

whirled us out of the snow into the land of warmth and sunshine, where roses, lilacs and other evidences of summer abounded. Among the sunny hills the train stopped for a few moments from time to time, giving all the boys and girls an opportunity to run about the hillside after flowers and "specimens."

At Sacramento a stay of an hour was made, giving us a chance to have the first meal outside of our lunch baskets. The company was scattered at the various restaurants, some of which were very good, while others were very bad. A short stroll about the city and we were once more on our way.

Arriving at Oakland we found an unusually cold wind blowing and overcoats were called into requisition. The chorus was called to the church for rehearsal, or more properly speaking, for arrangement, after which they were taken to the Galindo hotel where they enjoyed one of the most excellent meals of the trip. The hotel had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, being festooned with a mass of green boughs of the fragrant eucalyptus, among which were masses of flowers. The tables were loaded with flowers of every kind, and at the close of the meal the ladies were given the privilege of taking away the bouquets. The result was that at the concert they resembled a bank of flowers from which a lot of bright faces protruded.

The audience was large but the house was not packed. What they lacked in numbers, however they made up in enthusiasm, for every number on the program was demanded again, and at the close of the performance the audience remained until an extra number was given. Professor Stephens said if they were determined to remain they would give them a taste of what we were just enjoying—that is statehood—and the choir finally outdid themselves on "Utah, We Love Thee." After the concert several of the party took the ferry for "the city," as everybody in California speaks of San Francisco, others went back to the train at the depot where all enjoyed a good night's rest and sleep.

Early next morning the cars were abandoned for the time and all went over across the bay to the unique city of San Francisco. Arriving there the first dash was made for the various restaurants to which we had been appointed. Most of them went to Wilson's, said to be the best in the city. The great majority of the crowd did not bring away that impression, however, and after the first or second trial this restaurant was deserted for the new Creamerie, where all were well treated, and where the service was pronounced first class. Assembly was called at 10:30 at the Metropolitan Temple of Music, and until this hour the time was spent in strolling about the streets, getting our bearings. Several parties (twelve in each) were allowed to go through the Mint which is just opposite the hall in which the concerts were given, and here for the first time many saw the manufacture of coins, from the melting of the metal to the final "whitening," after which they are made up into rods ready for exchange.

After the rehearsal and arranging of seats a general scattering took place, some going to visit friends, others to

Golden Gate park, Sutro heights, the museums and art galleries, the docks, navy yards, presidio, etc. At night the concert did not draw a crowded house, but those present made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. The morning papers all agreed that the choir was wonderful, and some of the soloists were very good. The critics picked out many small flaws, which they mentioned, but on the whole they all admitted the general excellence of the affair.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were spent very much as the first day. On Sunday regular church services were held at the same hall, and Elder H. J. Grant addressed the congregation—which packed the house—and his discourse was listened to with the most marked attention, there being spontaneous outbursts of applause when details of the journey of the Mormon Battalion were given. At night a sacred concert was given to the best house of the engagement, and all present were wild with delight. The choir members seemed to feel in good spirits and sang capitolally. At the close of the concert a rush for the Creamerie restaurant was made and then for the train, and with a host of good-byes to San Francisco, we were soon speeding towards Monterey, the arrangements having been made to have our train hauled down there for a few hours to give us a chance to see the Hotel del Monte and the beautiful grounds surrounding it. Some spent the time hunting shells and seaweeds, while others strolled among the flowers or lost themselves in the maze of labyrinth. The company was photographed in front of the hotel and in various other places, which forms an interesting souvenir of the trip.

After a few hours spent here we speed along to San Jose where we were to give a concert. After a visit to the auditorium we were treated to an excellent supper at the Hotel Vendome. The concert was greeted by a large audience who were charmed by the music, and everything had to be repeated. Breakfast next morning at the Vendome, and after a little running about town the train pulled out for Sacramento where the final concert was to be given. The train reached here in time to let the crowd look about town and inspect the beautiful state building and grounds before concert time. The same enthusiasm prevailed here as at other places, and for a finale the Star Spangled Banner was given, the audience being invited to join in singing it. When this was finished our faces were homeward turned and we were soon rumbling up through the mountains, reaching Reno at 10 o'clock for breakfast, which was served at various hotels. From this point the journey was made without noteworthy event, the train reaching home at 12 noon, having been just ten days from start to finish.

At San Francisco we met Elder Tanner, who has charge of the mission at that place. At San Jose we met Nat Sears, who was in California in attendance upon a relation who lies ill at Palo Alto. We have met also John Thomas, a druggist well known in Salt Lake, and who longs for the return to Zion. At Sacramento we were joined by Elder Heber J. Grant, and Elder

Tanner who had accompanied us thus far returned to San Francisco.

To endeavor to place a cash value upon the good accomplished by such an event as this choir trip, would be like trying to number the stars in the Milky Way. We have made thousands of friends, increased our fund of knowledge, widened our comprehension and added breadth to our love for our fellow man. The Savior said, "Love one another." That did not mean that we should love only a Latter-day Saint, but that we should extend our love to envelope every human being. A trip like this does more good than can be estimated.

Except for the illness of our dear Nellie Druce Pugsley we had not a single thing to mar the happiness spread like a mantle of peace over each and every one of us. JOHNSON.

EXPERIENCES IN MISSISSIPPI.

RALEIGH, Smith county, Miss.,
April 23, 1896.

As it is not often we see anything in the columns of your valuable publication from this conference, I take occasion to write a few lines, trusting the same may prove of interest to your many readers.

A year ago on the 13th of the present month, I left my home at American Fork as a chosen ambassador of the truth to the Southern States, and at Chattanooga was appointed to labor in the Mississippi conference. Upon arriving here the first two months were spent traveling with Elder C. A. Matthews, in Jefferson county on the Mississippi river. This county had been thoroughly canvassed over and we simply did some revisiting. We found the people generally belonging to the old southern aristocracy—poor but proud and while some of them were friendly and treated us well, the great majority had no use for us or our message. During our sojourn in Jefferson county seven persons were baptized into the fold.

For nearly a month preceding our conference I traveled with Elder Frank T. Pomeroy in Copiah county, where we found many friends and received excellent treatment notwithstanding the influence used against us by the leading newspaper and some of the ministers of the county.

After conference Elder J. F. Astle and I traveled over into Covington county and there met Elders S. H. Jones and George B. Moore fresh from Zion. September 4th Elder Moore and I started for Smith county, which had been opened up and labored in for a couple of weeks previous to conference by Elders Matthews and Kerr. Upon arriving in our field of labor we called on the editor of the principal newspaper of the county subscribing for his paper and chatting with him some time in regard to our people and doctrines. In the next issue the editor stated that two Mormon preachers had made their appearance in the county and that they were paid by their Church to come out here to preach. He further remarked that taking into consideration the scarcity of money and the difficulty some of the churches experienced in paying their ministers, he reckoned the Mormons would suit the people first class.

Smith county is situated in the east-