

Although I am counted as a fool by many, and deluded by others, yet in all this I can rejoice, esteeming the reproach of far greater riches than the friendship of the world, knowing full well that it is "enough that the disciple be as his master."

I am glad we have yet more of the word than that contained in the Bible; and while so many are saying, "We have enough bible," I thank God from my inmost soul that it is not in my heart to join in the cry, and thus fail of gaining the celestial glory.

I am alone in the faith here, not having the privilege of assembling with the saints, or of hearing the word preached by him who is sent. I need to be strong in the Lord to stand among those who, though not strictly enemies, are careful to obey the injunction, "Beware of false prophets," forgetful of the fact, that while there are false, there *may be* true ones also, "And base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen to bring to naught things that are." "Eyes they have, but they see not; ears, but they hear not," and like certain ones of old, they "seek a sign," not remembering that God will hide from the "wise and prudent." I am praying that the Father will send a servant to this people again; one apt to teach, gentle and patient, that such especially, as are walking humbly before him, may hear, believe and obey words whereby they may be saved in the celestial kingdom.

Brethren, let us be faithful, knowing "to whom much is given of him much will be required." Let us exhort one another daily, lest we be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin, and thus fail of entering the promised rest. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself even as he is pure."

Blessed hope of seeing him as he is and being like him! Is it not sufficient to incite us to purity of heart? "Purifieth himself"—the wish is ours. "Even as he is pure,"—a high standard. Shall we attain it, and stand in Zion when the Lord shall appear in his glory? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." May we have grace to sow to the Spirit, that we may reap life everlasting; and let us not be weary in well doing, for the reaping time is near.

Yours in the gospel,

J. H. ENNIS.

MONTROSE, Lee Co., Iowa,

January 25, 1870.

We have some very good men amongst us, yet there are some that are seeking for the praise of men and are afraid of executing the law of God that they might not be esteemed among their brothers. I love the brethren, and I love the gospel of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

ALEX. STRUTHERS.

Conferences.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE held at Plano, Ill., April 6-13, 1870.

PRESENT: Of the First Presidency: J. Smith and Wm. Marks, senior.

Of the Twelve: Josiah Ells, Z. H. Gurnley, W. W. Blair, and E. C. Briggs.

Of the High Priests, Eighteen.

Of the Seventies, Seven.

Of the Elders, Fifty.

Conference organized by electing Bro. Joseph Smith, president; Bros. Henry A. Stebbins and William H. Garrett, clerks.

Opened by singing the 63rd hymn.

The president offered prayer to him who hath so mercifully dealt with his people in times past.

The minutes of the last Semi-Annual Conference were read and approved.

An address was delivered by the president concerning individual efforts for the spread of light, and for the advancement of the church. Liberty of thought and speech is granted to all. Yet no man, whatever may be his position, has the right to infringe on the laws of God or the church, or to institute his own opinions in opposition to the law, or with a general license that would tend to bear down others in their opinions or feelings. One of the evils that we labor under is the wide range of ideas and scattering of effects resulting from the hasty efforts put forth for the good of the body. Individual effort on every hand throughout the church rightly directed, will bring results to the whole body which shall be mighty indeed. As we are prepared to show that that which has brought so much reproach upon the cause has not proceeded from, nor been cherished by our organization, therefore the labor in California and Utah should, if possible, be more important than others, that the true cause of Christ may be faithfully and plainly presented to those who are in error. The Canada and Southern missions should be attended to, and the financial condition of church affairs should be placed upon a firmer basis, in order that the accomplishment of the work may be more surely and systematically done. He also suggested that a memorial be sent to Congress, in order to establish before the courts of justice the legal point of distinction between ourselves and the followers of Brigham Young. He did not do this that we may attain any honor or distinction before the people, for this would be contrary to the eternal truth stated by Christ, to the effect that God's people should always be out of favor with the world, but he presented the idea with the view to get the truth before those who do, or may desire to know the distinction.— A still farther reason for it is that old Latter Day Saints need to be convinced that we are truly endeavoring to establish righteousness, and not laboring for self-aggrandizement. When this is done many that now hold aloof will come forth heart and hand to the salvation and redemption of Zion.

Resolved, That the evenings of this week with the exception of a Saturday evening prayer meeting, be devoted to public preaching.

Adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened by singing, and prayer by Josiah Ells.

Br. Josiah Ells reported the English Mission, which two years ago was given to

Br. J. W. Briggs and himself. They had met some things which they were not prepared for, and found that during the long absence of Br. Briggs, more or less trouble and disorganization had taken place, and they at once went to work to set things right. Another difficulty was the reproach and evil coming through the agents and abominations of Brigham Young, making it hard to get a hearing, and for a time there seemed little prospect of the truth prevailing to any extent. They had endeavored with all diligence to show the apostasy, and the distinction between its followers and that of the true church. He was entirely prohibited by the emissaries of Brigham Young from having any chance of showing the contrast to their followers, but among the people of England, prejudice is removed, and it is known everywhere that polygamy is not a tenet of our faith. He had large audiences always, and the mission was far from being a failure, though present results may seem small. Faithful men should continue the mission.

Br. W. W. Blair gave an outline of the Utah and California mission, on which Br. Banta and himself had gone two years ago. Upon arriving in California affairs looked doubtful, but in six months a radical change had taken place; peace been restored, false doctrine eradicated, and many added to their numbers. The work in Idaho is progressing. That of Utah was in fine condition, with plenty of openings and facilities for preaching. In Salt Lake City and Ogden they had large congregations, and the Lord was truly with them. Many exclaimed that this was the doctrine they heard years ago. Hundreds became their friends, and in time will unite with us. He and Br. Brand had got a strong hold in Echo City. Thousands endorse us, but their business and social relations binds them till the right time comes. A person receiving our elders the second time is cut off, and the rule of tyranny brings fear, except to the bravest.

Their authorities stated that spiritual manifestations were not needed now, as they were gathered where the authority of the church was all that was needed. Many were waking to throw off the bondage, and a mighty effort should be made against iniquity. The work is encouraging, and there is manifold more work to be done than elders to do it. The people of Utah, intellectually, will compare favorably with any class of people upon the

earth, and though in bondage, are not the degraded people many supposed them to be.

Br. A. H. Smith reported his share in the same mission last year. Never before had he been so blessed as upon this mission. He and his Br. David had gone, trusting that God would preserve them, and it had been so. They had found a good welcome in Salt Lake City, and their cousins, John and Samuel, treated them as kindly as men could be treated. People wished them to preach in the Tabernacle, and they visited Brigham Young, and made the request for it, as agents of the Reorganized Church. Brigham wished him to take back what he had said two years ago, and put much abuse upon them that was very grievous, telling them that they were in no way guided by the Lord, but were actuated by the spirit of the devil. They were denied the Tabernacle, but by favor of the gentiles used Independence Hall. Had overflowing congregations, and though opposed by the ruling powers, yet all opposition worked the greater good, and they and the cause constantly gained ground, for the more the people were told to stay away the more they came. The people came to them by night, though warned not to communicate with, or harbor them. He felt that now was the time to strike, and that great efforts ought to be put forth to save that people.

The President read a letter of report from Br. E. C. Brand, of the Utah, Nevada and California mission.

Br. John H. Lake reported the Canada Mission in Connection with Br. Snively. They had labored and the Lord had blessed the word and work, and they had baptized twenty-three in various places, and held one hundred and twenty-three public meetings, and ordained a few of the priesthood.

Br. Isaac Sheen entered a motion of objection against receiving the report of Br. Lake, because of his having baptized and ordained John Shippy. Much discussion followed upon the subject, as to whether the acceptance of Br. Lake's report was in reality an act of the Conference, commending all his labors, or simply a reception of his report. Many brethren participated in the discussion of the point arising here, and many reasons were given to sustain each side of the question. The discussion was closed by calling the question, and it was moved and seconded that the motion of objection be acted upon,

which resulted in the rejection of the motion.

Resolved, That Br. Josiah Ells occupy the desk for preaching this evening.

EVENING SESSION.

Brs. Josiah Ells and H. J. Hudson in the stand. Preaching by Josiah Ells. Text, 2 Cor. 4: 1-4. Subject, the universal adaptability of the Gospel. Attendance large. Adjourned till 9 o'clock A. M. April 7th.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Opened by singing and prayer, by Br. W. W. Blair. The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and accepted after a slight amendment.

The President suggested the consideration of the memorial spoken of yesterday, and also of the financial subject.

Br. M. H. Forscutt presented a resolution

That this Conference do appoint a committee of five to draft and present before this Conference shall adjourn, a memorial to Congress in which shall be embodied an epitome of our faith, and especially a setting forth of our views on government, Church polity, and polygamy.

Pres. Joseph Smith, Brs. W. W. Blair, Josiah Ells, A. H. Smith, and M. H. Forscutt were appointed as that committee.

A Committee on finance was proposed. The President stated the need of such a committee, there being such a diffusiveness of effort and labor. Those who go forth to preach need to have their families supported, and we have in some respects failed to do this, and thus crippled, to an extent, the efforts of some of our best laborers. A Committee should be appointed to present a plan for an effectual working and superintending of effort to supply the need.

Resolved, That this Conference do appoint a committee of six to prepare and present such resolutions to this Conference as in their judgment may be deemed practicable for the removing the financial disabilities now existing, and providing a plan whereby the families of missionaries may be supported, and means secured to conduct the work of the Lord.

Committee appointed were Bros. J. S. Patterson, T. W. Smith, H. J. Hudson, I. Sheen, Elijah Banta and J. M. Putney.

REPORTS OF MISSIONS.

Br. T. W. Smith reported the Eastern Mission taken three years ago. His fields of labor were in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island and Grand Manan. Had met some opposition, but had been successful in his efforts, by the help of the Lord. He has baptized one hundred and thirty-four members

and organized three branches during the time. There is still a great field in Maine and the rest of that country. He was devoted to the work, and willing to be sent wherever the Conference should appoint.

The President read a letter from Br. C. G. Lanphear, of the Southern Mission. Calls for preaching were many, and elders would meet with a hearty welcome.

Br. B. H. Ballowe reported by letter, from Tennessee.

The President stated that the chances for preaching in Alabama and Georgia were good, and that it was needful that the mission be prosecuted.

Br. W. H. Kelly reported the Minnesota Mission, to which he was appointed in October, 1867. At first had met with opposition and suspicion, but had baptized twenty and the Lord had blessed and been with him. For the past winter he had been with Br. Briggs, in Michigan. He desired to continue his efforts in the cause.

Br. H. A. Stebbins reported his labors in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Had been greatly helped, and blessed in prosecuting his mission, and baptized thirteen during the past year.

Br. J. A. McIntosh was greatly assisted in his mission in Southern Illinois. Many favorable, and the field ought to be supplied. Baptized five.

Br. Charles Derry was greatly blessed in his labors in Western Iowa. In some places much investigation was being entered into, and there is a bright prospect of great good being done. Baptized eight.

Br. J. D. Bennett had been to Iowa, preached considerable, and removed much prejudice.

Br. M. H. Forscutt reported his local labors in and about Plano, and in assisting at two days' meetings. The prospect was never so bright as now, and many were wakening to search for the truth.

The President, as chairman of the Committee on Hymn Book, stated that the delay in the matter was caused by the press of other business, and the lack of suitable and sufficient type for the work. It is progressing as fast as possible at the present time.

Adjourned to 1 30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Br. Josiah Ells.

The case of Br. Gordon E. Deuel was presented by the President, with some explanations concerning its present condition before the church.

It was moved and seconded:

That the matter under consideration concerning Bro. Deuel be deferred till the organization of the Elder's Quorum, and be referred to that Quorum for settlement.

Br. Sheen objected to the motion, and moved an indefinite postponement which was discussed, put to vote and lost.

A resolution was offered; that Br. G. E. Deuel's license be restored to him until a charge be preferred against him according to the law in B. of C. Sec. 42:23. Resolution was discussed, voted upon and lost.

The original motion referring the case to the Elder's Quorum, was then put to vote and carried.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

Massachusetts.—Represented by Br. T. W. Smith, and by letter from E. N. Webster, President; 5 Branches, 136 members, including 35 official. The work is taking a deep hold, and a good and abiding interest is being manifested.

Kewanee.—Represented by Br. J. S. Patterson, president; 12 Branches, 364 members; E. Stafford, Clerk.

Pottawattomie.—Represented by Br. J. M. Putney; 8 Branches, 401 members, including about 75 officials. 56 baptized the past year. In good condition, and Saints desirous of doing good and assisting the work.

Northern Illinois.—Represented by H. A. Stebbins; 11 Branches, 420 members. condition of affairs, good and improving. Joseph Smith, President; H. A. Stebbins, Clerk.

Southern Nebraska.—Reported by letter from R. M. Elvin, Clerk. 144 members. J. W. Waldsmith, President.

Galland's Grove.—Represented by Charles Derry; 300 members.

Little Sioux.—50 Branches, 310 members. Some Elders are active in the cause. Condition of Districts generally good and Branches mostly prospering.

Central Nebraska.—Represented by H. J. Hudson, President; 5 Branches, 176 members. Spiritual condition good; having had great improvement, and still improving.

Newton.—Represented by Br. Geo. Walker, President; Branches were scattered so far apart that good unity of labor had not been effected, yet the saints were improving spiritually.

Pittsfield.—Reported by letter from Br. T. Williamson, President; 5 Branches, 94 members. Not in a very prosperous condition, yet the Elders are desirous of knowing their duty and doing it.

Pittsburg.—Represented by Br. Josiah Ellis; 6 Branches, 196 members. Joseph Parsons, President. General condition good. Official members have been quite faithful in their duties, and the people were not as prejudiced.

South Western Iowa.—Represented by Br. William Redfield, President; 188 members, all in good standing; 30 had been baptized in the past three months. 12 elders are laboring. Promises are bright, and Saints enjoying the gifts. Had never previously seen the powers of God so greatly manifested, as in the last six months. Had labored and toiled, and wished to do so, while life lasted.

St. Louis.—Represented by W. H. Hazeldine, pres.; C. Hall, clk. 25 branches, 664 members.

Br. E. C. Briggs reported the Michigan Mission, and the four Branches organized there. He had preached and discussed there for two years past, and the work was very encouraging. Quite an interest is manifested, and there are a greater number of openings for preaching.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Hopkins 31 members; Horace Church, president; O. B. Thomas, clerk. Coldwater, 23 members; Lawrence, 15 members; H. C. Smith, pres. Galien, 21 members; G. A. Blakeslee, pres. Total membership in four Michigan branches, 90.

Philadelphia,—by letter from N. H. Ditterline, president; 32 members. Branch in healthy condition, and the officers determined to do more in the cause.

Br. I. F. Scott, by letter, reported two Wisconsin branches. Freedom,—Sauk county, 10 members; Samuel Hackett, pres; J. B. Loomis, clerk. Sandusky,—10 members; John Lee, pres.

Hannibal Branch, Mo.—8 members; John Taylor, president; Alex. Grier, clerk.

Jackson Branch, Iowa,—6 members, Charles Sheen president.

Salt Lake City reported by letter from E. C. Brand. Salt Lake City,—77 members; Ogden, 29 members; Henifer, 50 members.

Resolved. That the report of each elder to-morrow occupy but ten minutes time.

Resolved. That the appointment of brethren to preach during this Conference be left with the President of the Conference.

The President appointed Br. W. H. Kelley for this evening. Adjourned to 7½ p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Preaching by Br. W. H. Kelley. Ad-

joined to meet at ten a. m. April 8.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Opened by singing; prayer by Br. E. C. Briggs.

Minutes of yesterday read, and approved.

Pres. Joseph Smith then read a letter from Br. Chas. Derry, presenting the resignation of his position in the quorum of the Twelve, feeling that he was not called of God to fill that position, requesting that he might be permitted to act as an Elder, and as such was willing to labor and do all he could for the good of the cause.

The President made some remarks, and suggested his resignation be accepted, bearing testimony to Br. Derry's fidelity, and his strong love of the Latter Day Work.

Br. Wm. W. Blair remarked, though against his own feelings, yet by reason of Br. Derry's conviction, he would move to accept his resignation. Carried.

Resolved. That Br. Derry be sustained in his former office of High Priest.

The President then made some remarks regarding the Latter Day work, which had received a severe blow in the death of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and it had seemed to many that it would be the death of the church. The heretical doctrines taught by those professing to be saints were an added blow. Party after party arose claiming a definite right of some individual to be the leader of the church, and affairs of the church all devolved upon that individual, and thus the several quorums of the church were disregarded. In all the factions of the church the gathering was held to be a primary consideration, but I hold this to be incorrect, that it is a secondary object of our organization. The primary object anciently was to propagate the eternal truth, and to send the glad tidings to the ends of the earth. So far efforts to a complete organization of the quorums has been a failure, and the blame has been cast upon me. But brethren it does not lie here. When I came to the church in 1860, I did so recognizing the right of every individual belonging to the church. The power never has been in the hands of any one man, except Christ, and the constant prayer of my heart has been to merit the confidence of my brethren, and for wisdom to guide me aright. Ultimately the Latter Day Saint will learn this important truth, that God does not propose to turn the wheel upon the axis of any one man, and if I should attempt to lead this people

astray, there would be another raised up in my place. I do not hope for a complete organization of quorums this present term, but feel assured the time is not far distant when these who are to fill positions will be made known by God.

Question of school for education of young men, with a view to the ministry, offered at last General Conference, and referred to Semi-Annual Conference, and again to present conference, will be taken up this afternoon.

Resolved, Those speaking upon this question each occupy but ten minutes.

Adjourned till 1½ o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened by singing, and prayer by Br. M. H. Forscutt.—Subject of school for education of young men, resumed.

The President, by request, gave an outline of what it was intended it should be. The necessity of the education of the young of the church is greatly felt; he himself was in favor of it. The chief arguments were: On one side it was declared that there was too much disregard of learning in the church, and in order to advance and be more effective in the ministry, we should begin to learn ourselves, not only in doctrine, but in history, and some of the sciences of the world. Elders have had cause to blush, because they could not expose the efforts of some, who put forth untruthful assertions. On the other hand, it was argued that the Spirit ought to qualify every man in the ministry, and give them ability for the work, and ought not to be educated with a view to ministry.

An amendment to original motion to strike out objected clauses, "young men," and "view to ministry," was offered.

Resolved, That the true policy of the church requires the establishment of a school for the purpose of educating the youth of the church under the management and rule of professors of our own faith.

After some discussion, a substitute was offered, striking out the word "professors" and inserting "persons" as it might not always be possible to obtain such. This was adopted and now reads:

Resolved, That the true policy of the church requires the establishment of a school, for the purpose of educating the youth of the church, under the management and control of persons of our own faith.

The Substitute as amended was then discussed at some length, and lost. The original Resolution was then taken up, and after some discussion, rejected.

A resolution was then presented and carried.

Resolved, That the School of the Prophets be organized at as early a time as practicable.

After some argument another resolution was offered, and it was

Resolved, That the School of the Prophets be organized with Joseph Smith as its President, at the close of this conference.

High Priests Quorum then reported following preamble, and resolutions, which were voted upon and passed in their order.

WHEREAS, Br. Stephen Richardson, has been received as a High Priest on his original standing, by a district conference, but not by a general conference, be it

Resolved, That this conference does hereby recognize his official standing.

Resolved, That all Presidents of Quorums, and Counsellors to Presidents of Quorums, be set apart to their offices by ordination.

Resolved, That Joseph Parsons be set apart as Counsellor to the President of the High Priests' Quorum.

The following recommendations of the High Priests Quorum were presented and voted upon, and it was

Resolved, That Elder Henry J. Hudson be ordained to the office of a High Priest.

Resolved, That Wm. Redfield be ordained to the office of a High Priest.

The President then appointed Bro. T. W. Smith to preach this evening; Bro. J. M. Putney to assist. Adjourned to 7 30 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Preaching by Br. T. W. Smith, to a very large and attentive congregation. Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY APRIL 9.

MORNING SESSION.

After singing, prayer was offered by the President.

The minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

The President read a letter from Ralph S. Young, of Chain Lake, Minn., who desires that himself and wife should be received into the Reorganization on their original baptism.

The motion was made that they be received, and that his standing as an elder be acknowledged. After some discussion the motion was carried.

Resolved, That the President appoint the committee to audit the Bishop's account.

The President appointed John Chisnall, Wm. Hazzledine and Elijah Banta.

The Clerk of the Quorum of Seventy read the names of those whose position and condition is not known to the authorities of the quorum, desiring that the Conference should make known any facts that they may have concerning these members.

The President held the view that the quorum should present the names of those in good standing, that they may receive their licenses, while those not considered

as such, should have their cases examined into.

Resolved, That the President of the Quorum of Seventy examine into the condition of members of the quorum regarding their taking missions, and report this afternoon.

Resolved, That the Elder's Quorum report through their President the names of those who may take missions or be admitted into the Quorum of Seventy.

A motion was made to set apart and ordain the President of the Quorum of Elders and his counsellors. Motion was deferred until after the next meeting of that quorum takes place.

The High Priest's quorum presented the names of J. S. Patterson, J. M. Putney, and C. G. McIntosh for acceptance and ordination into the High Priest's Quorum.

By reason of the refusal of the first two names to accept the office, and the ability and conditions of the last to labor more effectually as a seventy, the resolutions were not adopted.

Resolved, That the law does not make it necessary for High Priests to preside over branches, although they have the right to preside when chosen by the branch.

The President stated that any officer of the Melchisedec Priesthood may be chosen to preside over a Branch, District, or Conference, though it may not be his prerogative right. High Priests preside by virtue of prerogative,—Seventies by virtue of privilege. It was clear to the President that a High Priest, or Seventy, had a right to preside when called, and the privilege given to him by the people. It is sometimes a question of prerogative and sometimes of privilege. He read an extract from the history of Joseph Smith in *Times and Seasons*, which reads:

"A High Priest is a member of the same Melchisedec Priesthood with the Presidency but not of the same power or authority in the church. The Seventies are also members of the same Priesthood, and are a sort of traveling council or priesthood, and may preside over a church or churches, until a High Priest can be had. The Seventies are to be taken from the Quorum of Elders, and are not to be High Priests. They are subject to the direction and dictation of the Twelve who have the keys to the ministry."

Resolved, That the report of the committee on finance be the next business in order.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing; prayer by Br. John Sutton.

Committee on Finance then reported. Report accepted and committee discharged.

It was then

Resolved, That we examine the report item by item.

On "the Bishopric," was then considered. After some discussion, an amendment was offered, to strike out the words "names of persons given to," but failed for want of a second. A substitute was offered, to read

Resolved, That the Bishop shall publish in the *Herald*, quarterly, an exhibit of all church moneys coming into his hands, with the names of parties paying the same, (unless otherwise ordered), also, a quarterly exhibit of all moneys disbursed, to whom or for what purpose,—except the names of the poor, which was adopted. It was then

Resolved, That Zion's Hope Missionary Aid Society be next article considered.

Br. Josiah Ells made some explanatory remarks concerning the manner in which the cause would be benefited thereby, and the aid that would be given the traveling ministry, as the result of its adoption.

After some discussion an amendment on first clause was offered and read.

Resolved, That each member of the Church who is at all able be requested to aid this purpose by contributions as God may have prospered him.

This was voted upon and lost. After considerable debate the original resolution was presented and rejected.

Conference then adjourned till 7.30 p. m.

EVENING SESSION

was devoted to a testimonial meeting. Br. E. C. Briggs took charge of the same.

In this meeting the Lord manifested his mercy towards his people, and the Spirit "ran from heart to heart like oil from vessel to vessel," strengthening and confirming the hope of the saints. The gift of prophecy was given, testifying that many sheaves would be gathered in unto the honest laborer this year.

Adjourned till 10½ o'clock to-morrow morning.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10th.

MORNING SESSION.

Preaching by President Joseph Smith; Br. Josiah Ells assisting. Text, 1 Peter iii. 15.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Was enjoyed as a Sacrament and testimonial meeting. Bros. W. W. Blair, and Alex. H. Smith conducting the exercises. Sacrament was administered by Bros. Wilsey, Landers, Stebbins, Hartwell, Putney, and Warnock. The Saints were blessed with the gift of tongues and interpretation; and were made to rejoice in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Adjourned till 7 30 p. m.

After adjournment the Saints repaired to the water, where four precious souls were inducted into the kingdom by baptism, by Br. Mark H. Forscutt.

EVENING SESSION.

Preaching by Br. W. W. Blair. President Joseph Smith assisting. Those who were baptized between sessions were confirmed by Bro. W. W. Blair and M. H.

Forscutt. One child was blessed.
Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

MONDAY, APRIL 11.

MORNING SESSION.

Singing, and prayer by Br. Isaac Sheen. Minutes of the 9th and 10th inst. read, and amended in case of Br. C. G. McIntosh, whose name had been recommended by High Priest's Quorum for ordination to office of a High Priest, and had been rejected on account of not being present, to read, "That he could labor more effectually in the Quorum of Seventies to which he belongs."

Report of St. Louis District represented by W. H. Hazzeldine, president, was presented, received by mail since reports of other districts. 25 Branches, 664 members. Chas. Hall, clerk.

Petition of the brethren of Sub-district No. 3. of St. Louis District, asking this conference to create them a district, was then read, and it was

Resolved, That the question of erecting sub-district No. 3 of St. Louis district into a district, be referred back for settlement to St. Louis District.

Report of Committee on Finance was then resumed and each item examined. Board of Publication and Stock certificates came up first, and disposed of as follows:

Resolved, That the officers of the board be composed of a President, (who shall be the President of the Church), a Secretary; and a Treasurer, who shall give suitable bonds for the faithful performance of his duties, such as shall be agreed upon by the board.

Resolved, That said board have the management of the publication interests of the church, and shall publish quarterly a statement of the financial condition of said board.

Resolved, That the board be incorporated according to the laws of the State of Illinois as the Board of Publication of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Resolved, That the Board of Publication issue certificates of indebtedness in amounts of from five to fifty dollars each, said certificates to be redeemable within five years from date of issue, and none to be payable in less than one year, after which time said certificates to draw legal rate of interest of the State in which said certificate may be issued; and be it further

Resolved, That all holders of said certificates as issued by the Board of Publication may at their option after the term of one year from date, take up publications issued by said Board to the amount in full of their certificates.

Resolved, That an immediate contribution of one dollar per head be asked by the board, of such as can possibly give it, and that all Presidents, whether of districts or branches, bring this before their respective charges as early as possible.

Pending its discussion conference adjourned till 2 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing and prayer.

Report of Committee on Finance continued.

The report as a whole was then presented for consideration and adopted.

A resolution was then presented:

Resolved, That the baptism and ordination of John Shippy was unlawful, he not having made proper restitution to parties that he had injured, and for which he was excommunicated.

A motion to refer it to a committee of three, rejected. Considerable discussion followed. A motion prevailed to defer it till to-morrow morning.

Resolved, That the name of Br. John H. Lake be dropped from the recommendation to this conference for ordination as one of the Counsellors to the President of the Elder's Quorum, in accordance with the suggestion of the President that the quorums be not fully organized at present.

A motion was presented and prevailed that ordinations be attended to now, and it was

Resolved, That Br. Elijah Banta be set apart by this Conference as President of the First Quorum of Elders, and Br. John S. Patterson as his counsellor.

The following ordinations were then attended to:

Br. Joseph Parsons to Counsellor to President of High Priests' Quorum. To High Priests' Quorum: Brs. Wm. Redfield and H. J. Hudson. Br. Elijah Banta to President of Elders' Quorum. J. S. Patterson to the office of Counsellor to Pres. of Elders' Quorum.

Adjourned till 7.30 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Preaching by Br. Mark H. Forscutt, from 1st Cor. xv. 1, 2, assisted by the President.

Adjourned till 9 a. m. to-morrow.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Opened by singing; prayer by Br. John S. Patterson.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read and corrected.

First business in order was original motion.

Resolved, That baptism and ordination of John Shippy was unlawful.

Br. W. W. Blair offered a substitute.

Resolved, That this conference regard the late baptism and ordination of John Shippy as unwise and untimely, though not strictly illegal, and that we hereby demand of him that he make, in person, or by letter, full confession, and reparation, so far as he can, to the injured parties, and that he do not officiate as a minister, until further action be had in his case by a general conference.

Considerable discussion ensued, when question was finally submitted to vote and carried.

The report of the committee appointed to audit Bishop's account was next presented, and upon vote accepted, and committee discharged.

We the Committee to audit the Bishop's accounts, report that we find he has received church funds, in

all, for the past year \$693,74
and paid away, \$737,50

leaving bal. in his favor of \$43,76
E. BANTA, *Chairman.*
JOHN CHISNALL,
Wm. H. HAZZLEDINE.

Report was then put to vote and adopted.

Bishop I. L. Rogers made some remarks stating his willingness to tithe himself, and offered if the church would accept it, he would give the church all it was indebted to him, some \$4,097,26, placing it on his books as his tithing, and square the account with the church; and said as God should prosper him, he would tithe himself each year; knew the work was true, and desired to see it roll on. It was then

Resolved, That inasmuch as the church, in account with Bishop I. L. Rogers, is found indebted to him for moneys advanced to aid the publishing department to publish the New Translation, Doctrine and Covenants, and for other purposes, to the amount of \$4,097 26, and that he now offers the same to the church as tithing.

Therefore, be it further

Resolved, That the church accept the proffer, and that he be authorized to enter the same in its proper place on the tithing books.

The report of the committee on memorial was presented, which was accepted, and committee discharged.

An amendment was offered, to read,

Resolved, That the memorial be so amended as to express the fact, that as early as 1853, the Reorganization did reaffirm the Bible, Book of Mormon, and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, as containing the law to, and rule of faith and practice to the church.

After considerable discussion it was carried.

The memorial as amended was then adopted.

Resolved, That Brs. Joseph Smith, Chas. Derry, and Isaac Sheen be appointed a committee to amend the memorial according to tenor and spirit of amendment, and carry it through.

Resolved, That this Conference accept Samuel H. Gurley, and Catharine his wife, as members of the Church.

Resolved, That, whereas, the High Priests Quorum is now sufficiently organized to do quorum business, this Conference does hereby recognize said organization.

Resolved, That all presidents and clerks of quorums be authorized to issue licenses to the members of their respective quorums, and that the President and Clerk of Conference be authorized to issue licenses to the general officers of the church.

Resolved, That there be appointed a Secretary of the Church of J. C. of L. D. S., whose duty it shall be to sign all documents authorized by general provisions of General Conference, to sign licenses and certificates issued by the First Presidency, and to perform any and all other duties coming properly within the province of an organized government.

Resolved, That Mark H. Forscutt be that secretary.

Petition of Butternut Grove and Jackson Branches, referred to the Kewanee District for settlement.

Resolved, That this Conference does hereby recognize the organization of the Elders' Quorum.

Resolved, That the President of the Church be

hereby authorized to publish and distribute the memorial as he may deem best.

Resolved, That we consider J. H. Donnellon unworthy of a place in the quorum of Elders, he having abandoned the cause, and denied the faith when the interests of the same were intrusted to him in debate; and we hereby move that he be cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of L. D. S.

Pending discussion Conference adjourned till 1 30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened by singing, and prayer by Br. A. M. Wilsey.

Case of J. H. Donnellon was then resumed, and finally referred to the Plano Branch for adjudication.

The question of uniting the String Prairie and Nauvoo Districts was next considered, and it was

Resolved, That they be united, to be known as the String Prairie and Nauvoo District.

Report of Elder's Quorum, in case of G. E. Deuel, called for and motion made

That his license be restored to him on grounds that he did make confession and was forgiven.

An amendment offered.

Resolved, That the license of G. E. Deuel be restored to him, by his making confession to this Conference. Lost.

Original motion put to vote, and rejected.

The petition of Br. H. S. Dille was next presented, asking this Conference to release him from the office of an Elder, for reasons that he had not the evidence that God had called him to preach, and his circumstances and health would not permit of his acting in the capacity of an Elder. A resolution from the Elder's Quorum recommending that he be released was presented; discussion ensued, and the President stated as his view, that no man holding either Priesthood, could break his covenant with God, or be released from either Priesthood, until released by the Great Arbitor of the law. Upon being put to vote, it was rejected.

A resolution was then presented.

Resolved, That, whereas, there is now a Secretary of the church, whose duty it is to sign Licenses and public documents, we reconsider the vote passed, authorizing the issuing and signing of Licenses.

Resolved, That the resolution on the issuing and signing of Licenses be amended by the striking out of the latter clause the words "Clerk of the Conference," and substituting therefor "Secretary of the Church."

Resolved, That the President of the Elders' Quorum be requested to report to this Conference the result of their investigations in the case of Br. Gordon E. Deuel, to them referred.

The president of the elder's quorum gave report of this decision in this quorum, in case of Br. G. E. Deuel, that they found him unworthy to represent the interests of the church, and sustained the action of Br. Josiah Eells, in retaining his license.

The report of the Janesville, Wis.,

branch received, and

Resolved, That Br. Franklin P. Scaroliffe be ordained an Elder.

The subject of missions was then taken up and discussed.

Resolved, That Brs. Jason W. Briggs and Josiah Ells be released from English mission.

Resolved, That Brs. W. W. Blair, Alex. H. Smith, and David H. Smith be released from Utah and Pacific Slope mission.

Resolved, That Br. T. W. Smith be released from Eastern mission.

Resolved, That Brs. John H. Lake, and Joseph Snively be released from Canada mission.

Resolved, That Br. Joseph Snively return to Canada, and if circumstances will permit, that Br. John H. Lake return and take charge of the mission.

Resolved, That Br. Archibald M. Wilsey take a mission to eastern part of Iowa, and along the Mississippi river; and the President furnish him a traveling companion, if practicable.

Resolved, That Br. T. W. Smith labor under direction of President of the Church.

Resolved, That Brs. W. H. Kelly and Robert Eccles be associated, and labor in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

Resolved, That Brs. A. H. and D. H. Smith labor in, and take charge of Utah mission.

By request of the President, it was

Lost, owing to objection of Alex. H. Smith.

Resolved, That Brs. A. H. and D. H. Smith labor under the direction of First Presidency.

Bro. W. W. Blair was appointed by the President to take charge of the Utah and Pacific Slope Mission. Sustained by vote.

The President then appointed Br. A. H. Smith to the Utah Mission, in connection with Bro. W. W. Blair.

The President appointed Br. Josiah Ells to take charge of the Eastern mission; including Pennsylvania, West Virginia and part of Ohio. Sustained by vote, and he be empowered to employ all means necessary.

Bro. E. C. Briggs continued in his mission in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Canada.

Br. Z. H. Gurley appointed to labor in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Southern Iowa.

Resolved, That Br. Charles Derry labor in Western Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

Resolved, That Br. John A. McIntosh labor under direction of First Presidency.

Resolved, That Br. Joseph Parsons labor around Pittsburgh and vicinity.

Resolved, That Br. John Landers labor under direction of First Presidency.

Resolved, That the President supply the English mission with ministry, as soon as practicable.

Resolved, That Br. George M. Rush be sustained in his mission in Scotland.

Resolved, That the officers of the church, who are sustained in the work in England, be sustained in their mission by the Church Authorities.

Resolved, That Br. C. G. Lanphar be sustained with his co-laborers in the Southern mission.

Resolved, That the recognized ministry in the Pacific mission, be sustained.

Resolved, That Br. George Montague be released from his mission to West Virginia, given him at last October conference.

Resolved, That Br. B. H. Ballowe be released from his mission in Tennessee.

Resolved, That Br. Henry A. Stebbins be continued in his mission to Wisconsin, and that he labor in Illinois, as the Spirit may direct.

Resolved, That Br. E. M. White labor under direction of Br. E. C. Briggs.

Resolved, That Br. Alfred White labor in Des Moines District, and labor in connection with Br. George Walker, and under his direction.

Resolved, That Br. John D. Bennett labor under the direction of Br. J. S. Patterson, while in his district, or in Western Illinois, or Eastern Iowa.

A resolution was offered that Br. Elijah Banta be associated with Bro. W. W. Blair. Lost.

Resolved, That Br. Jesse L. Adams be requested to labor as a Seventy.

Resolved, that Br. Samuel Ackerly be requested to labor in the neighborhood of Prairie Du Chien, as his circumstances will admit.

Resolved, that Br. B. F. Springer labor in Kansas and Western Missouri.

Resolved, that Br. J. T. Phillips labor under direction of Br. W. H. Hazzledine.

Resolved, that Br. Elijah Banta labor under direction of the First Presidency for three or four months.

Resolved, that Br. Jas. P. Dillen labor under direction of Br. Z. H. Gurley.

Resolved, that Br. James Wagner be sustained, and labor under direction of Br. Josiah Ells.

Resolved, that missions which were appointed last fall, and which shall not be specially released by this Conference, be sustained.

Resolved, that Br. Samuel Powers, Jason W. Briggs and Reuben Newkirk, be earnestly requested to take the field.

Resolved, That Br. E. Jasper be released from his mission to Holland.

Adjourned till 7 o'clock p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Singing, and prayer by Br. W. H. Kelly. Inquiry made respecting the translation in the concordance to Book of Doctrine and Covenants, of Ashashdah as Newel K. Whitney, &c. Where did the authority come from for those assertions, and can they be proved?

It was stated that there was something of the kind came forth in some of Orson Pratt's works.

Br. I. Sheen stated that it was generally understood in the church that those names were names of persons living in Enoch's day, and that the names were used as types by men in the church.

The President of High Priests' Quorum reported, and it was

Resolved, that his report be adopted.

Resolved, that Br. Gordon E. Deuel be allowed to make a confession to this Conference, if he so desires.

Resolved, that next sitting of Semi Annual Conference, be at, or near Council Bluffs.

Resolved, that this Conference change the time of the sitting of Semi Annual Conference, from 6th of October to 15th September.

Br. Joseph Smith was sustained as President of the Church, Br. Wm. Marks as his Counsellor, Br. I. L. Rogers as Bishop, Br. Jason W. Briggs as President of the Quorum of Twelve, Br. Zenos H. Gurley, as a member of that Quorum, Br. W. W. Blair as a member of that Quorum,

Br. Josiah Ells as a member of that Quorum. Br. E. C. Briggs as a member of that Quorum, Br. Samuel Powers as a member of that quorum, Br. Reuben Newkirk as a member of that quorum.

Br. Isaac Sheen was sustained as President of High Priest's Quorum, with Joseph Parsons as his Counsellor. Br. A. M. Wilsey was sustained as President of the First Quorum of the Seventies, Br. C. G. Lanphear as a president of quorum of Seventies. Br. Elijah Banta was sustained as president of First Quorum of Elders, and Br. John S. Patterson as his counsellor.

Resolved, to sustain all the Spiritual Authorities in righteousness.

The President then made some remarks, instructing Elders when organizing Branches to ordain in the Aaronic Priesthood, instead of the Melchisedec; by all means do not multiply Elders in a Branch. An organization can be effected with a Teacher and Priest, as officers. Hitherto there has been a disregard of the lesser Priesthood, and men have been ordained Elders right at the start. By all means, do not ordain Elders, *unless the Spirit so direct*.

Resolved, that Mrs. I. L. Rogers, I. Sheen, J. W. Briggs, and E. Banta, be associated together with the President, as a Board of Publication.

Resolved, that it be made discretionary with the President, whether he will restore the license of Br. G. E. Deuel to him.

Br. G. E. Deuel then made confession before the Conference, acknowledging his faults and follies, asking forgiveness for the same, and desired to retain his standing before God, in the church.

Resolved, That Br. G. E. Deuel be forgiven.

Resolved, that if the license be returned to Br. G. E. Deuel, he labor under direction of the First Presidency.

Resolved, that all Branches of the Church should have all the names of their members on the General Church Record, and that all the District Conferences should attend to this duty in connection with the Branches.

Br. Franklin P. Scarccliffe was then ordained to the office of Elder. Bro. Ells, Gurley, and Blair, of the Twelve, officiating.

Resolved, That this Conference recognize the movement being made in the order of Enoch as a good one.

Adjourned till 9 A. M. to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13TH.

MORNING SESSION.

Opened with prayer.

Resolved, That Br. Joseph Smith be sustained as Editor of the *Herald and Zion's Hope*.

Resolved, that Br. Mark H. Forscutt be sustained as Assistant Editor.

Resolved, that a vote of thanks be tendered the Clerks, for a faithful performance of their duties.

Resolved, that a vote of thanks be tendered the saints of Plano and their friends for their kindness and hospitality.

Resolved, That we reconsider the resolution regarding the establishment of the School of the Prophets.

Discussion followed; and upon the President stating that he was not prepared to enter in upon the duties at present, and did not wish to take upon him duties that he was not prepared to fill, it was

Resolved, to reject the resolution providing for such establishment of the School of the Prophets, at the close of Conference.

The President then made a few remarks relative to the prospect before us, stating he was greatly encouraged. "The Elders are occupying a higher position spiritually, and there is an increase of spiritual power among them; and I would instruct the elders to make it their special forte to preach Christ and his mission. I apprehend if this course is pursued, there will be a greater increase in the church, and if there is any question asked you, that is not clear to your mind, tell them frankly, 'I don't know.' This is better than to attempt a subterfuge, which you may have to meet at some future time, and which will militate against the church."

Conference then adjourned to meet at Council Bluffs, September 15th, 1870.

Throughout the entire session, the Spirit and peace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, prevailed. The brethren discussed, calmly, all questions, and did not take it as an offence if a brother held different opinions to them. The weather was remarkably clear and beautiful, from the commencement of Conference to the hour of adjournment, and we were greatly blessed and strengthened, and our faith increased.

JOSEPH SMITH, *President*.

HENRY A. STEBBINS, } Clerks.
WM. H. GARRETT, }

Utah Conference.

At the District Semi-annual Conference, held in Independence Hall, Salt Lake City, April 6th, 7th and 8th, 1870,

Morning Session organized by appointing Elder Worwood, President; Elder Liez, Clerk; Jesse Broadbent, reporter.

Meeting opened in the usual way. Instructive remarks given by the president.

Representation of official members present: 19 Elders, 2 Priests, 2 Teachers, 2 Deacons.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Malad Branch, consisting of 83 members, including 11 Elders, 4 Priests, 1 Deacon, 16 scattered, 25 Baptized, 2 received by letter, 6 children blessed, 1 dis-