

eral board spoke of the beautiful and exemplary life of Christ in coming to do the will of the Father; of the great principle of obedience He portrayed; of the conditions existing at the time of His coming, His great charity and love; and taught these as coming from the Father. She also spoke on the work accomplished and the conferring of authority in the different dispensations.

Sup't. E. S. Taylor spoke of the peaceful spirit of the meeting. It would assist those present to be better prepared to do the will of the Father. Also spoke on proper reverence for those called to preside, and on overcoming the spirit of criticism or the right of those presiding to give instructions. She also referred to the blessings and gifts following the pure and humble.

After singing benediction was pronounced by Sister Maria Holt.

The evening session opened by singing; prayer by Elder Rodney Badger; singing by Professor Bassett's ladies quartet.

A lecture on the Bible, by Elder David McKenzie, followed.

After singing by the quartet, conference adjourned for three months. Benediction by Sister Minnie James.

M. H. JAMES, Secretary.

#### FOR A CELEBRATION.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 4, 1894.

Will you kindly give me space in your column to reply to the article in the NEWS of last evening entitled *Unfounded Aspersions*, etc., which referred to my communication of December 2. I understand, from reading the NEWS article, and also from a personal interview with Judge Colborn and Mr. Rognon (the latter, I believe being secretary of the committee), that they emphatically deny that there is any thought of a money making scheme on their part, or on the part of any member of the committee on celebration, in connection with that event. It gives me great pleasure to have this assurance and also to know that the celebration is to be carried out on purely patriotic principles. I wish also to state here that I had not the slightest idea of casting any reflection on the members of the committee in my communication, and I regret that they should have so construed it.

My only design in writing was, as stated in the heading, to have the celebration done right, and not to put a block in the way of its being carried out, by any means, as I explained to Mr. Colborn.

In conversation with the latter gentleman last evening I learned that the Denver carnival cost in the neighborhood of sixty-five thousand dollars, and he thought our celebration should far excel theirs in magnificence, which of course meant a greater outlay—say seventy to eighty thousand dollars.

I would ask where shall all this money come from? Have we private citizens patriotic enough to donate it or is the coming Legislature and city councils, etc., to be asked to appropriate the greater portion of it from the public funds? That is a question that should be considered now. Many of our citizens already complain that our taxes are all they can bear, and another score or two

of thousands of dollars can be illy spared under present conditions.

I had a conversation last evening with the chairman of the Twenty-fourth of July celebration of a few years ago, which was the largest ever held in this city up to the present (saving last year's carnival) and he assured me that the contingent expenses which, if I am not mistaken, were largely donated by the Mormon Church, did not amount more than about a tithe of a hundred where now a thousand dollars is thought to be required. We surely can celebrate magnificently too, without going to so great an expense, the semi-centennial of the Pioneers' entrance into these valleys.

Again I wish to repeat and I say it advisedly, that in times past the various committees and managers thought it an honor to be called to take part in making Pioneer Day a great success, and they did it cheerfully, and spent their time and means too, without asking for or expecting pay for it, and it can be done again if the right material in connection with the committee appointed by his Excellency Governor Wells, is brought into use, and that too, without bringing much of a burden on the people.

C. DENNEY.

#### A VOW FULFILLED.

AMERICAN FORK, Dec. 4.

Some years ago Mr. John Tracy, who is one of the old folks' committee of American Fork, made a vow to his brother committee men, Messrs. Barrett and Grant, that if his life was spared until his 70th birthday he would give a grand dinner to all the old folks residing in that city free of charge. The happy event occurred on December 3rd—and in accordance with the vow a sumptuous repast was spread upon the tables at Grant's hall. Hostilities commenced at 1 o'clock p.m. By a curious circumstance there were just seventy persons seated at the tables when the guests had gathered. Thirty of them were between 70 and 80, and six others had passed the four-score mark; the balance of the number were visitors and friends of the popular host.

When the table had been cleared a most enjoyable time was experienced. The speaker, music and singing were of a nature to make the thought of old age a thing to be desired. Messrs. Goddard, Dunbar and Savage, of Salt Lake City were present and did their best to assist in making the time fly swiftly away. A complimentary poem eulogizing the good services of Brother Tracy, composed by Brother Crystal, was read by Brother Forbes; a splendid arm chair contributed by the sisters was also presented to him, and many other souvenirs of the happy event.

Bishop Robinson has reason to be proud of the people he has the honor of presiding over. A more willing, wholehearted body of citizens would be hard to find. They never seem to tire in making others happy.

At 5 o'clock the older people made way for the helpers and aids who are always ready on such occasions to assist, and after more roasting the fun was continued until 11 p.m.

Among the generous, noble hearted

men of the earth, none rank higher for good deeds than Mr. Wm. Tracy, the brother of John Tracy; he resides in Colchester, England, and always has the latch string out on his door for the Elders when they call upon him. His liberality never seems to diminish. It would not be a surprise to the writer if he was at the back of this celebration. It is beginning to be an honor to reach the three score and ten limit—the commencement of the period marked by Victor Hugo as the manhood of old age.

Let the good work go on and may it increase until every aged person in our beautiful State shall become an object of attention and care on every occasion, and in every position they may occupy.

A FAVORED PARTICIPANT.

#### HIS ANNUAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The annual report of Secretary of the Interior Francis was made public today. It deals with all the various branches of the Interior department during the past year, and makes a number of important recommendations. It proposes a solution of the vexed problem of the bond-aided roads, deals exhaustively with the pension administration, reviews the progress of the Dawes commission negotiations, and touches upon various matters of special significance in the West.

The report opens with a discussion of the public domain. It shows that the total number of acres disposed of up to June 30th last was 946,000,000, leaving public domain still vacant estimated at over 600,000,000 acres, not including the district of Alaska, with an area of over 360,000,000 acres.

Since the homestead act was passed in May, 1862, there have been 162,891,182 acres entered by homestead settlers. Of this almost 103,000,000 acres will be patented when the legal conditions have been made.

The total number of mineral entries up to date is 29,820.

There also have been 335,729,751 acres disposed of by pre-emption cash sales, scrip locations, military bounty land warrants, town sites, desert land, timber culture, timber and stone entries, Indian allotments and donations to settlers.

There are yet due to railroads and wagon roads under their grants 114,736,639 acres, of which not more than 60 percent are available for patenting under the conditions of the grants.

"Of the 114,000,000 acres granted to railroads but not patented, there can be no objection to transferring possession and control of whatever portion has been earned by complying with the grants and that may be available thereunder (estimated at 70,000,000) with as much promptness as possible; but until these grants are adjusted no additional ones should be made. During the year 15,527,844 acres were patented to railroads under congressional grants."

Discussing forest reservations, the reporter says no permits to cut timber on public lands should be granted for any purpose other than to supply the needs of actual settlers.

Secretary Francis urges upon Congress the necessity for legislation for the reclamation and disposal of lands