

degree of success could be attained. Systematic and logically arranged plans of study and reading should be followed, based upon the first principles of the Gospel, and a great degree of success would result. Mysteries and complex questions were not only unprofitable but a hindrance to success. Each member of the class should be given an opportunity to present his or her idea or views on the different subjects brought up, thus giving occasion for the correction of errors or misunderstanding.

Mrs. Agnes Olsen Thomas favored the assembly with a beautifully rendered solo.

Elder Joseph E. Taylor urged upon the Sabbath school workers the duty of attending Sacrament meetings; teachers should not feel that they have done all their duty when they have attended the Sunday school in the morning. He endorsed the suggestion of the former speaker, that teachers avoid in all their class work mysteries and questions not made clear by revelation.

Benediction was pronounced by Elder Albert S. Riser, and the meeting adjourned for one month, to meet at 6 o'clock, in place of 7:30.

The Twentieth ward school was requested to furnish the musical exercises at the next meeting.

L. W. RICHARDS.

BIRDS AND CHOLERA.

The East Indian belief in the prescience of birds, founded upon their supposed power of seeing into futurity, is in a fair way to find adherents in more civilized lands if any reliance can be placed upon the stories now widely circulated, to the effect that the feathered folk fly before the cholera and give by their wholesale and sudden departure the surest indication that the plague draws near. It will be remembered that last year, after the dreadful visitation of disease had come upon Hamburg, somebody recalled that a short time before the first cases appeared the birds all left the city and neighborhood in a body. This hint has proved sufficient for further observations of like character; and a really formidable array of evidence has been collected, all going to show the rule as absolute, that in a region where birds have been before, none are to be seen when the cholera appears. It seems also that not only during last year but also at early times in the history of the scourge has the same fact been noticed. One writer, an English officer, avers that in 1846 his regiment, stationed in India, lost 240 men in 10 days from cholera, and it was particularly remarked that the vultures, kites and other birds of prey entirely disappeared almost simultaneously with the outbreak of the disease, returning generally after the first few days, when its virulence began to abate.

Most people will be skeptical as to accepting all this testimony, notwithstanding its seeming accuracy; they will deem it as of perhaps equal weight with the nautical belief that rats know by instinct when a ship is doomed to wreck and desert it at the last port before the catastrophe occurs. Those who care to argue their incredulity will, we think, win many converts if

they insist that no form of disease, not even cholera in its most virulent form, has ever yet shown itself equal to the business of driving out the English sparrow.

DEATH OF MAJOR LADD—HEAVY RAINS.

ST. JOSEPH, May 14, 1893.—Our village has been called to mourn the death of its oldest citizen, Samuel G. Ladd. He was born April 13, 1818, at Hallowell, Maine; died April 7, 1893, at the age of 75. He received the Gospel in New York, in 1843; afterwards embarked in the ship Brooklyn for San Francisco via Cape Horn with a company of Saints, then overland to Salt Lake valley, where he met the pioneers in August, 1847.

He resided in Salt Lake City until 1873. While there he was major of the artillery, by which title he was familiarly known. In 1873 he was called to Arizona, came as far as the Little Colorado river, and returned the same summer in company with Lorenzo Roundy. He was again called in 1876 in company with 200 men to settle on the Little Colorado. He settled here with a company of fifty, and has lived here ever since. He was elected county surveyor and served two terms, has been justice of the peace for the last twelve years, and has rendered valuable service to the country by laying off townsites, canals, etc. He was much interested in establishing permanent settlements in this arid region. He had the esteem and respect of all who knew him, and though he leaves no family a large circle of friends mourn his loss. He was a good, reliable citizen and a faithful Latter-day Saint.

This part of Arizona has suffered severely for the past two years from drouth. It is estimated that at least fifty per cent of the cattle have died within the past four months and many more will succumb before grass grows. On the 12th and 13th inst. we had the heaviest rainfall we ever had at this season of the year, which gives hope to the stockman and courage to the farmer. The late rain brought a freshet down the river, the largest we have ever had without taking a dam out for us. Our present dam, constructed at a cost of about \$6000, stands alright, consequently the prospect of making this a permanent settlement is good, after having spent over \$60,000 to control the water.

The health of the people is good, all is peace and quiet.

JOHN BUSHMAN.

NOTES.

MANY NORWEGIANS celebrated their day of national independence at the World's Fair yesterday. This recalls a little incident which attracted some attention among the Swedes and the Norwegians. On a plaster of paris medallion in the Administration building the artist had for some unknown reason put "Norway and Sweden" instead of as is always customary, "Sweden and Norway." The Swedes felt that this was an unpardonable breach of etiquette, and a Swedish sculptor then offered to change the inscription without charge; he would do the work in six hours. His offer

was not accepted. The result was that the offending piece of plaster of paris was removed and when the exposition was opened neither Sweden nor Norway had their respective names among the other countries represented in the building.

In a conversation recently Governor McKinley of Ohio spoke as follows:

I do not credit this talk about hard times. This country has too many resources and too much money. Besides that, the people, irrespective of party affiliations, have too much confidence in President Cleveland. They would stand by and hold up his hands in every possible way needed.

The governor is a staunch Republican, but he is big enough to not permit his partisanship to influence his judgment.

IT SEEMS that the Christian missionaries in China on the first intimation of danger fled wholesale from their various stations in the Celestial empire, all owing to the Geary law. How is this? We believe it is stated on the very highest authority that the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep, while he that is a hireling and not a shepherd beholdeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth, because he is a hireling and careth not for the sheep. Is this in any way applicable to the missionaries?

THE MAY number of the *Utah Magazine* is on the editorial table, and a glance through it reveals a collection of interesting matter. "Statehood for Utah" is discussed by Hon. George Q. Cannon in the leading article, and the importance of the subject and the eminence of the writer will cause it to be read with eager interest by all classes. A fine portrait of Governor West appears as the frontispiece of the number, and there is the usual quantity and quality of excellent matter.

THE *Evening Times* made its appearance in Ogden this week. It is a small but brisk-looking sheet and announces itself as the official organ of the Democratic party.

STAR VALLEY CONFERENCE.

Our Third quarterly conference convened May 13th, 1893, at 10 a. m., Elder George Osmond presiding. The bishops of the various wards reported the health and the prospects of Saints very good, spring work progressing rapidly. The Elders who occupied the time during Saturday spoke principally upon temporal affairs, urging a different mode of farming than had been followed heretofore.

On Sunday our meeting house was filled by Saints from both valleys. Elder Thomas W. Lee showed the necessity of Saints living pure lives and setting an example worthy of imitation, both by the youth of Zion and the world.

Elder Byron H. Allred, Jr., gave a brief outline of his experience while at the legislature last winter.

Elder Wm. W. Burton gave a very interesting discourse from the 49th chapter of Isaiah.

Elder George Osmond made closing remarks. Spoke on the law of tithing, counseled the Saints to pay their tithes and offerings and be blessed thereby.

WM. H. KENNINGTON, SR.,
Stake clerk.