

will leave little to be desired. A novel idea is the giving of three afternoons to producing original manuscripts by American composers. American music is to have marked attention throughout the exposition.

The congress of music separately, under the guidance of Mr. Homer Moore, will be a great educational factor. Prominent people throughout the land will read essays on music and discuss various musical topics, with players and singers of note to illustrate all programs. The greatest ensemble effects will be produced by the choral numbers and glees which have been in constant rehearsal for months under Mr. Thomas J. Kelly's artistic direction. The opening day's music will go down in history as one of the bright days in American music.

Mrs. Brisbane, music editor of the Musical Times, has given her continued interest to Mr. Kimball's musical plans, and having a very broad acquaintance in both the musical and literary world, has been of invaluable assistance and will continue her interest officially during the exposition months.

LETTER FROM BEYROUTH.

Beyrouth, April 17, 1898.

According to 2 Samuel 8: 5, 6, we find that Damascus was conquered by King David. It is a very ancient city. The origin of the city is not now known, but that it is a very old city is made plain by the many legends afloat concerning its origin and of the great men that have lived in or around the city. Adam, Abel, Noah, Elijah and many more modern prophets are said by Mohammedans to have been residents of Sham. The blood of righteous Abel is said to have been spilt on the hillside north of Sham, and as an evidence the red ledges there are shown, which are said to have been stained by his innocent blood.

The country around Sham for miles is one grand orchard filled with olive, fig and apricot trees. There are, of course, others, but they are in the minority largely. A few apples may be seen but they do not do well here, but in the high mountains of the Anti-Lebanon they are said to do well. A few pears and a few plums may be seen. Pomegranates are also quite plentiful. Peaches are here, but not plentiful. Almond trees do well, and the fruit is eaten as soon as it is well formed, long before it is ripe. Vegetables peculiar to the orient are found here in great quantities.

After visiting the different shrines and curiosities of the ancient city, and after attending to some business matters relating to our mission, we left Sham one beautiful morning on the Beyrouth Damascus and Hauran railroad for Beyrouth. The road is built up the Barada river clean to its source in the Anti-Lebanon, where it crosses a summit and leads into the valley of the Bekaa. The train winds along this stream through charming dells and well watered orchards, passing now and again some ancient ruin or bringing in view some thrilling mountain scenery. Many places the Arabs may be seen working their lands in their primitive way, men, women and donkeys, the whole family at work at something. Villages were formed at frequent intervals either in the canyon or on the mountain side. For the mountains where soil is found are very fertile and the climate here is delightful. Grapes and mulberry trees grow in great abundance.

In the Anti-Lebanon are found many fine valleys where cattle, goats and sheep are found grazing in great numbers. Mount Hermon to the left or rather west of the city of Sham, was quite white with snow, even this late, showing the snow fall to have been

very heavy. This winter has been very cold all over Turkey and Syria and many people have in consequence suffered a great deal. The railroad, after making a long curve towards the north, turns suddenly west and soon lands in the valley of El Bekaa. This rich and broad valley is very fertile, but is cultivated much in the same way as the rest of Syria, with the exception that a good part of the land is laid out into mulberry groves for silk culture.

After crossing the valley of El Bekaa the road leads up to Lebanon at a very steep grade. So steep is the grade that the ordinary locomotive is insufficient, wherefore the company has had to put on the cog wheel system, consisting of a third rail in the middle which is a cog rail into which a wheel of the engine is made to fit, thus keeping the drive wheels from switching. With this assistance the locomotive does fairly good work and the speed is reasonable when the grade is considered. On both sides of the Lebanon the view is most beautiful. To the east and southeast one obtains a bird's eye view of the Bekaa with the Anti-Lebanon and Hermon on the background. On the hill sides are fine vineyards and odd-looking villages; toward the top snow-capped peaks and cool air. Looking along the mountain side pure little streams of water can be traced from their source, trickling over the rocks and winding their way into the Litany and thence into the Mediterranean.

After reaching the summit, 1,487 meters above the sea level, one soon catches a glimpse of the Mediterranean, whose broad expanse is like a huge glass spread out before the eye. At the base of the mountain lies Beyrouth with its orchards to the east, its harbors and ships to the north, and a huge sand hill to the south. Descending the east slope of the mountain the scenery is ever changing. The train seems as though it is going carelessly down the mountain slope. Looking one way and one may see a whole mountain-side laid out in well cultivated vineyards; on the other mulberries, olive groves, apricots, apple, peach and plum trees may be seen growing, many of which are just putting forth their bloom; others just pushing forth their leaves. And for every mile one descends the change of climate and of springtime is quite perceptible. Pinon pine and cedars are seen here and there in large groves. And among all this vegetation may be seen villages, old and new, summer resorts of all styles, ancient and modern. Every hill and every valley seems covered with houses. On the very mountain ridges, on the peaks, everywhere, buildings are seen and cultivation of the soil is taking place some three and four thousand feet above sea level, yet within five miles of the sea.

The sight made a lasting impression on our minds. It was one of the most pleasant days of our travel; the eve never tired, for turn where you would the attention was called to something new in nature and its gift; as well as in the works of man, that had been spent on that historical Mount for centuries. The people have seen their days of pleasure and their day of pain as well. Many a bloody battle has been fought on those hills, and many a brave soldier has lost his life in the defense of his native hill. No one need wonder why it is so well loved by all, for its advantages are many.

F. F. HINTZE.

A GOLDEN WEDDING

Fillmore, May 28, 1898.

A very enjoyable event was had here today in the celebration of the golden

wedding of Alexander and Jane A. Melville. This honorable couple were residents of Nauvoo at the time of the death of the Prophet Joseph and Hyrum, and shared the trials incident to those times. They came on to Utah in 1852, and built them a house in Provo, and in 1853 were called to strengthen the new settlement of Fillmore. They arrived here with two little children, the youngest being Hon. James A. Melville, who had been brought on from Iowa (where, during the exodus, he first saw the light), packed in a wicker basket. Yesterday there were gathered to do loving reverence to this aged couple about sixty of their offspring.

Tables were spread with the good and substantial things of life, upon the lawn outside their cottage home, at which about one hundred persons ate and smiled and congratulated themselves and all around them upon the propitious event. In the center of the table was a towering bride's cake of which all partook, and at its head sat the revered couple. Surely if "matches are made in heaven" this one has been sanctified on earth by a life of love and peace; and there was the same old fifty years ago tender solicitude for each other's comfort that has characterized their whole journey of life. Many whiter heads of fewer years were gathered at that board, for this aged couple have only a sprinkling of grey amongst the hairs on their venerable heads.

The brass band was out to make music and enjoy the feast, for Brother Melville has been an honored public man for many years as watermaster, a selectman, and a Bishop of a ward.

The aged friends recounted pioneer reminiscences to his honor, and the young folks made music and pleasing song to smooth along the journey of eternal union and peace. A. BIRD.

IN THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, May 19, 1898.]

Arrivals.—The following named missionaries from Zion arrived in Liverpool May 13, 1898, per American Line steamer Waealand: For the British mission—J. Fred. Daynes, William R. Plummer, Jane R. Plummer, Salt Lake City; Henry John, West Portage; Joseph H. Painter, Logan. For the German Mission—Conrad Walz, Rexburg, Idaho; C. C. Richards Jr., R. E. Wilson, A. L. Scoville, Ogden; William Bailey, T. C. Winn, Nephi. For the Swiss Mission—Godfrey Alder, Conrad Keller, Manti; Samuel Schwendiman, Teton, Idaho. For the Scandinavian Mission—Nels Monson, East Jordan; John H. Quist, Jonah Johnson, Jacob Christensen, Big Cottonwood; T. J. Torbenson, Snowville, Idaho; Andrew M. Anderson, Sigurd; N. C. Christensen, Lyman, Idaho. For Iceland—Halder Johnson, Cleveland. A. C. Lund, of Ephraim, Utah, came with the company as a visitor to Germany.

Releases and Appointments.—Solomon E. Smith has been honorably released from laboring as a traveling Elder in the London conference, to return home June 9, 1898.

T. H. Cartwright has been honorably released from presiding over the Nottingham conference, to return home June 18, 1898.

Joseph W. Stringfellow of the London conference has been appointed to preside over the Nottingham conference.

J. Fred. Daynes has been appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the Norwich conference.

William R. Plummer and Jane R. Plummer have been appointed to labor in the London conference.

Henry John has been appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the Leeds conference.

Joseph H. Painter has been appointed to labor as a traveling Elder in the Nottingham conference.