

had bestowed upon them, the blessing of longevity, to the extent that some of them had seen even their ninetieth anniversary, and one or two had been spared to see the century mark. They had yielded obedience to the injunctions of the Father and their days had accordingly been long upon the earth.

Held's Band rendered in pleasing style a medley of patriotic and sentimental airs, some of which seemed to awaken in the minds of the veterans, thoughts of bygone days when they were young and full of life and youthful vigor. The piece ended with an old time dance tune, illustrating the firing of guns by Indians during the progress of the dance.

President Willford Woodruff, one of the few who has passed the ninetieth milestone of life, was on the program for an address, but being the sufferer from a bad cold, his address was prepared one who was read by Elder David McKenzie. It was as follows:

My Dear Friends—I thank God that I have lived to see this day. I rejoice to behold the faces of so many of my friends gathered together in this great Tabernacle. We who have been upon this earth from seventy to ninety years and upwards have passed through one of the most interesting generations of the children of men. What marvelous changes have occurred in our lifetime! We see things today and look upon them without wonder that in our early days would have been considered miraculous. When I was a small boy we had just emerged from under the blue laws of Connecticut—to greater freedom of thought and action. The ducking-stool and other forms of punishment akin to it had been laid aside. Women were no longer hanged or burned at the stake as witches. Greater religious liberty was enjoyed. Women were allowed to kiss their children, husbands their wives, on the Sabbath day, without being punished for it. If a boy took an ear of corn from the field, although even then he might be punished for it, he was not in danger of being sold as a slave, as in former days. The improved condition of things had just been brought about when I came into the world. But greater and more wonderful changes have been accomplished since that time. In my boyhood every acre of grain was cut with a sickle in New England. The first advance made in that direction was when the hand cradle came into use. The reaper and the binder were never dreamed of in those days. If such things had been brought into the wheatfields then, the people of the land would have almost thought the millennium had come. And there has been rapid advancement in almost every department of life.

I need not take up your time in detailing the many changes and improvements that have been made. We live today amid the wondrous powers of steam and electricity, by which such marvelous things are being accomplished. All these things have been brought about in our day, and I feel to thank God for what he has done for the children of men in blessing them as he has done. Mankind have great cause for thankfulness to our Father in heaven because of the many blessings he has bestowed upon them in this day and generation.

We who live in Utah have especial cause to thank and praise His holy name for the blessings we enjoy. I have spent fifty years in these valleys of the Rocky mountains, and have passed through all the phases of a territorial government until we have arrived at full statehood, and I feel it a great privilege to meet with so many of my friends and citizens

of the State of Utah, and I consider it proper here to make some reference to our arrival as pioneers, and the commencement of our labors in this great American desert. And I should be recreant in my duty and justly place myself under strong reproof did I not give the honor and glory to our great prophet, seer, revelator and pioneer, President Brigham Young, who, under God, laid the foundation of redeeming this great barren American desert from its sterility into the fruitful and noble State of Utah as we find it today. President Young was inspired to come here, and he was inspired to work after he got here, and when Samuel Brannan, who took the ship Brooklyn from New York to San Francisco, loaded with Latter-day Saints, came to this barren country and met with the pioneers, he looked upon the desolation and barrenness, and tried with all the power he had to persuade President Young not to stop here, but to go on to California. I heard President Young give his answer to Samuel Brannan in the following language, striking his cane into the soil: "No, sir; I am going to stop right here. I am going to build a city here. I am going to build a temple here, and I am going to build up a country here." And by the help of God he lived to see all this fulfilled. He dedicated the corner-stone of the Salt Lake Temple, and dictated the building of the Temple up to the time of his death. He directed the building of the St. George Temple, and he moved a great mountain to get a place to suit him upon which to erect the Manti Temple. He pointed out the place on which to build the Logan Temple, and he did a great deal toward its erection. He built the big Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, and he dictated to the architects nearly all that is upon the Temple block. There is hardly a city or town in Utah that was not laid out under his direction.

I brought President Young into the valley in my carriage. This was the first time he had ever seen the place, except in vision, and as we came round the bend where we could have a good view of the valley, he wished me to turn the side of the carriage so that he could have a better view, which I did, having a door opening on the side of the carriage. After viewing the valley awhile he said: "That will do, drive on; this is the place. I have seen this valley before in vision." President Young had been sick for several days on the Weber river, and several of the Pioneers had gone ahead and cut the road through a quaking aspen grove, and had formed a camp and commenced breaking ground, but it was so very dry that it was difficult to break it until it was watered. I arrived at the camp at 11:30. It was a little northeast of where the Knutsford hotel now stands. I had in my carriage one bushel of potatoes, and I covenanted that I would not eat or drink until the potatoes were planted in the earth. I fulfilled this covenant, getting some of the brethren to help me, and soon had my potatoes planted. Other brethren also planted some, and from these few came all our Utah potatoes until the railroad was built.

Although we were on Mexican soil we planted the American flag soon after our arrival here. We immediately went to work, and as a protection against Indians, surrounded a ten-acre plat on three sides with a ten-foot adobe wall—on the remaining side with log cabins. Immediately we had to dig ditches and get water to our crops or nothing would have matured. With our surveyor's chain and compass President Young went to work to lay out Salt Lake City just as we see it today, with its broad streets and sidewalks, in the midst of dry, barren sagebrush, with scarce a white man's house within a thousand miles of

us. I assisted in all that work. Many of you who are before me have also labored and toiled to build and beautify this country and make it what it is today. You know what we have had to pass through in all this. But God has been with us. He has crowned our labors with success. He has blessed the land and made it fruitful; and we have been able to surround ourselves with pleasant homes and many of the comforts of life. Therefore, I say, we have great cause to be thankful to our Father for the blessings we enjoy.

God bless the aged fathers and mothers of Utah. They have performed a mighty work in this land. They have worked and toiled, and sought to do good in the earth, and they are worthy of respect and honor in their old age. We ought to do all we can to make them happy while they live upon the earth. I hope you who have come together here, on the old folks' excursion, will have a good time while you are here. I pray God to bless you all, and to comfort your hearts. I do not know how much longer I shall tarry with you, but while I remain I want to do all the good I can. This should be the desire of all of us. Many of us have lived a long time on the earth, and have tried to serve God and to carry out His purposes, and we should continue to do this until we are called to the other side of the veil. God bless you all. God bless our children, that they may grow up to follow in the footsteps of their fathers and mothers, and to take up the work that will devolve upon them when we shall pass away. I feel to bless you and all the people, and ask God to bless you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Deseret Mandolin and Guitar club, composed of young ladies and gentlemen, played in a feeling and harmonious strain a beautiful selection, after which the Old Folks' choir under the leadership of Elder William H. Foster sang Auld Lang Syne, the Tabernacle choir joining in the chorus.

A feature which cheered the old folks and lent a enthusiastic spirit to the occasion was the playing of the Scottish bagpipes by Elder William C. Dunbar—a part of the program on the occasion of every old folks' gathering. This was followed by a few remarks from the ever pleasant and agreeable personage, Elder George Guddard, who called attention to the annual festivities of the old folks and the exactions made of them—that they be 70 years of age or over. Elder Guddard introduced Elder C. R. Savage, who gave the honored veterans instructions for today's exercises.

President George Q. Cannon announced the omission of some of the numbers on the program owing to the approaching lateness of the hour, and also stated that by request of some of those assembled President Woodruff would arise during the dismission that all might be privileged to gaze upon him. This the venerable President did, the audience rising and waving their handkerchiefs in his honor.

The choir sang the anthem Hallelujah and the audience dispersed.

Bright and early Wednesday the feeble veterans were seen making for the street cars, lunch baskets in hand, on their way to Garfield Beach, where they spent the day. At the beach exercises suitable to the occasion were carried out and all enjoyed themselves immensely. Not many of them ventured into the water, but they took delight in watching the briny waves dash to and fro against