

MR. GEORGE RAMSDEN.

The following letter to Elder F. D. Richards, relative to the death of Mr. George Ramsden, formerly manager of the Gulon steamships, and to his attitude toward the Latter-day Saints, has been received by Elder Franklin D. Richards, of the Apostles, and contains such items of interest that we publish it in full by consent of Elder Richards:

42 ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL,

June 8th, 1896.

Hon. F. D. Richards, Historian's office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Brother:—Mr. Ramsden's son has just let me read a letter which you sent to his father. The family were much pleased with the expressions of love and sympathy which it contained, and they regretted very much that it did not reach its destination until a day after Mr. Ramsden's death. He died on the 26th of May. He has been poorly for a long time. I saw him a couple of days before he underwent an operation for the removal of gravel. He seemed to have very little faith in his being able to pass through the ordeal before him. He went to the door several times and when he took my hand the last time he broke down and left me. This was the last I saw of him. I felt concerned about him and kept inquiring about him, but always received encouraging reports from his sons. I had learned to love him, for he was a lovable man. He had been kind to me and ever ready to help me with his advice or with the use of his name when I was hard up for means. Brusque and gruff in his manners generally, he was always as gentle as a lamb to those who hailed from "42." Our business had precedence, and he never got out of patience with us, though he must often have had occasion to become so, considering the continual change of both clerks and managers in this office. He was never afraid to take our part nor was he ever ashamed to introduce us as his Mormon friends. His son told me yesterday that he had heard him often answer those who have tried to run us down and spoken against our religion: "I shall say nothing about the points of doctrine they believe in, but I am of the opinion that it must be a good religion which makes them the upright and honest people that I know them to be."

His son said: "Father was a man who could stand no sham or anything that did not conform to his strict sense of honor. It is therefore quite a compliment to you gentlemen with whom he has done business so many years that you retained his love and highest esteem to the last."

In his conversation with me he often referred to you in loving terms. He considered it one of the highest compliments ever paid him when you told him that you did not want a written contract, but held his word sufficient. I believe that nothing gave him so much pleasure as to reflect upon his dealings with the Latter-day Saints.

We sent him a nice wreath which I saw was placed in the most conspicuous place on his coffin. The funeral was large, but one of the coldest I have witnessed as far as the services were concerned.

Knowing the high esteem in which

you held Mr. Ramsden, I thought that a few lines about him would be interesting to you.

Through your letter to him I learned that Brother Rulon S. Wells has been appointed to be "my successor." I rejoice to think that I shall soon have the privilege to meet you and the brethren at home. I have enjoyed my mission very much. It has been my good fortune to have an excellent lot of men to labor with. They have been as a band of brethren and have worked hard to reach the people.

I thank you for the kind and encouraging expressions which your letters to me have contained. I have not been much of a correspondent, but I assure you they have been highly appreciated. May the blessing of the Lord rest upon you, dear Brother Richards, in the prayer of yours in love and friendship,

ANTHON H. LUND.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Nearly all the city Sabbath schools were well represented in the Union meeting held last night, June 15, to the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms. The following county schools were also largely represented—Cannon ward, Farmers, both schools of Big Cottonwood, East Mill Creek, East Jordan, Union, South Cottonwood, Brighton, Taylorville and Sandy.

Excellent singing exercises were rendered by the Taylorville school, directed by Brother A. Frame Jr.

Opening prayer was offered by Elder D. H. McAllister.

Prof. Willard Done, in an opening address, explained the program intended to be carried out in the various departments of the meetings. The first half hour, he said, would be devoted to the giving of a lecture upon some general principle of Sunday school work, followed by questions and discussion upon the same. This would be followed by a half hour on "miscellaneous" subjects, the answering of questions, and the removing of difficulties that may have arisen in the school room. These exercises were to be made entirely practical, as class exercises would be made a part of the work of the meeting, and outlines of general work would be laid out for the guidance of Sunday school workers from month to month.

The Sunday School Treatise, lately published by the Deseret Sunday School Union, would form the basis of the work done in each department.

Occasionally, the speaker said, general lectures and exercises would be presented before the meeting as a whole, but the greater part of the work would be done in departments, corresponding with the four departments of the graded Sunday school.

Dr. Karl G. Maeger, assistant general superintendent of Sunday schools, made a few explanatory remarks. Deprecating the practice too often indulged in of discussing pro and con on principle and doctrine, he stated the correct rule to follow was to appeal to scripture to settle all misunderstandings, and if no scripture could be referred to, an appeal should be made to headquarters. In the Sunday schools no distinction should be recognized between "professional"

and "non-professional" teachers. A love for the work, the testimony of Jesus, and the spirit of the Gospel were the prerequisites that every teacher should possess. The Sunday school teacher has not the time to use so much of the educative methods of teaching as the day school teachers can practice so successfully. More direct methods should always be used in the Sabbath school.

The teaching of abstract principles and Scripture lessons was not enough to teach in the Sabbath school. Habits of prayer and right doing, and the implanting of correct motives, and the obtaining of a testimony of the Gospel, command the attention of all instructors.

Prof. Willard Done, principal of the L. D. S. College, offered the use of the College building for the Sunday school union, as suitable rooms, with blackboard, etc., were conveniently situated. The offer was accepted, and a motion prevailed that when this meeting adjourn it do so to meet in the Latter-day Saints College building, in this city, 233 west First North, half a block east of the Utah University and half a block from the Warm Springs car line.

East Mill Creek will furnish the music at the next meeting.

Benediction was offered by Dr. Maeger.

J. H. PARRY,
Secretary.

SAN JUAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the San Juan Stake of Zion was held at Muab, Grand county, Utah, May 23-4th, 1896, President F. A. Hammond, presiding. Elders Brigham Young and George Reynolds were present and gave us most excellent instruction. The subjects discussed upon were the life, labors and example of the Savior, the agency of man, obedience to the Priesthood and the duties thereof, and the knowledge that the Gospel brought to earth and imparts to mankind. Elder Young spoke of the perilous times we are living in, and called upon the people to repent and draw the dividing line between good and evil that we be not overtaken and destroyed with the wicked; said that the Lord had designed that the righteous should inherit the earth, and that the wicked would have to step down and out. Elder Reynolds spoke very forcibly and pointedly upon the marriage relation and the union of sexes; deplored the condition of the world, and of the Latter-day Saints especially, that there are so many men and women that have passed the proper time of marriage and are entering the state of old bachelor and maidenhood. Said the bachelors and widowers are in a measure responsible for the increase of crime in social life, for every true woman desires to become an honorable wife and mother.

The declaration of the principles of Church discipline were read, presented and unanimously accepted. The general and local authorities were unanimously sustained. The reports of the Bishops were favorable; the Saints were endeavoring to live their religion; meetings, Sabbath schools, societies and associations were kept up and pretty generally attended. The condition of the people financially is not so