

## RAILWAY CELEBRATION AT OGDEN.

OGDEN CITY, UTAH,  
March 8, 1869.

Editor *Salt Lake Telegraph*, — At 11.20 o'clock this a.m., the U.P.R.R. track-layers hove in sight of this city, and from that time continued their march with great rapidity. The citizens exhibited the liveliest enthusiasm, and testified the liveliest joy, as, from the high bluffs and every commanding elevation they feasted their eyes and ears with the sight and sound of the long-expected and anxiously looked-for fiery steed. Onward and still onward they came, and thousands and thousands of our citizens, both from here and from the adjoining settlements, decked in their holiday attire, gave a hearty welcome to the advent of the nation's great highway into this city. About half-past two p.m. they steamed into Ogden, when Colonel Dan. Gamble, with true Hibernian enthusiasm, ran up the first flag, which, while floating gracefully in the breeze, was soon followed by numerous others. And here, let me observe, that never, to my mind, did the flags of our Union wave more gracefully, or more proudly, than on this auspicious occasion. Our excellent military brass band was soon out, and, under the able leadership of Captain William Pugh, soon sent forth their soul-enlivening strains of rich music, which, with a royal salute from Captain T. S. Wadsworth's artillery, gave the preliminary welcome to the iron horse.

At 4 o'clock a public stand was erected alongside the track. At 5 o'clock the procession was formed under the direction of the committee of arrangements, (Colonel W. N. Fife, Captain Joseph Parry, and Francis Brown, Esq.,) which consisted of the Mayor, members of the City Council, the various schools, under the superintendence of their respective teachers, headed by the band, bearing banners, with numerous appropriate mottoes, among which the following was conspicuous:—

“HAIL TO THE HIGHWAY OF NATIONS!  
UTAH BIDS YOU WELCOME!”

Pedestrians, equestrians, and crowded vehicles now thronged the festive

scene. Wadsworth's artillery having arrived, a salute of twenty-one guns was now fired, whose deafening echoes vibrated through the mountains, hills and vales.

At half-past five o'clock the rails were laid to a point in a line with the Tithing Office street, five blocks north into the city. On the stand were Hons. F. D. Richards, L. Farr, A. F. Farr, Cols. D. Gamble, W. Thompson, W. N. Fife, Maj. S. M. Blair, Capts. Joseph Parry, Wm. Clayton, Maj. Pike, A. Miner, F. S. Richards, J. Hall, G. Belnap, J. McGaw, F. A. Brown, Esqs., Col. J. C. Little, D. B. Warren, and — Johnson, Esq., and others who were invited, but whose names I did not learn.

The vast audience being called to order by Hon. L. Farr, Mayor of Ogden City, Hon. F. D. Richards was then introduced, who delivered an eloquent and soul-stirring address. He commenced by bidding the conductors and operators on the world's highway most hearty welcome, and congratulating them on the success, thus far, of this ponderous undertaking. An enterprise of such magnitude, he said, calls forth our admiration and gratitude; and it is impossible for any people to hail this auspicious event with greater joy than we do. Is it not so, my friends? It is. A prejudice has existed in the minds of some in relation to our feelings on this matter. It has been said that we did not wish to have a railroad pass through our country. Such prejudice has been proved to be unfounded. And our labors along the line, especially through Echo and Weber Cañon, are a standing and irrefutable testimony of our great desire and anxiety to see the completion of this, the greatest undertaking ever designed by human skill and wisdom. It spans the continent, and uniting the Atlantic to the Pacific, opens up to us the commerce of the nations; it facilitates and shortens the transit and trade between India, China, America, and other parts of the world, and enables us, with speed and comfort, to visit our friends throughout the Union. It will also

enable the world's great men,—men of wisdom, science, and intellect, to visit these our mountain homes, and to form a true estimate of our character and position. Then I say, Hail to the great highway of the nations, Utah bids you welcome! And pray God to speed the great work, until it is completed, and may good and kind feelings animate the minds of the contractors and builders of both lines, and stimulate them to increased exertion, until the last tie and rail are laid.

It is impossible to do justice in this letter to Judge Richards's speech, which was replete with interest, and was listened to with delight by the large and respectable audience. The speaker, who was often cheered by both citizens and strangers, concluded by paying a high compliment to the ability and energy of Capt. Wm. Clayton and his able assistants. He congratulated them on their perseverance, and the manner in which they have conducted the work in their departments. At the close of the address a salute was fired, and the boys struck up the "*Star Spangled Banner*." At this juncture the company's boarding and sleeping cars, which had hitherto remained alike to the south, now, with three engines, steamed to the front of the stand. Three cheers for the great highway was now proposed and given, when the wildest enthusiasm and demonstrations of joy prevailed, and loud shouts rent the air. Amid the alternate pealings of the artillery's thunder, the music of the band, and the long continued, shrill whistling of the three engines, the waving of hats, kerchiefs, and other demonstrations of pleasure, rendered the occasion such that will not soon be forgotten by those present. Three cheers were proposed and given to Mr. Warren, Superintendent of the Utah division, and a like honor to Captain Clayton, the tracklaying contractor. Both of these gentlemen were loudly called for by the assembly to deliver speeches in response to the honors they received. Both declined. The former had walked a great many miles, watching the track with anxious solicitude for the safety of the passengers who came on through, among whom was Col. J. C.

Little, and was in consequence much fatigued. The latter was no public speaker, and, besides, he had been anxiously pushing forward and superintending the tracklaying through the day. Both assured us of their hearty participation in our enjoyment, and of their appreciation of the honors shown to them to-day. Dr. Durant, though absent, was not forgotten, and three hearty cheers were given to him.

Col. Little, in a brief but very neat and interesting speech, endorsed the sentiments of the first speaker, and referred to the inestimable benefits which must accrue to this people and the world from the institution, the advent of which into our midst we now so joyfully celebrate. He paid a very high, and doubtless a very deserved, compliment to the character of Mr. Warren, testifying to with what anxious solicitude he interested himself for the safety of the passengers on the train with which he, the Colonel, traveled. He concluded with hearty congratulations to "the arrival of the snorting steed in Ogden."

Major Blair next spoke in his usual happy style, adverting to his predictions, long and often uttered, that sooner or later the shrill whistle of the steam locomotive would be heard to echo through these mountains; and now, in his fifty-first year, he had seen it fulfilled! Long live the Major, even fifty-one years more. He was very eloquent and entertaining.

The next speakers were A. Miner, Esq., and Hon. L. Farr, who, no less than their predecessors, did equal honor to the occasion, in sentiments loyal, true, and eminently patriotic. What American citizen can contemplate the grand events just celebrated, and not feel his bosom swell with pride and a glowing ambition in his country's greatness; the advancement of science and art, and the development of the powers of the human mind? Does he not feel grateful that the Stars and Stripes wave over the land of his birth, or adoption, and that she has been the first on the globe to so nigh consummate such a mighty achievement as the U. P. and the C. P. Railroads?

—May she continue to prosper, increase in wealth and true wisdom; regain her lost energies; soon be free

from factions and party feeling; live in peace; develop her vast natural resources for the sustenance of her millions of still increasing sons and daughters, and once more become free, happy and undivided, that people of the earth may come from every clime and find shelter beneath the broad folds of her protecting ægis.

Amid the continued firing of the gun and the cheering music of the band, the assembly dispersed to their homes at sundown, having enjoyed one of the happiest epochs in their history, and the turning point of Utah's future.

JOSEPH HALL.

—*Salt Lake Telegraph.*

## SKETCHES FROM THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE JEWS.

(*Jewish Chronicle.*)

During his boyhood, Maimonides furnished no indication of the possession of those splendid abilities which he afterwards exhibited. He was more than ordinarily stupid; but after his flight from home, he continued his studies in the Talmud at Lucena. There his mind gradually opened, and he devoted himself with great assiduity and success to Rabbinical, philosophical, and medical science during some years. At length he returned to Cordova about the age of twenty, and, without visiting his father's house, revealed himself to some old acquaintances of the family. Through their influence he obtained permission to speak in the synagogue; and he subsequently did so with such extraordinary learning and ability, as at once to excite the astonishment and win the admiration of the congregation. His father was also present; and at length having detected his son's identity, he greeted him with the utmost pride and affection.\* With his assistance and approval Maimonides continued his studies, both in Rabbinical lore and in astronomy, mathematics and medicine, in the academy of the famous Averroes at Cordova, and became his most accomplished and distinguished pupil. The peculiarity of Averroes was his boldness and freedom in the investigation of philosophical and theological questions; and Maimonides imbibed from him the same spirit which ever afterwards characterized him. In all his subsequent compositions he displayed his

dislike of Rabbinical restraints; and without designing to weaken or overturn the rabbinical system, he wished so to expound it as to render it consonant and harmonious with the principles of the most rational philosophy.†

At the age of twenty-three Maimonides commenced to write his celebrated exposition of the Mischna, in the Arabic language, to which he devoted the unremitting labor of seven years. In this work he endeavored to explain the principles which lie at the foundation of particular laws, on the ground of sound reason, without paying any regard to the disputes and distinctions of the Gemara. After the accession of the Moorish prince, Ali Alkami, to the sovereignty of Cordova, he issued a decree commanding all Jews and Christians within his territory to embrace Mahometanism, or be expelled from the country. Maimonides pretended to choose the former alternative, until he had made the necessary arrangements for his flight; after which he abandoned Spain and removed to Cairo, in Egypt. In that city he opened a school for instruction in philosophy. He afterwards became chief physician to the Egyptian monarch, Ali Albason, and was held in high honor at court. But his chief attention was devoted to the composition of his great work, a commentary on the Jewish law according to the Talmud, which is known under the name "Yad Chazakah," and "Mishneh Thorah," the former meaning the

\* The whole of this account is considered by modern historians as legendary.—Ed. J. C.

† This is an error. Maimonides did not wish to weaken or overturn the rabbinical system, but only to methodise it, which he effected in his "Yad Chasakah."—Ed. J.C.