

provement in that section in the last two years, the people denoting much willingness to listen to the Elders.

Elder W. C. Cottredd of Farmington is among the list of missionaries recently returned from Europe. Elder Cottrell left home in October, 1895, and went direct to Germany, where he labored all of the time. Prospects are good for missionary work there. Seven other Elders and a company of thirty Saints came to Utah with Elder Cottrell.

Elders Wallace Fife and Wiley Nebeker returned Thursday at 12:20 p. m. from missions, the former having labored in the Virginia conference and the latter in the Florida conference. Elder Fife left home for his mission on November 5, 1895, and has been laboring with success ever since. He reports the Virginia mission as being in a very prosperous condition, and states that there is plenty of work to be done and that there is room for as many more missionaries as are at present laboring there.

Elder Nebeker left this city on May 11, 1895, and at first labored in south Alabama and after the Florida conference was formed he took up his duties there. The Florida mission is proving a fruitful field, the baptisms there having been more numerous than in any other conference in the Southern States mission in the last two years.

Elder Nebeker's home is in Randolph, Rich county, and Brother Fife lives at Providence, Cache county. Both will leave for their homes in a few days.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

A large and appreciative gathering of Sunday school workers met in regular Union meeting on Monday evening, May 16, 1898, in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms. Supt. T. C. Griggs presided. Excellent music was rendered by the Sixth ward Sunday school choir under the direction of Elder James Poulton.

All the city schools, except the Fifth and Twenty-third wards, were well represented, as were also the following schools of the county: Big Cottonwood (both schools), Cannon, Center, East Mill Creek, Farmers, Forest Dale, East Jordan, Mill Creek, South Jordan, Sugar, Sandy, North Point and Wilford.

The opening prayer was offered by Superintendent Henry B. Elder, of the Twenty-fourth ward. As soon as the opening exercises were concluded, the meeting was divided and the usual department work was entered into in earnest. It is in this department work that the utility and usefulness of the Union meeting is manifest, as the teacher from each department gets information directly bearing upon his or her practical school work. Each of the departments is under the direction of competent and practical school workers, and the model lessons and discussions upon the same are participated in by all who attend if they so desire. Since the adoption of this work in the Union meetings, the attendance has more than doubled, and the interest has grown proportionately. Many Sabbath schools, both of the city and Stake, have at each meeting representatives from each department of their schools, and it is needless to say that such schools are improving and becoming more efficient for good. The lessons presented and discussed are not arbitrary, but serve as models, or sample lessons, and the discussions are intended to illustrate the best means and methods of interesting and instructing the young in the principles of the Gospel.

Besides the department work, a

meeting of superintendents was also held during the evening.

The Primary department, under the charge of Elder B. W. Ashton, discussed sample lessons suitable to this grade.

The First intermediate, in care of Elder Wm. Bradford, had under consideration "the best means of strengthening the memory," and also had some discussion on the subject of "appropriate Fast-day exercises."

The Second intermediate, under the care of Elder Horace Cummings and Delbert Parrott, spent sometime discussing "means to control and interest rough and inattentive boys."

The Higher or Theological class were given a model lesson upon Divine Authority, from the fifth Article of Faith, by Sister Bertha Wilcken.

Elder Richard R. Lyman, the director of this department, gave a very interesting talk upon psychology, dwelling particularly upon the subject of attention, urging its importance as the greatest factor in attaining success in the search for knowledge. The art of learning as well as the art of teaching rests upon the power of attention. Few lessons are too difficult for the student who can concentrate upon them all his energies. Right study and correct teaching develop the habit and power of complete attention.

Attention, in one sense, is compared with a burning sun glass, which, when properly focused upon an article begins to burn it: so when the mind is concentrated upon a subject it begins to master it. It is the power to concentrate effort, without attention and some sixty of purpose life would be long reverie, man would would be an idle dreamer. Sir Isaac Newton ascribed his superiority to other men in intellectual power simply to his greater power of attention, without which power there can be no mental growth or activity. Attention isolates one subject from others and concentrates effort upon it to the exclusion of all other objects.

As nothing can be learned without attention, it would not be out of place for the Sunday school teacher to instruct his pupils in the art of attention. The first thing to be done in this direction is for the teacher to come prepared to present his class with something worth their attention, and seek to offer it in such a way that the children are hungry for the lesson. To reach this degree of interest the lesson must not be beyond the mental capacity of the pupil. As the child cannot pay attention long upon any one subject, the minds should not be urged to the point of fatigue, as this weakens the capacity of attention.

When the attention is lost, some diversion should be resorted to by the teacher—in a primary class some bodily exercises or a song, in a more advanced means of cultivating the habit of attention.

Upon reassembling, the audience were favored with a beautiful quartette from the Sixth ward school.

Elder Levi W. Richards of the Sunday School Union board, made a few remarks commendatory of the teachers and instructors who labor to prepare their lessons, and strive by every means to make their labors efficient.

Remarks in keeping with the general work of the meeting were also made by President Seymour B. Young, a member of the Sunday School Union Board.

The Seventh ward school was requested to furnish music at the June meeting of the Union.

The anthem Come and Let Us Sing Unto the Lord, was beautifully rendered by the choir, and the benediction was pronounced by Superintendent Arnold G. Giauque, of the Sixth Ward.

J. H. PARRY, Secy.

FROM KLONDIKE.

[Translated for the "Deseret News" by John Thorgerlson.]

The following appeared in the Icelandic newspaper Logberg, published in Winnipeg, Canada. It is from a letter written by Armann Bjarnason, dated Dawson City, March 8, 1898. It is written by a man who has been there nearly a year:

I am told that the greater part of the world has gone perfectly wild over the great gold mines in this locality, and that a great many men are either on their way hither or are getting ready to start for Klondike. I sincerely do advise people not to throw everything away, just to get here, for it is safe to say that it is not over one in a hundred of those who come here that find their fortune here.

All the land has been taken up where there is even the least indication that any gold is to be found, and if all those who are expected here this spring do come, undoubtedly the wages will become small. Vast numbers have been hunting here for gold, but only few have found much, though many newspapers have told that they shovel up hundreds of dollars worth of gold on every shovelful of dirt. I saw yesterday in a newspaper from Winnipeg that a man who came here at the same time as I did, had some time ago got in one shovelful of dirt \$750 worth of gold from a mining claim that he had got possession of since he came here. The truth is that he has not dug five cents' worth of gold out of the ground since he came, and other stories told from here are just like this. I have not as yet got any mining claim, and do not know that I will do it for a worthless claim is worse than none at all. A great many here are sending certificates of their mining claims to different parts of America, for the purpose of deceiving people unacquainted with the facts. People ought to be careful and not purchase claims, for there are a great many here that do not pay to work. Many have taken claims to work on shares, they to get half of the gold that they dig out of them, but more than two-thirds of them have quit, because it did not pay. Many of them not even had a fair day's wages. Some, however, have made a good deal by working on shares. Those who got possession of good claims the winter before last are now wealthy men, but it is not for poor men to buy these claims now, as they cost from \$100,000 to \$500,000 each.

A year's grub costs here \$500 and in all probability it will be impossible to get it here next fall.

It has cost a great deal to live here. Last winter some of those that could not get their provisions last summer have had to pay \$100 for 50 lbs. of flour, while the regular price is \$100 for 100 lbs. of flour. All other kinds of provisions costing no less than a dollar a pound. We, the Icelanders, are all in good health, but a great many are sick with scurvy, and the hospital is full of sick people. A good many have frozen to death, and several have lost toes on fingers. Many suffer from rheumatism, which I think is caused chiefly by bad and insufficient clothing and poor and deficient food. I have been working part of the time this winter and been paid a dollar and a half for the hour, and worked 7 to 8 hours a day, which is the highest wages that are paid here. I expect to come home (to Winnipeg) next summer or fall, if nothing happens that prevents me.

E. L. Payton, editor and proprietor of the Big Horn Pilot, a weekly published at Thermopolis, Wyo., is now a raving maniac. It is thought his enthusiasm for the town mentioned, and his efforts it into prominence, are the causes of his present affliction.