

mittees. It has been the custom with the Old Folks Central Committee, to solicit donations of money, food, presents, etc., from the charitably inclined of the Latter-day Saints and others; to get local and other dramatic organizations to furnish entertainment; to take the old folks to other settlements for friendly social intercourse and to local pleasure resorts, all of which has proven very satisfactory.

It is not essential that there should be rigid rules as to the numbers of persons forming a Ward or Stake Committee; this should be adapted according to the amount of labor involved and the size of the Community. When the Ward organizations have been perfected, a report should be made to the Stake Committee, who in turn, should forward a report to the Central Committee, so that a general record of each organization may be kept on file.

The purpose of these semi-annual gatherings should be an exhibition of respect and affection for the aged, the comfort of the afflicted and those who are bowed down with care, and the recognition, as children of our Father in Heaven, of the frequently neglected and forgotten of mankind. In thus bringing joy and pleasure to those who are often unprovided with amusement and recreation, we shall gain their blessings and the approbation of all good people and of our Father in Heaven.

We hope the Bishops of Wards and Stake Committees and others interested in this worthy object, will give the matter their early attention, so that if possible, the first entertainment under the auspices of the "Old Folks Committees" will be given during the coming holidays.

With best wishes for the success of the "Old Folks Movement" in your Stake, we remain,

Your Brethren in the Gospel,

WM. B. PRESTON, Chairman,	GEORGE GODDARD,	C. R. SAVAGE,
WILLIAM EDDINGTON,	WILLIAM NAYLOR,	WILLIAM L. BINDER,
JOHN KIRKMAN,	ANDREW JENSON,	N. A. EMPEY,
BRIGHAM S. YOUNG,	Old Folks Central Committee.	

By way of rounding our topic, we may say that the winter "Old Folks" entertainment is generally held in the Salt Lake City Theatre, and that capacious building is always full to repletion. The invitation includes all widows, the deaf and dumb, all orphans, news boys and boot blacks of the city, as well as those over 70 years of age; and to see that audience, ranging from first to second childhood, is one of the grand and suggestive sights of February in the far-famed "City of the Saints."

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SECULAR PROOFS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

THE following is the substance of a lecture on The Book of Mormon by Elder Geo. Reynolds, delivered at Weber Stake Academy, March 17, 1899:

It was well known to the former Lamanites of this continent that a record, such as the Book of Mormon existed, and had been written by the

ancient Nephites. The earliest Spanish explorers also knew that such a record existed and it soon became known to the Spanish ecclesiastics, as these records began to retard the spread of Catholicism, the people who had them were very severely punished and forced to destroy all copies that were known to be in existence, but it has been prophesied that this Book will be again given to the Lamanites.

The first Hebrew characters found by the earliest Spanish explorers, were on gravestones. The inscription on one of these gravestones was, 'Why has God gone away? He is dead one knows.' Another inscription was—"May the Lord have mercy on his a Nephite," another stone three and a half inches long by one inch wide, was covered with faces, another stone was found in a sink in Ohio, three by six inches, of a chocolate color and wedge shape, bearing an inscription written in Hebrew as follows: "The King of the earth, the word and law of the Lord, and the Holy of Holies." Mounds of stone and dirt were found in Ohio, 580 feet in circumference and fifty feet high, many small coins were found in the interior. In one of these was found a piece of wood with brass rings on it, this board covered another board, which was the cover of a coffin, in the coffin were found a lock of black hair, some bones and some brass rings, under the coffin was a small box which contained the ten commandments, which were written on plates in the Hebrew language. On one side of the plates, which were six and seven-eighths inches long, two and seven-eighths wide and one and five-eighths inches thick, was a carved figure dressed in the robes of the Priesthood, above whose head was written in Hebrew, "Moses." This grave is supposed to have been that of one of the Nephites, the Ten Commandments being buried with him.

A man was once leveling a piece of ground in Pennsylvania when he found two black straps of rawhide, sewed together; between them were four pieces of parchment, containing legible Hebrew inscriptions, treating on parts of the Old Testament. Another parchment was found near the Kansas River, the inscription on this parchment, as well as those on many others, proves plainly that the people who formerly inhabited this continent were the Nephites and their descendants.

Mr. Wosley says he obtained a manuscript from a Jewish Rabbi of Amsterdam, by the name of Manassa Ben Israel; the substance of this manuscript is as follows:

"While Francisco was traveling on this continent, he discovered that his guide was one of the Nephites, who informed Francisco of the terrible punishments the Spaniards had inflicted upon them; in the course of their conversation Francisco discovered that the tribe of Nephites still had a hiding place on this continent. When informed of this the explorer desired to see the tribe and their hiding place. The guide obtained an oath of secrecy and conducted him to the place. Certain signals were given and they were conducted over a large river into their place of refuge; the people were very large in stature, with sunburned skins, and wore turbans on their heads. The people claimed that they had been conducted into this place by the Lord through great miracles and that they had fought many times and lost most of their people, to keep their country, which

was given them by God. These people did not speak the Hebrew language in conversation, using it only in hymns, writings, etc.; but the language they speak, resembles very much the Hebrew language."

While in Cincinnati Elder Parley P. Pratt was shown a gold plate upon which inscriptions were written in Hebrew. This, as well as two brazen and three copper ones that Adair speaks of which were found in Ohio, bear proof that the ancient inhabitants of this continent were Nephites. The Indians claim the plates were given them by God and that they had buried many of the plates with the people who died.

All these facts tend to establish the authority of the Book of Mormon.—*Deseret News.*

FRIENDSHIP.

To assist a fallen friend is instinctive with noble natures.—DICKENS.

I try to make my enmities transient, and my friendships eternal.—CICERO.

One treacherous friend is more dangerous than a thousand avowed enemies.—ANONYMOUS.

Why should I study unless to prepare myself for my associations with my fellow men?—CICERO.

Most of our misfortunes are more supportable than the comments of our friends upon them.—COLTON.

No man can do the best work that is in him without a certain amount of kindly sympathy.—BEECHER.

False friends are like our shadows, keeping close to us while we walk in the sunshine, but leaving us the instant we cross into the shade.—BOVEE.

Friendship which flows from the heart cannot be frozen by adversity, as the water that flows from the spring does not congeal in winter.—COOPER.

Heaven knows what would become of our society, if we never visited people we speak ill of; we should all live, like Egyptian hermits, in crowded solitude.—ELIOT.

Actions, not words, are the true criterion of the attachment of friends; the most liberal professions of good-will are very far from being the surest marks of it.—WASHINGTON.

Be assured those will be thy worst enemies, not to whom thou hast done evil, but who have done evil to thee; and those will be thy best friends, not to whom thou hast done good, but who have done good to thee.—LAVATER.

"Look on your best friends with the thought that they may one day become your worst enemies," was an ancient maxim of worldly prudence. It is for us to reverse the maxim, and rather say: "Look on your worst enemies with the thought that they may one day become your best friends."—STANLEY.