

Releases and Appointments.

The following is reproduced from the *Millennial Star* of February 2nd: Elder Alma M. Matthews is honorably released from his labors as President of the Welsh Conference, to return to his home.

Elders Wm. Leigh and John T. Evans are honorably released from their labors as Traveling Elders in the Welsh Conference to return home.

Elder Ezra C. Rich is released from his labors as Traveling Elder in the Birmingham Conference, and is appointed President of the Welsh Conference.

Death of Robert Salmon.

One of the most sturdy and genuine men to be found in any community died at Coalville, Summit County, on the 9th inst. We refer to Bishop Robert Salmon, who reached the ripe age of nearly seventy-nine years, having been born in Dumbartonshire, Scotland, April 27th, 1812. He came to Utah in 1866, and from that time made Coalville his home, having been the first ordained Bishop of that town, holding the position until a few months ago, when he was ordained a Patriarch. He has also held the offices of Justice of the Peace and County Clerk. Deceased was an old member of the Church, having become identified with it in March, 1849, and presided over the Paisley Branch almost from that time until his departure for Utah in 1866.

This respected veteran was a man of unblemished reputation, being scrupulously honest. He was truthful and frank almost to the verge of bluntness, and was an uncompromising foe of everything in the shape of sham and hypocrisy. At the funeral the people paid great respect to his memory.

The Tabernacle Improvements.

Last October Professor E. Stephens was called upon to take charge of the Tabernacle choir. One of his first efforts was to augment the choir, adding about two hundred voices to the members previously enrolled. This rendered necessary a new chair platform and additional new music. Professor Stephens at once went to work, published some suitable pieces of his own composition, and purchased others. He next conferred with the presidency with respect to a change of platform, and the importance of this improvement was soon recognized.

Architect D. C. Young prepared plans, and a force of men was set at work. Chairs of the latest pattern were ordered, and are all now in their places. Twelve tiers of seats, rising one above the other, extend from the President's stand (which has been brought forward about ten feet) up to the gallery in the rear. Six of these are arranged in front of the great organ, while the other six extend up each side of it. By this arrangement the singers all face the congregation. The stands have been remodeled. The total cost of the improvements is upwards of \$2000. The illumination by more than three hundred gas-jets will be very effective.

The old decorations have been removed from the roof, which has been calcimined, and the entire building has been renovated and cleaned.

Death of George Dunford.

George Dunford, the pioneer boot and shoe merchant of this city, breathed his last at the family residence at 8:45 Feb. 17th. His death was the immediate result of a fall from a step ladder in his store on Saturday evening. His head came in contact with a hammer which caused concussion of the brain. Two operations were performed by Drs. Beatty and Pinkerton as the only hope of saving his life. All efforts at resuscitation were futile, and he succumbed without regaining sensibility.

Mr. Dunford was born in Trowbridge, Wilts, England, December 15th, 1822. He came to Utah in 1852. In 1856 he went to Sacramento, where he was engaged in business for two years; from there he went to San Francisco, where he remained for a short time; he subsequently crossed the Isthmus of Panama. He was engaged in business in St. Louis during the war and at one time conducted three stores in that city.

In 1866 he left St. Louis with a train-load of goods for this city, where he arrived during the same year and has been in business ever since.

Mr. Dunford has held many positions of trust during his life and was at one time Bishop of Malad Ward, Idaho.

The funeral services were held at the family residence, 618 E. South Temple St., Thursday, Feb. 19, at 11.

A Child's Heroism.

A little boy's heroism was tested not long ago through a mistake. The editor of a contemporary relates that a gentleman in a New England town proposed to drive with his wife to the beautiful cemetery beside the river beyond the town. Calling his son, a bright little boy some four years old, he told him to get ready to accompany them. The child's countenance fell, and the father said:

"Don't you want to go, Willie?"

The little lip quivered, but the child answered, "Yes, papa, if you wish."

The child was strangely silent during the drive, and when the carriage drove under the wide archway, he clung to his mother's side and looked up in her face with pathetic wistfulness. The party alighted and walked among the graves and along the tree-shadowed avenues, looking at the inscriptions on the last resting place of the dwellers in the beautiful city of the dead. After an hour so spent they returned to the carriage and the father lifted his little son to his seat. The child looked surprised and drew a breath of relief, and asked:

"Why, am I going back with you?"

"Of course you are; why not?"

"I thought when they took little boys to the cemetery they left them there," said the child.

Many a man does not show the heroism in the face of death that the child evinced in what to him had evidently been a summons to leave the world.—*Boston Transcript*.

Returned Elders.

Elder Frank M. Anderson, of the Sixth Ward in this city, called at our office February 19th, having recently returned from a mission to the Indian Territory whither he went on January 30, 1899. He labored chiefly among the Cherokee, Chickasaw and

Choctaw Indians, though latterly he visited and made many warm friends among smaller tribes. The Indian, he says, has so often been made the victim, of misplaced confidence by the white man that he looks upon him with an eye of suspicion and as a rule is considered a rogue, until he proves himself otherwise.

Brother Anderson says his labors were attended with encouraging success, and he was generally treated with the utmost courtesy and consideration.

The prospects for doing good among the Indians are more encouraging now than at any time since the field was opened.

Brother Anderson returns home in good health and excellent spirits, thankful for the experience he has gained.

Elder William D. Leigh of Cedar City, Iron County, arrived today from Great Britain, where he has been laboring as a missionary since November, 1888. On his arrival in Liverpool, Brother Leigh was set apart for the mission in Wales, where he has been laboring until his release. The missionaries are doing a good work there, particularly in distributing tracts and books.

Elder Alma M. Mathews of Providence, who has presided over the Welsh Conference since November, 1888 was among the returning missionaries.

On the Atlantic the weather was unusually severe, and the ship, *Wyoming*, was nearly thirteen days in coming across. The brethren say that they have enjoyed their labors in the mission very much.

Phenomenal Sleet Storm.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—A phenomenal sleet storm plastered a great area of country with ice tonight from the Alleghenies to the Missouri River, north of the Mason and Dixon's Line. It began about 6 p.m., and in half an hour the telegraph lines began to show signs of demoralization. By 9 the life had been temporarily choked off a large portion of the wires through a wide section of the Middle States by the constantly thickening coat of ice. Thousands of words of belated newspaper dispatches were piled up unused in offices on the edge of the affected district. Inquiry elicited the fact that in the various railroad telegraph offices in Chicago the dispatchers were completely in the dark as to the running of trains. At a late hour tonight a rain is succeeding the sleet and the telegraph people are beginning to recover some of the wires.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—This morning nearly all the train dispatchers in the railroad offices here were without communication from the outside, and trains ran as best they could without orders. Fortunately no accidents occurred. Great forces of linemen are out and communication with all points is being gradually restored.

The Western Union Company suffered more than at any time since the great sleet of 1883. Not only the wires but many poles are down. The Postal Company was in the same condition. The signal service predicts that the warm rain of today will be followed by colder weather tomorrow.