

was a bustle and a gathering, such as I have seldom seen, and when the call was made to come to order, there was an eager crowd of earnest brethren round the stand ready to do good for Zion.

There was quite a number from the valley of Salt Lake, and Bros. Harrington and Cornelius McIntosh, missionaries returned from Utah were there too, full of hope and joy, that God had delivered them from out the shadow and valley of death to the renewed brightness of a season with their brethren.

The skies now seemed more propitious, the moral aspect more favorable, and we entered into the business of the Conference with an alacrity I had never seen surpassed. The minutes of the Conference will show what was done as actual business, but the various good things that were said, both in session and out of it; the visitation of the Spirit at the prayer meetings, on the nights of the 6th, 7th, and 8th, the minutes fail to show; but these things live—live in the hearts of good and honest saints, who feasted for the time, as hungry souls will feed when long deprived of the good food of gospel grace, and from all I can hear and judge much good was done. Sunday, the 8th, I spoke from the stand to quite a large audience in the forenoon, while Bro. Derry spoke in the afternoon. In the evening I spoke at Bluff City, in Babbitt's Hall, to an attentive congregation, using as a text the words: "Sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth." I felt a good degree of liberty, and I trust the effort was not idle, as many of God's people were present, whose praise and prayers are of much value with the Lord, and they I know were praying for me in their hearts. Bro. Moses Nickerson was with me in the stand, opening the meeting with prayer. J. SMITH.

CONFERENCES.

Semi-Annual Conference.

Minutes of the Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of L.-D. S., held near Council Bluffs, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1865.

Conference convened by electing Joseph Smith President, Geo. M. Bush and Dexter Hartwell, Clerks.

The President delivered a discourse. Much useful instruction was given to the saints, upon their duties; and he closed his discourse by asking the question of the saints, "Will we put ourselves in a position to receive the blessings of God?" He

was followed upon the same subject, by Elder Chas. Derry.

The following elders reported: Charles Derry, Wheeler Baldwin, John A. McIntosh, Geo. Sweet, Silas Condit, Z. S. Martin, Wm. A. Litz, Thos. Dobson.

Pres. Joseph Smith said: "I think that it is my time to report now; and in doing so I will have to apologize to you in not being able to fulfill my promise that I had made to some last year, at the October conference, to revisit these branches. It was impossible for me to do so at that time, as business peremptorily called me away, and that quickly I assure you. Circumstances which I could not control demanded my presence in other places, therefore I hope that the saints in the west will accept this as my apology. And now for my report. I have been laboring for the last year around home, some in the west, in St. Louis, and indeed I have been steadily going pretty much all the time. You know that our last spring conference in Plano, appointed me to take charge of the Herald. This appointment will necessarily, with preaching, writing, &c., take my whole time in the cause, which I freely dedicate to the Lord. The work is onward everywhere I have heard from, and the brethren are signaling themselves as champions of the truth."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The following elders reported: Cornelius McIntosh, Harrington, and A. Moffit.

REPORTS OF BRANCHES.

Plum Creek: 18 members, 1 high priest, 4 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher.

Nephi: 20 members, 1 priest.

Glenwood: 17 members, 4 elders, 1 priest.

Fremont: 36 members, 1 high priest, 4 elders, 1 priest.

Florence: 20 members, 5 elders, 1 priest, 1 teacher.

Columbus: 15 members, 4 elders, 1 priest, 2 teachers.

Mason Grove: 19 members, 1 seventy, 5 elders, 1 priest, 2 teachers.

Boyer: 18 members, 7 elders, 1 teacher.

Little River: 43 members, 1 high priest, 5 elders, 2 priests, 1 teacher.

Camp Creek: 5 elders, 2 priests.

Weeping Water: 2 elders, 1 priest.

Nebraska City: 1 elder.

The total number of members in the 8 last mentioned branches are 79.

North Star: 205 members.

Crescent City: 35 members, 1 seventy, 4 elders.

Twelve Mile Grove: 20 members, 1 seventy, 2 elders, 2 priests, 1 teacher.

Morning Star: 52 members, 2 elders, 1 priest.

Raglan: 19 members, 3 elders, 1 priest, and 1 teacher.

These are all the reports of branches that have been handed in to me, and some of them the clerks have hardly been able to make out at all. It is to be hoped that the clerks of branches will try to get those printed forms which Eld. C. Derry has in his possession, so that uniform reports may be received by the general conferences.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That, whereas circumstances have transpired which render it necessary, the conference hereby request Br. Edmund C. Briggs to return from California, and if possible meet with the church in conference, on the 6th day of April, 1866.

Resolved, That this Conference request the High Council to come together at the Spring Conference of 1866, to dispose of alleged troubles in California.

The President said the next business in order would be the appointing of missions, and called upon the elders to volunteer to go into the field.

A. J. Field was appointed to labor in connection with W. W. Blair in Ohio. David H. Bays was appointed to go to Decatur county, Iowa. Wm. Litz, was appointed to go to the states of Va., N. C., Tenn., Miss., and Ala. Moses Nickerson was appointed to go to Michigan and Canada.

Prest. Smith said, "I hope that the day is past in the history of the church that men who are appointed to go upon missions will make no effort to go and fill those appointments. I want to see the brethren prepare immediately, and proceed to the several places and commence their labors, and not stay at home and keep putting it off from one time to another, until you really get ashamed to go at all. Do not be afraid to use your talents, for be assured if you are afraid to use them, God will step in and take them from you, and give them to some other person, who will magnify them. God wants men to go and prosecute the missions that they are appointed to, and He does not like to have men find every little excuse to stop them from the prosecution of their duty. I have felt this for some time resting heavily upon me, and I hope that the brethren will not think that I am too hard upon them. Brethren, I have an earnest desire to see that the work progresses among us as speedily as possible, and I therefore hope that the elders will use all their diligence to forward the cause of God."

MORNING SESSION.

Pres. Smith delivered a plain and impressive discourse upon the first principles of the gospel.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Bro. Derry spoke at great length upon the subject of the Latter-Day Work, with great power.

MORNING SESSION.

Resolved, That David M. Gamet be ordained to the office of high priest.

Resolved, That David M. Gamet be ordained Bishop for the church in this western country.

He was then ordained a high priest by Eld. Chas. Derry. Bro. Joseph Smith ordained Bro. Gamet a bishop.

Prest. Smith called upon those who were ready to take missions in their respective districts to come forward. And he said, "While it is upon my mind, I will say that the church is determined to be a little more strict with the proceedings of her representatives. We do not want those who are so extremely smart, but we want men who are honest and straight forward; those who will do their duty fearlessly, and serve God with full purpose of heart."

The following missions were appointed:

E. W. Knapp, in connection with D. W. Bays, was appointed to go to Decatur Co., Iowa. A. Walden was appointed to go to Cass Co., Iowa. B. V. Springer's and Lehi Collins' mission to Indiana was continued. H. G. Hudson in connection with Z. S. Martin, Thomas Smith in connection with Z. S. Martin. George Smith in connection with George Sweet.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That Bros. Calvin Beebe and Benjamin H. Ballou, be ordained elders, and travel under the direction of Bro. W. A. Litz.

Resolved, That Dexter Hartwell labor in the ministry in connection with W. A. Litz, and Leonard L. Crapo in connection with Bro. Walden, in Cass Co., Iowa.

Resolved, That the Southern Nebraska District be attached to Wheeler Baldwin's District.

Resolved, That when this Conference adjourns, it shall adjourn to meet at Plano, Ill., April 6, 1866.

Resolved, That Amos Chase labor in the ministry in connection with S. W. Condit.

Resolved, That the mission to Minnesota be continued.

Resolved, That Peter Murie be appointed on a mission to Colorado.

Resolved, That Moses Nickerson's ordination be reconfirmed.

Resolved, That Mary Valoir be received into the reorganized church, she having been a member of the old organization.

Resolved, That all the elders who have not hitherto received licences will get them from this Conference.

Resolved, That the Presidents of Districts in this Western District, under the pastoral charge of Bro. Chas. Derry, comprising Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, will hold a three days meeting at Council Bluffs, on Friday, March 4th, to arrange important business.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Geo. Schofield, the owner of the ground upon which the Conference was held; and also to Sidney Graybill and assistants for the arrangements, the preparation for the benefit of the brethren and sisters, and for the good order which they kept during the entire Conference.

Bro. Joseph also returned his sincere thanks for the good order, and good attention which had prevailed through the whole of the conference.

Resolved, That we adjourn.

JOSEPH SMITH, PRESIDENT.

GEORGE M. RUSH } Clerks.
DEXTER HARTWELL }

Pittsfield Conference.

Minutes of Pittsfield Quarterly Conference of the C. of J. C. of L. D. S., held at Elkhorn Branch, Brown Co., Ill., Nov. 4 and 5, 1865.

President L. W. Babbitt was called to preside, and T. Williamson and E. B. Benson to be Secretaries.

Officers present: 2 seventies, 3 elders, 2 priests, 1 teacher.

The President addressed the Conference at some length, setting forth the duties of the officers, and gave some good instruction to the saints.

The following official members reported: Elders, Loren W. Babbitt, James Burgess, Cornelius Mills, Thomas Williamson and Jackson Goodale; Priests, John Lytle and John Miller; Teacher, L. L. Babbitt; all with a good spirit setting forth the good condition of the District.

REPORTS OF BRANCHES: Elkhorn, 13 members, one baptized since last reported, 3 came from Kizer Creek—the branch not fully organized.

Pittsfield, 13 members, 2 elders, 1 priest, otherwise as last reported, Thomas Williamson President; Atlas, 18 members, 3 elders, 1 priest, otherwise as last reported; Henry Huffman President; New Canton, 15 members, 1 seventy, 2 elders, one baptized, 3 received from Kizer Creek, Daniel Bowen President.

Resolved, That this Conference instruct its Clerk, Thomas Williamson, to furnish all the officers in this district with licences.

Resolved, That we sustain the spiritual authorities of the church in their several

callings to build up the church and kingdom of God.

EVENING SESSION.—We had a joyful meeting; the Lord truly verified his word, that where two or three are gathered together in His name, He would be in their midst, for all spoke with the Spirit and bore testimony to the work of God.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.—Bro. Goodale preached from Matt. 20 : 1, to a large congregation of people.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—Brother Babbitt preached from John 19 : 30, to an attentive congregation. A prayer meeting was held in the evening. The time was well improved; the Lord poured out the Spirit, and much good instruction was given and received by each. Conference adjourned to meet at the New Canton Branch, on the first Saturday in February, 1866, at the residence of John Fisher.

P. S. Jackson Goodale was ordained an elder at our last conference at Atlas, Aug. 6th. It was left out of the minutes.

L. W. BABBITT, PRESIDENT.

THOMAS WILLIAMSON, Clerk.

Mission Conference.

Minutes of District Conference held at Mission, LaSalle Co. Ill., Nov. 14, 15, 1865.

Elder Z. H. Gurley was chosen President, and Isaac Sheen, Clerk.

The President delivered an address, in which he gave a sketch of his labors in the different parts of his district.

Official members present, of the Twelve, Z. H. Gurley; High Priest, Isaac Sheen; Seventy, A. M. Wilsey; Elders, Andrew Hayer, G. C. Christensen, Thos. Hougus, Levi Lightfoot; Priests, Austin Hayer, Oliver Hayer, Wm Brunson; Teacher, Hance Hayer; Deacon, Andrew B. Anderson.

The before mentioned officers of the Melchizedek priesthood reported.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—*Resolved*, That we will sustain all the authorities of the church in righteousness.

The President and several elders addressed the Conference.

EVENING SESSION.—A very interesting and instructive social meeting was held, in which the gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and the gift of prophecy was manifested.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.—A discourse was preached by Bro. Isaac Sheen on the evidence of the truth of the Book of Mormon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—Elders A. M. Wilsey and Z. H. Gurley, preached on the first principles of the gospel.