

although as usual not entirely satisfactory, is final and is above all criticism; in every case the people generally manifested their approval of the awards.

I do not think the readers of the NEWS desire all the particulars of the violin contests, of the baritone solos, and the many minor contests that are only interesting locally. To me the progress of our Utah representatives are the living issues, a degree of pride fills the heart when her sons and daughters forge themselves to the front ranks without the many aids enjoyed by their more wealthy competitors in other cities.

One of the ceremonies of the Elstedd-fod was the seating of the successful poet in the Bardic chair. The chair was said to be the finest ever seen; it cost \$300, was made of engraved oak with a carved eagle on the top. The great choir was formed and sang behind them. A half circle of men from different points was formed at the back and the representative of the bard, who by the way is in New York, was escorted to the chair, and a Welsh song was rendered by Mrs. Woodard who by the way is a lovely singer, was part of the ceremony. The making of a public call as to whether there was peace in the land, with a drawn sword placed above the head was dispensed with, for it was generally conceded that gentle peace does fill our borders. The only fight now on is a financial one and the ballot box will settle that.

It is not generally known that the Gorsedd prayer of the Welsh in ancient days was always offered by the supplicants standing in a circle after which the sacred circle was broken. As expressed in English it was as follows:

Grant, O God, thy protection;  
And in protection, strength,  
And in strength, unders andlog;  
And in understanding, knowledge;  
And in knowledge, knowledge of the just,  
And in knowledge of the just, the love of it;  
And in that love, the love of all existence;  
And in the love of all existence, the love of God.

God and all Goodness.

The final session, which will take the form of a concert, will come off tomorrow night (Friday). This will be the last of the literary and musical conventions. It is in every way admirable; its aim is the cultivation of music and poetry, two of the purifying influences to keep mankind elevated in thought and action.

The verdict of the people is that the coming of the Salt Lake singers and musicians was the grand aid to whatever success may come out of the movement. If we could have had a big meeting next Sunday in the tent with the choir to sing and some good speakers, we could have left an impression that would never have been erased, and told the people of the ancient Gospel as we understand it.

C. R. SAVAGE.

### DOWN IN MEXICO.

Mr. Andrew C. Brixen, one of Salt Lake's foremost young business men, has recently returned from a trip to Mexico, the favored land to the south of us, where he has large holdings in gold and silver mining properties. The gentleman has an interest-

ing story to tell concerning the advancement and progress of mining matters in that country—a country, the like of which, Mr. Brixen says, he has never before in his extensive travels, cast his eyes upon.

"Andy" as he is familiarly called, and his brother-in-law, in connection with a San Francisco syndicate, have received concessions and a grant on seven miles of placer mining beds in the Guanjuato river bottoms. The purpose of the San Francisco company is to begin the extraction of ore as soon as proper placer machinery of the most modern make can be put in place, negotiations for the purchase of which are now pending. Mr. Brixen is also interested in several valuable gold properties out of which he expects to make considerable money.

The gentleman in speaking of Mexico's mining resources, makes mention to the famous Valencia mine and its workings. For three centuries this mine had been a steady and persistent producer, until thirty years ago when operations in the property became somewhat lax. The Valencia had the reputation of furnishing to the world for a long period two-thirds of the silver used therein. It has a main shaft which is 2,300 feet deep. It is octagon in shape and measures 32 feet across, and is lined up with stone the entire distance. Up to July, 1895, this mine had never closed down even for the shortest space of time, but had kept working on continually and putting its product upon the market of the world. At the latter time, however, great volumes of water were encountered in the property, making it impossible to further prosecute development work without the aid of modern pumping machinery. The mine is owned by a Spanish company, which contemplates putting in the required machinery in order to enable it to resume operations and bring the valuable hidden ore to the surface.

At one time during the three century period, the owners of the bonanza had 72 reduction plants in operation, but latterly only about 20 or these were operated. At one time also the silver ore from the surrounding country was carried on the backs of burros, for a distance of 100 miles in every direction, for the purpose of being reduced at these plants. While untold millions have been taken from the depths of this most wonderful mine, its riches are by no means exhausted and the possibilities for future production are believed to be almost as great as ever. When it is remembered that of the millions of tons of ore taken from the dark recesses of this property, most of it has been brought to the surface on the backs of Peon laborers, the magnitude of the mine and the amount of labor it has furnished can partially be imagined.

The owners of this mine, like the owners of other large mining properties in that section, get their laborers from the states of Guajuato, Queretaro, and Jalisco, as the men residing in these states are very large, of splendid physique and much better capacitated for the work of mining than are those residing in other sections of the country. The altitude in that section is much the same as our own, and is of course

conducive of the making of strong, healthy, robust people.

Mr. Brixen is highly impressed with the Mexican country and believes it has a great future before it. The soil for the most part is very fertile and produces vegetation abundantly. Lucern can be cut every five weeks, thus enabling the farmer to get about ten crops every season. Many of the districts of Mexico that have heretofore been almost totally unexplored, are now being colonized and thriving communities are fast taking the place of barren deserts. Mr. Brixen expects to return to the promising country some time during the month of October.

### SAN JUAN CONFERENCES.

MANCOS, Colo., August 26, 1896.—Our Stake conference has just closed, and we have had a very enjoyable time. Conference convened here on Saturday, the 22nd inst. Being a very busy time of the year, the attendance was not as large as usual. Among those present were President F. A. Hammond, Counselor William Halls, three Bishops and quite a number of the High Council.

We had expected visitors to our conference from Salt Lake, but as none had arrived at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, it looked as though we were doomed to disappointment.

Elders Hammond and Halls occupied the time Saturday forenoon, exhorting the Saints in regard to their duties.

Saturday afternoon reports were called for from the Bishops of the several wards. While these were being given, and about 3 p. m., we were all very agreeably surprised to see Brother George Goddard come walking up the aisle to the stand. He not being aware of having to lay over at Rico, had not reckoned on being so long on the road, and consequently arrived here just twenty-four hours later than he expected. After the reports were all given, Brother Goddard spoke a short time, explained the cause of his late appearance, and finished by singing us a song out of his little book. How that book and that well known voice carried us back to childhood days, when many a time and oft we have listened with rapt attention to those very songs, sung in the same familiar tones.

At 4 p. m. Saturday the Stake quarterly conference adjourned sine die to give way for the annual Sunday School Conference.

Saturday at 7 p. m. a Priesthood meeting was held at the meeting house, and a meeting of the officers of the Relief Society and Y. L. M. I. A. at the residence of Bishop Geo. Halls.

The Sunday school conference commenced at 10 a. m. Sunday, after the opening exercises were over and the sacrament was administered the Articles of Faith were recited in concert by the school, after which came reports from Stake and ward superintendents; then the Lord's prayer was recited in concert, which was followed by a class exercise by the second intermediate class, conducted by Brother H. M. Taylor. They have been studying the Sunday school leaflets the past few months, and their exercise consisted of a review of their work and was