

## INDIAN REMINISCENCES.

TUCSON, Arizona, May 11, 1896.—I notice in a late issue an item in reference to the first discovery of lead and silver in southern Utah. As I resided at the time in that portion of the Territory, perhaps a reminiscence or two, culled from my journal, may be of interest.

The first intimation we who lived in Parowan had of the existence of native lead in Utah came from the Pah-Eed Indians, who lived in that region. They had always bought of us all their ammunition; but all at once they would no longer buy any lead. They said they had plenty of their own, and soon sold it to us in considerable quantity. It was not cast into bars or ingots, but had evidently been melted into the sand. We soon found out all about it. A slight shock of earthquake had caused a land slide on the steep side of a mountain and exposed a body of lead ore. This the Indians piled in a heap with abundant firewood to produce the needful intensity of heat, and in this rude manner melted hundreds of pounds of lead. I bought considerable for my own use, as did all my neighbors. We found but one objection to it. It was too hard. In loading a gun a ball would not properly enter the grooves cut in the gun barrel; and in moulding bullets it was difficult to cut off the neck of the bullet. But it was much cheaper than the eastern article, and we shot away lots of it, not suspecting that we were shooting away silver.

A company worked it as a lead mine a considerable time before it was found to be in reality a silver—or rather a silver-lead mine. The same experience attended the working of the Los Vegas lead mines on the route between southern Utah and southern California. Thousands of pounds of lead were shipped from this mine to Salt Lake City by our people, and when finally abandoned by us, the mine was relocated and profitably worked by other parties as a silver mine.

In the fall of 1851 Patriarch Joel H. Johnson and family settled a place named after him, Fort Johnson, about twelve miles westerly from Parowan, and in his family was an Indian girl named Viroqua. She had been captured during the Indian war of 1849 in Utah county, with her mother. The latter soon died, but the child, then five or six years of age, lived and thrived finely, and was treated in all respects as a member of the family. When she was about twelve or thirteen years old an Indian named Squash-head came one day on horseback to the door of the house where Viroqua was alone, all the men about the place being absent except a son—Nephi Johnson—who providentially was in the room fixing up some garden tools. The Indian had evidently been waiting for a moment when everyone but Viroqua would be away, and did not suspect the presence of the young man. Squash-head came to the door and demanded Viroqua, claiming that she was his sister. She had a dread of all Indians and sprang back into a corner of the room in terror, while Nephi sprang to the doorway to prevent the entrance of the savage, who intended evidently to seize the girl, throw her upon his horse and dash away with

her. Nephi was armed only with a grubbing hoe, which he held poised in air ready for a blow, and Squash-head, with rifle and knife, stood glaring at him in all the fury of baffled rage. Nephi told him the girl did not wish to go with him—was not his sister—and even if she had been his sister she should not go against her will. Squash-head seemed a fiend incarnate; his eyes glistened with rage and great drops of sweat dropped from his face. Thus they stood some minutes, looking each other in the eye; the one seeking an opportunity to use knife or rifle—the other warily guarding against any such a move, but never flinching for a moment. But Nephi, to use a common expression, "had the drop on him," for before the Indian could level his gun or use his knife, Nephi could, and would, smash his skull. Finding Nephi would not yield Squash-head suddenly leaped upon his horse, and away, yelling defiance and future revenge.

Poor Viroqua, terrified at her narrow escape, had no peace of mind until Father Johnson sent her to Salt Lake City and placed her in care of his sister Julia, wife of Almon W. Babbitt, with whom she remained until her death a few years after. She was as well behaved, intelligent, neat and housewifely as any of the girls around, and was in all respects a good, faithful Latter-day Saint, receiving in due time all the needful ordinances for the dead. Squash-head was found some years later dead in northern Utah with his throat cut, but whether by his own or another's hand was never known; but his was a fate he richly deserved for his many cruel murders.

Many were the thrilling scenes through which the hardy Pioneers, who founded the State of Utah, have passed; very many of the participants of those incidents have passed away. And it seems to me fitting that some slight record of them should be kept, even though it be a meager one, that the new generation may have some little conception of the toils and dangers incident to the founding of a state in the "Great American Desert."

JAMES H. MARTINEAU.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

A very large representation of Sabbath school workers met Monday in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms. All the city schools were represented except the Third, Ninth, West Fifteenth, Twenty-second and Twenty-third wards. The schools of the following county wards were also well represented: Both schools of Big Cottonwood, Crescent, East Mill Creek, the three schools of Mill Creek, South Cottonwood, Farmers, Union, West Jordan, East Jordan, South Jordan, Murray.

Assistant Superintendent R. B. Horne presided.

The excellent music rendered during the evening was given by the Mill Creek choir, under the direction of Theodore Best.

Opening prayer was offered by Superintendent E. H. Richards of West Jordan.

Assistant Superintendent Horne was the first speaker. He stated that the Union meetings would hereafter be conducted as a model or Sunday school

normal, representing the four departments of the graded school, each department being conducted as a normal class, and would be conducted by the following ladies and gentlemen. Theological or higher department, Prof. Willard Done, assisted by Elder Nephi L. Morris. Second intermediate, Glendon M. Mumford. First intermediate, Wm. Bradford. Primary, J. D. Cummings, assisted by Miss Lillian Hamblin.

It was intended, the speaker said, to make the Union meeting a practical school for the Sabbath school workers, so that all the schools of the Stake should be conducted with greater harmony.

Prof. Done followed. The only objection, he could see to the plan suggested was the length of time intervening between meetings. He spoke at some length upon the work that should be done in the higher department, the crowning effort of the whole Sabbath school work.

Elder G. M. Mumford was the next speaker. He felt that if the benefit of this normal work could be enjoyed by all the Sabbath school workers of the Stake the beneficent results would be much better appreciated. Many residing at a distance could not often be present.

Elder Wm. Bradford was the next speaker. He believed that the plan proposed of conducting these meetings in departments for the special benefit of teachers would be a great benefit to all who would be able to attend. All the teachers of a special department, meeting together for discussion and instruction in their particular work, would certainly receive more direct benefit than sitting through a miscellaneous program.

Elder J. D. Cummings spoke of the intricate, painstaking work necessary in the primary department to make the work a success, and interest the children.

Considerable discussion followed relating to the methods of conducting the future work of the Union. It was finally decided upon motion that the Union meeting shall hereafter be conducted in four sections, corresponding with the four departments of the Sunday school, and that the work of each section shall consist mainly of a discussion of methods and plans supplemented with occasional class exercises for practical illustration.

Meeting adjourned for one month. Benediction was pronounced by Supt. Arnold G. Glaucque, of the Sixth ward.

The Taylorsville school was requested to furnish the music at the next meeting.

J. H. PARRY,  
Secretary.

Mrs. George Dean, the wife of a farmer living near Tanwax, Wash., committed suicide Friday night by taking carbolic acid. She had been in ill health and was despondent. She was 25 years of age and leaves two small children.

T. B. Broschi, a drummer for the hardware and agricultural implement house of H. C. Shore, Stockton, Cal., was the victim of an accident Saturday. He was fooling with a loaded pistol when it was discharged, inflicting a wound in his side which may prove fatal.