

atic and oratorio selections of the best order will be given.

In these at least 15 of the best soloists in Utah will have numbers. On Saturday afternoon 1000 school children will take part, and the programme will consist of choice popular songs and music. There will also be present a large and capable orchestra, in addition to the great organ, for accompaniments. Three distinct programmes will be rendered. The knowledge that the whole is under the personal direction of Prof. Evan Stephens, and that the Choral Society will render the programmes, is sufficient assurance that everything will be of the most ennobling and enjoyable order, and will be rendered in magnificent style. The May Musical Festival will be a great event in the history of the divine art in Utah.

### EXCITING EXPERIENCES.

A private letter dated Clifton, Spartanburg County, South Carolina, from Elder D. T. Le Baron, now laboring as a missionary in South Carolina, addressed to relatives in Santaquin, Utah, gives the following account of the violent treatment inflicted upon him and his companion by a mob:

"It occurred March 28. Elder H. S. Tanner of Payson and myself were staying for the night with a Brother John Gordon. About 9 p.m. we heard a noise outside and Brother Gordon went out and found a man standing by the house. They talked awhile, when the stranger proposed going into the house to warm. Brother Gordon took him. He acted very strangely and told of his experience in Ku Klux times, how he had been obliged to go into Texas to keep out of the reach of the officers, etc. We did not like his appearance nor actions. While he was in the house someone whistled outside and he left and we began to prepare to go to bed. We had got nearly through family prayers, when there were kicks against the two doors and almost immediately the front door was burst in. Brother Gordon rushed to the door, but was instantly stopped by several pistols being shoved in his face and the "Mormon" preachers were ordered to come out. There were about a dozen men wearing slouched hats and with blackened faces. Half of them were armed with pistols and the others with sticks and clubs.

"Pistols in the hands of desperate fools were arguments we could not disregard, so we did just as we were commanded and were hurriedly marched about a quarter of a mile into the forest where there were others waiting to take part in the exercises. Here we were told to halt and undress. We did take off our coats but decided that we would go no further in that matter unless compelled to. We were told that they were going to whip us and compel us to leave the country; that this country belonged to them; they had just the kind of preachers that suited them and did not want any of our doctrine. When they would ask any decent questions we would

attempt to reply, but our answers would condemn them. Then with terrible oaths they would shove the pistols in our faces and order us to "shut up." I never listened to more vulgar, low down talk. We were finally told that we could have twenty-four hours to get out of the country, and to skip lively, which we were glad to do. Some of them followed close behind for a ways, striking us with sticks and when we got out of reach of sticks they threw stones at us, then fired their pistols and yelled.

"Brother Gordon, being a citizen of this country, felt so aggrieved at the manner in which his home had been broken into, etc., that he went to Gaffney and consulted an attorney in regard to the matter, and was advised to bring action against the criminals. In the meantime we Elders had got several miles away. So Brother Gordon and Brother Blackwood (who was interested with him) sent word to me to meet them and their lawyer at Gaffney on a certain day to counsel them what to do. Elders H. S. Tanner, Reeve and I went and held two or three hours' consultation with them. I explained to the attorney our business in this country, and how the Elders and Saints have suffered violence in times past by lawless men but could never have their wrongs redressed nor receive protection under the Constitution and laws of our country, because of the deep prejudice existing among the people of this nation, etc. I also told him he would bring coals upon his own head if he took up our cause and that to start out and fail would add to the fury of our enemies, besides encouraging them in their lawlessness. He informed us that he would show us and the people here that there was one man who dared and would see that the "Mormons' rights should be respected in South Carolina.

"The eyes of the people were now upon us to see if we would run away in a cowardly manner or stand up for our rights. The attorney said he knew our people had been treated shamefully in the past and it was time that some of our enemies were made to feel the rigor of the law. He knew a good, solid, unprejudiced justice of the peace before whom he would bring the case, and insure success if we would advance \$10 to defray his expense in starting the case for us. We finally accepted his proposition with the understanding that he and Brother Blackwood should visit the justice of the peace on the following day with the affidavits, etc., properly made out. The latter part he performed, but did not visit the justice of the peace himself. He got Brothers Gordon and Blackwood to take the papers.

"This justice of the peace it seems belonged to the Baptist Church and saw some names of his brethren as defendants in the case and quite a furor among the good Christians was the consequence. Whilst hesitating between duty and love for fellow church members the wife of the justice of the peace suddenly died and he returned the papers to

Brother Gordon. So ended his part in the drama.

"We elders had to keep shaded while this was going on and could not take part in the matter. This, as we expected, emboldened the mob and they made another raid in search of Elders at Brother Blackwood's, but didn't find any. It was night, and Brother Gordon, hearing them, started across the road to Brother Blackwood's, and was shot at twice by the mob. Both of these brethren have since left the State, and we have changed our quarters 15 miles from where we were.

"The affair seems to have settled down and we are going on with our usual labors. I believe what has transpired will result in good and be the means of causing a reaction in our favor among a great many.

### THROUGH ARIZONA.

About fifty miles from Florence, on the banks of the San Pedro River, is situated the little town of Dudleyville, containing about twenty-five families, whose dwellings are scattered through the valley for about ten miles. The people are engaged principally in farming and stock raising. On the way we noticed a great variety of cactus, including the Saguaro, Choya, Ojatill, Prickley Pear (now in full bloom), etc. The varied hues and forms were a pleasant relief to the landscape.

A drive of twenty-five miles south enabled us to reach Mammoth, a bustling mining camp, with a promising future before it. Extensive improvements are being introduced and additional machinery put up. We crossed the Aravapai River, but no water was visible, it being apparently the dry bed of a river. A peculiar feature of some of the Arizona rivers may be noted here. They cut an underground channel, run under the ground for miles, and again come to the surface. This is the case with the Aravapai River.

Leaving Mammoth, we commence our journey of seventy miles to Globe City, and soon begin to climb the mountains. The Pinal Mountain, towering high in the distance, is pointed out as the summit which must be crossed before we reach our destination. The rough, rugged road up the canyons makes the journey quite wearisome, but the monotony is relieved somewhat by the killing of rattlesnakes, conversing with prospectors—some at work on the hillsides, others with guns on shoulders, journeying and driving their burros, or donkeys, with their packs—in search of new "finds."

A few days ago a Gila monster leisurely crossed the road ahead of us and, of course, we captured him, believing that he would be an acceptable addition to Dr. Talmage's zoological collection. Since the capture many stories have been told of his character, but he is a pretty fellow. Notwithstanding this, we are willing to believe that he must be "handled with care." We passed the old "Pioneer," now a de-