

SINGING CLASSES.

Their Organization Urged — A Musician's Offer.

SALT LAKE CITY,
August 9th, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

A deeper interest is being taken every succeeding year by our young people in musical matters, and singing classes are becoming established things, and a part of our instructive as well as recreative work through the fall, winter and spring evenings. Perhaps a more pleasant, enjoyable and instructive way of spending one or two evenings a week could not be found, and certain it is that the refining influence of well-conducted music classes cannot be overestimated.

A singing class could, with profit be conducted in every settlement. Choir leaders, where no regular teachers are available, should, with the encouragement of the people, devote one or two nights a week to

TRAINING THE YOUNG IN SINGING.

Their choirs would be better for it, while their work in connection with them would be less arduous, as members become better trained and capable of reading.

In this city it is pleasant to see what has been done through these classes. Many of the young people are beginning to fill the useful offices of choir leaders and organists, and the choirs and singing societies are largely made up of those recent class-taught singers who infuse new life into these organizations. They are the heralds of a new and advanced state of music in our midst, as each succeeding generation must excel the last in some respect, if the community is kept on the march of progress. Then let singing classes be encouraged as a means to higher cultivation in all that is good and refined.

AN OFFER.

to the people of Salt Lake City: If any person knowing of a boy or girl under 14 years of age who has an exceptionally good voice, or musical ability will be kind enough to send me the name of the child, with the address of its parents, I will take pleasure in arranging for its gratuitous instruction in solo singing and reading in vocal music. The offer is open for one month.

Address
Evan Stephens,
Care of Coalter & Smeigrover,
Main St., Salt Lake City.

VARIOUS KINDS OF FISH.

Items of Interest to Pisciculturists.

Bishop W. D. Johnson, of Johnson, Kane County, while here a short time ago, told me that his little reservoir, in which he husbanded water for irrigation, literally teems with carp of assorted sizes. The last season's hatch number "myriads" of little fellows as lively as their older cousins.

Bishop Johnson says the carp is as good a fresh water fish as he ever ate, and being a down eastern man, he, no doubt, knows all about it. His pond swarms with adult carp suitable for stocking other waters. He claims to have enough seed carp to stock all the waters between the south rim of the basin and the Colorado River. All these are the product of eight small carp he received some years ago from the government, and the "only fault" the Bishop finds with the fish is "they multiply too fast."

Mr. John Rowley, of Nephi, says the two-inch carp he received last December "are now six inches long and four inches around," which he considers "a fine growth." His pond is brackish water which "comes from under a gypsum mountain."

An offer to furnish spawning trout has been made to me. They will be delivered as caught (one two and three year old) in this city at very reasonable terms, between the 15th of May and the 15th of June next.

I am maturing plans to obtain eels from the Hudson River, N. Y., for seeding the numerous streams in our Territory. No doubt eels will thrive and multiply rapidly in our rivers, creeks and canals.

I am offered crappies, a most excellent fish and rapid multiplier, and the large Canada frogs, at reasonable prices. The crappies will come from Denver and frogs from near St. Louis.

Persons desiring either live trout, eels, crappies, or frogs to put into their waters, can let me know any time before next spring.

In answer to queries about stocking Weber and Bear rivers with shad fry, Col. McDonald writes me that, "I am contemplating by the commissioner to continue the experiment of stocking the tributaries of the Salt Lake basin with shad fry for at least two successive seasons longer, and on such a scale as to determine beyond question of the success of the species in all your waters, provided the conditions offered by the waters are suitable."

Three years after shad fry were put into the Sacramento river at Sacramento, in 1876, shad were sold in the San Francisco market, and now they are being caught some 600 miles up the Pacific Coast, and are sold in San Francisco at 6 cents per pound.

There is yet time to apply for carn.
A. M. MESSEK.
Salt Lake City, August 8, 1887.

STUDIES IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

METHOD OF SCHOOL PROMOTION AND THE STUDY OF ARITHMETIC.

Cannonville, Garfield Co., Utah.
July 29th, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

It was formerly the custom years ago, in our public schools, to promote pupils from grade to grade, provided they attained an average of a stated percentage of correct answers on an examination or a series of examinations. But recently pupils are promoted whom their teachers name as being qualified for advancement. Experience has shown that there will be a percentage of good and studious pupils whose names the honest teacher will be forced to omit from the list of those qualified to go on to the next highest grade with their classmates.

THE AIM

of the district school should be to do the greatest good to the greatest number, and a good teacher will never overlook the fact that the school is exclusively for the children. The teacher should bear in mind that the question to be answered in making promotions is not "Has this child as good and clear a mind as his classmates?" but, "Will this child be any less fitted for the duties of life, if he goes on with the pupils of his class, and works with them the succeeding year?" After reflecting and giving this subject mature deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that promotions in our district schools should include the whole class, with rare exceptions, after the first two years of the child's school life, until he reaches the first class in the grammar school. If children are left in the same grade for two or more years, they as a rule become discouraged, and the benefit derived from this repetition of studies is not at all commensurate with the time that is lost. It should be thoroughly understood, however, by parents and children that no pupil is entitled to promotion or commendation unless his teacher can conscientiously recommend him as a pupil who has worked according to the best of his ability.

I cannot contemplate without deep solicitude the falling off and curtailment of the

STUDYING OF GRAMMAR

that is so apparent in a majority of our district schools at the present time. Especially is this invariably the case in the small and remote settlements. In the event that the children grow up to the age of maturity, deficient in this very important branch of study, the common school education is not, nor can it be of much value. The criticism to cover this defect is frequently made that pupils do not make the progress and rapid advancement in this and other studies that they did in the low school house of years ago. The fact is that the pupils in those good old country days of yore, were much older, and possessed of more mature minds, inhabiting the brain and bodies of young men and young women; not those of small boys and little girls, children if you please.

(One of the hindrances of the schools of to-day is that, influenced as we are by the shortness of the school life of a majority of the pupils, we have drifted and are still drifting too far in the direction of crowding in

QUANTITY, AND FORGETTING QUALITY.

in attempting to do for children between nine and twelve years of age, what ought not to be attempted for the average child until three years later, between twelve and fifteen. It is true that some few can do the work as now attempted with profit; but not so the average; and it is the average child who must be the standard in any and all schemes of public education. Again, in the study of arithmetic we rarely see results attained at all in proportion to the time and energy expended. This is because teachers, trustees, and superintendents, who were educated at a time when arithmetic was the universal hobby cannot rid themselves of the idea that pupils, children, must obtain just as much knowledge in this branch, as pupils did who were several years older. So it is not often that a lesson is given or an examination is made, that does not contain some features in advance of the immature minds of the young pupils. Instructors should not advance problems in arithmetic that are in the least degree difficult for the young mind to easily comprehend. Such problems are not only useless, but are

POSITIVELY PERNICIOUS,

by putting obstacles in their way that it is impossible for them to overcome, thus causing them to become discouraged. Teachers should judge children as to their powers of logical reasoning, and strictly confine themselves to those topics in arithmetic which are simple, essential for children to know and which the latter are able to readily understand.

Another cause of partial failure in the teaching of this subject is, the tendency of teachers to crowd too many problems, embracing a large number of principles, into one lesson. All who are entrusted with the special training of the young and tender minds of children, should keep constantly in view the well known fact, that it is a good quality, rather than a large amount of work that is to be desired, and that it is better to have one principle thoroughly understood by all mem-

bers of the class, than many principles imperfectly comprehended. When all teachers in our district and other schools insist upon this in each case, they will find it a great help to their classes in gaining arithmetical knowledge. Respectfully,
J. M. D.

THE USUAL EXPERIENCE.

Missionary Life in the Allegheny Mountains.

CLEARVILLE, BEDFORD CO., Pa., August 5th, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

The 9th of July we had reached the summit of the Laurel Ridge, Pa., and, stopping to enquire the way, we fell in conversation with a Dunkard minister. After exchanging a few words, he invited us into his house. This was Saturday about 3 o'clock. We continued our interview very pleasantly till supper time, when he asked us to dine. When the meal was done, we gave him the invitation to keep us and let us preach to his congregation. He said: "Gentlemen, you are welcome to stop; also you shall have my pulpit to-morrow."

The morning came. The first sermon which was on faith, repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands, just suited him. We offered to preach in the afternoon and he laid the motion before the people which was accepted. He also made arrangements for us to get dinner near by.

IN THE AFTERNOON

A CROWD OF ANXIOUS LISTENERS assembled to hear what the Bible says of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. This did not please the reverend at all, and he felt angry and disgusted, neither would he take us home nor ask any one else to do so, but was wroth. We had no chance to thank him for his kindness unless by shouting, and that we deemed unbecomingly.

We will next note briefly what happened at Bertha, Somerset County. On Monday morning we visited the quiet town and obtained permission to hold a meeting the following Wednesday evening, in the schoolhouse.

As the editor of their paper said, "Wednesday evening came and so did the Mormons," but a number of the church-members had raised objections to our preaching in their schoolhouse. The president of the school board would not say whether we should or should not use the house. Prayer meeting was held that evening and fast the church-members began to assemble in their temple of devotion. During this time the "sinners" began to convene where they knew the "Mormons" were in the doctor's office on Main Street. We now began to hear: "Why don't this thing start?" "Set 'em on a box," etc. It was growing dark, but we emerged from the office, and began conversation with one gentleman, but soon

THE BYSTANDERS THROGGED AROUND, and a conversational tone became too low. We proposed to preach if they would give us a place. One said, "Get up here," another, "Let 'em sit on that dry goods box." The box answered the use of a rostrum and preaching began to probably 30. But the trumpet was blowing in the city and the people fast assembled. Sometimes a noisy urchin, or a rude lad or a plous "Christian" youth would come up or down the street, whistling some familiar tune, playing a mouth organ or ranting in rudest tone, some common air; but ere he would reach the crowd some one would check his disturbing noise, and he soon would be lost in silent listening. So they gathered.

Prayer meeting was now over, and the already increased crowd was swelled by the churchmembers. Some of these religious people would press through the stubborn audience, with the utmost zeal so as not to become contaminated with "Mormon" influence. By the time they would reach the outside, they too were interested and would turn to listen so that their curiosity stole away their prejudices. So the audience increased to about three hundred.

All passed off well until we had closed, when

A FOUL-MOUTHED ACCUSER

came up and began to abuse us. But all turned to his own shame, because he became so vulgar that his own people took him by force out of the crowd and all said he should have been lodged in jail to answer to a charge of vulgarity. This man was a "squire." We received no upbraiding only from him, but on the contrary, all sympathized with us. We told them we traveled without purse or scrip, a gentleman came up and gave us money to go to the hotel, and so we bid the crowd good night.

All is not sweet, and so we found when we entered the town of Hyndman, Bedford County. We could not get a house in which to preach, so we saw the burgess and obtained permission to preach in the street. We commenced with few, but soon they increased as in other places. Preaching continued about an hour, although it was difficult to distinguish really who did the talking, the audience or the Elders. At the close we told them we traveled without money. We were answered with scoffs. Soon the people dispersed, leaving us in possession of the ground. We were now in

TRUE MISSIONARY CONDITION;

no money, no bed, no friends; but plenty of courage. Accordingly we started for the hotels, after having

tried other places. The first hotel could not keep us. On to the next we sped, told the proprietors who we were, how we traveled and asked whether we could stop on those terms. He said "Yes."

In the next town we met with a similar fate. We afterwards entered the peaceful neighborhood of Beans Cove, Bedford County, called to stay with a gentleman who answered "Yes," and added, "you'll stay and preach for us to-morrow, won't you?" To that we were only too willing to consent.

Sunday morning came and their minister was on hand to organize a Sunday school at ten and preach to them at eleven. The gentleman with whom we stopped said he would have the minister give out an appointment for us to preach in the afternoon; but no; neither would he allow it in the church. The gentleman then told us we could preach in the grove; an appointment was given out for three o'clock.

The gentleman with whom we stopped was also the one with whom the minister was accustomed to dine. Notwithstanding the chickens had been killed and all things made ready, his reverence would not consent to associate with the "Mormon Elders" in that sumptuous repast; therefore his chicken was left for us.

When the appointed time came we had a much larger audience than had the minister.

In our travels of late we have found the people very friendly; let them be we at all discouraged.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion we remain your brethren in the Gospel of Christ,

JOSEPH BIDWELL.
N. C. CHRISTENSEN.

SUDDEN DEATH.

Sister Ann Spaulding Expires While Absent from Home.

HOOPER, August 10, 1887.

Editor Deseret News:

The people of Hooper have been called once more to mingle in sorrow and extend their sympathies with the afflicted and almost broken-hearted. This time the grim monster has taken from the bosom of Brother Eli D. Spaulding and family their beloved wife and mother. On August 4th Brother Eli and wife left home for Salt Lake City, for the purpose of visiting their friends and having a few days' enjoyment. They reached the city the same day. On the next day they visited Sister Spaulding's brother, Joseph Wadsworth, who is in the pen for conscience sake. The same evening they drove to her sister's, Mrs. Wm. Miller, who resides twelve miles west of the city, where the evening was spent in the most pleasant manner. After retiring she began to experience some pain, which soon developed into an acute colic, which seemed to baffle all their efforts to dispel. Early the next morning the attendance of Dr. Murphy was secured. He pronounced it a case of cholera morbus, and although all was done that could be done, after forty-eight hours of intense suffering, she peacefully closed her eyes for the last time. Brother Eli was in a very distressing situation—fifty-five miles from home, twenty of which had to be traveled with team, but owing to the kindness of the good neighbors of Wm. Miller, among whom especially may be mentioned Brother and Sister Joseph Morris, no difficulty was experienced in dressing and conveying the remains to the D. & R. G. depot, considering the very limited time. On arriving at the Hooper depot there were waiting fifteen vehicles, loaded with friends anxious to assist and to comfort. It was hard to witness the meeting of father and children.

The funeral services over the remains of Sister Spaulding were held in the ward meeting-house on the 6th inst., where a large assembly met. Bishop G. Belknap gave out the hymn, "O my Father, thou that dwellest."

Prayer was offered by Elder Jesse Powers.

The speakers were Elders T. S. Johnson and L. A. Cox.

Brother Johnson had known the deceased from childhood and had never heard of a cross word passing from her lips. She was all that is good, noble and true, and although she, with her parents, passed through trials in the times of persecution, she never murmured. The speaker quoted scripture in support of the plan of redemption and resurrection wrought out by our Lord Jesus. She will receive the benefit of His suffering, and will receive a bright crown of glory.

Brother L. A. Cox said, through obedience to the Gospel we understand that the same bodies we lay down will be resurrected and we shall know each other again. Sister Spaulding has raised a good family, has lived a righteous, saintly life, and has the prospects of a bright crown of glory. Bishop Belknap then made some consoling remarks. The cortege consisted of 60 loaded vehicles, the largest ever witnessed here.

Sister Ann Spaulding was daughter of Abner Wadsworth and Eliza Hardy. She was born in Waldo County, Me., January 4th, 1842, and was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when eight years old.

She leaves a husband and ten children, the youngest of which is two years old, besides many friends to mourn her loss. G. H. F.

A LOST BOY.

A CHILD WANDERS AWAY, BUT IS FOUND AGAIN.

To the many citizens who heard it the cry of "Lost Boy" during the hours of darkness between Sunday and Monday, it is easy to understand what an exciting effect such an announcement has upon the mind. This effect was clearly displayed on the occasion in question, when two words thronged the streets with men and boys, and the air was filled with cries, the ringing of bells, etc., while lanterns and torches burned bright holes in the darkness. Hardly a citizen in town but was awakened by the startling announcement at the head of this article, and the following hurried conversation would take place: "Whose boy?" "He belongs to Isaac Elwell." Then would follow a description of the missing article and where he was last seen; and the awakened party would join in the search. Scarcely a garden near the central part of town, but was beat over and hunted through; scarcely a lane, alley, street or place of any kind but was peered into, and searched with alacrity by the men who were willing to spend their time and devote their energy for an anxious father and agonizing mother, while ever and anon the cry of "Lost Boy," would break upon the atmosphere.

And who can realize the sorrow fading into despair which harassed the mother's bosom? Of all mental pains, uncertainty is the keenest. Who can doubt what sorrow would fill the mind of the mother of that boy, at the mere thought of Logan river or any of the canals which line this city? Few are there indeed who would care to undergo the experience of one family in Logan, Sunday night.

Sunday afternoon, Isaac Elwell, a resident of the Third Ward, with his wife, went to meeting at the Tabernacle. Going home at 4 o'clock he discovered that one of his sons, Joseph, a boy about four years of age had been missing about half an hour. He immediately began searching in the neighborhood, and, together with Albert Curtis, pretty thoroughly scoured the lower part of town, in vain. Not until about 8 o'clock did they decide to give the alarm, and that hour the police were notified, when began the search by many persons, as stated. This continued until about half past twelve, and during that time it was thought certainly he must be drowned, and accordingly the rivers and canals were closely examined. At one time he was supposedly traced to the corner near Gaff's mill, and finally little tracks were found leading towards the water there. The canal was hunted up and down with no results, and finally the searchers began to give up all hope.

In the meantime where was the boy? About sundown, a young man named Smith, who lives in the Fifth Ward, this city, was going to Benson Ward after some horses, over the road which leads to Hyde Park. Near Robert Reeder's barn, about four miles north of Logan he found in the road a little boy, dusty and crying. He picked him up and took him on to Christian Lee's, near Hyde Park, where he was washed, given some supper, and put to bed. Nothing could be learned from him as to his name or where he lived, and as no one there knew him, this was the only course to pursue. Smith pursued his way to Benson Ward, secured his horses, and arrived in Logan about 1 o'clock. Hearing the alarm he informed the searchers of the whereabouts of the boy. John Cordova hitched up his team and soon procured the boy, who had actually walked four miles out on the State road. The joy of the parents on finding him may be imagined.—Utah Journal.

A Bloodless Triangular Battle in Boise.

The Idaho Democrat of the 10th says: Residents of the northern part of town in Arnold's addition were startled from bed-time prayers at 11 o'clock on Saturday night by the report of firearms. The scene was in Chinese Lou's watermelon patch. It has leaked out that two parties of whites organized a mellow raid without either being aware of the other's plans. They stealthily approached from opposite directions, and on emerging into the field each saw the other by the light of the moon, and each supposed the other to be the owners of the patch out in force to repel the invasion, and each side began shooting at the other. The mistake was not discovered until the Chinamen had opened fire on one of the parties from their shanty. At this unexpected development both squads of whites turned loose on the rice-eaters, when it became a triangular duel, and revolvers popped like a gnatling gun in full play. The ammunition of the whites becoming exhausted, they retired, leaving the yellows still in possession of the battle ground. On Sunday night the performance was reenacted with this difference: There was but one squad of whites and they opened the ball by first firing at the yellows, who, prepared and in waiting, returned the fusillade with interest. Fifty shots probably were exchanged before hostilities ceased. In the Saturday night fight one of the invaders left his hat on the field, which was dropped when the retreat sounded. The hat was the only loss sustained by either side so far as we are aware. The result of the fight on Sunday night we could not learn.