

representatives take no part in the exercises in the primary and first and second intermediate departments, but take notes of the exercises there with a regular class of Sunday school children. The theological department is composed of school representatives.

#### PRIMARY.

The primary department is in charge of Elder Wm. M. Stewart, who is assisted by Sisters Emily Dean and Lillian Hamlin. Here a class of children from four to eight or nine years of age are trained. The lesson for yesterday, in the regular order of exercises, was the birth of Christ, and was responded to by the little ones with wonderful promptitude, showing the progress made. The questioning, etc., was interspersed with songs, and in about half an hour the little ones were dismissed, not being required to reassemble with the general school.

The purpose in this department is to develop spirituality by means within the children's comprehension. For instance, they are asked to name some food which is necessary for the sustenance of the body. This they do, and are then instructed that the spirit needs food, and as to the kind. This is best illustrated on a blackboard in a way the little ones can comprehend. As an illustration of the subjects it may be mentioned that near Thanksgiving day the subject was thanksgiving and prayer. Yesterday the subject was treated in its relation to Christmas gifts, as the Savior brought the gift of salvation.

#### FIRST INTERMEDIATE.

The first intermediate department, which comprises children from nine or ten years to twelve or thirteen, is presided over by Sisters Annie K. Hardy and Donette Smith. The lesson was on the Life of Christ, and the method adopted is to convey instruction suited to the minds of the children by pursuing a course of judicious questioning. This course is pursued in a most admirable manner.

#### SECOND INTERMEDIATE.

The second intermediate department is under the guidance of Elders Philip S. Maycock and John T. Woodbury. The lesson for December 23 was in regard to the translation of the Book of Mormon. The children in this department range from 12 or 13 to 17 or 18 years of age, and are pursuing a regular course of Book of Mormon study. The subject is presented through replies to questions, supplemented by remarks, and is a most efficient method. The pupils do most of the work, and the detail of facts in the study is the prominent feature of the course.

#### THEOLOGICAL.

The theological department is in charge of Elders Joseph T. Nelson and J. M. Tanner. In it the procedure is to assign topics to the class, and individuals are called upon indiscriminately. The study at present is on Roberts' Ecclesiastical History, the second section being under consideration. The person first called on discusses the topic, then others are requested to add what they know, and questions are replied by the teacher, in the effort to bring out all the information attainable and impress it on the class. Then there is a review by the teacher, and replies to questions by the students, the ground being gone

over thoroughly a second time before the next subject is proceeded with.

The chief idea in this department is to inspire the pupil with self-confidence and ability to intelligently discuss a question—to speak to a subject in a plain, straightforward, concise manner, and to stop when he gets through.

#### CLOSING EXERCISES.

At precisely 11:15 a. m. an electric bell gives the signal for classes to close work for the day and reassemble in the general school room. Then there are remarks by visitors or others, business for the school, and closing exercises which terminate at 11:30.

#### SPECIAL SESSION.

At 11:30 a special session is held of those who desire to remain, and few seldom leave before it is through. In it is a most commendable feature of school work. A special lecture is given, and a brief discussion of school methods had when necessary, and at 12 o'clock an adjournment is taken.

The special session yesterday was addressed by Professor W. M. Stewart, on the Relation of Form to Truth. The lecturer pointed out how that form should be used to express truth, and should never be given precedence. It had been complained of that in secular teaching there was more form than truth, and the same mistake occurs with many in religious training. The speaker pointed out that formalities without truth were mockery. The truth in an ordinance should be understood before the form is impressed, so that the truth will be pre-eminent in the student's mind. When children are taught to repeat Articles of Faith as a mere formality, repeating them mechanically, there is no religion taught, hence so many with so-called theological training have no religious development. When the formality is the expression of thought, then there is proper training. Teaching theology should make the pupils fear the divine truth; it should give the student to understand that the plan of salvation is based on the great truth of a pure love for mankind. All teaching should develop such love, otherwise it is not religious training. The pupil should be enabled to see the truth behind the mere formality of the story that is told, and in such a case there is true religious development.

Some business relating to school matters was disposed of and the interesting session was brought to a close.

#### CARPENTER'S ASIATIC LETTERS.

A wonderful trip across Korea on ponies through the rebellious provinces—An exciting journey over the trans-Siberian railroad—2,000 miles on Chinese rivers, and other big features describing unknown things and out-of-the-way places in Asia.

Among the attractions which the DESERET NEWS will present to its readers during the next few weeks is the continuation of the letters of Mr. Frank G. Carpenter as to Asiatic matters. Mr. Carpenter made a trip of 25,000 miles to Asia last year in behalf of the newspapers he represents for news material, and he spent six months in China, Japan and Korea gathering the inside information concerning these countries, a part of

which has been already given to NEWS readers. His wonderful facilities in the way of introductions gave him the assistance of Li Hung Chang, the king of Corea and the officers of the Mikado, and everything was thrown open to him. He had a chance to study these countries as they are today, and to go through them before the war between Japan and China practically closed them to all newspaper and foreign research. It is safe to say that no newspaper correspondent will for years have the opportunities that were given him. Only part of his wonderful store of information has been published, and the letters which are to follow are even more interesting than those that have already been published. Among other tours which he has yet to give is the description of a hazardous journey right through the mountains of Corea from the east to the west coast. During this trip he had a retinue of ponies and servants. He lived with the Korean magistrates whose exactions have been the cause of this war, and he had to make his way on bridle-paths, fording the rivers, and at times being carried up the mountains in chairs. He was at times entertained in the monasteries, and will give something on Korean Buddhism. He will describe the country which is now to be opened up to civilization, and has some very interesting matter about the business and officials of these very queer people. After making his way to the east coast, Mr. Carpenter took passage in a Japanese boat for Vladivostok, Siberia, and there made something of a study of the Trans-Siberian railroad which is now being built from that point westward. He had such letters as enabled him to take a trip over this road, and he will give some interesting matter about eastern Siberia, or Russia on the Pacific.

These letters will be followed by two or three Chinese letters, which will complete the series. These describe the Chicago of China and the tea-center of the empire. They tell all about the nobility of China, some of whom Mr. Carpenter was permitted to visit, and they give his adventures of 2,000 miles travel on Chinese boats. The last letter of the series will describe the wants of the Chinese people and show forth the possibilities of American trade on the Pacific. The letters will be interesting in the extreme, and will give a large amount of valuable information which cannot be gotten from any other source.

Boulder, Colo., narrowly escaped a jail break on Saturday evening. While in his office directly over the county jail, Sheriff W. J. Dyer heard slight noises before, which were exceedingly suspicious and a further listening, he investigated the matter and discovered that his prisoners were attempting to break jail. Saws had been furnished the birds from the outside, which were of the very best material, and already two bolts had been parted. With a little more time and labor the other bars would have been removed, allowing sufficient space for the prisoners to escape. Those implicated were three remanded to jail for burglary. The sheriff has placed the whole party inside the steel cage and will keep them there until stronger bars are placed at the windows.