

Again, whenever great crises arise in human affairs, men are raised up by Providence to carry forward His great designs. For the development of the new world, a race of men, unknown before, were called into life—the pioneers. From the days of Columbus, America has attracted to her shores whatever was most enterprising and adventurous of other nations. A great record of heroic names. Ponce de Leon, Hennepin, La Salle, De Soto, Washington, exploring the sources of the Ohio, and the wilds of Central New York. Daniel Boone, exiling himself for a generation, and bringing the commonwealth of Kentucky as an offering to the nation. And in our own day, with steamboats, railroads and electric telegraphs, come men with faculties and energies to correspond. Commonwealths are explored, pre-empted, settled, wealthy and old in a single generation. Illinois surpasses the entire New England of revolutionary days. California, a child of yesterday, has more surplus wheat than the entire nation a generation since. Our hardy and enterprising miners wash down canyons and disintegrate mountains, leaving the monuments of their handiwork on every portion of the Pacific slope. And when all the good and fruitful land had been prospected, and men sat down to wonder for what purpose the Great American Desert was made, there came forth Brigham Young, who led his fainting, weary hosts a thousand miles through trackless deserts, and by poisoned streams, to what was supposed the most utterly worthless region of the continent, and there, twenty-one years ago, within hearing of where we now stand, laid the foundations of a noble State. Alkali deserts blossomed into beautiful gardens and fruitful fields. Wild mountain torrents were tamed and trained, giving fertility to the parched and thirsty earth, or motive power to the hum of the spindle, and the clank of the loom; and to-day, with the near approach of the Pacific Railroad, no State has before it a more brilliant and hopeful future, than the State of Deseret. All our adventurous pioneers deserve the gratitude of the State: the hardships of the early settlers of Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, shall ever be held in faithful remembrance, but in those regions, nature had well nigh done her most bountiful and perfect work; those states, as it were settled themselves, but the hardy pioneers, who in these mountains, have, out of nothing, made a state are deserving of especial honor and remembrance.

These are some of the agencies which have aided our national progress. The Constitution—education—the spirit of adventure. But our notice were imperfect indeed did we fail reverently to allude to that most potent agency of all, without which all others were of no avail; the beneficent and fostering care of the Great Father of us all. A glance at our past history can scarcely fail to convince the most sceptical that God rules in the affairs of men. He inspired the wisdom of Columbus, and guided his bark across the mysterious deep. He collected his chosen heroes, dauntless, industrious; fearing God and loving man, and planted them in barren New England, that by lives of privation and endurance, He might create a race of men hardy for the conquest of a continent. And from that hour to this He has never for an instant ceased to watch and guard the footsteps of His chosen race.

It has long been a favored theory of poets and philosophers, that in the far off future: in the good time which was coming, the whole world should become one people, a homogeneous, happy race. That political philosophers should come, who would cull from all the legislation of man, the equitable and the good, the gems and the gold of all the ages. That divines, whose lips were touched with heavenly fire, should sift the jangling creeds of men, and save the wisest and the best—

"For I dip't into the future, far as human eye could see,  
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be.  
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,  
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales,  
Till the war drum throbbed no longer, and the battle flags were furled  
In the parliament of man: the Federation of the world.  
Then the common sense of most, shall hold a fretful realm in awe  
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law."

The poets, the philosophers, the fanatics of one century are the prophets of the next. In the fulness of time, the poet's dream shall become history.

What part the American Republic shall play in this great drama, we may not know, but the fundamental principles

which underlie our system of government are in many respects those which shall govern in that "great race which is to be." The principle of universal equality before the law; of entire religious toleration, of freedom of speech and of the press, of the broadest diffusion of useful knowledge, of the ownership of the soil by those laboring upon it, of impartial suffrage—these are principles which the world can never outgrow; they are parts of truth itself.

It is, as it seems to me, pardonable for us to predict, to hope, for our own nation a conspicuous, if not ruling part in the inauguration of this new golden age. We have now a vast territorial area, an area too, which will soon be largely augmented. Canada and the Provinces, Mexico and the Central American States, await but the stretching forth of our arms, to give us a continent for the coming race.

All the world beside is fettered with old traditions, bound up with feudal governmental theories, and religious dogmas, which embarrass and impede all beneficial change. In these respects we are free, untrammelled. No reverence for ancient error because of its antiquity; no hereditary ruling class; no religion of the State are here, to arrest the progress of enlightened truth.

It is a great thing to be an American citizen, in the true meaning of those lofty words. Even the humblest of us all, has his part in the greatest drama of the centuries. None are so obscure, but they may in their peculiar spheres Prometheus like,

"Hold aloft their torches lighted,  
Gleaming through the realms benighted  
As they onward bear the message."

The Martial band then played "Yankee Doodle," and Hon. George A. Smith was announced for a speech. He spoke as follows:

HON. GEORGE A. SMITH.

This vast Tabernacle with the great array of young and middle-aged present, the vast number assembled together and surrounded with the innumerable blessings which we enjoy, bring to my mind something of a contrast with twenty years ago. At that time a few pioneers were here struggling to live in the face of fate and endeavoring to save a few acres of grain, which had been planted and irrigated, from being consumed by the crickets. Many were disheartened and some felt that we must leave the country because they thought it would be impossible to sustain a population in this desert. All were upon very short rations. Rawhides were not allowed to go to waste but were used for food. Nothing that could be got hold of that could save life, was allowed to pass unnoticed. And the little grain that we had been able to bring in our wagons 1,200 miles to plant here was vanishing, like dew before the sun, before an innumerable army of large, black crickets. Nearly all were disheartened and discouraged, worn out with their exertions, and knew not what to do but to trust in God. Every effort had been made, every exertion, to save the colony. But, when it seemed as if failure was certain, in the providences of the Almighty, gulls, from the Lake, came over the fields, and they commenced devouring the crickets as if they were messengers or angels especially commissioned to preserve the settlement and protect and foster the infant State. They eat and devoured and vomited up, and filled again and vomited up, and continued to do so until the remnant of the crops were saved, a manifestation of the power of the Almighty. The result of this experiment in raising grain proved it could be done successfully, though much wheat did not grow over five or six inches high. A great deal had to be pulled being too short to be cut, and so ignorant were the people of the way to irrigate, that they irrigated in such a manner as to make one part of the grain ripen at one period and some at another, while some was tall and some was short, and the harvest lasted for weeks on the same acre. The same season fruit seeds had been planted and they came up. But so destructive were the crickets that a man might go to dinner leaving a beautiful prospect for young trees, and when he returned find the whole nursery swept away by them. And it was years before any, but a very few, in these valleys believed that fruit could be raised here; yet the inspiration which moved upon our President, Brigham Young, continued to encourage us, and we have found it proved to be one of the best fruit growing countries in the world. I believe no people on the face of the earth have sacrificed more than we have for the enjoyment of religious liberty; and it is with the greatest pleasure that we assemble on the 4th of July, the anniversary of our national inde-

pendence, to celebrate the declaration of those principles of civil and religious freedom which are the foundation of the Government of America. God enable us to stand true and faithful by the banner of liberty, to honor our position as citizens of the United States, and extend the principles of freedom and truth upon the earth, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Capt. Parkman's band discoursed some music; and General Chetlain being announced, made the following speech:

GENERAL A. L. CHETLAIN.

Ladies and gentlemen, after the very able and interesting oration, and the eloquent addresses to which we have listened, it would not be proper for me to attempt to make you a long speech. I shall therefore content myself with making a few remarks; and I assure you I am highly gratified at being permitted to join with my fellow citizens of Salt Lake City in celebrating, in this good old-fashioned way, this glorious anniversary of the independence of our country. And I am gratified, too, at seeing so many children and young persons here. It is well that they are permitted on an occasion like this to hear words from the lips of those who are older than themselves, to listen to the story of the early history of our Government, to listen to the story, so full of interest, of those good men and pure patriots who laid the foundation of this government in trial and in difficulty; for if they are thus taught when young, they will grow up with a full knowledge and appreciation of the cost of that heritage, that glorious heritage that has been transmitted to them. When this government was organized and the constitution adopted, a compromise was effected with regard to the institution of slavery. That compromise was respected for over three quarters of a century, but it took all the wisdom of the ablest statesmen of the land to prevent a collision between the North and the South. There was a deep and irrepressible conflict in the land, which culminated eight years ago in one of the most bloody, destructive and unrelenting civil wars that the world has ever known. But thank God the war is past, the conflict is over, the bone of contention has been removed; and as the tornado that sweeps over the land laying waste is always succeeded by a clearer atmosphere, so, I believe, the late war will be succeeded by a clearer political atmosphere, and the institutions of our country will be laid upon a firmer and more lasting basis. (applause). There are a great many people who take a desponding view of the future of our country. They say that patriotism and loyalty are on the decrease in the country, that corruption is found in high places and in low places, throughout the land; and that soon this country will be in the condition of the unfortunate Republic of Mexico. I admit there is corruption in the country, that there are corrupt men everywhere. They are found in our national Legislature, in State Legislatures and in every executive department of the government, not excepting the internal revenue department. (A laugh). But it must be remembered that the late war has had, to a certain extent, the effect of demoralizing the people and blunting their moral susceptibilities. This was the case with the revolutionary war, and it is the result of all wars. But I believe there is as much patriotism in the land to-day as there ever was, (applause) although many things connected with the late war go to prove the reverse. But I know that if at any time since the late war, an insult had been offered to the honor of the country, "the boys in blue" from the North and the "boys in gray" from the South, would have united to defend the honor of their common country. (Cheers). I believe that the great heart of the American people is loyal and incorruptible, and that the day will come when the people will rise in their majesty and hurl from office all corrupt officials wherever they may be found, and God grant that that day may not be far distant! (applause).

One thought more, and I have done. It has often been remarked, and I believe it to be true, that a mountainous region of country is favorable to the development of bravery, self reliance and liberty. Scotland is an example. Switzerland, that gave to the world a William Tell, is another. In the mountain fastness of that little republic has been found a people, who for hundreds of years have proved themselves self-reliant, brave and worthy of freedom, and who never could be made to yield to oppression or tyranny. Why may we not, therefore, fellow citizens, reasonably believe that in this vast mountainous region, extending from

Mexico to the British possessions, and from the sweeping plains immediately west of the Great Rivers to the Pacific, will be found a people intelligent, self-reliant, brave, God fearing, law-abiding, liberty loving, the admiration of all free and independent peoples and the terror of all forms of tyranny and oppression. (applause). But I must close, or I shall inflict upon you a long speech, which I promised not to do. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

This was succeeded by a patriotic song, written for the day by H. W. Naisbitt, Esq., and sung by J. M. Hardie, Esq., the choir joining in chorus, with the powerful tone of the organ; after which, a few remarks were made by the Hon. Geo. Q. Cañon.

The speeches and Oration were greeted with hearty applause, and seemed to evoke responsive sentiments in the crowded audience.

A few toasts and sentiments were read by the Marshal of the day.

President Young then offered the following closing remarks and

#### BENEDICTION.

I think I shall never enjoy a better opportunity of speaking to the youth of this city, with regard to their applauding in the Theatre, and which I have heard here to-day also. I ask these children—all the boys under a hundred years of age—never to applaud unless they know what they are applauding. It is confusing, bewildering, and making a noise without understanding. I wish that hereafter you would be a little more silent in the Theatre; and when we meet on occasions like this, not to applaud unless you know what you are applauding. I say to the Committee, Please to receive my thanks for keeping my name out of your programme, with the exception of closing this meeting. To our friends who have delivered the oration and the speeches, Receive our thanks; I feel to bless you and all those who wish a continuation to the peace of our country. We have great experience in this government, more, perhaps, than any other on the earth. We should know more. We should understand true righteousness, which is correct ideas and produces correct lives. I hope to see a community that will live so far above the law that we will have no necessity to administer it. To the officers of this Territory I say, Peace be to you, may you be blessed. And I feel to bless you all, who desire good to yourselves and to all the inhabitants of the earth, as well as to this people. I say to you, friends, old and young, Learn correct principles, learn to be governed. To children, Learn to be governed. To parents, Learn to govern and control your children without the severity of an iron hand, but with mildness, cheerfulness and kindness; and hold that influence over them that you can control them with a word. I know very well that it is written, and said to be the words of the wisest man in olden times, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son;" but I say, spare the rod and teach children to walk in paths of righteousness, and you will have very little use for the rod. I bless you, children, and I pray my Father in Heaven to preserve you and give you life, long life and health and good days, and a disposition to seek for, that you may obtain, the Spirit to serve the Lord and keep His commandments. I say to the Committee, God bless you; to those musicians, God bless you; to the choir and to all who have participated in the exercises here to-day, or who have been here listening to the speeches, God bless you all; and I bless you in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

You are dismissed.

The immense assemblage then dispersed, the schools forming under their teachers and moving in procession to their respective wards, as the artillery were firing a national salute. A collation had been provided at the City Hall, to which the Committee invited the gentlemen engaged in the celebration and a number of our most prominent citizens, where they enjoyed themselves for a time with a flow of kindly feeling and genial sentiment. The bands discoursed sweet music through the city, Captain Croxall's being in two of Wells, Fargo & Co's coaches coupled together, and drawn by a magnificent team of five span of greys. Good feelings characterized the entire day; peace and happiness reigned; and nothing that we have heard of occurred to mar the enjoyment of the celebration. A salute by the artillery closed the official programme, while a crowded house at the Theatre witnessed an interesting performance at night, and thus the "Fourth" of '68 passed away and became a pleasant recollection.