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From The Amboy (Ill.) Times.
THE MORMON CONFERENCE.

We devote considerable space to the proceedings of this body, believing that they are of great importance to us, even as a nation. There is a great body of these people scattered through the States, who, unwilling to follow the fortunes and doctrines of Brigham Young, have been quietly waiting for the time to come when they could organize under a lineal descendant of Joseph Smith, as their prophet. That time has at length arrived. Joseph Smith, Jr., occupies the position which his father once held. A new era in the history of Mormonism has dawned—an era which we hope will greatly improve the name of this despised people.

Whatever ideas we may entertain in relation to the doctrines of the Mormons, we must look with approbation and satisfaction upon any movement on their part which looks towards a radical reformation in their practices as a people.

For many years past Brigham Young has been looked upon as the the embodiment of Mormonism, and those professing to be Mormons have been regarded as no better than he. Henceforth, they, or at least one branch of them, are to be judged by a different standard. The eyes of the world will now be turned upon young Joseph. Hitherto this man has borne a good name.—His talents are of no mean order; and it is earnestly to be hoped that he will use them for good and not a bad purpose.

We give a correct report of Mr. Smith's remarks, previous to his acceptance and ordination by the church,—the only reliable report yet published.

The annual conference of the "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" assembled in this city on the 6th inst., at 10 o'clock A. M.

The conference organized by calling Zenos H. Gurley to the chair and appointing Wm. Marks assistant.

The forenoon was spent in preaching by Zenos H. Gurley, Samuel Powers and Edmund C. Briggs.

The sermons were devoted principally to setting forth their peculiar doctrines and defining the difference between their branch of the church and that represented by Brigham Young. They profess, and we believe with the utmost sincerity, to hold in utter abhorrence the wicked doctrines and practices of Brigham.

It is claimed that the great body of the Mormon people are scattered through the several States, and that a prophet, by lineage, will call together the scattered fragments and unite them into a grand whole.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

According to adjournment the Conference assembled at 1:30.

Horace Bartlett, Frederick Squires and Joseph Robinson signified their desires and united with the organization.

Joseph Smith, jr., then came forward, when Mr. Gurley said—
“I present to you, my brethren, Joseph Smith.”

Mr. Smith then spoke as follows:

“I would say to you, brethren, (as I hope you may be, and in faith I trust you are,) as a people that God has promised his blessings upon, I came not here of myself, but by the influence of the Spirit. For some time past I have received manifestations pointing to the position which I am about to assume.

I wish to say that I have come here not to be dictated by any men or set of men. I have come in obedience to a power not my own, and shall be dictated by the power that sent me.

God works by means best known to himself, and I feel that for some time past He has been pointing out a work for me to do.

For two or three years past deputations have been waiting on me, urging me to assume the responsibilities of the leadership of the church, but I have answered each and every one of them that I did not wish to trifle with the faith of the people.

I do not propose to assume this position in order to amass wealth out of it, neither have I sought it as a profit.

I know opinions are various in relation to these matters. I have conversed with those who told me they would not hesitate one moment in assuming the high and powerful position as the leader of this people. But I have been well aware of the motives which might be ascribed to me—motives of various kinds, at the foundation of all of which is selfishness, should I come forth to stand in the place where my father stood.

I have believed that should I come without the guarantee of the people, I should be received in blindness, and would be liable to be accused of false motives. Neither would I come to you without receiving favor from my Heavenly Father.

I have endeavored as far as possible, to keep myself unbiased. I never conversed with J. J. Strang, for in those days I was but a boy, and in fact am now but a boy. I had not acquired a sufficient knowledge of men to be capable of leading myself, setting aside the leading of others.

There is but one principle taught by the leaders of any faction of this people that I hold in utter abhorrence. That is a principle taught by Brigham Young and those believing in him. I have been told that my father taught such doctrines. I have never believed it and never can believe it. If such things were done, then I believe they never were done by Divine authority. I believe my father was a good man, and a good man never could have promulgated such doctrines.

I believe in the doctrines of honesty and truth. The Bible contains such doctrines, and so does the Book of Mormon and the Book of Covenants, which are auxiliaries to the Bible.

I have my peculiar notions in regard to revelations, but am happy to say that they accord with those I am to associate with, at least those of them with whom I have conversed. I am not very conversant with those books, (pointing to a volume before him,) not so conversant as I should be and will be. The time has been when the thought that I should assume the leadership of this people, was so repulsive to me, that it seemed as if the thing could never be possible.

The change in my feelings came slowly, and I did not suffer myself to be influenced by extraneous circumstances, and have never read the numerous works sent me which had a bearing on this subject, for fear they might entice me into wrong doing. It is my determination to do right and let Heaven take care of the result. Thus I come to you free from any taint of sectarianism, taints from thoughts of the varied minds I have come in contact with; and thus hope to be able to build up my own reputation as a man.

It has been said that a Mormon elder, though but a stripling, possessed a power unequalled by almost any other preacher. This arises from a depth of feeling, and the earnestness with which they believe the doctrines they teach; and it is this feeling that I do not wish to trifle with.

I know that Brigham Young is considered a man of talent, by some a bold and fortunate man, and by others an unscrupulous and bad man, accordingly as circumstances differ.

Should you take me as a leader, I propose that all should be dealt by in mercy, open as to Gentile or Jew, but I ask not to be received except as by the ordinances of the church.

Some, who had ought to know the proprieties of the church, have told me that no certain form was necessary in order for me to assume the leadership—that the position came by right of lineage, yet I know that if I attempted to lead as a prophet by these considerations, and not by a call from Heaven, men would not be led to believe who do not believe now. And so I have come not of my own dictation to this sacred office.

I believe that we owe duties to our country and to society, and are amenable to the laws of the land, and have always considered it my duty to act upon this principle; and I do say that among

the people where I live I have as many good and true friends as I could desire among those of any society.

The people of Hancock Co. have been strongly anti-Mormon, and there I know of no enemies. I have been engaged in business with anti-Mormons, I have mingled with them, and have not only been obliged not to make any remarks which might give offence, but also to smother my own feelings, if I had any. I hold no enmity to any man living who has fought this doctrine, nor do I know any who hold enmity towards me. I hope there are none.

In conclusion, I will come to you if you will receive me, give my ability, and the influence my name may bring, together with what little power I possess, and I trust by your prayers and faith to be sustained. I pledge myself to promulgate no doctrine that shall not be approved by you, or the code of good morals.

I have my short-comings, but I trust as a leader I shall do nothing to lead astray. If I do so, I shall expect condemnation, for I am satisfied that this people, governed by the same policy, would serve me worse than they have Brigham Young before, for I would be wholly deserted.

A gentleman from Utah informs me that a majority of Brigham Young's people were restive—not satisfied with their condition—but dared say nothing. That those who preached and those who practiced his teachings were, in reality, the old fogies of the institution, the younger taking a different view of matters.

I do not care to say any more at present, but will simply add that if the same Spirit which prompts my coming, prompts also my reception, I am with you."

When Mr. Smith concluded it was moved that he be received as a Prophet—the successor of his father, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Gurley then said:—"Brother Joseph, I present this church to you in the name of Jesus Christ."

To which Mr. Smith responded as follows:—"May God grant in His infinite mercy that I may never do anything to forfeit the high trust confided to me. I pray that He may grant to us power to recall the scattered ones of Israel, and I ask your prayers."

Isaac Sheen then led in prayer.

Then followed the ordination of Joseph Smith as President of the High Priesthood.

These ceremonies were earnest and impressive, and when they were completed almost the entire congregation were in tears.

Emma Beidelman, mother of Joseph, was then proposed and united with the church.

The Conference then proceeded to elect and ordain the following persons as members of the High Council:

John C. Gaylord, Wm. Aldrich, Geo. Morey, Edwin Cadwell, Calvin Beebe, Jacob Doan, Oliver P. Dunham, Zenos Whitcomb, Lyman Hewitt, Dwight Webster, Winthrop H. Blair, Andrew G. Jackson.

The acting President then stated for the benefit of those not belonging to the Mormon church, that these councilmen were a jury for church matters, and, with their president, settled all differences between members, etc., etc.,—that one-half always acted in behalf of the church, and the other for the accused. To determine in whose behalf each should act, lots were cast, and those getting odd numbers would always act for the church, and those getting even for the accused.

Lots were then cast with the following result:

Gaylord	7	Aldrich	12	Morey	9
Cadwell	8	Beebe	4	Doan	1
Dunham	5	Whitcomb	2	Hewitt	11
Webster	3	Blair	10	Jackson	6

Isaac Sheen was then elected and ordained President of the High Priests' Quorum.

Then followed the election of the seven Presidents of the Quorum of Seventies, and the following named persons were chosen: Jas. Blakeslee, Edmund C. Briggs, Crowell Lamphier, Wm. D. Morton, Archibald Wilsey, Geo. Rarick, John A. McIntosh.

The first five were ordained, the two latter being absent.

S. J. Stone was elected and ordained President of the Quorum of Elders.

Israel L. Rogers was elected as Bishop of the church.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in preaching, and prayer meeting was held in the evening.

APRIL 7TH.—Israel L. Rogers was ordained as Bishop, in whom is vested the Presidency of the Aaronic Priesthood.

George Rarick was also ordained as President of the Quorum of Seventies.

A list of names was here handed to the Prophet, of persons to be dismembered, but he objected to having action on the matter, on grounds of charity.

The Sabbath was spent in preaching and administering the ordinance of baptism.

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE.

The Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, was held in Amboy, Lee Co., Ill., commencing April 6th, 1860, at 10 o'clock A. M.

On Motion, Bro. Zenos H. Gurley was chosen President of the Conference, and Bro. Wm. Marks, Assistant President. Andrew G. Jackson and Isaac Sheen were chosen Clerks.

Bro. Zenos H. Gurley preached on the apostacy of the church. Bro. Samuel Powers preached on the characteristics of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the order of the church. Bro. Edmund C. Briggs preached on the proclamation of the gospel when the hour

of God's judgment should come, and on the apostacy in the last days. After singing and prayer Conference adjourned.

At 1 o'clock P. M. Conference met. After singing, and prayer by Bro. Wilsey, an address was delivered by Bro. Zenos H. Gurley, and he invited those who desired to unite with the church to do so. Bros. Horace Bartlett, Frederick Squires and Joseph Robinson, were then received into the church. Bro. Joseph Smith, jr., then came forward, when Bro. Gurley said, "I present to you, my brethren, Joseph Smith." Bro. Joseph then delivered his address.

On motion of Isaac Sheen, Bro. Joseph Smith was unanimously chosen President and Prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and successor of his father. Brother Joseph Smith delivered an address in which he made known his willingness to act in the office to which he was appointed. Isaac Sheen offered up a prayer in behalf of the prophet, and his mother and brethren, and the saints in bondage in Utah.

On motion, Sister Emma Beidelman, the mother of the prophet, was received into the church by a unanimous vote.

On motion, Bro. Joseph Smith was ordained to the office of President of the Melchisedek priesthood.

On motion, Bros. John C. Gaylord, Wm. Aldrich, Geo. Morey, Edwin Cadwell, Calvin Beebee, Jacob Doan, Oliver P. Dunham, Zenos Whitcomb, Lyman Hewitt, Dwight Webster, Winthrop H. Blair, Andrew G. Jackson, were unanimously appointed to be members of the High Council of the church. Bros. Wm. Marks and Zenos H. Gurley ordained the six first mentioned, and Bros. W. W. Blair and Samuel Powers ordained the six last mentioned to the High Council.

Isaac Sheen was ordained to the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum, by Bros. Wm. Marks and W. W. Blair.

Bros. James Blakeslee, Edmund C. Briggs, Crowell G. Lamphier, Wm. D. Morton and Archibald Wilsey were ordained to be Presidents in the quorum of Seventies, by Bros. Z. H. Gurley and Samuel Powers.

On motion, Bros. Geo. Rarick and Jno. A. McIntosh were chosen to be Presidents in the quorum of Seventies.

On Motion, Bro. Stephen J. Stone was elected to be the President of the Elders' quorum, and was ordained by Bros. Wm. Marks and Z. H. Gurley. Bro. Israel L. Rogers was elected to be the Bishop of the church. Adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock P. M.

7 o'clock P. M.—Conference met. A prayer meeting was held, when the gifts of the gospel were manifested in great power.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock A. M., to-morrow.

APRIL 7TH.—Conference met.

After glorious manifestations of the Spirit, in the gift of prophecy, tongues and exhortation, Bro. Israel L. Rogers was ordained to be a High Priest and Bishop of the church, by Bros. W. W. Blair, Z. H. Gurley and Samuel Powers. Bro. Geo. Rarick was

ordained to be a President in the quorum of Seventies by Bros. Gurley and Marks.

Bro. Joseph Smith spoke in favor of the exercise of charity and forbearance towards backsliders.

Bro. W. W. Blair preached from Isaiah 29c., on the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Isaac Sheen spoke also on the same subject. Adjourned until afternoon.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. Samuel Powers preached on the first principles of the gospel. Bro. Gurley preached on the same subject, and on the gathering of Israel. Adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock P. M.

Conference met. A prayer meeting was held, in which the gifts of the gospel were manifested in great power. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock next day.

April 8th.—Conference met. Bros. Archibald Wiley and Jas. Blakeslee preached on the need of continual revelations, and on the first principles of the gospel. Adjourned to 7 o'clock P. M.

In the afternoon, baptism was administered in the presence of a large congregation, who were preached to by Bro. Jas. Blakeslee.

7 o'clock P. M.—A prayer meeting was held, and much instruction was received by the manifestations of the Spirit, through the gifts of the gospel. Four persons were confirmed who had been baptized in the afternoon.

Bro. George Blakeslee was ordained an elder.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M.

APRIL 9TH.—Conference met. Reports were presented from the following branches of the church: Belvidere, Little River and Franklin, Union Grove and Galland's Grove, Iowa; Sandwich, Batavia and Amboy, Ill.; Galien, Mich.; Blanchardville, Wis., and many others which we are not prepared to mention.

A Special Conference was appointed to be held at Council Bluff City, Iowa, commencing June 1, 1860. At the same time a two days' meeting is to be held at Sandwich, DeKalb Co., Ill.

Bros. Joseph Smith, Zenos H. Gurley, Wm. Marks and E. C. Briggs, are expected to be at the Conference at Council Bluffs.

Bros. W. W. Blair and James Blakeslee were appointed to go on a mission to the east. The saints in Indiana and Ohio, and further east, who have a desire that they should visit them, are requested to make it known unto us. Bros. Samuel Powers, John Landers, and others not remembered, were appointed on missions.

L. D. Rogers was ordained President of the Deacons' quorum.

Bro. Charles Williams was ordained President of the Teachers' quorum. Adjourned.

ISAAC SHEEN, CLERK.

FRUITS OF TRANSGRESSION, NO. II.

In our remarks on polygamy, we have shown from the Book of Covenants, that the saints were commanded to repent and remem-