

the General Superintendency. The resignation was accepted with regret, and thanks for his long and faithful services.

The choir rendered in excellent manner an anthem:

Lord, Thou lovest now Thy servant depart in peace.

Benediction by Elder George H. Brimhall.

Evening Session.

The Utah Stake choir sang:

O, ye mountains high, where the clear blue sky
Arches over the vales of the free, etc.

Prayer by Elder Rodney C Badger.

Behold how good and joyful

was sung by the choir, after which

APOSTLE P. M. LYMAN

addressed the congregation on "Proprieties in Prayer." He said in substance: The propriety of offering a silent and fervent prayer on proper occasions should be a never-forgotten lesson by the Latter-day Saints. Our Savior's injunction was to pray in secret and to refrain from the use of vain repetitions. As a people we had learned to feel and appreciate the importance of prayer, but nevertheless we needed some instruction in that regard. Prayer was offered for a variety of purposes and should always be suitable to our needs. Different forms of prayer should be used in opening and closing our meetings, in blessing the sacrament, in ordaining and confirming and in the family circle at morning and evening.

In a revelation given to the Prophet Joseph immediately after the establishment of Zion in Missouri, the Lord announced that those who did not attend to their prayers in due season should be held in remembrance before the Great Judge. We should not be as the heathen and seek favor because of our much speaking, but our course of conduct should be such that our prayers might be inspired by the Almighty. The morning prayer should be offered according to the conditions and requirements of the family. The blessings of the Lord should be asked upon the labors of the day. Naturally, the circumstances of the family at the time the evening prayer is offered are different from what they were in the morning and consequently the form of prayer should not be the same. We were once in the habit of opening our business meetings with prayer. That was eminently proper, but the prayer should be suitable to a business and not a religious meeting. Legislative bodies opened and closed their session by prayer. They, too, should observe proper order in this respect and ask for Divine wisdom in enacting laws by which the people are to be governed. A family prayer was entirely out of place at a business or Priesthood meeting. In ordaining, brief and simple language should be used. Such an example was set by John the Baptist in ordaining Joseph and Oliver. The form that the Nephites used in ordaining was also short and expressive. They were just as effectual and much more appropriate than a many worded invocation. The blessings conferred upon a candidate for confirmation after baptism were frequently too long, and should be abolished. Long blessings should be left

to the Patriarchs in the Church who are ordained and set apart for that purpose. Two minutes is long enough to open any ordinary meeting by prayer and more than half a minute should not be consumed in pronouncing the benediction. Frequent repetitions should be avoided and above all things we should be careful not to use too often the name of the Deity. The name of God and His Son Jesus Christ should not be used more than once in a single prayer. That was all sufficient. Young men should remember this and start out correctly. It is not necessary that at our special prayers we should pray for all things. We have general meetings at stated times for such purposes. When the sacrament is administered the prayer should be uttered in an audible and distinct tone of voice so that it might be heard throughout the entire building. The speaker concluded his remarks by asking the blessing of the Lord upon all who were engaged in the work of mutual improvement.

MRS. SOLOMON THATCHER.

Apostle Moses Thatcher then announced that Mrs. Solomon Thatcher, Jr., a member of the board of control of the Woman's Department of the World's Fair, would address the meeting. The lady was introduced by Miss Keogh, besides whom on the stand were the following ladies: Mrs. Salisbury, Mrs. McCornick, Mrs. Luna Thatcher, Mrs. Lettie Thatcher, Mrs. Harriet A. Preston.

Mrs. Thatcher said she appreciated very much the invitation given her to speak upon a subject that was very near to her heart. She was pleased to see the manifestation of education and culture that had been made during the session of the present conference. Education was the great lever which set the machinery of the world in motion. It was the key that unlocked the great storehouse of nature, the sunlight that drives away the mist and miasma of ignorance, vice and superstition. Referring to the World's Fair matters, Mrs. Thatcher said that already the nations of the earth were preparing to collect the products of their hands and minds and bring them as a thanksgiving offering to the great city near the waters of Lake Michigan, unto a kind and beneficent Creator. Chicago was a city of magnificent proportions, of beautiful architectural design, and had a population of a million and a half of busy people. The product of the sea, soil and mind would be exhibited to admiring throngs of people from all over the world.

Sixty-seven countries had accepted the invitation to participate in the great display. Far away Japan had appropriated \$600,000 for that purpose. The State of Illinois had given \$800,000 with which to properly exhibit her products. The women of the world were preparing for a grand demonstration at the Fair. A board of lady managers had been appointed who would be the official channel through which the cleverness and ability of women would be displayed. Women were doing about what they pleased in this age. Mexico and the European nations had appointed boards of women commissioners. Most of the leading States of South Amer-

ica had done the same and India would probably do so.

Mrs. Thatcher closed by saying that Utah was a growing and glorious Territory and that her people breathed a higher and purer atmosphere than most of their fellow men. The landscape was extremely picturesque and the climate unsurpassed. Utah should make a splendid showing at the Fair. Her site was among the best and was larger than that of Montana, Idaho and Nevada combined, and July 24—Pioneer Day—had been set for the opening of her display. She advised the organizing of Columbian Clubs among the mutual improvement associations of the Territory.

ELDER WM. H. KING

delivered an interesting address on the "Literary value of the Bible."

The choir sang an anthem.

Benediction by Elder Abraham H. Cannon.

AWFUL DISASTERS BY FLOOD AND FIRE.

TITUSVILLE, Pa. June 5.—The city of Titusville has been visited during the last twenty-four hours by one of the most disastrous fires and floods in the history of the region. Oil creek overflowed its banks and for hours swept through the city almost a relentless flood. The city is without fuel, lights and waterworks, and is surrounded by water. The Perry street and Franklin street iron bridges have been swept away. Scores of cheap buildings in the lower part of the city were destroyed, and a large number of lives lost. Some persons were burned, but the majority drowned.

When morning dawned hundreds of anxious people looked out of the windows or stood on the roofs of houses waiting for a helping hand and trembling for fate. To add to the horror of the scene, rain fell in torrents and fire broke out in the refineries at different points.

THE BURNING OIL

swept down the raging torrent and communicated to the manufacturing establishments and houses, and the destruction was increased a hundred fold. Among the losses by fire are the International Oil Works; Hiram Blown copper shops; Rice & Robinson's refinery; Titusville Radiator Works; Western New York & Pennsylvania freight offices; Jack Cullin's store, residence and hotel; Crescent Oil Works; railroad, loss \$10,000 on freight and a number of large loaded oil cars on the track burned. A train of cars loaded with merchandise on the Dunkirk & Allegheny was burned.

A large amount of loss on stores, residences and manufactures, is probably covered by insurance, but it is impossible to give a detailed estimate now. Many leading citizens had taken their wives and children on an excursion to Canadabota lake and were detained there when their presence were greatly needed here.

A meeting of citizens was held at noon today and \$4000 subscribed for the immediate relief of the destitute. Quarters were obtained for the poor and homeless, and food and clothing supplied by benevolent ladies. Fifteen bodies have been recovered and