

and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled." B. C. sec. 1, p. 7.

My prayer is that God will give the saints eyes to see and hearts to understand the revelations given by his servant the prophet Joseph. I prophecy by the great mountains in which I dwell and in the name of Israel's God that whereever this letter will go and is read, it will kindle up a light which will never be put out.

Yours truly,

B. Bm. Bc. R.

G. S. L. CITY, August, 1860.

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## MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, HELD NEAR SANDWICH, ILLINOIS, OCT. 6TH TO 9TH, 1860.

9 o'clock, A. M.—The Conference was organized by electing Bro. Joseph Smith President, and Isaac Sheen and Wm. W. Blair, Clerks. After singing, Brothers Joseph Smith, Edmund C. Briggs, John Sanders and W. W. Blair led in prayer.

Bro. Wm. W. Blair made a report of his mission in the States of Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Michigan. He said that he and Bro. James Blakeslee were successful in their ministry in this State, on their way to Cincinnati. He went alone to Wheeling, Va., where he was kindly received, and he believed that his preaching there was attended with some good results. At Coal Valley and West Elizabeth, Pa., he preached several times, and the result was that at Coal Valley a Branch of the Church was organized. He preached in Allegheny City, and some able brethren became zealously engaged in the work. At Kirtland, O., he united his labors again with Bro. J. Blakeslee. The Lord raised up laborers in the good work in that place, and some who were giving heed to foul spirits did nevertheless publicly corroborate their testimony.

Bro. J. Blakeslee said that he and Bro. Blair were sustained by the Lord in their mission, and that he expected to labor all his days in the ministry, and to warn men of the coming of the Lord to the utmost of his ability.

Bro. John Landers reported that he went to Woodford Co., Illinois, and labored to convince some of the truth, and that he believed that he was successful to some extent. He said that the eyes of the people were opening more and more. He performed his mission with Bro. Cairns. He said he baptized two, and many were convinced of the truth, and that he was devoted to the work of the ministry.

Bro. Edmund C. Briggs reported that he walked most of the way from the Amboy Conference, preaching on the way. In

Harding county, Iowa, he preached on the way, and found many of the higher class glad to receive him. He labored in Mills, Pottowatonic, Harrison and Monona counties, and organized two Branches. He said that there is great anxiety in that region where he labored, and that many who never heard a gospel sermon before, heard him with much attention. They want one or two elders from this State. Elders sent there could do much good. People felt interested and desired preaching. He said, "Every time a Salt Lake Elder undertakes to preach there, his preaching only forwards this work.

Most of the foreign elders who are returning, received nothing but the first principles of the gospel before they went to Salt Lake. Many are returning from Utah. The gifts and blessings followed the ministry of the word as was promised by our Saviour. The work is prosperous, and the prospects bright and promising. A very large proportion of the people in Western Iowa are old saints, and are mostly favorable to the cause."

Bro. George Morey made a report of his ministry in Decatur county, Iowa, and of his determination by the assisting grace of God to continue in the work of the Lord.

Bro. A. M. Wilsey made a report of his labors in Wisconsin and Illinois. He said that he has been preparing business to enable him to go into the vineyard again.

Bro. C. G. Lanphear made a report of his labors in Kendal and Grundy counties, Ill.

I. Sheen reported that he was almost daily receiving letters from the different States, Utah, Canada, and Europe, expressing friendship for the New Organization, and that these manifestations of friendship are becoming much more frequent, and subscriptions to the Herald rapidly increasing.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the labors of those who have reported be received.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Opened by singing and prayer by Bro. A. M. Wilsey. Pres. Joseph Smith said that it was necessary that the quorum of 12 apostles should be filled, and that as many of the elders as are found worthy and qualified and properly situated should be ordained to the quorum of seventies.

On motion, *Resolved*, That three persons be ordained to the quorum of 12 apostles.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a committee of three be chosen to make the selection.

The committee appointed were Bros. W. W. Blair, Wm. Marks, and O. P. Dunham. They selected Bros. John Shippy, Jas. Blakeslee, and Edmund C. Briggs. This selection was confirmed by the Conference and they were ordained by Bros. Z. H. Gurley and W. W. Blair.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock next day.

*Oct. 7th.* Met pursuant to adjournment. The sacrament was administered. Bro. Edwin Cadwell preached on the duties of the saints.

Adjourned to 1 o'clock P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Bros. John Shippy, and Z. H. Gurley preached on the first principles of the gospel.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock A. M., next day.

*Oct. 8th.* Met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. Joseph Smith delived an address to the saints. Bro. Z. H. Gurley made a report of his mission to Council Bluffs.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bro. W. W. Blair be released from the office of Church Recorder.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bro. Isaac Sheen be appointed his stead.

Adjourned to 1 o'clock P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Herald be continued.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a vote of thanks be tendered to Bro. Isaac Sheen for his labors in publishing the Herald.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bro. Joseph Smith be sustained as the President of the Church. Resolutions to sustain Bros. Jackson W. Briggs, Z. H. Gurley, Samuel Powers, E. C. Briggs, W. W. Blair, J. Blakeslee and John Shippy as apostles were adopted.

On motion, the following preamble and resolution was adopted:

Whereas, the Israelite Indeed of the city of New York is the organ of the Israelites who believe that Jesus is the Messiah and that Israel will be gathered, and Jerusalem rebuilt by the children of Judah, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend it to the patronage and support of the saints and we recommend our elders and all the saints to exert themselves to extend its circulation among all classes of people who profess to be Christians.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution be forwarded to the Editor of the Israelite Indeed.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bros. E. C. Briggs and W. W. Blair go to Western Iowa on missions.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bro. J. Blakeslee go to Kirtland, O., on a mission.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we desire Bro. Samuel Powers to travel and preach in Canada.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bro. Jason W. Briggs be requested to go to England on a mission.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock A. M., next day.

*Oct. 9th*—Met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the committee which were appointed to select hymns for a hymn-book be discharged.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Sister Emma Bidaman be appointed to make a selection of hymns, to make a hymn-book.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Bro. Isaac Sheen be authorized to publish the said hymn-book on the most advantageous terms.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Presidents of all the Branches of the Church are instructed to obtain subscriptions for the hymn-book and forward the same to Bro. Israel L. Rogers, the Bishop of the Church, or to Bro. Isaac Sheen.

#### BRANCHES REPRESENTED.

The Galien Branch, Mich., by Bros. J. Blakeslee and W. W. Blair, having 13 members.

Nauvoo, Ill., by Bro. Joseph Smith, having 5 members.

Montrose, Iowa, by Bro. Joseph Smith, having 9 members.

Fox River Branch, Kendall Co., Ill., by Bro. W. W. Blair, having an increase of 14 members since the April Conference.

Amboy, Ill., by Bro. W. W. Blair, having one member more.

Little River Branch, Decatur Co., Iowa, by Bro. Geo. Morey, having 9 members.

Henderson Grove, Knox Co., Ill., by Bro. Z. H. Gurley, having 11 members.

Shokokon, by Bro. O. P. Dunham, having 4 members.

Burlington, Wis., by Bro. Wm. Adrich, having 11 members.

Batavia, Ill., by Bro. J. Blakeslee, having one member more.

Crescent City, Pot. Co., Iowa, by Bro. E. C. Briggs, having 21 members.

North Star, Iowa, by Bro. E. C. Briggs, having 49 members.

Raglan, Harrison Co., Iowa, by E. C. Briggs, having 9 members.

Belvidere, Monona Co., Iowa, by Bro. E. C. Briggs, 3 members added.

Boomer, Pot. Co., Iowa, by Bro. E. C. Briggs, having 11 members.

Union Grove, Pot. Co., Iowa, by Bro. E. C. Briggs, 3 members added.

Farm Creek, Mills Co., Iowa, by Bro. E. C. Briggs, 1 member added.

Boyer Branch, Crawford Co., Little Zion Branch, Harrison Co., and Galland Grove Branch, Iowa, were represented by letter from Bro. John A. McIntosh as being in a flourishing condition. Further particulars concerning these Branches were not given. Many Branches in good standing have probably neglected to forward their reports.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the next Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints be held at Amboy, Lee Co., Ill., commencing April 6th, 1861.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Special Conference of the Church be held at Council Bluff City, Iowa, commencing on the first Friday, in June, 1861.

There were 22 persons baptized and confirmed during the Conference, some of them for a renewal of their faith. Nine members of the old organization united with the Church, without rebaptism.

Prayer meetings were held every evening during the Conference and the spirit of God was poured out upon the saints in an extraordinary degree. The gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, the gift of prophecy and other gifts, were graciously bestowed by "the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will" as in ancient times. Thousand more of the old saints would attend these Conferences, if they could only realize what unspeakable joy and what inestimable blessings the Lord does there pour out upon his saints. The world at large would abandon their follies and wickedness and obey the gospel if they could realize the facts concerning the bliss of the saints, when they worship God in Spirit and in truth.

Adjourned.

ISAAC SHEEN, *Clerk.*

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## HUMAN SACRIFICES.

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*Burnt offerings of men and women, "that the smoke thereof might ascend to God as an offering to appease the wrath that is kindled against them." A doctrine which has been often preached by Brigham Young and others.*

It is with a sincere and earnest desire that we may be instrumental, by the grace of God, in restoring many to "the old paths" and checking the torrent of iniquity in Utah, which has engulfed thousands in misery and woe, spiritually and temporally, that we present this subject.

Multitudes have left their peaceful and comparatively happy homes in Europe and America, and in the midst of great toils and sufferings have gone to that land, where they expected that peace and righteousness would abound, and that there would be none to molest or make them afraid, and that oppression would be unknown. They went there in ignorance of the height and depth and the length and breadth of the awful wickedness of men who "have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward." They went there in ignorance of the fact that among the leaders of that people there are those, spoken of by Jude as "raging waves of the sea, foaming out of their own shame; wandering