

[An admirable synopsis of this eloquent patriotic and fervent address is furnished, which the NEWS regrets being unable to publish in full on account of the lateness of the day and lack of space.—Ed. DESERET NEWS].

#### SANTA CLARA, UTAH.

Albert Graf gives a full and excellent program of the exercises in this place, which began with the firing of guns, serenading by brass and string bands in the early morning; a choice program in the meeting house at 10 a. m., consisting of vocal and instrumental music, speeches, character and comic recitations, etc.; at 3 p. m. the exercises of the "hungry army," which of course were amusing and interesting; at 4 p. m., a children's dance; at 7 p. m. horse races, and at 8 a grand ball. The committee were Jno. Stucki, Fred. Reber, Sen., Jacob Laub, Alvin Graf and Mary Wittwer.

The correspondent concludes: "The people of Clara are enjoying splendid health at present, and are busy hauling and stacking their grain. Threshing will begin here this week. Fruit is pretty much all ripe, and some are beginning to dry it; third cutting of lucern will soon be ready to cut again. The weather has been very pleasant the last few days, but was rainy and cloudy a short time before that. Everything in regard to fruit crops, etc., is in a very favorable condition, but times for money are very dull in Dixie."

#### AURORA, SEVIER COUNTY, UTAH.

Wm. M. Palmer writes: We had, all say, the most enjoyable time on the 24th ever witnessed in this ward: firing salute at daybreak and sunrise, when the Stars and Stripes were unfurled; several wagons with men, women and children, travel-stained and everything fitly representing early emigration to Utah and accompanied by a band of Indians, came in the town and camped on the square at 9 a. m.; each pitched rude tents, built camp fires and got breakfast, while some were engaged in carding, spinning, etc., in the old-time way. Those representing Indians showed Indian life to a T. At 9:30 a. m. a large procession representing Utah as today, came into town with all kinds of farming implements and machinery, drawn by fine horses; also washing, ironing, sewing by ladies, and tradesmen at work; wagons loaded with fruits, grain and vegetables, decorated with flowers; also carts, carriages, new wagons and horsemen, decorated with flags of our country, made up the grand procession that encircled the square and made an impressive scene, contrasting the past with the present. Three cheers were given for the State of Utah, led by the marshal of the day. The band and choir rendered music from their respective wagons, and the guards poured forth their salutes from anvils and muskets. All then entered the bowery where a grand program was rendered. In the afternoon was a dance for the children and a baseball game for men. At night was a dance for the adults. Many visitors were present from neighboring villages, and all things went off with perfect order.

One incident occurred, however, not on the program. A tramp had obtained some food early in the morning

and was sitting by the roadside eating it, when two of the acting Indians met close by him on their way to the gathering place; they drew their guns on each other, when the tramp gathered his blankets and went for dear life; he was running the last seen of him.

On the 28th Joseph Ivie's boy, ten years old, got his fingers of the left hand badly crushed and the flesh torn from the bones in a pulley where men were harvesting hay for stacking. He was playing with the pulley. The doctor thinks one of them will have to be cut off, but is trying to save it by request of the parents, though the hand is badly swollen.

Crops never were better; although water is scarce the recent rains have saved them, but much lucern was damaged. There was a light frost, just perceptible, the night of the 28th.

#### A GOOD REPORT.

BLACKBIRD, Missouri,  
July 23, 1894.

Perhaps a few lines from a couple of missionaries laboring in the cause of truth might be of interest to some of the many readers of your valuable paper. We are laboring in the northern part of the state of Missouri, at present in Putnam county, with headquarters at Blackbird. Many of the Latter-day Saints will remember that this is the state wherein many of our people at one time suffered great persecution at the hands of lawless men; but we find that another generation has grown up and become quite old men since that time, and thousands have come here from other parts, and we find a very friendly feeling exhibited towards us, generally speaking. Of course a few are evil-disposed towards us through falsehoods they have imbibed from those who in days gone by used to delight in persecuting the Saints, and some have inherited it as an evil legacy from parents, a curse that may follow to the third or fourth generation. The editors treat us with respect. They always publish our articles without any hesitation. We are being looked upon with more favor by the thinking people. There is a great deal of prejudice being removed by the Elders as well as by many people who visit Utah from the East and bring back truthful reports. We discover that the masses of the people have but a very faint idea of how the Latter-day Saints see and understand the Gospel. They seemed to think formerly that we advocated nothing but polygamy. After they hear the Elders explain the principles as we as a people understand and practice them they admit at once that they can see nothing wrong with them. Some say there is no need of Prophets nowadays; we say we as Latter-day Saints cannot get along without them; if they can, very well. We tell them that when the Lord anciently had a people, He always had Prophets to whom He revealed His mind and will; and as we are living in the last dispensation, when all things were to be restored, we claim Apostles and Prophets would necessarily have to be restored also in order to fulfil the prediction of that great Apostle to whom the keys of the Kingdom had been committed.

We have been here some three

months and three members have been added to the Church and quite a number of others are seriously investigating the principles of the Gospel. We know that the Gospel is a success, that it will triumph over every obstacle and its destiny is to fill the whole earth. We know that it will save and exalt all those who will embrace it and live according to its teachings; and it will also relegate to the region of the condemned all those who reject and fight it.

It has been much dryer this season here than formerly and crops are lighter.

The DESERET NEWS to my mind is the best all-round paper published on the globe. I have had the privilege, in the last twenty months, of scanning quite a number of periodicals, and I say, give true merit its due. If any of the NEWS readers have friends in these parts, send name and address and we will call on them.

We remain yours in the cause of truth,  
G. A. BEAL,  
AUSTIN KEARNES.

#### BIRTHDAY REUNION.

MESA, Maricopa County, Ariz.,  
July 29, 1894.

Yesterday a part of the family of Patriarch Benjamin F. Johnson, to the number of 144, and thirteen friends of the family, met in the grove of Don M. Le Baron, in Nephi ward, to celebrate the seventy-sixth birthday of the Patriarch. The place was well chosen, beneath the dense foliage of the richly laden fig trees, whose second crop for the summer is now maturing. Upon the trees are seen figs just budding, some half grown, and others whose rich purple hue proclaim their luscious ripeness. A long table beneath the spreading branches held a choice repast, including apples and grapes, and at the appointed time was surrounded by a host ready to do full justice to its viands. A pleasing sight it was, to see our Patriarch, looking hale and full of life, despite his 76 years, surrounded by so many of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, although many were unavoidably absent, and by a few of his many friends. Had it not been a family reunion the grove would have been too small to shelter his many friends, and therefore a general invitation could not be extended.

The table being cleared, the family choir gave a greeting song, followed by a short address from the Patriarch, touching upon his childhood and youth, passed amid the sorrows, cares and fires of persecution in Ohio, Missouri and Illinois. A recitation in costume, by Edgar Le Baron, aged 5 years was voted "cute," and was followed by a song by Mrs. Janetta Johnson, "The Old Man Dreams," exquisitely rendered and most appropriate to the occasion. Responding to a call, short addresses were made by James H. Martineau, Bishop Samuel Openshaw and J. M. Crosby, all bearing testimony founded upon many years' personal knowledge of the integrity of Brother Johnson and his unswerving devotion to the cause of God during his sixty-three years' membership in the Church. Mrs. Chas. Hayden, a visitor, being invited to speak, said she had no speech