

EDUCATION IN GILA VALLEY.

Latter-day Saints' Academy in Arizona—A Creditable Institution Which is Up to Date—An Interesting Commencement Week.

Special Correspondence.

Thatcher, Arizona, May 1.—The alumni ball, a most enjoyable affair, tonight closed one of the most interesting weeks ever passed in the Gila valley.

The closing exercises of the Latter-day Saints' Academy proved conclusively that it matters not where the Latter-day Saints live, education is their aspiration.

The closing exercises of the Latter-day Saints' Academy were held in Thatcher yesterday and today, and all the exercises witnessed by large audiences.

The stage presented a dazzling spectacle as the curtain arose at the beginning of each session.

No doubt every member of the class endorses these sentiments and will cherish the remembrance of the day they were uttered, as long as life shall last.

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In charge of all of them, "A little child shall lead them," is the class motto. A finer training for lady teachers than a course in kindergarten work can not be had, and from our observation the academy is an excellent place to get it.

At 8 p. m. yesterday, the real commencement exercises began. Aside from the excellent musical numbers, and splendid decoration, the presentation of certificates to graduating pupils was a very imposing exercise.

From the kindergarten training school: Ada Tippets, Layton; Nettie Jones, Thatcher; Lucella Welker, Layton; Melissa Boren, Matthewsville; Lydia Combs, Central; Serene McGuire, Thatcher; Priscilla Allen, Mesa City; Emma Rogers, Pima.

From commercial school: Walter Woolsey, Thatcher; Edgar Claydon, Layton; Clarence Bigley, Central; Jos. Carpenter, Thatcher; Mark Despain, Thatcher.

The high school students were not a bit behind in their exercises. Their exercises were very fine, and showed careful training on the part of teachers and students.

Prof. Maesser leaves for Chicago, Monday morning, where he will enter the

Chicago Normal Institute under the tuition of Col. Francis W. Parker. Prof. J. K. Burnham will enter the Cleary Business College at Ypsilanti, Michigan, where he will spend the summer.

Prof. John Nash will spend a month at the University of Arizona, and then a month in the United States surveyor's office. Mrs. Maesser will spend the summer at Salt Lake City and other Utah points, visiting friends and relatives and preparing herself for future useful work in the academy.

Miss Priscilla Allen, of the Kindergarten Training class, will open a kindergarten in Mesa City, this summer. The students from northern Arizona will leave for their respective homes on Monday next.

Miss Serene McGuire will open a kindergarten in Thatcher on Monday morning. Prof. Frank Wightman, of Utah, who has finished a four years' course in vocal music in Ann Arbor will have charge of singing and vocal training next year.

Two hundred and twenty students registered in the academy this year, making it the largest school in Arizona.

Our missionary class finished their course for the year a week ago. They made excellent progress. The academy will open September 2, 1901.

AN UP-TO-DATE ACADEMY. Latter-day Saints Have a Splendid Educational Institution at Thatcher.

The following is taken from the Graham County Bulletin, published at Solomonsville, Arizona:

Right in the heart of the Gila valley in the beautiful village of Thatcher stands a building, that already is of great value to the body politic, and is likely to be still more so.

It has been demonstrated time and time again, that the education of a community, to a very large extent, gauges and regulates its material progress.

The Latter-day Saints' academy is such an institution, and such a blessing. Through struggles and varying vicissitudes of fortune, it has become a place of no small reputation, and now is equipping the young people of the valley, of both sexes, with an education on broad lines and principles, opportunities not to be grasped by those not so fortunately situated.

The first founding of this excellent school was just a decade ago. The head of the Mormon church gave permission for the establishment, and the first building occupied was in Central. After about two months, it was moved to Thatcher, where it is now. The first academic year ended May 22, 1892. For a few years the institution seemed to thrive, but after an epidemic of contagious disease had thinned out the attendance, interest seemed to flag, and in February, 1895, the school was closed.

week, new buildings are to be erected and next year will see it enter its eleventh scholastic year and its fourth year of reorganized life.

The work of the school is intensely practical and curriculum is arranged looking to furnishing a ground-work of useful knowledge. It is divided into four departments, normal, high school, kindergarten and commercial.

The primary object of the first of these departments, is to furnish a competent set of home-educated teachers. At present, a large proportion of teachers in the district schools of the territory come from outside its borders. This will not much longer be necessarily so. This week, a class has been graduated, every one of which is competent to teach, maintain discipline, and to conduct the business of a district school. They have all pursued studies and each who have received a diploma has done satisfactory work in psychology, pedagogics, history and physics from the earliest times to the present theory and practice of teaching and practical training work in the school room. It is a four-years' course and is very thorough.

For those whose early education has not been sufficiently advanced to take this course, there is a high school course. The line of study pursued in the course, is about the same as in the celebrated Eastern schools of the same grade—with the single exception of omitting the classics. There is no demand for Latin and Greek courses, but Spanish and German is studied under expert linguists. The English branches are very thoroughly taught, and in mathematics there is an excellent course. This embraces algebra, geometry and branches of the higher mathematics. The course also in chemistry and physics has been greatly facilitated by the erection of a well equipped laboratory during the last academic year. By this means the students get actual experimenting as well as textbook work. This course should attract pupils from all over the valley.

Although the school is under the auspices of the Church, and while theology is taught to those who desire to pursue that study, it is not prescribed and children of parents who are not "Mormons" are received on the same footing as those in the Church. The methods adopted in the kindergarten department are very up-to-date. While there is plenty of amusement for the tots, all this tends to instruction. For instance, the blocks used to play with are of exact size—one, two or three inches in diameter. The children are taught to call them cubes. There are also colored sticks of varying length. These are left in a pile, and a child is set to pick out, say, a bundle of two-inch sticks. Thus without knowing it, they are acquiring a knowledge of linear measurement.

The domestic economy department is also important. A model range is set up, and from time to time cooking demonstrations are made, and the end of the course finds a class of accomplished cooks.

A feature that cannot be too highly spoken of, is the commercial course. This is in charge of Instructor George Burnham, who has made this a scientific study. There is not a great deal of textbook work but the students from the time they begin to the time they graduate, conduct an actual business as serious and important as if goods were actually delivered.

Instead of the ordinary school room desks, this department is fitted with regular office desks. There is a bank, commission house, commercial exchange, and large wholesale house connected. Each student buys and sells, keeps a set of books, buys either in checks or in the dummy money which is furnished by the school.

The celebrated "Ellis" system is used. In a card-board cabinet, about the size of an ordinary brick is a printed roll. By turning this, an instruction appears under a class. The student is thus directed to buy, for instance, 100 sacks of flour. He looks over his stock book and if he has not a

sufficient supply on hand, he starts out to get it. He bargains with the other students and stocks up. His goods are similarly directed to supply their needs. Painted cards take the place of actual merchandise. These operations bring in the wholesale and commission houses and the bank. They also entail considerable bookkeeping which is as carefully scrutinized by Mr. Burnham as if the solvency of one of the commercial houses in town depended on it.

The commercial exchange is an institution of this system to buy up the surplus stock of the students and keep business on the move. There are also courses in stenography and typewriting, and as it stands now this the only strictly commercial school in the valley. When the student graduates, he has a working knowledge of all the operations of actual business life. In fact he is simply a business man in embryo.

Next year still further improvement is to be made. Another building is to be erected during the summer holidays, and in the two additional rooms that will be devoted to this department a bank will be instituted. This will teach the pupils the use of the clearing house and as each room will have a telegraph office, money will be wired from one bank to another.

Outside, the grounds will be laid out in miniature townships, and the students will conduct a land business. They will be taught to buy and sell land, to deed and mortgage property, and to perform all the clerical work themselves. In fact, when Mr. Burnham has the school perfected according to his present plans, it will be a model of its kind.

Competent musicians are conducting courses in both vocal and instrumental music, and for an education such as is best fitted for this territory, the Latter-day Saints' academy is way in the van. A great deal of credit is due to Prof. Maesser for the wonderful advance that has been made in the past three years. From a doubtful experiment it has become an accomplished success, and the prospect is promising of still better things to come.

BRITAIN'S PROBLEMS.

It is not only by the growth of its foreign trade that the United States is forcing Britain to consider a change of foreign policy. The American nation is becoming great as a financial power. It now rivals Britain as a center of gold attraction. Gold shipments even from Australia come to the United States. Britain herself a few months ago went to the United States to borrow money, as afterwards Germany did. To hold her own against this giant, England must herself become the center of a mighty system. She has the Empire. All she needs is the policy. When she gets to closer quarters with the crisis she will not hesitate to adopt the preferential trade solution.—Mail and Empire, Toronto.

WHAT BRITAIN HAS BEEN.

Britain was the first smelter of iron ore among modern nations, but it is open to doubt whether there is in Great Britain a single blast-furnace that can compare in capacity with the best furnaces now smelting iron in America for shipment to Europe. Britain was the first maker of coke for smelting and manufacturing purposes, but her coke ovens have long been antiquated, and she is only now tardily adopting ovens and plant of foreign design.—Cassier's Magazine.

Old Soldier's Experience.

M. M. Austin, a civil war veteran, of Winchester, Ind., writes: "My wife was sick a long time in spite of good doctor's treatment, but was wholly cured by Dr. King's New Life Pills, which worked wonders for her health." They always do. Try them. Only 25c at Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

MISS HAY'S POEM CAUSES SURPRISE.



Miss Helen Hay, daughter of the secretary of state, has sprung into literary fame by the publication of her poem, "The Rise of Dawn." The verses have a decided Hiawatha swing and show great merit. Society is greatly surprised at the literary powers of Miss Hay.

KANSAS.

Here's a greeting to you, Kansas! All the world takes off its hat to the grit and push and hustle which fill up your habitat. We are proud of you, admire you, and we watch your onward course with enjoyment while we wonder at the vigor and the force which folks display in Kansas.

There were days when "bleeding Kansas" posed before the nation's gaze. And the bloody "border ruffians" went their dark and devious way. Then we heard of "drizzly Kansas," where the grasshoppers and heat formed themselves into a combine that you'd find it hard to beat. Most anywhere but Kansas.

There was worse in store for Kansas, and we next saw with amazement this great commonwealth afflicted with the Populistic craze; but politics and whiskers hardly fit in the same box. Arouse! Arouse! Arouse!

One would think, with this experience to sound a warning note, that Kansas would learn wisdom—but they let the women vote! Mrs. Nation now has shown the astuteness of that. And they'll find a way to circumvent the feminine fiat. In politics in Kansas.

But you've given to us Funston! Kansas, we'll forgive the rest. For of all our fighting generals we reckon him the best; For instead of standing talking of what someone ought to do, He just goes ahead and does it—and he "does it proper" too! The way they do in Kansas.

So here's looking at you, Kansas! May your shadow ne'er grow less. That you've gone ahead of most of us we're willing to confess. That you've done sharp corners, but you're not unknown to fame, You have doubtless some sharp corners, but you're not unknown to fame, And although you take the long way round you get there just the same! Gut hell, die lieber Kansas!

—W. H. PIERCE.

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10c Ink or Pencil Tablets— 5c
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