colored tapers burning amid the evergreen branches and their gifts, was immediately in front of the rostrum. At the appointed time Santa Claus, represented by George Brown, who lives at Round Mountain, made his appearance. He was got up in the usual style, with white locks and heard and a liberal application of cotton batting to represent the snow clinging to his garments. In making his way past the tree Santa Claus was seemingly a trifle confused by the joyous shouts of the children, for he got too near the tree and one of the candles set fire to the inflammable mass of cotton. Within half a minute Santa Claus was wrapped in flames. Two or three men in the audience had the presence of mind to prevent the unfortunate man from his purpose of rushing down the center aisle and out into the open air. The poor fellow was forcibly held before he reached the door and the flames were extinguished by coats freely torn off by the wearers to wrap around the sufferer's face and body. Meanwhile the crowd in the school-house burst out by every possible exit. Every window had a sash torn out and a number of women and children were cut by the fallen glass, or bruised in the scramble to escape. It is not known exactly how many were hurt or what their names are, but a dozen cases are under care. Brown, the unfortunate cause and victim of the trouble, may not live to act the part of Santa Claus again. He is burned on the face, arms and hands quite badly, and has also shown signs of a serious shock to the system.