

it had been deserted years before. Arriving at Denver at 8 a.m. Tuesday, we were surprised at seeing a choir from that place boarding the same train as ourselves and bound for Salt Lake City, where they entered the competition. They were very pleasant and agreeable companions for us during the remainder of the trip. We entered the Royal Gorge about 4 p. m., after passing the springs, Pike's Peak, Pueblo and several other interesting points along the route. The scenery was beyond description, the cliffs towering far above us; the snow-capped mountains, and the rising of the grade, until we reached Leadville. Here we were over 10,000 feet above sea level. Before leaving home we were cautioned about the lightness, or thinness, of the air, and to be careful at this elevation. The only feeling I had was that of intense hunger. Messrs. Davis and Watkins were in this respect a surprise to the western people. The balance of the journey to Salt Lake was simply a succession of beautiful scenes. We arrived at Salt Lake City Wednesday at 1:20 p. m., and were surprised to find the station thronged with the representation of the Elsteddfof and their friends. Carriages were in waiting with two fine bands to escort the whole company into town. We had the honor of occupying the first carriage with Gov. West and ex-Gov. Thomas. The rest of that day was spent in sightseeing, renewing our old Chicago acquaintances and making many new ones.

#### THE ELSTEDDFOD.

Thursday morning was given over to the preliminary contests on the soprano, tenor, contralto and piano solos. The work on all was good, with the exception of the tenor solo.

The afternoon session opened with the band contest, two entered, and both played remarkably well. We had not expected to hear such renditions. An amusing incident occurred in connection with this, as the competition began before the adjudicators were in the hall. The reason of this, I believe, was the poor light in the building. The conductor could not see whether we were there or not, but took it for granted that we were, as it was past time for commencing the meeting. However, when we came in they very graciously consented to play again. In most elsteddfofs this would have caused a half hour's wrangle, but not so here, everything went along without a ripple. The other musical contests of the afternoon were the Ladies' quartette, tenor or contralto solos, musical composition, and "The Summer," by Gwent. Competitions were all good excepting the ladies' quartette (two entries and neither worthy of the prize) and the tenor solo.

Thursday evening the competitions for this session were ladies' chorus, male quartette, soprano solo, piano solo, and male chorus. These contests were very interesting, both the male and female choruses doing splendid work. In the piano contest the entries were all young ladies under sixteen years of age (judging from a distance of 200 feet). The work of each one who entered being creditable, many of them displaying considerable merit as to technique, tone, time and expression.

The last session of Friday evening

opened with an address in "American Welsh" by Governor West. The governor made a great point especially in the final when he wound up with our old familiar cry, "Cymry am byth," but had to call for assistance. The contests for the session were: Baritone solo, soprano and tenor duet, harp contest and the final contest called choral \$500 prize. The baritone competition brought out two unusual good voices. In the chief contest there were four choirs, two from Salt Lake City, one from Ogden and one from Denver. One of the Salt Lake choirs took first prize and Denver took second. The choral work was good and proves that in this line the West has a bright future before it. The Elsteddfof was interesting in far more than one point. The courtesy shown to us as the judges, by the committee, the audience, the people in general, and also the contestants is something very pleasant to remember.

This was the largest Elsteddfof ever held in America excepting at the World's Fair. The average attendance was estimated to be about 11,000 at each session. It was a pleasure to us as Welsh men to note the prominence and popularity of the young Welsh men. Among the young men who are forging ahead is Mr. John James who was the general secretary of the Elsteddfof. Too much cannot be said of his work and ability, the successful issue of the great Elsteddfof in which he played so prominent a part, proves him to be a man of unlimited executive power.

The people seemed bent on making our stay as pleasant and as long as possible. Saturday afternoon we were taken for a trip to Salt Lake, a beautiful summer resort, eighteen miles from the city.

Saturday evening a concert was held in the Tabernacle, all the successful competitors participating. It was a pleasant summing up of the foregoing sessions. The concert over, the Salt Lake City band honored us with a serenade at the hotel.

Sunday morning ex-Governor Thomas took us to one of the city parks. We gathered much information from him about the historical and geographical features and resources of Utah. In the evening we dined with ex-Governor Thomas and spent a delightful evening with him and his family.

Among the interesting points to be seen about the city are the court house (which is one of the finest in the West), the Tabernacle and the club rooms. We were fortunate in being shown over the latter by Governor West. Sunday evening we attended services in the Tabernacle and were enabled to hear the great Tabernacle choir, a truly magnificent organization. Monday (our last day) was crowded with engagements. The forenoon Mr. Evan Stephens took us for a drive over the city and surroundings, and the close of the afternoon found us settled down to dinner with Mr. Stephens as host.

Mr. Stephens, as most of our people here know, was conductor of the Salt Lake choir which took the second prize at the World's Fair Elsteddfof. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Stephens both before and after the contest at Chicago and it was a great pleasure to renew our short acquaint-

ance in the west and at his home. I know of no man who is more devoted to his work and to his people. His influence is felt not only in Salt Lake City but throughout the entire territory.

Monday afternoon we had a pleasant interview with Presidents Woodruff, G. Q. Cannon, and Joseph F. Smith, and other prominent men connected with the Mormon church.

We regretted very much leaving Salt Lake City and her people. Our stay had been for less than a week but those few days are among the most delightful ones we have ever spent.

#### NOVEMBER WEATHER.

The chief of the weather bureau directs the publication of the following data, compiled from the record of observations for the month of November, taken at this station for a period of twenty years.

It is believed that the facts thus set forth will prove of interest to the public, as well as the special student, showing as they do the average and extreme conditions of the more important meteorological elements and the range within which such variations may be expected to keep during any corresponding month.

Mean or normal temperature, 40 degrees.

The warmest November was that of 1891, with an average of 44 degrees.

The coldest November was that of 1880, with an average of 30 degrees.

The highest temperature during any November was 72 degrees on Nov. 5, 1891.

The lowest temperature during any November was 3 degrees on Nov. 18, 1880.

Average date on which first "killing" frost occurred (in autumn), Oct. 12th.

Average date on which last "killing" frost occurred (in spring), about April 1st.

Average for the month, 1.36 inches.

Average number of days with .01 of an inch or more, 7.

The greatest monthly precipitation was 5.81 inches in 1875.

The least monthly precipitation was trace inches in 1890.

The greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was 1.56 inches on November 18th, 1875.

The greatest amount of snowfall recorded in 24 consecutive hours (record extending to winter of 1884-5 only) was 9.7 inches on November 24th, 1892.

Average number of cloudless days, 12.

Average number of partly cloudy days, 10.

Average number of cloudy days, 8.

The prevailing winds have been from the north west.

The highest velocity of the wind during any November was 36 miles on November 23rd, 1879, November 6th, 1881, November 28th, 1892.

J. H. SMITH,

Observer, Weather Bureau.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of the Leland Stanford university in California, and heretofore regarded by many as a rascally unbeliever, has become converted by Mrs. Maud B. Booth's preaching, and has joined the Salvation army.