

INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.

Inaugural Day has been celebrated as no other in the history of Utah. In anticipation of the momentous occasion the citizens of the new State made extensive preparations to celebrate and celebrate they did as never before. The city was thronged with visitors from outside points and with the thousands of home people made locomotion well nigh impossible through the public thoroughfares. The great procession that passed over the course previously published, under the direction of Grand Marshal Burton and aide, started to move very soon after schedule time and presented a magnificent spectacle as it wound its way to the Tabernacle, which it reached at noon, and which had crowded within its capacious walls more people than ever passed its portals in one assemblage before.

The decorations of the Tabernacle were most lavish and well chosen. Spread out beneath the great central surface of the dome like ceiling was "Old Glory," the largest American flag ever made. Its exact size is 75 by 150 feet. In the upper corner among the other stars was the forty-fifth, representing Utah. By means of an ingeniously devised incandescent light the new star cast its resplendent rays upon the patriotic thousands who sat in the gallery and auditorium below. From this great flag were numberless red, white and blue streamers running in all directions, uniting with an elaborate fringe of bunting and flags which decorated the face of the gallery. All the speakers' stands were most beautifully draped in the national colors, while a great American eagle surmounted the tower between the great pipes of the organ, and immediately below was the magic word "Utah"—a magnificent electrical creation.

On the speakers' stands were many prominent citizens, among them the following: Presidents Woodruff, Cannon and Smith, Hon. Jos. L. Rawlins, Acting Governor Richards, Governor Wells, Chief Justice Zine, Judges Miner, Bartch, King, Judd, Backus, Commissioners Tatlock and Sherman, John Henry Smith, Francis M. Lyman, A. H. Cannon, Brigham Young, R. C. Chambers, J. W. Whitehead, General Peurose of the U. S. A., and numerous other army and National Guard officers. Among the latter were General John Q. Cannon, Brigadier General Young, Colonel Clayton and Jennings.

Precisely at 12:15 Acting Governor Richards called the vast assemblage to order. He spoke very briefly and the substance of his remarks was as follows: "I feel very sensitively the great honor that the committee has conferred upon me in selecting me to fill this important position today. For nearly fifty years the people of Utah have been patiently and prayerfully waiting for this auspicious occasion—this blessed day. Ever since my childhood I have been taught that the time would come when the citizens of Utah would be accorded every political and civil right granted to their fellow citizens throughout the United States. Not less than three generations

of people are living in this new State who have never cast a vote for a President of the United States. But on November next they will go to the polls and exercise that privilege that all freemen love so well. This is the proudest day of my life, and when I say that I but express the feelings of at least a quarter of a million of people, who all join in saluting the new star and in giving thanks for the abandonment of Territorial bondage for that more perfect government to be found under Statehood. (Applause.)

The sixteenth United States Infantry band here rendered in a most artistic manner a very stirring selection which was well received by the audience.

Acting Governor Richards announced that President Woodruff was to have offered the opening prayer but that the state of his health was such as to prevent him from doing so. He had, however, prepared an invocation which would be delivered by President George Q. Cannon. It was as follows:

Almighty God, the Creator of heaven and earth, thou who art the God of nations and the Father of the spirit of all men, we humbly bow before Thee on this great occasion and recognize Thy wonder-working hand in the liberty which has come to the people of Utah. We thank Thee and praise Thy holy name for Thy mercy and Thy goodness, and we worship Thee as the Ruler of the Universe! When we gaze upon these fertile valleys with their abundant products of field and garden, of fruit and flower, of milk and honey, their flocks and herds, their swelling streams and flowing fountains, their pleasant homes and prosperous inhabitants; upon the grand mountains which have yielded vast treasures of useful and precious minerals; upon the marts of trade, the river of industry, the houses of learning and of religion; and upon the signs of progress in art and science, in taste and refinement, and contrast these with the barren and silent wastes which greeted the eyes of the Pioneer when they first looked upon these dry sage lands less than half a century ago, our souls are filled with wonder and with praise! While hardy hands and skillful brains have worked unceasingly, and enterprising minds have directed the toilers who labored to bring about this splendid transformation, it has been Thy blessing and Thy guiding spirit which has inspired both the leaders and the followers, and to Thee we give the glory. And now, when the efforts of several decades to secure the priceless boon of perfect political liberty, often appearing to be in vain, have at length been crowned with glorious success, we feel that to Thee, our Father and our God, we are indebted for this inestimable blessing. Through many years of estrangement from our fellow citizens afar off who knew us not, we have struggled for the recognition which is given to us today. Thou knowest all hearts and art our witness that in the misunderstandings and differences that have occurred, the people of these mountain valleys have been loyal upholders of the Constitution of our country and those republican institutions which Thou

didst inspire the fathers of the nation to institute and establish. We desire, our Father, to maintain them inviolate. And now that we have acquired, through Thy blessing, the power to aid in their preservation, we pray Thee to bless us so to do and to secure that liberty to others which we prize for ourselves. We pray Thee to bless the President of the United States and his cabinet, that they may be inspired to conduct the affairs of this great nation in wisdom, justice and equity, that its rights may be maintained at home and abroad and that all its citizens may enjoy the privileges of free men. Bless them, the legislative and judicial branches of the government, that wholesome laws may be enacted and administered in the spirit of righteousness and equity. Bless the army and the navy as the defenders of the right and as a terror to those who would break down the bulwarks of our liberties. So shall the nation flourish and shine as the beacon light of freedom to all the world. We pray for the officers of fair Utah now waiting before Thee for Thy favor, clothed with the spotless robes of newly endowed statehood in her allotted place among her sisters of the Union. Bless, we pray Thee, the governor, the judges, the legislators and all who have been chosen to occupy official stations in this commonwealth, that they may understand the grave responsibilities which rest upon them, that they may be true to their official paths, and that under their administration this young and vigorous State may move forward, gathering strength and greatness as it grows, until it shall be the pride and admiration of all beholders. May the Legislative Assembly about to meet be directed by Thee in preparing a code for the regulation of the State, and in choosing men to represent the people in the Senate of the United States. Bless the inhabitants of Utah in every part of its domain, that they may dwell together in love and peace and unite to promote the general welfare, develop more abundant resources which await the skill and enterprise and labor of the thrifty and industrious, to make this a place of richness and beauty unexcelled throughout the land. Our Father, we rejoice before Thee with full hearts this glorious day. We invoke Thy blessing upon all who are present and those who are absent, upon the rich and the poor, upon the strong and the weak, upon the healthy and the sick, and pray Thee to remember and bless them each according to their needs and just desires, and may all partake of the spirit of this joyous occasion and of the benefits which have come to us. And may the privileges of free government be extended to every land and clime, until tyranny and oppression shall be broken down to rise no more, until all nations shall unite for the common good, that war may cease, that the voice of strife may be hushed, that universal brotherhood may prevail, and Thou, O God, shall be honored everywhere as the Everlasting Father and the King of peace! We dedicate to Thee this new born State, be Thou our guide, our strength and our defense forever; we ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The great chorus of 1,000 voices here