

THE OLD FOLKS' EXCURSION.
 1881.

THE ANNUAL excursion of the Old Folks on Bishop Edward Hunter's birthday is always successful. It grows in magnitude with each succeeding year. The number of aged people who pass away to their rest is much less than the number which advances to three-score-and-ten, which entitles them to a free pass for the day, so the ranks grow with time and the veterans increase with the years. On Wednesday, June 22nd, thirteen cars were needed at the Utah Central Depot to accommodate the excursionists on their trip to Ogden City. A few minutes after the appointed time, 7.45, the train started, gaily decorated with flags, the stars and stripes showing prominently on the engine and tender. A limited number of guests was taken on board at each of the stations on the way.

It was genuine pleasure to look at and converse with the aged people, who had been carefully conveyed from their homes to the cars, and were comfortably seated, enjoying the lovely morning, the fresh, balmy air, the verdant landscape, the grand and varied scenery and the feeling of exhilaration occasioned as the train moved steadily but swiftly northward. The old folks were all respectfully attired, and in good health, exhibiting plain evidences that they were well cared for, and that grim Want had no place in their homes and lives. They were as gay and happy as children. Reminiscences of bygone events, some of a very remote period, figured in the conversation, and dear old friends met each other with genuine affection and strong associations in hours of trial. Xavroo and Miss Mary, "the times which tried men's souls," the early days of the country's history, and many events—the recounting of which seemed like echoes of the past, could be heard of as the visitor moved from car to car, and mingled with the white-haired veterans and spectacled matrons who had passed through scenes that none but heroes and heroines could survive.

Presidents John Taylor, George Q. Cannon and Wilford Woodruff, also Bishops Edward Hunter and L. W. Hardy, of the Church authorities, were with the party, which, however, was not confined to any society, sect, party or race, but was made up without regard to any distinctions of that character, every one freely participating in the enjoyments of the occasion, with no "middle walls of partition," or boundary lines of faith or opinion. Inspection and inquiry elicited the fact that there were three gentlemen and one lady on the train over 90 years of age, fifty persons over 80 and under 90, and two hundred and eighty-five between 70 and 80. Besides these, there were a large number just under 70 years of age, with a sprinkling of younger people in charge of the feeble. The whole company on the train by actual count was 610, but a few might have escaped the census, so the traveling party was reckoned at 650.

To each person over 90 years of age a silver medal was given on the way. Bishop George Goddard asked them in turn to stand upon their feet, all who were in the cars, with uncovered heads. The ribbons attached to the medal were then placed over the neck of the veteran to whom it was awarded, accompanied by a hearty blessing pronounced by Bro. Goddard. The recipients were deeply affected, the tears streaming from their eyes and running down their aged faces, while the spectators were also moved to deep emotion. Those who received the medals were John Wilson, "Father William," of the 17th Ward, aged 97; Susanah Livesage of the 17th Ward, aged 97, and Wm. Hines, 2d Ward, aged 96; Mary Bishop, 14th Ward, 91.

On the way, refreshment in the shape of cakes, coffee, orange and lemonade were freely passed around, and a most excellent choir, under the charge of Brother William H. Foster—Professor Eshelton—Beasley kindly assisting—rendered some charming selections, going like a breeze with sweet melody. The voices were all good and blended in perfect harmony. The singing was a most enjoyable feature of the trip.

Everything went so pleasantly until Kayville had been passed for some distance, when the train came to a halt and could go no further. A joint had given way in a steam pipe of the locomotive. But a man was promptly dispatched to Kayville and the word telegraphed to Ogden, where another engine with Mr. John Reeve in charge came on quick time to the rescue. During the delay there was time for visiting, refreshments and music, and the halt occasioned no unpleasantness.

of the city and on to the grove, attended by the Marshalls' aides, the band playing splendidly by the way. At the spacious grove on the banks of the Ogden river there were ample preparations for the excursionists. Stoves were heated, tables laid, provisions in immense abundance spread for the company, and soon under the pleasant shade, the great picnic was partaken of with plenty for all comers, in rich profusion and great variety. Hon. Lorin Farr, proprietor of the grove, a member of the Ogden City, and a number of Bishops from different settlements of Weber and Box Elder Counties, and a bevy of young girls of Ogden City, were ready to make things comfortable for the visitors. The train had brought in a large company from Brigham City and Willard, while teams from all the Weber County settlements conveyed additional instalments to the gathering. Over five thousand persons were assembled in the Grove. It was a grand and impressive sight, and the entire absence of rowdiness, intoxication, ill-humor or discontent was specially noticeable and pleasing.

After the picnic the company assembled around a large stand that had been erected and were called to order by Bro. C. R. Savage. Festive choir sang the anthem, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord," composed by Bro. E. Stevens of Willard, a rising young musical leader. It is a fine and stirring and was beautifully rendered. President Wilford Woodruff followed with prayer.

Then came music from the Ogden Brass Band. President D. H. Peery came forward and said: "On behalf of the people of Weber County we welcome you all to Ogden. I thank President Taylor, Bishop Hunter and the brethren who have been here for your presence and all who have come to see us and have contributed to the enjoyment of the day. There are few here who will ever live to see what they now behold, such honor add to a man like Bishop Edward Hunter. Few men who were born in 1793 are living who could claim such respect as is now paid to him. He lived under the administration of General Washington, and of twenty-four Presidents during his life all but three have passed away. But he lives to behold this joyful day and is honored by his friends. I thank you all for the hospitality shown to our visitors, and hope you may live long to enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity."

Bishop Edward Hunter being called upon, said: "I do not want to be considered anything more than one among you. Why are we here? Well, we are here to see a man who has lived a life of usefulness and who has been a blessing to the world. He has been a father to the poor, a friend to the stranger, and a champion of the oppressed. He has been a man of God, and his life has been a lesson to us all. We are here to see a man who has been a blessing to the world, and who has been a father to the poor, a friend to the stranger, and a champion of the oppressed. We are here to see a man who has been a blessing to the world, and who has been a father to the poor, a friend to the stranger, and a champion of the oppressed."

An attempt was then made to clear a space in front of the stand for the oldest people in the company, but the crowd and pressure were so great to effect it. Presents of silver medals were then made to Mrs. Mary Ann White, of Ogden, aged 98; Wm. Davis, (blind) of Brigham City, aged 87; Erastus Bingham, of Lybby, 88; Sabra Eldredge, of Farmer's Ward, 87; Samuel Chandler, Willard City, 87; Susanah Garrett, North Ogden, 82. The medals were suspended from a blue silk ribbon, which was placed around the neck of the recipient.

The oldest man present, John Wilson (commonly called Father William), of the 17th Ward, 97 years of age, received a \$5 gold piece and a huge plug of tobacco as he is a user of the weed. The oldest lady present, Susanah Livesage, of the 17th Ward, 97 years of age, was given a \$5 gold piece, some beautiful artificial flowers, made by an Ogden lady, and a handsome silver cup.

To the Presiding Bishop EDWARD HUNTER, on the 88th Anniversary of his Birthday.

Hail, our worthy, aged Bishop,
 On your Anniversary,
 You have won universal love,
 For your staunch integrity,
 And for your staunch integrity,
 With celestial light imbued,
 With special beams of knowledge,
 From the Eternal Source of Good.
 Our first Prophet loved you dearly—
 With his own hands he fed you,
 He in holy bonds of friendship,
 Still retained his love for you.
 Your heart beat, with generous impulses,
 Unrestrained by selfish greed,
 When the sky was dark and drear,
 Were entered most choice and precious.
 By our noble, martyr'd seer.
 You have blessed the lonely widow—
 And cheered the orphan's heart;
 You, with kindness, faith and patience,
 Have performed a brother's part.
 As a friend and loving father,
 You advocate distress—
 When officially pleading,
 You do so in righteousness.
 You have made a noble record,
 Filled with useful service here,
 Where the name of Edward Hunter,
 Many hearts and homes hold dear.
 You have reached a mark of honor,
 To have all earthly things,
 You require no sculptured marble,
 To immortalize your name.
 The following verses were composed by one of the old folks, a lady too retiring to have her name mentioned as the author:

All hail to Father Hunter,
 Whose birth we celebrate,
 His useful life has been prolonged,
 To the use of right and good.
 The good book says, the age of man
 Is three-score years and ten,
 If he attains to four-score years
 His days are great and pain.
 We rejoice to meet our President,
 And all the brethren here,
 We thank you for the blessing,
 And give us words of cheer.
 May the spirit of Elijah's God,
 Rest mightily on them,
 That they may stand as saviors
 Among the sons of men.
 We're glad to meet our aged friends,
 Within this shady grove,
 We hope to spend the day with them
 In harmony and love.
 Gray hairs a crown of glory are,
 If found in wisdom's ways,
 Oh, Father, bless each old head,
 And lengthen out their days.
 We thank our friends and brethren
 Who brought us to this place,
 Where we can join in song or dance,
 Perchance we'll have a race.
 We have left our homes and pains behind,
 Reunited all forgot,
 And we thank the God of Joseph
 For this our happy lot.

To our kind friends of Ogden
 We have a word to say,
 We will return, with interest,
 The favors of to-day.
 The project soon will be a shine,
 Which now is but a spark,
 We hope ere long to welcome you
 In Salt Lake City Park.
 Three cheers for Father Hunter,
 Whose birth we celebrate,
 We wish you would keep with us
 Till he is ninety-eight.
 May kindly greetings, year by year,
 Still lengthen out our days,
 And brethren cheer and sing
 Upon the silver gray.

Bishop Hunter, responded, with thanks and good wishes, when President John Taylor said: "I am very happy to meet with you on this occasion, in commemoration of the birthday of Brother Hunter, with whom I have been acquainted for many years. He is a man of integrity, a man of faith, and we delight to honor him. I am also pleased to meet so many aged brethren and sisters, with many of whom I have been familiar for a number of years. We are all here, coming along towards the great change that must come. The heavy head is honorable, if attained in righteousness. It is an honorable old age, and it is a blessing to the world. The Lord honored Abraham, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Isaac, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Jacob, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Joseph, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Moses, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Aaron, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored David, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Solomon, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored King, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Daniel, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Nebuchadnezzar, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Belshazzar, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Sardanapalus, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Nero, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Caligula, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Commodus, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Elagabalus, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Maximinus, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Gordian, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Philipp the Arab, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Diocletian, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Maximian, and why? Because he knew him and knew that he would command his children. The Lord honored Constantine, and why? 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