

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATEHOOD OF OREGON.

On Monday, February 15, 1909, at 3 o'clock P. M., the House of Representatives was adjourned by Speaker McArthur, who announced that the hour had arrived to begin the ceremonies relating to the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Statehood, and introduced Hon. M. A. Miller, Senator from Linn County, chairman of the Senate committee on the celebration, as the presiding officer upon this occasion.

Upon ascending the rostrum and calling the large assemblage to order, Senator Miller said:

"We will now be led in prayer by Rev. William R. Bishop, of Portland, an honored pioneer minister of Oregon. Please stand."

The invocation was offered by Rev. William R. Bishop, of Portland, a pioneer of 1852, as follows:

God of all grace, mercy, truth and love, we gather here today with grateful hearts to mingle together in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of the commonwealth of our beloved Oregon into the great sisterhood of States—the United States of America. And in the opening of these ceremonies we desire, first of all, to render to Thee our grateful thanks that we live, and that we live where we live. We thank Thee for the memory that many of Thy servants, gathered here today, still hold in mind the stirring events of fifty years ago today. We thank Thee that so many of the men, and so many of the women, of those stirring times, have, in the order of Thy gentle Providence, lived on to hear and to see so full a realization of the hopes and aspirations of that noble generation upon whose labors the active generation of this day are now entered. And now, Lord, we would here today, on this appropriate occasion, which calls us together, make mention of our gratitude to Thee for the blessings of home and country, which come to the generation here assembled, through the labors and toils of the men and women who have finished their course and gone to their rest.

O, God, most merciful, the memory of these men, and of these women, who thus labored and thus toiled, is as ointment most precious; and, Lord, we would pray that the alabaster flask of this precious ointment of the memory of the men and women of the past might be broken here today in the midst of this people gathered here in the Capitol building of our commonwealth. And Lord, we would pray that

the odor going out from that ointment of memory of the past and hopes of the future, may rest upon all this people, and that every heart may be moved with gratitude and be inspired with resolution for the good and right. And we most earnestly beseech Thee that this odor of the past, and of all the good that has come down to us from the toils and labors of the past, may rest upon all our State officers, upon the Governor and those associated with him in the administration of the laws of our commonwealth, and that, through them, our laws may be administered in the fear of God.

We are told by inspiration, O, most merciful Father, we are told by inspiration, that the hearts of princes are in Thy hands; and we would, therefore, pray earnestly that these Thy servants, the members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, now assembled for active duty, may be moved by the sweet odors coming from the memory of the day we celebrate—February 14, 1859. And we would pray that the Senate chamber and the hall of the House of Representatives might be filled with the odors now coming up through the memory of that day, and that every member of the entire legislative body may be moved by a sense of duty both to the past and to the present as well.

And now at the close we would commend to Thy Fatherly grace, Thy Fatherly blessing and benediction, this, the present generation, the children and grandchildren of the men and women yet living, most of whom have counted three score and ten years, and many of them four score years.

God of love, keep the men and women of this generation in Thy fear, so that they may do even more and better work than their predecessors, and so that our whole country, the United States of America, may continue to bless the world, and to bless, as she now does, all nations of the earth; and that she may continue to be one undivided country until the voice of the Son of God shall be heard descending in the clouds. We ask all in His name, who taught us to say, when we pray:

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

After the invocation Senator Miller made a brief introductory address, as follows:

PRESIDENT MILLER'S INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have assembled here today to celebrate this, the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Oregon as a State. It is an occasion of which we may well be proud and one in which we can all join in one grand pæan for the splendid advancement that our State has made.

We have met to rejoice with laughing children, fair women and brave men, and to bless the day which has given us a nation such as never came before to mark the tide of time, which, previous to its birth existed only in the dreamy imaginations of the poet or the philosopher, but stands forth today a living, breathing reality. This, indeed, is the anniversary of a great undertaking and determination.