

THE TRUE LATTER DAY SAINTS' HERALD.

"HEarken TO THE WORD OF THE LORD, FOR THERE SHALL NOT ANY MAN AMONG YOU HAVE SAVE IF BE ONE WIFE; AND CONCUBINES HE SHALL HAVE NONE."—*Book of Mormon.*

"WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN AUTHORITY, THE PEOPLE REJOICE; BUT WHEN THE WICKED BEARETH RULE, THE PEOPLE MOURN."—*Prov. 29:2.*

Vol. 21.

PLANO, ILL., MAY 1, 1874.

No. 9.

MINUTES

OF THE

Annual Conference of April 6, 1874.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, (and Twenty-second of the Reorganization), was held at Plano, Kendall County, Illinois, from April 6th to 11th, in the Saints' Meeting House. President Joseph Smith in the chair, assisted by President W. W. Blair.

The Conference was called to order by the President, and hymn 720 was sung; and prayer offered by Br. W. W. Blair.

Br. Henry A. Stebbins was chosen Secretary, and Brn. T. W. Smith and Zenos H. Gurley, Assistants; hymn 308 was sung; minutes of last Conference were read by the Secretary, and approved.

President J. Smith offered his congratulations to the Conference on the moral aspect of the Church at the present. There was a strong feeling now to see righteous dealings among the brethren, and between them and all men. District and Branch officers are disposed to call to accountability those who act otherwise; and it is exercising a salutary effect. In the world there is an increasing desire to hear the preaching of the word and the arguments of the Elders in our defense. There is also a strong and increasing feeling of infidelity in the world. The preachers of other churches expect to attack us and make us their mark, but when infidelity or spiritualism presents its attacking forces, these other churches look for our Elders to

meet them. Brethren may feel a strong assurance of their position and a firm reliance of the truth of the Latter Day Work, and yet not go out of the way to attack any. The work in California is showing far better than ever before, and the efforts there to injure the work and destroy its efficacy failed to destroy the faithful or injure the work.

The efforts of the brethren in England have given them a hold upon those people with whom they have come in contact. In Wales also there are good prospects. The President also rehearsed the movement made in sending Missionaries Wandell and Rodger to Australia, and the circumstance of their stop at Tahiti, saying, 'It is a happy evidence of the directing watch-care of the Father.'

One prominent cause of difficulty in the Church in some places has come from an apparent love of office and power, creating personal animosity, and quarrel after quarrel has grown out of these and kindred feelings. In several places such difficulties yet continue, in Iowa, Kansas, Pennsylvania and California.

Br. Bays, of Kansas, had been relieved of the difficulties and wrong doing alleged against him, and was laboring in Texas as appointed by the First Presidency.

The President spoke of the business to be presented, and said there were two important ordinations to be attended to; and also, as Br. Sheen had passed away, that some one should be appointed as Church Recorder, and also a Librarian, which offices Br. Sheen held; also there was a necessity, according to resolution of a former Conference, for a General Church Secretary.

There was a desire expressed by some that an hour of free discussion on church matters be given in each day's session, without the strict parliamentary usages being in force.

Resolved, That there be an hour so used immediately after the assembling of each afternoon session. Carried.

The President explained that his notice in the *Herald*, regarding Elders coming from a distance, did not refer to others than Missionaries, and that he had no idea that the Elders who could come from surrounding neighborhoods would also stay away so generally, as this was the smallest attendance of Elders that has been for years.

DISTRICT REPORTS WERE THEN READ.

Report of the Little Sioux, Iowa, District, for the term ending April 6th, 1874:

"The District is composed of seven Branches, namely: Little Sioux, Magnolia, Six Mile Grove, Twelve Mile Grove, Spring Valley, Soldier Valley, and Unionburgh, and contains 1 Apostle, 3 High Priests, 1 Bishop, 5 Seventies, 39 Elders, 7 Priests, 5 Teachers, 4 Deacons, total numerical strength, 270; scattering in the District, about 75 members. Donald Maule, Clerk.

Semi-Annual statistical report of the Pottawattamie District:

"The District is composed of 6 Branches, viz: Council Bluffs, Crescent City, North Pigeon, Boomer, Wheeler's Grove and North Star, and contains 1 Apostle, 1 High Priest, 5 Seventies, 42 Elders, 10 Priests, 7 Teachers, 8 Deacons, and 241 members; total numerical strength, 315; scattered members, 48. Frederick Hansen, Secretary."

Report of Galland's Grove District:

"To the Brethren in Conference Assembled:

"BELOVED BRETHREN:—As per resolution of our late District Conference, authorizing me to report the condition of the Galland's Grove District, I respectfully submit the following:

"Owing to the inclemency of the weather, we failed to get a full report of all the Branches, and I can only make a general report of our condition. Since our last report, and shortly after the Fall Conference, our beloved brother, W. W. Blair, labored to quite an extent at Salem, Harlan, Galland's Grove, Deloit, and Lake City; and we think with good effect. The word is being inquired after.

"Brother Clothier has also opened a good field of labor at Boone. Local brethren J. A. McIntosh, John Hawley, John Pett, F.

Reynolds, John Rounds and R. R. Montgomery, have labored some in the ministry, but neither Elders nor members are as zealous as they ought to be. Still, as a whole, the Lord has and is blessing the efforts of His servants in striving to disseminate truth, and friends are being made to the cause, and the continual cry is, Come and preach in our neighborhood; and in too many neighborhoods has the cry given been unheeded, where by a little exertion on the part of both Elders and members the call might have been attended to. My prayer is that the Saints may awake to a sense of their duty, remembering that the covenants they have made were not only to say but to do, according to that which is written.

"Your Brother in the Covenant,

"THOMAS DOBSON."

Report of the North-West Missouri District, for the year ending April 6th, 1874:

"Branches last reported, 12; organized since, 4; set off to St. Louis District, 1; to North Kansas District, 1; disorganized, 2.

"1 High Priest, 33 Elders, 10 Priests, 9 Teachers, 4 Deacons. Baptized in the last year, 30; died, 3; total strength, 211; strength at last report, 377; losses from all causes, 166.

"The District is generally in good standing; the Adversary has been busy the last year, and has overcome some that were looked upon as pillars, thereby causing confusion. The officers and members are trying to do their duty, and we have the promise that a good work will be done if we continue faithful. Elisha Johnson, Secretary."

Statistical report of the Nauvoo and String Prairie District:

"This District contains 11 Branches, in which there are 1 Apostle, 2 High Priests, 3 Seventies, 24 Elders, 10 Priests, 8 Teachers, 5 Deacons, and 263 members, making the total numerical strength of the District 316. Died 2, excommunicated 12, removed 6, received by baptism 35, net gain 15.

"The District, generally speaking, is in a more prosperous condition than it was a year ago. There are many, very many, pressing calls for the preaching of the word, and one of the reasons why more of these calls are not properly answered, is the want of a proper sacrifice of temporal means upon the part of the Saints. John H. Lake, President; Daniel F. Lambert, Secretary."

St. Louis District report:

"This District is composed of 8 branches, containing an aggregate membership of about 483, including officials, according to last report to District Conference; 47 baptised during past year. No delegate present in person. Wm. H. Hazzledine, Pres.; Thos. R. Allen, Clerk."

Massachusetts District report :

"BOSTON, Mass., March 31st, 1873.

"Beloved President and Brethren in General Conference Assembled :

"There are in Massachusetts District 7 Branches, viz: Fall River 59, Dennisport 47, Boston 25, Providence, R. I., 34, East Brewster 21, North Dartmouth 17, and Douglas 11, with a total membership of 214, including 30 Elders, 9 Priests, 7 Teachers and 6 Deacons.

"The morality of the District, good, as far as known. Lukewarmness is the principle hindrance to the progress of the work in some localities. On the whole the truth is advancing steadily and firmly. All the Branches except Providence are in Massachusetts. This District comprises Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

"Your brother in Christ,

"E. N. WEBSTER, Pres."

Statistical report of the Central Nebraska District for the quarter ending March 29th, 1874, to be presented at the Annual Conference :

"Two High Priests, 9 Elders, 3 Priests, 1 Teacher, 1 Deacon, 40 members; total numerical strength, 56.

"This District has not been reported in full since its division, therefore I have no previous reports to compare with the present one, for this reason some of the latter spaces are not filled up. Under the head of 'loss otherwise,' this number is accounted for by the action of our Elders' Quarterly Conference, held in December, 1873, whereby members leaving this District without Certificates of Removal, for a longer period than six months, cease to be represented. You must please excuse this soiled and improper form this time, as it is the best I have. Before another report is required, I shall endeavor to procure the proper forms. Charles Derry, President; George W. Galley, Secretary."

Pittsfield, Illinois, District :

"The District is composed of two organized Branches; the Pittsfield and the New Canton. The Pittsfield Branch numbers 22 members, including 3 Elders and 1 Priest; 2 added and 1 died since last report; prospects more favorable. The New Canton numbers 13, including 1 Seventy and 2 Elders, 1 added since last report. There are scattered in the District some 20 other members. The prospects begin to look better than they have done for some time past. There are some beginning to investigate our doctrine. C. Mills, President."

Northern Illinois District report :

"This District is composed of 13 Branches, with a total membership of 536, including 3 of the First Presidency, 1 Presiding

Bishop, 1 Apostle, 11 High Priests, 5 of the Seventy, 40 Elders, 11 Priests, 11 Teachers, 6 Deacons. During the past year 33 have been received by baptism and 25 by letter and vote, making a total increase of 58. During the same time 35 have removed by letter, 4 have been expelled and 5 have died, making a total decrease of 44, leaving a net gain of 14 for the year.

"The District is in, to say the least, a fair condition generally, though no great activity prevails in the way of field work. Many places of preaching are open and a few Elders have been, to some extent, extending their labors. As presiding officer I have preached in twelve different counties of the State, during the past year, and intend to be constantly active in the future. We report a large number of Elders as belonging to this District, but a portion of these are outside of the District, one a missionary to Australia, and others in Iowa and other States, or their whereabouts unknown. Respectfully yours. Henry A. Stebbins, President of District."

Report of the European Mission was then read :

"There are 17 organized Branches in the European mission, namely: Aberaman, Birmingham, Cwmavan, Clay Cross, Hanley, Llanelly, Llanfabon, London, Morristown, Merthyr, New Tredegar, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Penston, Stafford, Walsall, Ystradgynlais, which, together with scattered members, number 355 members, including 1 High Priest, 1 Seventy, 77 Elders, 27 Priests, 4 Teachers, 9 Deacons; Gain, by baptism 39, by vote 1; Loss: by removal 2, emigrated 12, expelled 13, died 8.

"This report includes Italy and Switzerland. Number baptized in the year not given. J. L. Bear and J. Avondet, missionaries, are included in the number. While we cannot vouch for the above figures being strictly correct, we trust they will be accepted by you as being the best we can do under existing circumstances, and we therefore offer it as the statistical report of the European Mission of the Reorganized Church, for the year ending February 28th, 1874, to be presented to the Annual Conference to convene at Plano, Kendall Co., Illinois, U. S. A., on April 6th, 1874.

"JOHN S. PATTERSON, Minister in charge of the Mission."

Adjourned to 2 P.M.

Benediction by Pres. J. Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hymn 378 sung. Prayer by Bishop I. L. Rogers.

Resolved, That the time of discussion be limited to eight minutes for each speaker. Carried.

The hour for free discussion having arrived, Br. Jason W. Briggs spoke on the nature of the discussion proposed, also on the subject of law, having form; also spiritual manifestations, having form; and of the necessity of conforming to the channels made by the Spirit.

Br. Banta spoke on the necessity of sustaining the organ of the Church, *i.e.* the *Herald*. Examined the charge made by some that the price was too high. Showed that there was but little improvement in the list of subscribers since the price was reduced to two dollars per year. Spoke of the professed poverty of some of the Saints, in not being able to take the *Herald*, yet take other more costly papers, and pay much more for unnecessary purposes.

Br. Z. H. Gurley spoke on signs that follow the believer; referred to cases where the sick were not healed—gave as a reason why some were not, that they kept not the commandments of God. Said we should do nothing except we could ask the blessing of God on it—referring to worldly associations, and business.

Br. J. Keir spoke of efforts made by himself to increase the *Herald* list of subscribers in his neighborhood; and on the subject of sacrificing for the cause.

Br. W. W. Blair, subject, sacrificing. The Lord does not require sacrifice of anything truly essential to the welfare of the individual. The sacrifice of tobacco, for instance, would be a benefit to the body as well as a saving of means. Gave instances of success and blessing attending those who have sacrificed means and time. Spoke of the blessing at Christ's coming given to those making covenant with the Lord by sacrifice.

Br. Joseph Smith spoke of the difference between red-tape, so called, and necessary restraint. True liberty obtained only under law. It was positively necessary that there should be restraint. When red-tape came in the way of duty cut it in two, like the man who cut the Gordian knot.

When the hour expired regular business was resumed.

REPORTS OF BRANCHES.

"The Nyesville, Indiana, Branch, contains

11 members, including 2 Elders, 2 Teachers, 1 Deacon and 6 members. Our little Branch here, is almost as it were, lost from any other. We have no District Conferences to make our reports to, so we thought it wisdom to send our report to the Annual Conference. Do you know of any one or more Branches any where near to us, so that we can be formed into a District, so that we can send our Quarterly reports to the Quarterly Conference? We live at present as a Branch, at Nyesville, Indiana, four miles from Rockville, in Park County, and about twenty or twenty-five miles from Terrahaute, and about the same distance from Crawfordsville, both on the Logansport and Crawfordsville road. Please let us know through the *Herald* if you know of any Branch or District with which we can unite. Thos. R. G. Williams, President; David D. Williams, Secretary."

"SYRACUSE, Ohio, March 26, 1874.

"DEAR BRO. JOSEPH:—This Branch is about the same as last reported, with the exception of one child blessed. The total number of members is 24, including 4 Elders, 1 Priest, and 1 Deacon. There is a good many of the members away from here without letters of recommendation. This Branch is not in a very prosperous condition, but there are a few of us trying to live up to our duties. So no more at present, from your brother in Christ. David Hopkins, President."

Report of Committee appointed to settle difficulties in Omaha Branch, read as follows:

"Your Committee found difficulties existing among some of the brethren of the Omaha Branch, of long standing. The Committee labored under difficulty in being unable to secure evidence to sustain charges preferred against each other, we were therefore only able to plead with them to be reconciled, and we are happy to report that we have had the pleasure of knowing that two of the brethren estranged, have become reconciled, and are living in peace. But our efforts failed to produce this effect upon all. There are two who are still estranged and fail to fellowship each other as brethren. They accuse each other of wrong doing, but having no additional evidence we could only admonish and persuade; further your Committee have no report.

"JAMES CAFFAL, }
"C. G. McINTOSH, } Com."

On motion, report was accepted and Committee discharged.

ELDERS' REPORTS READ.

Br. John S. Patterson, President of European Mission, reported as follows:

"10 Haden St., Balsall Heath,
Birmingham, England,
March 9th, 1874.

"To the Brethren in Conference Assembled,
Greeting:

"Dear Brethren and fellow laborers in the cause of Christ:—In addition to what has appeared in the *Herald* from us, and the enclosed statistical report of the European Mission at present under our charge, the following is offered to your Honorable Body, as our report to Conference.

"At the last sitting of the Annual Conference, you intrusted me with the care and responsibilities of this Mission, and although I felt my weakness and incapability to take charge of and perform the duties of such a position, yet I felt grateful that my past efforts though feeble, had gained for me the confidence of my brethren and fellow laborers, and I trust that my labors for the past year in this country has not detracted from that good opinion entertained by you.

"The work under our care has not made very rapid strides, yet our labors have not been altogether without fruit, both in numbers and spiritual growth. My time has been exclusively devoted to the interests of the cause, and as far as the means at my disposal would permit, I have tried to bring our claims and doctrine before the public, in the form of advertisements, and other printed matter, in which effort I have been nobly seconded by many of the local brethren. We have also endeavored to make our General and Local Conferences as public and interesting as possible, and we believe those efforts have assisted materially in making our doctrine more public in some localities, and in removing prejudice. Yet with our best efforts, we are painfully aware that the work moves slow; the iniquity of some in the past, has truly made the love of many wax cold. The lack of the printed word has been severely felt by us all over the mission, as we are aware that many could be reached by that means that are otherwise unapproachable. I trust that your Honorable Body at its present sitting, will take such steps as shall result in providing us with at least a limited supply of this much needed auxiliary (Tracts) as we could then call to our assistance a number of missionaries, who are now doing comparatively nothing, yet many of them have expressed their willingness to become Tract distributors, when supplied by us; I mean the sisters, many of whom manifest a zeal, and express a willingness, which gives encouragement for the future weal of the cause in this land. Late advices from Wales show that Br. Robert Evans, who at present has charge of that part of the Mission, is laboring faithfully with the local brethren, and they look hopefully to the

future. Br. Coward, of Liverpool, writes that he is continually raising his voice in defense of the cause, and although feeble in health, yet he feels strong in the Lord.

"Elder E. C. Brand has given what assistance he could in London and vicinity, but the complicated condition of his business that brought him to this country, has demanded much of his time and prevented him from doing much that he otherwise would have done.

"Brethren Bear and Avondet, on the continent, write rather discouragingly; they need the printed word, and also pecuniary assistance, or they cannot make their mission a success. We will assist them all we can for the present, hoping the Conference will take their case into consideration. I shall not say more of them, as I understand that they have written to the First Presidency, giving a full account of their condition, requirements, and future intentions.

"The Annual Conference for this Mission will convene at the Saints' Meeting Room, Birmingham, on April the 4th; we anticipate a good time, and shall pray that God may bless you in your deliberations, and that peace, unanimity, and wisdom, may be the ruling spirits of your Conference, assisting you to take such steps as shall result in spreading the gospel among all nations, and developing the future righteousness and glory of the Redeemer's kingdom.

"As regards myself, I consider it proper to state that, a few weeks ago a letter reached England from Br. Jason W. Briggs, containing a request that I might remain another summer on this mission, saying that it would be the wish of the Church, if agreeable to me. I have replied to his letter, (which I suppose has reached him), stating that I have all along promised my family that I should return after this Spring's Conference, and that I felt bound in honor to fulfill my promise, unless my wife would release me from its obligations, but if her consent could be obtained—although my health has been poor for some time, and still is—yet I would be willing if I can be of any further service to the cause, to still make the necessary sacrifice and remain awhile longer; I have also written to my family to the same effect, but as no answer has reached me from them up to this date, I feel myself in duty bound to present my name to you asking to be released from my present mission; but should you have obtained the consent of my family to my remaining, the above request may be withdrawn if you so wish it, but I am not willing to prolong my mission on the ground of my wife joining me here, as I have serious objections to my wife joining me here under existing circumstances.

"In the event of some one being ap-

pointed to succeed me, permit me to suggest that not every man that might be willing to come, or that holds priesthood, would be a suitable person to assume the cares and responsibilities of this mission; it may perhaps be unnecessary for me to say, to those at least who have been on this mission before me, that it requires a person that is acquainted with the peculiarities of the English people, and who is entirely unselfish, and well versed in the law and rulings of the church, and who will, as far as possible, leave undisturbed all previous action taken by those who have preceded him, or he may soon find himself involved in a series of difficulties from which it may not be so easy to extricate himself, as there are some here who manifest a morbid desire to probe old sores, and are untiring in their efforts to drag brethren in authority after them; and nothing but a firm, unflinching policy can keep them in check. Since assuming the presidency here I have, as the law in the Doctrine and Covenants demand, made regular financial reports, quarterly, to the Bishop, and shall not therefore present any report of this kind to the Conference, as Br. Rogers can, I presume, present them if the Conference desires it. In the event of my release and a suitable person not being available for the mission, permit me again to suggest, that Elder Thomas Taylor, of Birmingham, would be the most suitable person to entrust with the care of the mission on this side of the Atlantic, until otherwise provided for, and I believe it is his intention to remain another year in this country before emigrating. Should you conclude to supply the mission with tracts, and wish them published here, please send back the printer's estimate that you think the most suitable to give the printing to, and also give your instructions regarding the quantity of each kind to be printed, and the final disposal of them, etc., as plain as possible, as we have no desire to go beyond your wishes in the matter, or incur any expense that would not meet with your approval.

"The brethren in Wales are still anticipating some action being taken by you toward the return of Elder John T. Davies among them. Trusting that this report may be satisfactory, and ever praying for the onward progress of the work we love and represent, I have the honor to subscribe myself your brother and fellow laborer in the cause of Zion.

"JOHN S. PATTERSON,

"*Minister in charge of European Mission.*"

Br. T. W. Smith, President of Eastern Mission, reported that there are four Districts in the Mission:

"1st. The Eastern Maine, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, comprised of eight

Branches. One Branch organized by Br. John C. Foss, since last report, at East Machias, Maine. Some sixteen or seventeen members baptized by Br. Foss. There has been additions to all of the Branches, especially at Mason's Bay, where at least a dozen have been baptized by Elders Samuel O Foss and T. W. Smith. Br. John C. Foss has been laboring at a new point called Whitney, and has baptized several. With the exception of Grand Manan, the Branches are in a quite good and prosperous condition. Early in September I ordained Brn. John C. Foss and Joseph Lakeman, each to the office of Seventy, in accordance with the election of Annual Conference of 1873. Emory J. Foss, Presiding Elder of District.

"2d. The Western Maine District is composed of five Branches, condition quite good, not many additions. Thomas Ames, President.

"3d. The Massachusetts District, including the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, seven Branches compose the District, some have been added since last report. The members of the Branches are generally spiritually minded, and the organizations quite harmonious and prosperous. Some very efficient Elders in this District, but are kept from the field by the cares of business and the claims of the family. Several new fields have been opened by Brn. C. N. Brown and George S. Yerrington, and others, in the neighborhood of Providence, Rhode Island. E. N. Webster, Presiding Elder.

"4th. The Philadelphia District is composed of three Branches, Brooklyn, New York, Philadelphia and South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Some have been added recently at Brooklyn and Philadelphia. S. Reeves, President.

"There is some prospect of getting a foothold in Southern New Jersey. I intend to see what can be done there. I would recommend a division of the Mission into at least two Missions."

Br. Joseph R. Lambert writes as follows:

"WOODBINE, Harrison Co., Iowa,
April 1st, 1874.

"Beloved President and brethren in Conference assembled:—That you may be blest in all your deliberations is my earnest prayer. Since the Semi-Annual Conference I have labored almost constantly whenever my health would permit. Have preached on an average about three times per week, besides other labor. Monday last I baptized one, the only one since Conference at Woodbine. She is an intelligent lady, came into the Church in a proper manner, and will, I think, prove steadfast in the cause. I think there are others, who will hear their Master's voice and follow him, I mean in Wood-

bine, where the *evil one* begins to bestir himself and to incite his emissaries to action. I have preached some in Hancock and McDonough Counties, Illinois; but the chief part of my labor has been done in Southwestern Iowa, mostly in Harrison County. In a general sense the cause is onward, so far as I know. So long as the necessities of life are provided for my family, I shall endeavor to do all that I can. My labors have been acceptable, at least to those who have helped me when I was in need. I am satisfied with my field of labor. Do with me as you think best. Pray for me that I may be kept in the line of duty.

"JOS. R. LAMBERT."

Br. James Caffall reported as follows:

"COUNCIL BLUFFS, April 4th, 1874.

"To President Joseph Smith and Brethren in Annual Conference Assembled, at Plano, Illinois:

"Since the Semi-Annual Conference of 1873, I have traveled and labored in the following Districts: Pottawattamie, Little Sioux and Fremont, Iowa; Eastern and Central Nebraska; and I find openings for the introduction of the gospel in each of the above Districts. But except Sunday preaching very little labor is been done. Neither of the Districts have Elders whose time is fully employed in the ministry. There exists among the members comprising the above named Districts much apathy and indifference. Yet there are those like Simeon of old, who are not only waiting, but patiently laboring for Israel's consolation; for the Latter Day cause shineth bright unto them, and they expect not a crown without bearing the cross. The law of tithing is being looked upon favorably by some, and they are endeavoring to ascertain what is, or if they have a surplus; but their name is not legion. In consideration of what is revealed touching tithing, I see no debatable ground; I have thought, with a *thus saith the Lord*, upon law or doctrine, that with Latter Day Saints, *discussion* should end. But some think different, hence caviling upon tithing has not entirely ceased. I am no advocate for hasty or arbitrary measures, and God forbid I should be, but it doth seem to me that Latter Day Saints ought to be consistent with themselves. The *Herald* and *Hope* are not receiving the support they should, but I am in great hopes of an improvement in this direction. Nor has there been that interest taken in distributing the tracts illustrative of our faith as there might have been, in a general way. I found an honorable exception to this however, in a recent visit to a small Branch known as the Liberty Branch, in the vicinity of Weeping Water, Nebraska; here, the brethren have been awake to the importance of sending the silent messengers, and it is

producing its effects. And now, brethren and fellow laborers in Christ, let me say, I speak the feelings of many hearts in the West, in praying for peace, union, and the power of God's Spirit to attend you in your deliberations. Yours in gospel bonds,

"JAMES CAFFALL."

Br. R. J. Anthony reported as follows:

"SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,

March 23d, 1874.

"Br. Joseph Smith:—As the Annual Conference is near at hand, I offer you a short sketch of my labors since I last wrote. Then I expected that I would go south, but owing to the bad conditions of the roads, and for other good reasons we were prevented from going.

"February 20th I left Battle Creek for Heber City. For the most part of the road the snow was about two feet deep. I stayed all night at Mr. McAfee's and preached to a small audience. The next day I went into Heber City. The distance from Battle Creek to Heber is about thirty miles, and for twenty miles the road was covered with snow from one to two feet deep, so it was hard traveling, as we had to walk most of the way and were pretty tired.

"On Sunday, 22d, we preached in the school-house and had a very good audience. We gave away a good many tracts and talked with the people when and wherever we could. On Saturday, February 28th, I baptized two, and on Sunday, March 1st, we had a privilege of speaking in the school-house again. The house was well filled, but we were informed that this was the last time we could have the house, for when the Brighamite Bishop saw that he was likely to lose some of his flock, his liberality was not so large, and he said it would not do to let us have the house any more. We organized a Branch with eight members. It will be known as the Heber City Branch; Br. William Aird, President; John H. Hurdsman, Priest. I did this by the advice of Br. Gregory, as he told me that Br. Ells had appointed him President of the Utah Mission, so what I did was done by his advice.

"I think the Bishop did not hurt us much by refusing the house, for he had boasted that we were welcome and had a right to the house, and so quite a number think he did wrongly. I know of at least twelve more in Heber who told me that they would unite with us. They are all good men and women. Owing to the cold and the deep snow we could not baptize any at the time we were there. I hope that the work will be followed up, for there is quite an interest now among the people, and good can be done.

"The work is not in a good condition in Utah as we would like to see it, and I hope that the Conference will do something

for us. I think that the work will not progress much until some one comes here qualified to take hold of the work at the right place. I know that the brethren who have been here have done all they could, and did well too; but since they have left, things have not went as well as they should. Some Branches are dead, in fact, disorganized; and I am sorry to say that there are some here who have authority to do and yet don't do, and are afraid some one will intrude on their rights,—cause, too much Brighamism.

“But this is passing away, for I have talked with all classes, and all agree that Brigham is losing his power; and some men of influence are ready now to break loose. I have been informed that Mr. Jennings has declared that he will leave the Church. A gentleman informed me that he heard him tell the *Deseret News* men to keep their paper from his premises. They called him and his party “the rag tag and bob tail,” after he dared to run in opposition to Mr. Wells. He told them that they had only seen the beginning. It is also reported that Mr. Hooper and Teasdel have declared against Brigham.

“About all they preach now is to consecrate their property. Brigham has established the Order of Enoch at St. George, and called for two hundred families from here, but they don't respond as in days of yore.

“I am just going to start north to Cache Valley, and will attend Conference in Logan on the 28th and 29th. Then I will turn my attention another way, for I must go to work. I don't know what good I have done here, but if I had the work to do again I think I could do better. I have distributed many tracts and they always reach places that we cannot.

“I and all the Saints in Utah would like to see some good Elder sent here. It is a hard place to labor, but there is no danger now. I only give you those ideas that you can guess at the condition of things here.

“*Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah, March 30th, 1874.*—I do think that there ought to be some one sent to Utah as soon as possible. There are quite a number of Saints living in different parts of the Territory that ought to be visited. From Union Fort south there is not now one Branch in an organized state. At Lehi, American Fork, and Battle Creek, there are Saints enough for organization. At Provo City I think there might be a Branch. From what I could learn there is eight or ten members there. The number at Beaver, and other places south, I cannot tell, but they are unorganized and in a scattered condition. It does appear to me that we ought to have a man here who could put the brethren to work.

“There is some little difficulty that will have to be settled, then all will go well.

The majority of the Saints are true and faithful. There has not been a Conference held south of Cache Valley for nearly two years, and no report, so they hardly know how they stand.

“The Malad Sub-District Conference has just closed. We had a good time; the Spirit of the Lord was with us to cheer and comfort. The prospects are encouraging in this District, and we expect some additions. From the general disaffection in different places we believe good can be done. There are but few settlements but what a man can get a good hearing, if we could only get the houses to preach in, but summer is near and we could preach in the groves in many places.

“If any Elders come they can make up their minds to hard fare and plenty of it. I organized a Branch at Heber City, and I have instructed Br. Aird to report to Br. Gregory, at Salt Lake City, as President of the Utah Mission.

“I have now made arrangements to go to work to support my family. As soon as the weather will permit I will start to Montana. The snow is now twelve or fourteen inches deep, and many are losing stock for want of feed. Such a long winter was hardly ever known here before.

“I have formed many acquaintances with the Saints here that I shall ever hold in grateful remembrance, and I wish to thank the Saints, through the *Herald*, for their kindness to me. They are Saints indeed, and have supplied all my wants. My desire is to see the work of God prosper, and to-day, if circumstances would permit, I would not lay down the weapons of warfare.

“May God inspire those that can go, to go and work for our beloved Master. If the Saints could only realize the condition of mankind, it appears to me they would rise in the strength of the Lord and plead Zion's cause till the standard of the Great King would be established everywhere, for the harvest is ripe and the reapers are few. May the love of God increase and abound in the assemblies of the Saints till the perfect day. Yours in the gospel bonds.

“R. J. ANTHONY.”

Bro. J. H. Hansen reported as follows:—

“FARMINGTON, Ky., March 19, 1874.

“*To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Annual Conference Assembled, Greeting:—*

“Dear Brethren:—Having been appointed by the Semi-Annual Conference to the South-Eastern Mission, I herewith submit the following report of my labors, in pursuance of said appointment.

“I left Council Bluffs for my field of labor on September 9th, 1873, but as it was not considered expedient for me to go di-

rect South, I spent some time in Illinois, where I preached a number of times, and baptized three persons and organized one Branch at Streator. From there I went to St. Louis, Mo., where I spent a short time. From there I went to Kentucky, where I arrived January 8th, 1874. Since that time I have been constantly engaged in preaching the word, under the direction of Bro. Clapp. The opportunities for preaching here are excellent; doors are opened on every hand to us, and many are believing. I have preached in all since last Conference, seventy-eight discourses, mostly to four congregations, and the great majority of them to people totally unacquainted with the work. Praying that the Lord may direct you in your deliberations during Conference, that you may do much for the advancement of the cause of Christ, I remain your fellow laborer in the Gospel of Christ.

"J. H. HANSEN."

Bro. *Robert Davis* reported, (see *Herald* of April 15th.)

Bro. *John Baerman* reported as follows:—

"St. Louis, Mo., March 28, 1874.

"To the Brethren in Conference Assembled:

"I left Plano for St. Louis, where I stayed over four months; I preached in the city of St. Louis, and also at Belleville; at Alma, where I organized a Sunday School; Dry Hill and Gravois, with good success. After laboring at the above places, the Spirit directed my attention to leave for another place. I accordingly left for Council Bluffs, where I preached quite a number of times, and also had a debate with my Jewish brethren. At Crescent City and other places I preached also a good many times; Glenwood, Plum Hollow, Weeping Waters, Kenosha, Nebraska City, Wabonsee, and at Omaha, Nebraska. I expect to return to Omaha. I baptized sister McKnight of Omaha, Neb., and sister Jane Scott of Glenwood. From thence I came to St. Louis, stopping at St. Joseph, Missouri, Atchison, Kansas, and Leavenworth Kansas. The Lord has blessed my labors and I am thankful for his kindness, it is also a testimony to me that I am accepted as his child, through Jesus Christ his Son. My determination is to go on. I request the prayers of the Saints that I may hold out faithful.

JOHN BAERMAN."

Bro. *Joseph C. Clapp* wrote as follows:—

"FARMINGTON, Graves Co., Ky., }
April 2d, 1874.

"I am still trying to build up the kingdom in this part of 'Joseph's Land.' My labors since the Fall Conference have been in Kentucky, Alabama and Florida. I have preached about one hundred discourses in

the last six months, and I feel quite sure that much of the seed sown fell on good ground. With my own hands I have baptized but one. I have blessed four children and ordained one Deacon. I have opened twenty-one new places for preaching, and could have opened as many more if I had thought it prudent. During the last three months I have been ably assisted by Elder J. H. Hanson, who by his untiring energy has greatly increased the number of friends to the cause. Saturday, the 11th of this month, we are to immerse those who believe strong enough to obey. We do not know just how many will put in an appearance, but we think several. I have had a long fight with prejudice in this country, but the Master's arm has been strong in defense of truth, and many of the intelligent part of this community are beginning to see that our doctrine is not a new gospel, but a sound and more reasonable presenting of the old, than what they have been used to. The Saints of the South, as far as I can learn by letter, are trying to fight the good fight of faith. We need at least two active Elders in southern Alabama and Florida. The Saints of the South are poor, but liberal and warm-hearted; and I am sure from the Spirit that they manifested while I was with them, that they would do all in their power to sustain one or two economizing Elders. I am still at the disposal of the Conference. Your brother and fellow laborer in Christ.

"J. C. CLAPP,

"President of South-Eastern Mission."

MISSIONS REPORTED IN PERSON.

Bro. *C. G. Lanphear* reported in person. Had preached in Indiana on his way East, and organized one Branch. From there into New York and then to Pennsylvania. In August last went into Trumbull County, Ohio, and also to Church Hill, Ohio. In Frewsburg, New York, had preached in Congregational Church, and found much prejudice. From there to Allegheny and Steuben County, New York, from September to October, with fair success. Baptized one there. They desire that one or two Elders be sent to them. Was also in Hyde Park, Pennsylvania, through November. He was in Wayne County New York, and in Allegheny and Steuben Counties again. Preached again in Frewsburg, Conneautville, and Trumbull County and Church Hill, Ohio. Good Branch at Church Hill.

Bro. *John T. Davies* reported that since his return from Wales he has been

laboring in Southwest Missouri and Kansas. Some difficulties exist there that must be attended to. There are seven Branches, and two hundred and twenty-five members. Has baptized several, and there are fair prospects for more. Br. B. G. Watson had been in the Cherokee Nation, and had baptized about twenty-five, and organized a Branch. In Joplin, Missouri, had baptized some. Some things there must be attended to, and a good man is asked for there. A man capable to have charge. If one was appointed to go there from this Conference he would do good. There is a better feeling generally in the District, however, than has been for three years, and more of the Spirit of God enjoyed by the Saints.

Br. *W. W. Blair* reported that after Semi-Annual Conference he had labored in Western Iowa, where God had greatly favored his people. Good congregations and a good degree of interest among the people. Had also labored in Missouri and Kansas. Had found a good degree of the Spirit nearly everywhere. Since coming home Christmas time had preached in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. His determination is to help build up the kingdom of God.

Br. *Charles Williams* had preached near Rochelle and near Waterman, Illinois, also at Amboy. Intended to do more and will devote all the time he could to the work.

Br. *H. A. Stebbins* reported his labors in the District, and a visit to Michigan.

Br. *Zenos H. Gurley* had preached in the Decatur District, Iowa, and in Missouri. Our doctrine was gaining ground with the people, and the cause was advancing. He could say that in Decatur District the cause was onward, their only hope was in the law of Christ, and the brethren are feeling strong.

Br. *P. S. Wixom* had been laboring in the Master's cause what he could.

Br. *Joseph Smith* said: After Fall Conference he had been in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri about two months, preaching forty-three times during that time. Br. Deuel had been into Nebraska and preached, and had

baptized fourteen. Br. A. J. Fields was also under his direction.

On motion of Brn. T. W. Smith and C. G. Lanphear, it was

Resolved, That the evening session be devoted to preaching and other devotional exercises, as the First Presidency shall arrange.

Adjourned to meet at 7½ o'clock P.M. Sung Doxology. Benediction by the President.

EVENING SESSION.

Sung hymn 199. Prayer by Bro. Charles Williams. Sung hymn 193.

Preamble and Resolution relating to the death of Br. Isaac Sheen were presented by Br. T. W. Smith.

"WHEREAS, It having pleased our Father in Heaven to call from labor and toil on earth to rest and reward in the Paradise of God, our faithful brother, and servant of God, High Priest Isaac Sheen, who was also General Church Recorder and Church Librarian; therefore be it

Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to the will of God in this our bereavement, yet we cannot help but realize a deep and heartfelt sorrow that we have been thus deprived of the faithful and earnest labors of one whose course has always been that of a consistent Christian, and in his death the Church has lost a steadfast and valiant Soldier of the Cross, and an able advocate of the cause of scattered Israel. And be it further

Resolved, That as a Conference we sincerely and sorrowfully sympathize with his family in their loss of a husband and a father, and offer them whatsoever consolation Christian affection and earnest prayer for Divine strength to bear their loss, with patience, can afford, feeling to 'weep with them that weep.'

This resolution unanimously adopted.

Preaching by President Jos. Smith. Hymn 212 was sung.

Adjourned to meet at 10 A.M. Tuesday morning.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Hymn 19 was sung; prayer by Bro. W. W. Blair. Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

The President called Br. *A. C. Inman* to report. Had labored in Ray County, Missouri. Had baptized three and ordained one Priest, blessed one child in

Tama County, Iowa. Preached in Newton, Iowa.

Br. Jason W. Briggs reported. Labors not very extensive. Had preached at Amboy, Lee County. Spoke in defence of the faith in Sandwich. Went to Michigan and Indiana. Assisted E. C. Briggs at Galien, Michigan, good attendance, and great interest manifested. Went to Indiana, Steuben County. Held a debate of five and a half days with a very strong Disciple preacher. The Disciples sent to Mansfield, Ohio, for a representative man, one of their strongest and best. The preacher desired to cut the debate short at four and a half days. People decided that he, (Br. B.), should have sufficient time to finish his defence. Manifestations among the people decidedly favorable. He held meetings in regions round about. The discussion was held in the Disciple's own house, but they would not allow the brethren to hold meetings in their house. There are manifestations that there will be a strong pillar of the truth built up there. Stopped and preached at Galien on his way back. Opposed running around from Dan to Beersheba to hunt places to preach when there are openings all around. Exhorted the Elders to be more earnestly engaged.

Subjects of missions called up by the President. Allusion made by the President to the Australian Mission. He gave an account of the manner of the discovery of the Saints at Tahiti, Society Islands.

Brn. Jason W. Briggs and Zenos H. Gurley, moved that C. W. Wandell and Gland Rodger be sustained in their mission to Australasia. Carried.

The President referred to the request of Br. Alexander H. Smith pertaining to a division of the Pacific Slope Mission, and requested the attention of the Conference to the matter.

Brn. J. W. Briggs and Zenos H. Gurley, moved that Br. Alexander H. Smith be sustained in the Presidency of the Pacific Slope Mission. Motion prevailed.

The President gave his views of the separation of the Mission, as he knew of no one who would be willing to take the oversight of the different divisions, as

the brethren seem to endeavor to come East as soon as they can be free to do so.

The following resolution was offered by Brn. W. W. Blair and O. P. Dunham, and adopted:

Resolved, That Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado be stricken off the Pacific Slope Mission and constitute a separate Mission to be known as the Utah Mission.

The European Mission was presented by the President, stating the request of Br. John S. Patterson to be released. He suggested that the Conference request him to stay another summer.

Br. J. W. Briggs stated that Br. Patterson was willing to stay if he was released from a promise made that he would return this summer.

The President offered the case of Brn. Bear and Avondet, and referred to the necessities of the brethren.

Moved by Brn. Z. H. Gurley and P. S. Wixom, that the brethren be sustained in their mission. Carried.

Moved by Brn. W. W. Blair and O. P. Dunham, that John T. Davies be sent to take charge of the Welsh Mission.

Br. Davies expressed his willingness to go, upon the condition that his family be sustained. He spoke also of the necessity of having tracts printed in the Welsh language. Alluded to the fact of the land being flooded with the publications of the Utah Church.

Br. W. W. Blair spoke of the qualification of Br. Davies for that field, and also of the good prospects of the brother's family being properly sustained.

A petition signed by some thirty of the brethren at Galesburg, Missouri, requesting the Conference to allow Br. Davies to remain with them a while longer, was presented.

Br. Briggs spoke of the difficulties in the way of publishing in the Welsh language, as many could write, but could not properly translate, but said this would be an after consideration.

Resolution offered by Br. T. W. Smith;

Resolved, That the business sessions of this Conference begin at 9:30 A.M., and close at 12 M., and begin at 2 P.M., and close at 5 P.M., and that the preaching and social meetings at 7:30 P.M., the hour of adjourn-

ing and reassembling to be announced by the President.

On motion of Br. J. W. Briggs and Z. H. Gurley, resolution prevailed.

The President declared an adjournment to 2 P.M. Benediction by the President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Session opened by singing hymn 190. Prayer offered by the President.

The hour for free discussion having arrived.

Br. F. G. Pitt read a plan for the better support of the ministry. Brn. A. C. Inman, J. Keir and J. Hunter spoke in favor.

Br. Garner called attention to the fact that there was a law governing the case; cited the case of Little Sioux District adopting a similar plan, but little or nothing was done.

Br. Blair said it has very properly been said, that a rule of action was laid down. Referred to a resolution passed some years ago in reference to collecting on the first day of the week, and tithing. He believed in going back to the position taken by the Church, and living up to it. Answered an objection to taking up collection on Sunday. Inquired, Is it a legitimate work? He believed that it was. Referred to the section in Doctrine and Covenants relating to the Sabbath. Commented on word *oblation*, showing it to be anything offered in worship or sacrifice, and to mean gifts and offerings for the support of the ministry and the poor, as was offered in the early Church. Advised that it be done every Sunday, if not practical that often, then every two weeks. Referred to the objection that some might make that the Churches of the sects take up collections, says it is no reason why we should not do a right thing because others do that thing. We would not hesitate to eat regularly because others do so.

Br. Lanphear said that he did not know what proposition would be best, realized the necessity of something being done; thinks the way offered to be a good one.

Bro. L. D. Hickey said he believed

the rules laid down should be adhered to. He was never ashamed of the doctrine of the Church—spoke of his experience in the work—and that when he felt interested in the work it affected his money, and was willing to raise fifty dollars to aid the brother who was going to Wales.

Bro. Jason W. Briggs spoke on the subject of the Seventy. But few were in the field. The balance were plowing, making tents, serving tables, &c. They are, according to the law, separated especially for the work. The Church should make some provisions for the support of their families. Some say they are willing but are not ready. The condition of the world shows what the majority are not doing. Circumstances perhaps are at work which will solve the problem. The enemy are at work hedging up the way. The Church will feel ashamed that they have been crippled when they ought not. Why not forecast for the future.

Bro. Banta spoke of the impossibility of getting any means to further the work unless the love of God is fully planted in the heart. If we loved the world as Christ did, we would be willing to give our lives for the work. If the Branches would discipline their members, the love of God would be more abundantly found. Does not believe the love of God will dwell in the heart of men who go through the streets smoking cigars, and in others who are taking their drams. Those who laid their money at the apostles' feet did it through love for the work; they were not compelled to do it. His experience is, that nothing has drawn money from his pocket except the love of God.

Bro. Zenas H. Gurley proposed to put the willingness of the brethren to help to a practical test; offered to give now—others responded.

The President spoke of the practical turn the discussion had taken. Alluded to the Sabbath collection, referred to by Paul. A portion of the blame for apathy in this matter can be attached to the ministry. He believed that the tenderest nerve in humanity was the one called the pocket nerve.

The hour having expired, the subject

of the Welsh Mission was taken up.

Bro. Blair spoke of Bro. Davies' traveling through several States on his way to the Atlantic coast. He believed the mission would be self-sustaining.

Bro. Banta believed that the Bishop cannot sustain the missions, unless the Church sustains the Bishop.

The President said that a special effort could be made, similar to that made two years ago, and he believed it would be successful. If the brethren would stay away from Conference on so slight a hint as that given in the *Herald*, they would perhaps take a broader hint in regard to missions, if it come from the same source.

Motion to send Br. Davies to Wales, was passed.

The President read a letter from Bro. J. C. Clapp, expressing his willingness to go to the isles of the sea if necessary.

Bros. J. W. Briggs and W. W. Blair moved that Bros. J. C. Clapp and John H. Hansen be sustained in the South Eastern Mission. Carried.

The President called the attention of Conference to the case of Bro. Davis H. Bays. Read an order sent by him to Bro. Bays. Bro. Bays has accepted, and gone on his mission.

On motion of Bros. Jason W. Briggs and E. Banta, Bro. Bays was sustained in his mission to Texas as reinstated by order from the Presidency.

Resolution offered by Brn. Robert Warnock and Z. H. Gurley:

Resolved, That the First Presidency and the Bishopric be appointed to correspond with the Presidents of Branches and members of the Church, with a view to receive moneys to sustain the Missions appointed by this Conference.

Brn. E. Banta and C. G. Lanphear offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That the President and the Bishop write an appeal to the Churches to send up tithes and free will offerings to assist the Missions.

Brn. Warnock and Thos. W. Smith moved to amend by adding the word "ric" to the word Bishop. Carried.

Brn. W. W. Blair and John T. Davies offered to further amend by adding after the word missions, "and other legitimate church purposes," which motion prevailed.

The substitute as amended was then put to vote and carried.

Moved by Brn. Wm. W. Blair and John T. Davies, that Br. Jas. Caffall be requested to repair to the Spring River District at an early day, and take the oversight of the field lately occupied by Br. Davies. Carried.

Moved by Brn. W. W. Blair and E. Banta, that Joseph R. Lambert be requested to labor in South-Western Iowa, Eastern Nebraska and North-Eastern Kansas. Carried.

The President suggested that Brn. John H. Lake, and Wm. H. Kelley be continued in their respective fields.

On motion of Brn. Z. H. Gurley and W. W. Blair, Br. Wm. H. Kelley was sustained in the mission given him at last Annual Conference.

On motion of Brn. Jason W. Briggs and O. P. Dunham, Br. John H. Lake was sustained in his mission.

On motion of Brn. C. G. Lanphear and Thos. Hougas, Brn. Jason W. Briggs and E. C. Briggs were sustained in their respective fields of labor.

The President presented the name of Br. Zenos H. Gurley in connection with the Utah mission, to the Conference for consideration.

Brn. W. W. Blair and Wm. Aldrich moved that Br. Gurley be appointed to take charge of the Utah mission.

Br. J. W. Briggs suggested that Br. Gurley should not move in a hurry, as he does not think that any one at liberty could go right away.

Br. Gurley expressed his views on the subject.

On motion of Brn. T. W. Smith and Thos. Hougas, the further consideration of the matter was deferred till to-morrow morning.

On motion of Brn. E. Banta and C. G. Lanphear, Br. Wm. Redfield was released from the mission assigned him to labor under the First Presidency.

The President presented the names of Brn. Gordon E. Deuel and A. J. Fields, who were placed under his direction at the Fall Conference.

Br. Jason W. Briggs questioned the propriety and legality of such special appointments. He had been interrogated on the matter and could give no satisfactory answer.

The President stated that last Fall he raised precisely the same objections as these presented by Br. Briggs; he did not approve of the plan. Upon request

the President declared the subject deferred.

The following persons were received upon their original baptisms: Ardilla Taylor, Alfred Guinand, Hyrum K. Drown, David Crider, Sarah Crider, Jesse Seelye, Mary Ann Seelye, Lucinda Updike, Dimmis Dutcher and Sarah Weaver.

Adjourned till 9:30 A.M. Wednesday.
Preaching at night by Br. Zenos H. Gurley.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Opened by singing hymn 495. Pres. W. W. Blair in the Chair. Prayer by Br. T. W. Smith.

The President introduced the subject of the Utah mission.

Bro. E. Banta spoke against Bro. Gurley going at once, and insisted that the appointment should be deferred till September Conference, or else a statement be made that he will not be expected to go before August. The President suggested that a motion to that effect be offered.

Moved by Brn. J. Keir and C. G. Lanphear that the appointment of Bro. Gurley to the Utah Mission be deferred till September Conference.

Motion lost. Division being called for, it was again defeated.

Bros. E. Banta and I. N. W. Cooper moved as an amendment that Bro. Gurley proceed to his field of labor as early as the middle of August. Carried.

The vote being then taken on the original motion as amended, it was adopted.

Moved by Bros. E. Banta and P. S. Wixom, that Bro. Robert Warnock be associated with Bro. Gurley in the Utah Mission.

Bro. Warnock expressed his views, and was willing to go into that field, and called upon the President of the Church to give his views, which he did, stating that he had full confidence in the brother, and felt impressed that he should go. Motion prevailed.

Brs. Jason W. Briggs and E. Banta moved, that Bro. Gordon E. Deuel be released from the appointment to labor under the direction of the First Presidency, and that he be instructed to report to the officer in charge where he is now laboring.

Bro. Joseph Smith gave his views of the character of the opposition to Bro. Deuel. He objected to the principle of putting men to labor specially under the direction of the First Presidency, but had nothing against the brother. The motion prevailed.

Bros. E. Banta and Thos. Hougas moved, that Bro. A. J. Fields be released from the same appointment, and instructed to report himself to Bro. B. V. Springer.

On motion, Br. James W. Gillen was sustained in his field of labor, and requested to report to Br. Zenos H. Gurley.

Moved by Brn. E. Banta and Jason W. Briggs, that Br. B. V. Springer be sustained in his field of labor in Southern Indiana and Northern Kentucky. Motion prevailed.

On motion of Brn. E. Banta and W. W. Blair, Br. C. G. Lanphear be sustained in his former field of labor.

On motion of Brn. J. W. Briggs and A. C. Inman, Br. E. L. Kelley was requested to labor in connection with Brn. E. C. Briggs and Wm. H. Kelley in Minnesota and Michigan.

Moved by Brn. Joseph Smith and Thomas Hougas, that the missions heretofore given to Brn. Robert Davis and Duncan Campbell be continued. Carried.

Moved by Brn. J. Smith and J. Kier that Br. E. C. Brand be continued in his former mission. Carried.

Moved by Brn. Joseph Smith and Thos. Hougas, That Br. George Hatt be continued in his former mission. Carried.

Br. Joseph Smith presented the case of Br. Litz, and moved that it be referred to the District Conference where he resides at their next sitting, seconded by Br. W. A. Moore.

By request of Br. Banta, Br. Smith gave a brief account of the origin and progress of the difficulties; but said that the parties were now willing to have an adjustment of the matter, and this reference to District Conference was by consent of parties concerned.

Motion to refer prevailed.

On motion, the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, were made a Mission, and Br. T. W. Smith take charge thereof, he being released from the Eastern Mission. Carried.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and Wm. Aldrich, the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Nova Scotia and the Provinces, and New Brunswick were made a Mission, and Br. John C. Foss appointed to take charge thereof.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and O.

P. Dunham, the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York be made a Mission, and Br. Charles N. Brown take the oversight thereof.

On motion, a Committee of three was appointed to adopt a style and form of Church Seal, and procure the same, and report before the close of Conference.

On motion of Brn. E. Banta and P. S. Wixom, Br. Joseph Smith was appointed one of that committee.

On motion of Brn. E. Banta and Z. H. Gurley, Br. Jason W. Briggs was appointed one of the committee.

On motion of Brn. Z. H. Gurley and W. W. Blair, Br. E. Banta was appointed one of the committee.

The Bishop's report was presented and read

On motion, it was referred to a committee of three.

On motion, the committee were requested to report at this session of Conference.

It was moved that the chair appoint the committee.

Agreed to. The chair said that he would defer the appointment for the present.

On motion, Br. George Shaw was appointed a Mission to Nova Scotia, and requested to report to Br. John C. Foss.

Moved by Brn. C. G. Lanphear and A. C. Inman, that Br. I. N. Bogue be appointed to labor in N. E. Michigan.

On motion, amended, that he be requested to report to those in charge of the Mission.

A letter was read from John W. Grierson, an old-time Saint, now in Mississippi; also, one from J. S. Comstock.

A letter was read from Br. James Caffall in reference to the purchase of a lot of six acres near Council Bluffs, for the use of Semi-Annual Conference.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and J. W. Briggs, the ordination of Br. Zenos H. Gurley was ordered to be made the special order for the morning of next day's session.

Moved by Brn. J. W. Briggs and Z. H. Gurley, that the Board of Publication, as a body, be sustained by this Conference. Carried.

Reading of Financial report was deferred till afternoon session.

Moved by Brn. J. W. Briggs and W. H. Blair, that the First Presidency and the Bishopric, in writing their appeal to the Churches for means, encourage the proposal of Br. J. T. Davies to establish a Welsh Periodical.

Brn. Briggs, Davies and Banta spoke in favor of the motion.

On motion of Brn. Z. H. Gurley and P. S. Wixom, further discussion was deferred till afternoon session.

President declared the adjournment. The Doxology was sung.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hymn 126 was sung. Prayer by Br. P. S. Wixom.

President Blair announced that Br. H. Garner, of Iowa, requested the prayers of the Saints in behalf of his afflicted wife. Hymn 896 was sung.

Hour of free discussion.

Br. A. C. Inmann spoke on the subject of acknowledging God in the Constitution of the United States.

The President read a resolution presented yesterday, reading:

Resolved, That God designs pain, affliction and punishment to chasten, purify and reform.

Br. I. N. W. Cooper presented the subject in a negative form; that God does not design pain, afflictions, etc., arguing that men often bring upon themselves suffering and affliction.

Br. Joseph Smith said that the subject was of too wide a character to allow much discussion in the little time allotted. Referred to the position that it was the mind that suffered. Quoted Dr. Holland, "That weeds are an evil"—but that if they were removed it would remove an incentive to labor, and thus deprive men of its consequent sweets. He had observed in his past life that whenever mortification or mental anguish was experienced or felt it tended to repentance, and reform; it tended to purification.

Br. Banta said he could not endorse the resolution, but could hardly get at the best way to express his unbelief. He had been made to suffer much bodily pain when a boy and while he was growing up to manhood, and it never made him any better.

Br. Wixom believed that chastisement was designed of God to purify, and quoted Paul: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous, nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them who are exercised thereby."

Br. Chambers does not believe that pain and suffering are designed of God as a punishment, but men bring upon themselves sorrow. Referred to the history of the churches of men as evidence that God is bringing good out of evil.

Br. Gurley argued that it is requisite that penalties be attached to law. God works by law, everything is so governed. Nature's laws are God's laws. Being intemperate was a violation of nature's law. God inflicted the punishment that follows. If parents violate the laws of nature and their children suffer, it is to be hoped that they will be wise enough to observe the benefit of keeping the laws.

Br. Briggs remarked that upon the hypothesis that pain tended to reform, the greater the criminal the greater the suffering, hence the purer the individual. Punishment he believed was designed to purify and reform. The idea of reform in consequence of punishment strikes at the root of Orthodoxy in one of its darling theories—eternal suffering—for if reform would be the result of suffering, it would necessitate an end of that suffering when the party was willing and able to reform.

Br. John T. Davies suggested the idea that if affliction or sickness was designed to purify or reform, the instruction to send for the Elders would, if obeyed, serve to thwart the purpose of God in their reform, if they were healed by the Elders praying away the affliction sent to purify. Casting out of devils by Christ, by the Spirit of God, showed that God and Christ co-operated in removing devils, the cause of pain in those days at least. When a man is caught stealing a horse he is sorry, but why—simply because he is caught.

Br. Blair believes that God has a design in the affliction and suffering of his people. Thinks he can see evidence of it from the cradle to the grave. Suffering works carefulness. The Prodigal Son was more capable of reform when he was reduced to straits; shame, mortification of soul, and suffering brought reform. God does not take pleasure in inflicting suffering. The rod is design-

ed to reform, not to cause suffering merely. This, all reasonable parents know, and they use it that it may produce reform. Paul understood the idea in this light, "Our light afflictions work an exceeding, eternal weight of glory." Christ was made perfect through suffering.

The hour for general discussion having passed, the question of aiding the publication of a Welsh periodical was again introduced.

Bro. Joseph Smith offered the following substitute for the motion pending, and explained the same:

Resolved, That should the brethren of the Church in Wales deem it wise to publish a periodical to circulate among those speaking the Welsh tongue, we shall feel it to be a proper duty to give such periodical what support we may do legitimately, without involving the Church pecuniarily. Carried.

Committee on seal reported.

"PLANO, Ill., April 8th, 1874."

"We, your committee on Church Seal, respectfully submit the following design, with legend, date, and motto:

"Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.' Emblem, a Lion and a Lamb lying down at rest. Motto, 'Peace.' 'Incorporated 1872.' Respectfully,

"JOSEPH SMITH,

"J. W. BRIGGS,

"E. BANTA,

} Committee."

Moved by Brn. Z. H. Gurley and George Rarick to receive the report and discharge the committee. Not carried.

Moved that the report be received. Carried.

On motion of Brn. John Scott and Thos. Chambers, the report was adopted, and the committee empowered to purchase the seal.

Moved by Brn. Jason W. Briggs and J. Kier, that the report of the Board of Publication be received and read.

Moved by Brn. Z. H. Gurley and J. Kier, as a substitute, that the report be referred to a committee, who shall report before the Conference closes. Carried.

The Chair appointed Brn. John T. Davies, Wm. Aldrich, and Wm H. Curwen, said committee.

A letter was read from Esquire Loomis, of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., soliciting the aid of an Elder in that region.

On motion of Brn. T. W. Smith and W. W. Blair, Elder Henry A. Stebbins was unanimously chosen to the office of Church Recorder.

On motion of Brn. E. Banta and Thomas

Hougas, Bro. John Scott was chosen Church Librarian.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and J. Keir, the letter of Bro. James Caffall relating to the purchase of a lot of six acres of land, near Council Bluffs, for the use of the Semi-Annual Conference was read.

On motion, the matter of appointing the Semi-Annual Conference was referred to a committee of five.

Moved by Brn. I. L. Rogers and A. C. Inman, that for the present and future occasions of the kind, the President shall appoint the committees needed.

Moved to amend—unless otherwise provided for.

As amended, the motion prevailed.

The President appointed Brn. Israel L. Rogers, Chas. Williams, O. P. Dunham, Thos. Hougas, and Stephen Richardson as committee on Bro. Caffall's letter.

Brn. C. G. Lanphear and E. Banta moved, that the Elders of the Quorum of Seventy use all practicable means to be at liberty to labor in their calling, and that the tithing fund, as far as practicable, be applied for the sustaining of their families.

Bro. Joseph Smith spoke of the fact that Elders often complain of not being supported, when they have gone over the fields that others have exhausted. Said that often no account is given of means received. The Elders are required to prove the world, or try the world. They should try new fields. Try to turn a new furrow. If it is practicable that the Elders should go into the field, it is also practicable that these means should be supplied.

On motion, the words, "while in the field," were added, and, as amended, the motion passed.

Brn. Jason W. Briggs and J. Kier offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a General Assembly of the Quorums of the Church be and is hereby appointed to be held in the autumn of 1874, the time and place to be determined by said quorums, and due notice be given through the *Herald*.

Br. Briggs spoke upon the subject, giving his reasons why such an assembly should meet. His idea is that for once, the General Authorities of the Church should meet, not for an hour, but as long as duty might demand. The law contemplates such a meeting, and it is necessary that it should be held, that the

watchmen may see "eye to eye."

On motion, the further consideration of the subject was deferred, subject to call.

It was moved by Brn. A. C. Inman and Z. H. Gurley, that hereafter all motions offered to the house shall be put in writing, with the name of the mover.

Moved to amend by words, "Except such as are privileged questions." Amendment carried. Motion, as amended, carried.

Prayer was asked for Sister Hook of Amboy, also for Br. Garner's wife.

The President adjourned the Conference till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. The President appointed Brn. Zenos H. Gurley and E. Banta to preach in the evening at half-past seven o'clock. Hymn, "This God is the God we adore," was sung. Adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Session opened by singing hymn 31.

Prayer by Br. John T. Davies. Hymn 601 was sung.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Jason W. Briggs and Joseph Smith:

WHEREAS, Elder Z. H. Gurley was appointed by revelation to be chosen and ordained an Apostle in the Quorum of Twelve; therefore be it

Resolved, That we do hereby approve such appointment and chose said brother to said office; and further be it

Resolved, That he be now ordained and set apart to said office, as provided by commandment. Carried.

Special prayer was offered by Br. J. W. Briggs for the ordination. Br Gurley was then ordained under the hands of Brn. Joseph Smith, W. W. Blair and J. W. Briggs, President Smith being spokesman.

The report of committee on Bishop's Report was read, and on motion of Brn. I. N. W. Cooper and Thomas Hougas, the report was received and committee discharged.

The report of committee on Br. Caffall's letter read:

Moved by Brn. E. Banta and A. C. Inman, that the report be referred back to the committee, with instructions.

Moved to amend so as to read, that the report be referred to the committee and they be instructed by the chair. Carried.

The chair instructed the committee to

report concerning the propriety of locating Semi-Annual Conference at Council Bluffs, and of purchasing the lot, and as to the time of holding the Semi-Annual Conference.

President Blair spoke of a piece of land owned by Judge Douglas which could be had, of easy access, and on a main road. Also of the Fair Grounds, with use of buildings which were offered.

On motion of Brn. J. Smith and E. Banta, the report of Auditing Committee on the Bishop's Report was ordered spread upon the record.

Report:

"PLANO, Illinois, April 8th, 1874.

"To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in session assembled:—We, your committee, appointed to audit the Bishop's Report, do state that we have compared said report with the Bishop's books, and find that they agree; and so far as we were prepared to examine the matter, we believe the report to be correct.

"Respectfully submitted,

"R. WARNOCK,	} Com."
"JOHN T. DAVIES,	
"WM. ALDRICH,	

Resolution offered by Br. C. G. Lanphear:

WHEREAS, It has been stated in the *Herald* that some of the brethren in the vicinity of Hyde Park, Pennsylvania, had taken exceptions to the advice of Br. John T. Davies, when on his mission; and as there was an Elders' Court held there on the 25th of November, 1873, to inquire into difficulties existing there, at which meeting it was not shown that Br. Davies had given improper advice or counsel to the brethren there; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the above be published in the *Herald* with the minutes of the Conference. Carried.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Brn. I. N. W. Cooper and W. R. Calhoun:

WHEREAS, Time is rapidly drawing near for the final consummation of all things, and as believing comes by hearing the preached word; and as the great majority of Seventies and other Elders are not able to fulfill their calling, or report favorably when called upon by the Twelve, (and the labors of the Twelve seriously crippled), on account of their families having no certain sustenance during their absence; and the insufficiency of the tithing fund to fully provide for the numerous wants of the Elders' families during their absence in the field; and in view of the many calls for preaching and

the great thirst for the word of God; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a monthly stipulation be allowed the wife of each Elder during the whole time of his absence from his own neighborhood on a mission. The amount of such stipulation to be governed directly by the locality in which the Elders' family resides, and the number of children or others necessarily depending upon him for support, and this further modified by the ability of the Elder to render help from the proceeds and property, business or pensions. Further, that the Presidents of Branches be requested to advance this end by establishing systematic contributions in their respective charges.

The Bishop gave his views of the matter, saying, That the law already given is sufficient for all purposes of providing for Elders' families. He had given much thought to the matter. He had appointed agents, and had instructed them according to the best judgment he had. Thought it would be advisable to have a special fund, (where there is an agent), of tithings, so that the poor of that neighborhood could be provided for. Thinks there is no need of the legislation proposed, as the laws already given govern the case.

Bro. Banta thought the resolution would be an incumbrance instead of a benefit. Let every Elder decide what he needs, and consult with the Bishop.

Moved by Brn. Joseph Smith and J. Kier, that the resolution now being considered be referred to the Bishop, with instructions to report to the Semi-Annual Conference.

Moved by Brn. E. Banta and P. S. Wixom, that the original preamble and resolution be laid on the table.

A vote was taken, but was not satisfactory. Division called for; before taken, remarks were allowed by the Chair, from Brn. Cooper and Gurley. Motion prevailed to lay on the table. Bro. J. Smith renewed his motion to refer. Br. J. W. Briggs moved to amend by substituting word—"report to the *Herald*." Bro. Banta objected that a motion to lay on the table cannot be referred. The Chair decided that the motion renewed was out of order. Bro. Smith explained that the motion to refer was offered before the motion to lay on the table. The President decided the matter to be indefinitely postponed.

The President called attention to the necessity and importance of an authentic history of the rise and progress of the Church, and gave some reasons for the same being written. Also called attention to the Tract question, as originated at the last Semi-Annual Conference.

Bro. Joseph Smith gave a brief account of labors in the case. Bro. Briggs related what he had done.

Brn. C. G. Lanphear and John Kier offered the following preamble and resolution :

WHEREAS, Bro. John T. Davies having been by revelation called to the office of a Seventy; therefore, be it

Resolved, That he be ordained a member of the Quorum of Seventy, as thus designated. Carried.

Moved by Brn. John Scott and Thomas Hougas, that the First Presidency and the President of the Twelve be appointed to examine and prepare for the press, such manuscripts and tracts and other matter that are now in their hands.

Moved by Brn. Joseph Smith and W. H. Blair, by adding, "that were provided for at last Semi-Annual Conference.

Br. Briggs objected to the proposition. Did not want to take the responsibility. Pending the discussion the President declared the Conference adjourned to 2 P.M. Doxology was sung, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met at 2 P.M. Sung hymn 182. Prayer by Br. Z. H. Gurley. Sung hymn 1078. President J. Smith in the chair.

The hour for general discussion having arrived, Br. Pitt presented the following:

Resolved, That the Priesthood of the Church of Christ have never received the authority to ordain other persons to said priesthood, unless said persons have been called thereunto by the Spirit of revelation.

Brn. Blair, Pitt, Inman, Calhoun, Chambers, Briggs and Keir spoke on the subject. Br. Blair believed in a divine call, but thought it not always necessary that a direct call should be made to the individual. The priesthood of Aaron, i. e., Aaron's sons, were governed by law. They were to be washed and ordained at the age of thirty. There was a necessity for direct revelation to

establish the Church, after that the law operates to ordain. John the Baptist needed a special revelation, because his calling was peculiar. When the priesthood was transferred from Levi because of transgression, it needed an especial revelation. He believed in individual calling.

Br. Chambers believed that a revelation through a prophet would be a call to him.

Br. Briggs argued that the call or revelation to Aaron was a call to his sons after him. The Melchisedec priesthood did not originate with him, but was given to Adam and confirmed to be handed down from one to another. A man is to be ordained according to the gifts and callings of God unto him, i. e. he must have qualifications to entitle him to ordination, or he cannot be ordained legitimately. Priesthood signifies the right to administer the laws of God, and in so doing the Spirit of the law is conferred on them that receive the law. An ordination is by the Holy Ghost which is in the one who ordains. If a man fails to receive the Spirit he should hesitate to exercise the office. Unless what a man does here is sealed in heaven, it is not recognized on high. The idea that used to prevail was, that by the authority of the Holy Priesthood, I do thus and so; as if it was an investiture of a divine right. A man may use the name of Christ, can use the ceremony, but he cannot exercise the authority to administer in unrighteousness. His authority in such a case would not be recognized above. There is no power or virtue of the priesthood outside of a virtuous life.

Regular business resumed.

Moved by Brn. John Scott and Z. H. Gurley, the following substitute for resolution on tracts:

WHEREAS, The Committee on Tracts appointed by the Semi-Annual Conference finds its labors restricted by the absence of some portion of its number; and whereas it is desirable and necessary that the Tracts contemplated by the appointment of said Committee be put in print as soon as possible; therefore be it

Resolved, That said Committee be continued; and that by and with the consent of its own members, be empowered to act

by any number that they may decide upon, as a sub-committee, to examine, revise, and prepare for the press any and all manuscripts, tracts, and writings now in their hands, or that may hereafter be written or offered to them in pursuance of the resolution by which they were appointed; and that said Committee be requested to bring their labors to an early and effectual conclusion, as contemplated by their appointment.

Substitute adopted.

Reading of Financial Report called for. Report read.

On motion, the report was received.

Moved by Brn. T. H. Chambers and F. G. Pitt, that the rule be suspended and that this session of Conference adjourn at four p. m., on account of baptism.

Moved to amend to read at half-past four.

The motion as amended prevailed.

The President appointed Br. Thomas W. Smith to perform the ordinance.

Moved by Brn. R. Warnock and W. H. Curwen, that as the Committee on *Herald* Office accounts have reported them correct, therefore,

Resolved, That said accounts be ordered paid by the Bishop of the Church.

Br. Warnock spoke of the *Heralds* sent to Europe, and those sent to Elders who are in the field, and the poor who need the *Herald* and cannot pay, also of the books in the Library.

Br. Blair spoke of the Elders in the field who sustain the *Herald* by their contributions, and make it interesting. Proposed the idea of the Board of Publication making a donation to them, and to the poor, and even to the European Mission.

Br. Banta said he had no doubt the Board would do so, had not its conscience been seared by a load of bad debts. He is willing to make a donation to the Elders in the field and to the poor, but is not in favor of paying for the books bought for the Library.

Br. Briggs wanted to know by what authority the Board purchased the books and charged to the Church.

Br. Banta said that neither the President of the Board nor the Board made the purchase, but the Business Manager.

The Business Manager inquired whether the Board did not authorize the purchase of the Encyclopedia.

The President of the Board acknowl-

edged that it had, but he had forgotten it.

The Secretary of the Board stated that such was the fact.

The Business Manager then explained the purchasing of the books.

Moved by Br. Banta, that we strike out the bills to the Elders in the field, and the poor. Not seconded.

Moved by Brn. Curwen and Inman, that these accounts be considered separately. Carried.

First item read—voted to be paid.

Second item read—rejected.

Third item read—rejected.

Fourth item, relating to books purchased, was discussed by Brn. Banta, Blair and Briggs. The motion ordering the item paid was carried.

Notice was given that the resolution pertaining to a General Assembly of the Quorums would be called up to-morrow.

Moved that the Financial Report of the Board of Publication be considered as spread upon the record. (It having been published in *Herald*.) Carried.

On motion, the report of the committee on Br. Caffall's letter was received and the committee discharged.

On motion of Brn. J. W. Briggs and T. W. Smith, further consideration of the subject was deferred, subject to call.

Brn. Charles Williams and O. P. Dunham were appointed to take charge of meeting to-night, and Brn. Z. H. Gurley and T. W. Smith to administer confirmation. Conference declared adjourned till 9:30 A.M. to-morrow. Benediction by President Joseph Smith.

EVENING SESSION.

Prayer meeting opened by singing hymn 939. Prayer by Br. O. P. Dunham. First verse of 718th hymn was sung. Br. S. S. Stone was then confirmed by Br. Z. H. Gurley and T. W. Smith. Confirmation prayer by Bro. Smith; address by Z. H. Gurley; after which a number spoke, several prayed, and the Saints seemed to enjoy themselves in the Spirit. Hymn 562 was sung at the close.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Pres. Joseph Smith in the Chair.

Hymn No. 4 was sung. Prayer by the President.

Ordination of Br. John T. Davies to the Quorum of the Seventy. Ordination prayer by Pres. W. W. Blair. Br. Davies was then ordained under the hands of Brn. Jason W. Briggs and C. G. Lanphear.

On motion of Brn. E. Banta and W. H. Curwen, the resolution regarding the General Assembly of the Quorums was taken up. Resolution was by request read.

Br. Briggs addressed the house, stating that there had never been such a meeting held, and that the leading quorums have not as yet spoken in the Reorganization. Quoted the commandment for these quorums to teach one another. Referred to 7th section, par. 20-24; saying that we have only been doing things partially. Defined the character of such an assembly, A Conference of the Spiritual Authorities of the Church. These authorities had never yet had opportunity to define what should or should not be taught. There were questions that agitated the Church in former times. They were settled by an assembly of the "Apostles and Elders." They gave decisions which were final. Several important questions remain to be decided by a General Assembly. One is "Who shall lift hands to vote in Conferences?" Another the "Sabbath question." Heretofore we have done the best that could be done, viz., had the decision of a General Assembly of all convened. The time is at hand for the quorums, as such, to speak.

Br. Warnock referred to the Constitution, showing that it required a notice of at least two months being given of any contemplated change in the matter of the order of general meetings.

Br. Z. H. Gurley approved of the resolution, but objected to the idea of such an assembly taking place in the Fall, if it supercedes the Semi-Annual Conference.

Br. Blair said that it might meet before, or immediately after the Semi-Annual Conference. He favored the idea—believed it to be necessary.

Br. Banta objected to the resolution.

Brn. John T. Davies and W. H. Curwen spoke in its favor.

The following substitute was offered by Brn. T. W. Smith and Z. H. Gurley:

WHEREAS, Believing it to be necessary that a General Assembly of the several Quorums of the Church should be held as soon as practicable, therefore be it

Resolved, That such an Assembly be approved by this Conference, and the time and place of meeting be left to the decision of the Presidents of said Quorums, (including all of the First Presidency), praying that they may be directed in this matter by the Spirit of Revelation.

Brn. Banta and Wixom moved to amend by striking out all but "The First Presidency."

Br. Gurley opposed the amendment, arguing the necessity of having the Presidents of the Quorums decide the matter, as it was their privilege.

Br. Briggs spoke of the necessity of such a meeting, and of the character thereof.

Br. T. W. Smith opposed the amendment, as its evident design was to kill the main proposition.

Br. Warnock spoke of the duty of recognizing the constituted authorities.

The amendment prevailed, and the substitute was lost.

Another substitute was offered, reading:

Resolved, That this subject be referred to the First Presidency, praying that the Lord may reveal the time and place where such an assembly shall be held.

Amendment offered to add: "And the President of the Twelve," after the words "First Presidency."

The amendment was lost; also the substitute.

The previous question was moved and seconded, and the original resolution, after two divisions being called, failed.

On motion of Brn. W. W. Blair and O. P. Dunham, Br. Noah Dutton was released from his former mission.

The President declared the Conference to be adjourned till 2 o'clock P.M. Doxology was sung.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hymn 896 was sung. Prayer by Br. C. G. Lanphear.

The hour of free, general discussion was introduced by Br. Briggs, who spoke of the work contemplated in the Book

of Doctrine and Covenants, section 85, paragraphs 19 and 20. Br. Blair read from 19th to 23d paragraphs, also the 36th. He believed some of the words, "desolation of abomination" were a transposition of the words of the Bible, the "abomination of desolation." The desolation made by the "abomination" in the last days. He believed the Elders should preach the judgments of God. He believed that the assembling of the Quorums would tend to a more correct understanding of the judgments. Br. Curwen introduced a question, as to whether the rich man and Lazarus of Luke 16th, was an account of the condition of man after death, or a parable.

Br. Lanphear spoke of the subject of judgment, and what should be preached.

Br. Gurley spoke on the subject of two conflicting powers existing on the earth.

Br. Pitt spoke on the rich man and Lazarus.

Br. Curwen on the same subject.

Regular business was resumed. The President inquired what should be done respecting Br. Patterson.

Brn. W. W. Blair and P. S. Wixom moved that Elder J. S. Patterson be released from the charge of the European Mission, with the request, nevertheless, that he remain in charge till the latter part of the coming summer.

Brn. E. Banta and I. L. Rogers offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That Elder J. S. Patterson be released from the Presidency of the European Mission. Carried.

On motion of Br. Jason W. Briggs and I. L. Rogers, it was resolved that upon Br. J. S. Patterson leaving the European Mission, that Br. Thomas Taylor, of Birmingham, be requested to take charge thereof. Carried.

On motion of Brn. W. W. Blair and E. Banta, Elder Benj. Hughes of Spring Valley, Wisconsin, was requested to labor in his vicinity and in Northern Illinois, as far as his circumstances permit, and report to the President of the District where his labors may lie.

On motion of Brn. W. W. Blair and E. Banta, Elder Mark. H. Forscutt was requested to labor in his calling in the ministry, as his circumstances may permit, and report to the authorities of the Districts where his labors may lie.

A letter was read from Br. J. C. Clapp, also one from New Springfield, Ohio.

Brn. W. W. Blair and Jason W. Briggs moved the following:

WHEREAS, There is a great necessity for a history of the rise and progress of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in order that all who desire can have correct and suitable information in relation to said Church; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by this Conference to collate, write, compile, and edit said history at an early date as practicable.

Bro. Blair gave a very interesting argument in favor thereof. Referred to the progress of Spiritualism. Quoted from a prophecy of Joseph, showing the coming forth of an antagonistic power; imitating the manifestations of the Spirit of God.

Bro. H. S. Dille inquired whether there was not one already appointed to do this work.

Bro. Blair replied there was one appointed to write the history of the Reorganization.

Bro. Briggs urged the necessity of having facts to present to the people.

Brn. Warnock and J. Keir moved the previous question. The motion to put the previous question was decided affirmatively. Upon the vote being taken, the resolution prevailed.

On motion of E. Banta and I. L. Rogers, Brn. Joseph Smith, W. W. Blair, and Jason W. Briggs were appointed aforesaid committee, and were instructed to report progress to the Semi-Annual Conference.

Motion to defer was made, and lost.

Moved by Brn. Jason W. Briggs and H. S. Dille to amend to read, "report to the General Assembly of the Quorums." Carried.

Motion, as amended, carried.

Brn. Robert. Warnock and Israel L. Rogers offered the following:

Resolved, That we recognize the necessity of a call for a General Assembly of all the Quorums of the Church Authorities, so far as practicable, and we refer this matter to the President of the Church, praying that the Lord may direct respecting the proper time and place for said meeting. We further believe that the President has a right to call the meeting contemplated in this resolution. Carried.

On motion, Bro. Jas. Caffall's letter was taken from the table.

"PLANO, Ill., April 9, 1874.
"To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Conference assembled:

"We, your Committee appointed to investigate the proposition of Br. James Caffall, do report that we have considered the matter, and recommend that the next Semi-Annual Conference be held near Council Bluffs, Iowa, commencing Saturday, September 19th, 1874.

"We further decided that it is not wisdom to purchase at present the land referred to by Br. James Caffall.

"Respectfully submitted,
 "ISRAEL L. ROGERS,
 "OLIVER P. DUNHAM,
 "STEPHEN RICHARDSON, } Com."
 "THOMAS HOU GAS,
 "CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Moved by Brn. Z. H. Gurley and J. Kier, that the report be adopted.

Moved to amend by substituting "Wednesday, September 23rd," for 19th. Lost.

A question was asked, "Can a Bishop or his agent properly preside over a District?"

Motion to refer to the Bishop, by Brn. Warnock and W. Calhoun.

Moved to amend by the word "Bishopric."

Substitute offered to refer the question to the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve. Carried.

Moved by Brn. Z. H. Gurley and W. H. Curwen, That the Committee of Three on Church History be, and are hereby empowered, to make such purchases of books for the Church Library, as by them shall be deemed necessary and prudent.

Substitute offered by Brn. R. Warnock and W. Calhoun:

Resolved, That the right to purchase books for the Church Library, be vested in the Board of Publication.

Query by Br. Briggs, "Would not the Board bring a bill against the Bishop, or the Church?"

Br. Banta argued that the Board could not get the money from the Bishop.

President Smith was here called away to see Br. Arnold, who was thought to be dying; and President Blair took the chair.

An amendment was offered by Br. Z. H. Gurley:

That said purchases should not exceed the amount of \$75 per annum, and be continued or discontinued at the option of the Church, and report at each Annual and Semi-Annual Conference their proceedings.

The previous question was moved by Br. Warnock.

Br. Keir seconded the motion to amend.

Br. Banta seconded the motion of Br. Warnock.

The Chair decided that the amendment of Br. Gurley was in order.

Br. Warnock questioned the ruling of the Chair, holding that the moving of the previous question does not need a second.

The Chair decided that the course pursued in the Conference heretofore, was to require a second.

A vote was taken and the amendment lost.

Pending discussion on the substitute, the Conference adjourned till to-morrow morning.

EVENING SESSION.

Preaching by Br. Jason W. Briggs, as per announcement, on the "Sabbath." An interesting discourse.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Hymn sung. Prayer by Br. W. W. Blair. Minutes read and corrections made.

The question of authorizing the Board of Publication to purchase books for the Library was introduced. A vote was taken on the substitute of Brn. Warnock and Calhoun, and it failed to pass.

The Chair then read the original motion.

A vote being taken on it—it was lost.

Moved by Brn. I. N. W. Cooper and O. P. Dunham, that the Board of Publication be and are hereby empowered to purchase all books as are deemed necessary for Church purposes, the same to be paid by the Church, and such purchases not to exceed fifty dollars per annum.

Moved by Brn. Joseph Smith and T. W. Smith, to amend by substituting "seventy-five dollars" for "fifty dollars."

The original motion, as amended, passed.

Moved by Brn. J. W. Briggs and Z. H. Gurley, that in distinguishing between official and non-official members, the term, "lay" member be not used.

Br. J. Smith thought that a resolution had been passed that the term "Brother" only should be used.

The Chair thought it was only advised so to be.

Br. Briggs understood that it was decided that the word "lay" should not be used.

Motion prevailed.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and E. Banta, Br. George T. Chute was released from the Eastern Mission, as he had returned home and taken charge of the Alabama and Florida District. Carried.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and C. G. Lanphear, Br. James McKiernan was continued in his present Mission.

On motion of Brn. Jos. Smith and A. C. Inman, Br. Frank Reynolds was released from the Mission given him a year ago.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and Z. H. Gurley, Br. Frederick Ursenback was sustained in his present Mission.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and John Scott, Brn. Reuben Newkirk and Daniel B. Razy were continued in their present Mission and requested to report to the District Authorities where they labor.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and J. Kier, Br. Gilbert Watson was continued in his present Mission, and instructed to report to the District authorities.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and W. Calhoun, Br. Samuel B. Reeves be continued in his Mission, and report to Br. T. W. Smith.

On motion of Brn. J. W. Briggs and J. T. Davies, Br. Robert Evans be continued in his Mission to Wales, and instructed to cooperate with Br. John T. Davies.

On motion of Brn. J. W. Briggs and Z. H. Gurley, Br. Joseph Snively was continued in his former Mission.

On motion of Brn. Joseph Smith and John Scott, Br. Nicholas Stamm was continued in Central Iowa, and to report to authorities in charge of District.

On motion of Brn. J. W. Briggs and Z. H. Gurley, Br. Charles Derry was continued in his Mission in Western Iowa and Nebraska.

Moved by Brn. C. G. Lanphear and W. R. Calhoun, That Br. Stephen J. Stone be requested to join Br. Lanphear in his Mission to the East, if it be practicable for him to do so. Carried.

On motion of Brn. T. W. Smith and C. G. Lanphear, the President and Secretary of the Conference were instructed to issue Licenses to Brn. Z. H. Gurley and John T. Davies, according to their respective office.

The Licenses of Brn. Jesse Broadbent and James Dillen, were, upon motion, referred to their respective Quorums.

Moved by Brn. J. Smith and J. Scott, that until a Church Secretary be appointed, the Church Recorder be authorized to act, ex-officio, in case occasion so require.

Br. Briggs said, he had not learned upon what occasion or necessity this office was created. He wanted to know what bounds were placed around it. It is an anomaly in the Church. The Church had an organ through which it can speak.

Br. J. Smith explained that the office was created April 12th, 1870, and gave the resolution. Said he would not urge the matter.

The Chair expressed his views of the matter, thought it proper to have such an office, in reference to the benefits that might arise.

Moved by Br. Joseph Smith and E. Banta, to adjourn to meet at Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 19th, 1874. Motion prevailed.

Conference adjourned, after prayer by Br. Zenos H. Gurley.

NOTE.—Br. Henry A. Stebbins was called away on the morning of the 7th to the bedside of his mother who was taken seriously ill, and has since died.

The session of Conference was very pleasant and harmonious, although the attendance of the Elders was very small.

THOMAS W. SMITH, } Clerks.
Z. H. GURLEY, }

The Herald.

JOSEPH SMITH, EDITOR.

Plano, Ill., May 1, 1874.

It is with some surprise that we notice that some Elders have obtained the idea that it is necessary to use the words "for the remission of sins," in addition to the formula of words used in baptism.

It is not only not necessary to use the words "for the remission of sins," but it seems to be contrary to the provisions of both the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. (See B. of M., Nephi, chap. 5, par. 9; D. & C., sec. 17, par. 21.) Neither is it so commanded in the Scriptures. (See Matt. 28, Mark 16.)

Now and then an Elder gets wise above that which is written, and introduces something new. Such should be admonished.

We have been informed that an Elder