

Northern Messenger

VOLUME XXXIV., No. 38.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 22, 1899.

35 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid.

A Reminiscence of Salt Lake.

(By Rev. Andrew Shiland, D.D., in 'Christian Work'.)

On the eleventh day of May, 189—, I found myself comfortably seated in a palace car, starting from the Grand Central Depot in New York City. Our train consisted of nine palace cars, containing the commissioners and visitors to the General Assembly to convene in the First Presbyterian Church, of Portland, Oregon. From Chicago, we started on our way with twenty-seven palace cars, divided into three sections—first, second and third—each section of nine cars drawn by a powerful locomotive. We were in the second section.

On Sunday, at five in the morning, we had a view of the noted 'Spanish Fork,' and soon after found ourselves safely in Salt Lake City. The cars were side-tracked and we were allowed to occupy them as lodgings while there, or go to hotels for

fifty feet wide, and eighty feet from floor to ceiling. The structure has twenty doors, each nine feet wide, affording ready egress in case of emergency. From the outside the building looks like a huge whale's back, or an immense turtle with its tail cut off. It is located in what is called 'The Sacred Square of the Latter-day Saints.' This square embraces ten acres, and is surrounded by a high adobe wall for protection. Within this enclosure is the Salt Lake Temple, a beautiful and massive structure.

Recently the top stone was laid with imposing ceremonies. The corner stone was laid April 6, 1853. It was in process of building for forty years. In the basement is a baptistery fifty-seven feet long by thirty-five feet in width. On the top of the highest tower, 200 feet from the ground, stands a huge statue of the angel 'Maroni,' with a long horn in his right hand, blowing vigorously toward the east.

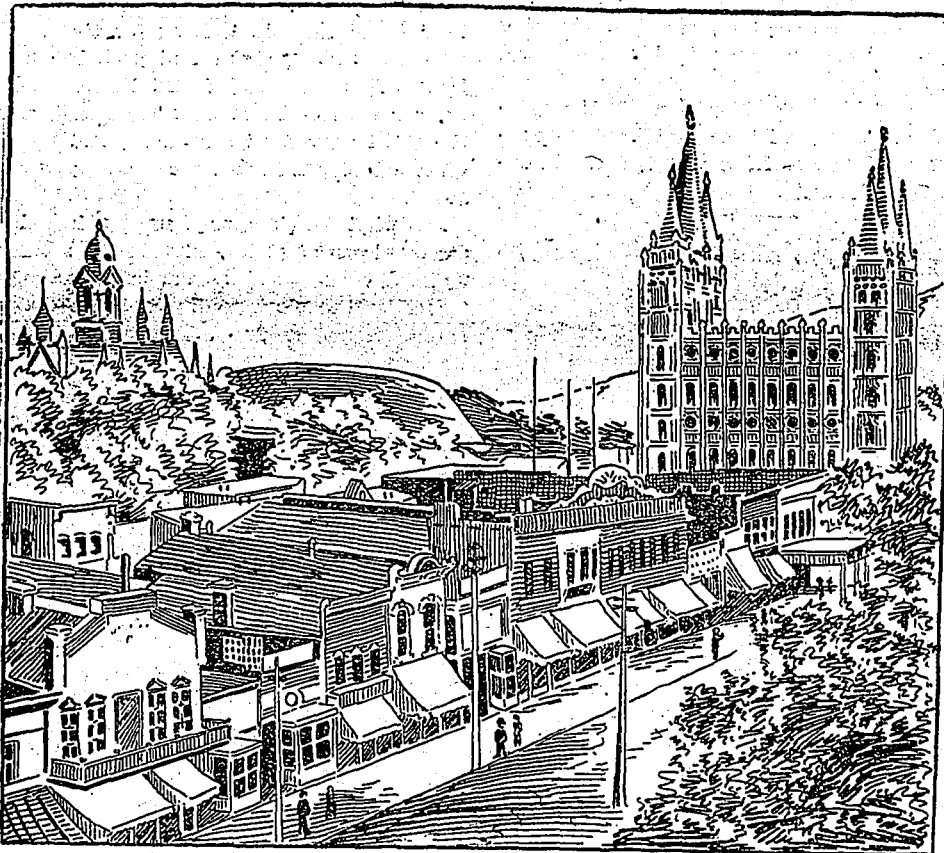
In the afternoon we went to the taber-

of the city itself is from 'Eagle Gate,' and a delightful view of the Great Salt Lake is afforded from a point or elevation called 'Black Rock.' 'Utah Lake' is east of the city, and is of fresh water. A jut of land called 'Pelican Point' extends far into the lake. The blocks or squares in the city are ten acres each. The streets are one hundred and thirty-two feet wide, and through some of them, next to the sidewalk, flow large streams of water. In the eastern part of the city the streets are eighty feet wide. The shade trees with their rich foliage add greatly to the attractiveness of the city. In fact it is beautiful for situation and like a richly cultivated garden. When Brigham Young came here in 1847, July 24, with his band of one hundred and forty-two hardy pioneers, the valley was a barren desert; now it appears clothed in beauty like a paradise.

There are several lines of cars, run by electricity. A favorite ride is to Camp Douglass, where several hundred soldiers are quartered and are provided for as the cadets are at West Point. From this station you can see the whole city and all the valley, twenty-one miles long. It presents a picturesque landscape of unequalled beauty. The electric lines are owned partly by the Gentiles and partly by the Mormons. There is great rivalry between them. When at first electric cars were running, a Chinaman looked on with amazement and was confounded, as he saw no horses attached and no means of propulsion. Finally he exclaimed, 'No pullee, no pushee, but go-ee all same-ee.'

It is said that when the United States troops were established at Fort Douglass, Brigham Young sent the commandant a message that he wanted to see him. The commandant immediately went to see Brigham. The Mormon chief informed him that he and his soldiers must get away from that encampment as soon as possible. The officer looked Brigham sternly in the face and replied, 'I came here to stay, by the command of the Federal Government of the United States. I have my guns trained on your Tabernacle and your houses, and the moment you make any trouble I will blow them all to atoms.' Brigham Young made no further resistance, and after that was submissive as a lamb.

While at Salt Lake City the Union Pacific officials gave us an excursion to Garfield Beach on the shore of Salt Lake, distant twenty miles. There were perhaps a thousand of us altogether, and we immensely enjoyed the scenery, so peculiar, picturesque and impressive. Mountains covered with snow shining in the sunlight, though twenty-eight miles away, did not seem more than five, so clear and transparent is the atmosphere. The facilities for bathing are ample; the buildings are well constructed, artistic in form, kept painted and cleanly. The water of the lake is twenty-two percent pure salt, twice as great percentage of salt as the water of the Dead Sea. I took a mouthful of it and found it as salt as ordinary brine. I think it would preserve pork indefinitely. We went in for a bath and enjoyed it exceedingly. It was impos-



THE 'SACRED SQUARE OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS.'

rooms if we chose to do so. Some engaged rooms for the sake of a change. You know that sleeping on a shelf, even in a palace car, is not very agreeable or comfortable. You can stand it for two or three nights, but when you continue it for half a dozen nights in succession it becomes somewhat monotonous.

The tabernacle is unattractive on the outside, but inside it is spacious and rather imposing. It is said to seat ten thousand persons. Its acoustic properties are perfect. A whisper or the fall of a pin at one end of the gallery can be heard at the other end. The roof is an immense dome, like the half of an egg, covering the whole building, and resting upon the exterior walls without a centre support of any kind. The building is elliptical in form, two hundred and fifty feet long by one hundred and

nacle to witness the general assembling of the Mormons for worship. All the visitors are seated in front of the congregation and immediately facing the president, elders, bishops and other high dignitaries of the Mormon Church. President Woodruff, who then occupied the highest seat, was eighty-six years old, and, with snow white hair, presented a venerable appearance. Behind the officials stood the great organ—one of the largest in the country. The choir consisted of 350 voices—some say 500. All the singers were thoroughly trained. Among the pieces sung was the Halleluia Chorus. Elder Penrose preached the sermon. He is an eloquent and fluent speaker, and occupied nearly an hour.

Salt Lake City is situated in a basin surrounded by lofty mountains which are covered with snow. One of the prettiest views