## LOCAL ITEMS.

### SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS.

This morning at 9 o'clock a meeting convened in the Council House in this city to inaugurate the opening of the classes advertised by the Board of Regency, in connection with the University of Deseret. There were present Presidents Brigham Young, H. C. Kimball and D. H. Wells, Elders Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith of the Twelve Apostles, Chancellor Carrington, several members of the Board of Regents, with a large number of the Bishops and leading men of the city.

President Young made some remarks at the commencement, which we will publish at length to-morrow; after which he offered the following

OPENING PRAYER:

O God, our Father who lives in the heavens, in the name of Jesus Christ we approach Thee this morning as Thy children, and we come to Thee as our Father and God, even the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Father of our Spirits. We thank Thee for the blessings which Thou hast given unto us, and we pray Thee in the name of Jesus to look in mercy upon us. Bless, O Lord, these Thy servants, and wilt Thou be compassionate unto us, and bless us with the outpouring of Thy Spirit as the time has now arrived when we can commence again a school here on this earth for the improvement of the minds of Thy servants, the Elders of Israel in all truth that pertains to heaven and earth, through the Priesthood of the Son of God, and by the learning which we have in books that hath been revealed in days of old, and in this our day. Inasmuch as we enjoy these privileges, we ask Thee to inspire the hearts of Thine Apostles, Elders, High Priests, and Seventies, and pour out Thy Spirit upon the Bishops and every servant of Thine that their eyes may be opened to see and understand things as they are. Bless all who take an interest in the improvement of the minds of Thy people, and wilt Thou instruct them by the revelations of Thy Spirit; for we realize that we are ignorant, and our opportunities to be taught in the learning of men on earth have been few.

We have had the privilege of the gospel revealed unto us through Thy servant Joseph, and of gathering from the nations, to assemble ourselves together where we can improve our lives, and instruct each other in the knowledge of all truth. We ask Thee to give unto us the revelations of Thy Holy Spirit to enable us to commence this school, which is the School of the Prophets, the school of the Saints of the Most High, and we ask that the revelations of the Lord Jesus Christ may rest on those who take the charge of this school in its different branches.

Bless the Chancellor and Regency of the University of Deseret with wisdom that comes from Thee, and all who shall assist in any way in guiding and upholding this institution, that Thy servants and handmaidens may receive instruction which is contained in books, and which flows from the revelations of Thy Spirit. Bless all who shall join this school at this time, and all who shall hereafter join it.

Bless and preserve Thy people throughout the Territory of Utah, and throughout the whole earth; O Lord preserve thy people in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus; especially Thy people in these mountains, and prepare them to go back and redeem the centre stake of Zion. We ask thee to hasten *this time*, and aid thy people to improve, that they may the sooner be able to build up and redeem the waste places of Zion, according to Thy word. Prosper us in these things, O Lord, and bless us in building a Temple to Thy name in this land, and in giving endowments to Thy people. Pour out Thy Spirit upon Thine Apostles, that they may be of one heart and one mind in all things, that we may be more thoroughly instructed from on High in the revelations of the Lord Jesus Christ, looking unto and trusting in Thee for the result in all things, both in the affairs of life and learning, and in the procuring of the necessaries of life for our families, and bless all the substance which Thou hast given to Thy people, and which Thou dost desire they shall enjoy upon the earth.

Bless all who manifest an interest in the building up of Thy kingdom in every land; bless the land we occupy, even the valleys of the mountains, with every facility therein contained for Thy people, and bless the whole land of Zion, even the land of Joseph, and bless and multiply Thy Saints until this land shall be filled with those who love and serve Thee. Extend these blessings to all the subjects of our prayers. Preserve us on the earth to do Thy will on earth, and with the sanctified in glory bring us into Thy presence through Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

The President then stated the nature of the school now being organized, and the objects in view in organizing it.

President H. C. Kimball made a few remarks, in the course of which he spoke of the necessity of good order and strict decorum being enforced among the pupils, whether old or young. He felt well about the opening of the School of the Prophets here and said if we are not all prophets, we ought to be, for it is the duty of all Latter day Saints to live so that they may act under the guidance and dictation of the Holy Ghost, that constitutes a man a prophet.

President D. H. Wells said he felt the importance of the school now being organized, and was glad to assist in promoting it. It is the privilege and duty of the Latter-day Saints to become acquainted with every true principle pertaining to all science and learning; and it is more incumbent upon the elders of Israel than upon any other men in existence because they are engaged in a greater work than any others,—the building up and establishing the kingdom of God upon the earth. There are men of great attainments in many of the sciences in the outside world, but it is rare that such men, through pride and the circumstances by which they are surrounded, join the church; hence their knowledge and abilities are not available in the kingdom of God. This augments the necessity for the Elders of Israel to become proficient in the sciences. Yet, the wisdom of the world is not so very desirable, being so mixed up with vain philosophy. It is for the servants of God to acquire knowledge that is really useful, divested of all folly, and bring it into active service in the kingdom of God. By listening to the oracles of God, and following in the channel that He has appointed, the Elders of Israel have the privilege of acquiring true wisdom, even that which emanates from God. He exhorted all to support the school with the utmost of their ability and energy; and prayed that the blessing of God might attend their exertions.

Chancellor Carrington spoke briefly upon the objects designed in the commencement of this school. He rejoiced that the Presidency had seen fit to make a move in this direction, and had met with the brethren at its opening.

Professor Calder then gave an outline of the course of instruction that would be imparted and the time during each day that would be devoted to it. Every day in the week but Saturday, school will be held from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. from 2 to 4 p. m. and from 7 till 9 in the evening. Book-keeping will be one of the first branches taught; not book-keeping in the restricted sense, which merely teaches how to make correct entries in a day book, journal and ledger; but all the branches in actual use, and as practiced in the great business marts of the world. No text books will be used; but in the school the students will have a little commercial world of their own, in which, after going through the primary department, they will be initiated into the various transactions of actual business.

The meeting was dismissed with prayer by Pres. D. H. Wells.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Bishop E. D. Woolley spoke on several points, and particularly on the gathering of the Saints from the nations, which the Lord requires at the hands of His people in these valleys.

AFTERNOON.

Elder Orson Pratt, reasoned on the necessity for men who are called and set apart to preach the gospel seeking to qualfy themselves for so doing by storing their minds with useful knowledge, that the Spirit of the Lord might take from the treasury of their heart to lay before the people when they stood up to declare the truth to a congregation. He referred to the revelation which requires the Saints to gain knowledge from all gook books, advocated the improving of the mind during leisure hours and the studying of various branches of education, arts and sciences; and urged the young to turn their attention to the subject of education and devote part of the time now spent in amusement in the improvement of the mind.

Elder W. Woodruff, quoted the language of the Book of Mormon that whosoever dwelleth on this land must serve the Lord or He will destroy them; and reasoned that we must obey the commandments of God and bear off the responsibilities placed upon us. He also spoke on the importance of Sunday Schools and of the young studying the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and other good books.

THEATRICAL.—On Saturday night the "Ticken of Leave Man" was presented and excellently played. We were astonished to see so many there, considering the weather, which was most inclement, and it stormed so very severely that we thought scarcely anybody would venture out. The audience, however, not only went to be entertained, but expressed their approbation of the performance in most unqualified applause. We were glad to see Mrs Clawson greeted so warmly on her appearance; she was always a favorite. Miss Colebrook made a most excellent May Edwards; and all the other characters were sustained in the best style of those to whom they were committed, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Dunbar, Miss Alexander and Mrs. Clawson shine in the characters of Brierly, old Moss, Sam and Mrs. Willoughby. Messrs. Graham, Lindsay, Margetts and Mrs. Bowring are extremely good as Hawkshaw, Dalton, Green Joens and Emily. And on Saturday night all in the cast exerted themselves most creditably.

Mr. and Miss Couldock having arrived by stage from Montana will appear to-morrow evening in the ever favorite play of the "Stranger," Mr. Couldock sustaining the title role, and Miss Couldock that of Mrs. Haller. They are supported by an excellent cast.

Miss Nunn will also appear in a song; and "The Lost Child," in which Mr. Margetts is inimitable, will be the farce.

The bill is an excellent one, the attraction great; and if the weather is at all favorable we shall look for a crowded house


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