

Seizes the helm to guide the ship aright,
And prays to God for wisdom, strength
and light.

Great God! In his behalf I breathe
this prayer,

Keep him continually beneath thy care,
Shield him from darkness, and from demons art,

And banish every idol from his heart,
Give him thy Spirit every day and hour,
Clothe him with wisdom, humble faith
and power.

Redeem thy heritage from guilt and blood
And show the nations that thou still art
God.

Rebuild thy church and hasten on its prime
More glorious now than at the former
time.

Let him now at the helm, and those on
deck,

Repair the ship and save her from the
wreck,

Learn wisdom from the sufferings they
endure,

And make their calling and election sure,
A voice of warning from her ruins cry,
Hold fast the faith, or else despair and
die.

A voice comes sadly from the apostate
bride,

Telling of ambition, and beware of pride,
A voice from earth, encrimsoned with the
blood

Of martyrs wakes the judgments of our
God.

A voice of mercy cometh from above,
And sweetly breathes of our Redeemer's
love,

All voices from the earth, the sea, the air,
Bid us to meet the King of kings prepare,
All voices sweetly blend in earth and
heaven,

Tell us the earth shall rest and be for-
given.

MARIA HALLOWELL.

CONFERENCES.

Annual Conference.

*Minutes of the Annual Conference of the
Church of J. C. of L. D. S. held in Plano,
Kendall Co., Ill., April 6-13, 1866.*

Conference organized by calling Pres-
idents Joseph Smith and Wm. Marks to
preside. J. W. Gillen and Isaac Sheen
clerks.

The President set forth with great
brevity the business of the Conference,
exhorting all to manifest a spirit of love,
meekness and forbearance, one towards
another, requesting those giving in re-

ports, to do so with brevity, and all mat-
ter brought before the Conference should
be in the form of a resolution.

Resolved, That the chair appoint a com-
mittee to examine the minutes of the
three preceding conferences, and report
to this Conference.

J. W. Briggs, S. W. Condit and Loren
Babbitt were appointed said committee.

Reports of Districts were called for,
when the following Presidents reported :
Z. H. Gurley of the Illinois District,
James Blakeslee of the Michigan and In-
diana District, Josiah Ells of the West
Virginia District.

The President then read a letter from
Bro. John Landers.

Adjourned until 1 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met pursuant to adjourn-
ment.

The representation present was as fol-
lows:—First Presidency 2, Apostles 8,
High Priests 10, Seventies 6, Elders 27,
Priests 6, Teachers 4.

There being but 6 of the High Coun-
cil present, it became necessary for 2 to
be ordained to that office to fill the va-
cancy caused by the death of Bros. An-
drew G. Jackson and Calvin Bebee. The
President read a portion of Sec. 99 B. of
D. C.

Resolved, That this body now assembled,
is a body of spiritual authorities within
the purview of the law found in the 5th
paragraph of Sec. 99 of B. of C.

The nomination of persons to fill the
vacancies to be made on the morning of
the 7th.

REPORTS CONTINUED.

Samuel Powers and Reuben Newkirk,
of the Minnesota and Wisconsin District,
Charles Derry of the Western Iowa Dis-
trict, J. W. Briggs of the European Mis-
sion, reported.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock in the morning:

MORNING SESSION, APRIL 9.

The President said that on examination,
he found that it was impossible to make
the appointment to fill vacancies in the
High Council this morning, as there are
but four high priests present. Three of
them belong to the Bishopric, and one is
president of the High Priests' Quorum.

Resolved, That the appointment be de-
ferred, subject to call.

E. C. Briggs reported.

Adjourned to 1 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

The following Presidents of Districts reported : E. C. Briggs, L. W. Babbitt, Geo. Morey, Alex. H. Smith.

The following elders also reported : W. Sellers, A. M. Wilsey, J. S. Adams.

Resolved, That Sunday be devoted to preaching.

Resolved, That the organization of the High Council be the first business in order for Monday.

Resolved, That the Conference adjourn until 7 o'clock this evening.

Sunday, April 8, was devoted to preaching, adjourning from time to time, until Monday, April 9.

MORNING SESSION, MONDAY, APRIL 9.

The following named brethren, by the voice of the Conference, were ordained high priests : Hiel Bronson, Ebenezer Robinson, Loren W. Babbitt, Jesse Price, Philo Howard, S. W. Condit, G. A. Blakesley, Joseph Parsons, Alira Jones.

The President nominated Hiel Bronson and Jesse Price to fill the vacancy in the High Council caused by the death of Calvin Beebe and Andrew G. Jackson.

Resolved, That Hiel Bronson be appointed to fill the vacancy in the High Council, caused by the death of Calvin Beebe.

Resolved, That Jesse Price be appointed to fill the vacancy in the High Council, caused by the death of Andrew G. Jackson.

Bros. I. Sheen and Andrew Cairns voting in the negative, and requesting the recording of their votes.

They were ordained under the hands of J. W. Briggs, Jas. Blakeslee and J. Ells.

Elder C. G. Lamphear reported.

Adjourned until 1 P. M.

J. D. Bennett reported.

Resolved, That J. W. Gillen be appointed a mission to Utah.

Resolved, That Wilson Sellers be appointed a mission to Southern Nebraska and Northern Kansas.

Resolved, That J. C. Crabb and J. B. Lyle be associated in a mission to Indiana.

Resolved, That J. B. Lyle be ordained to the office of an elder.

Ordination by J. W. Briggs and J. Ells.

Resolved, That Wm. Anderson and Geo. Hatt be associated in a mission to England.

Resolved, That T. W. Smith be associated with H. P. Brown for a season.

Resolved, That T. W. Smith be ordained to the Quorum of Seventy. Ordained by J. W. Briggs and Z. H. Gurley.

Adjourned to 7 o'clock.

MORNING SESSION TUESDAY APRIL 10.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

Resolved, That Lucian B. Richmond be ordained an elder in the Quorum of Seventy.

The Committee on Conference Minutes submitted the following report :

We, the undersigned, your Committee to whom was referred the minutes of the last General Conferences, submit the following report :

On the 125th page of the *Herald*, vol. 7, No. 8, T. Williamson should have been named President of the Pittsfield Branch, instead of L. Babbitt, who was President of that District. Also, on the same page, in the fourth resolution where the word Pastorate occurs, referring to a district of country, your Committee recommend the erasing the same, as well as the word Pastor in connection with districts and presidents of districts, in said minutes, as we find the words pastor and pastorate to relate to a flock and the teacher of a flock, not a country or district, or president of a country or district.

Adjourned till 1 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Resolved, That the subject of the New Translation of the Bible be now considered.

Resolved, That the church ought, as speedily as possible, to publish the translation of the Scriptures made by Joseph Smith.

Resolved, That the time has arrived for the church to publish the New Translation immediately.

Resolved, That the church take immediate measures to release the hands of the Twelve, that they may carry the gospel to the nations of the earth.

Resolved, That the Bishops be instructed to collect means for that purpose.

Resolved, That any member of this church having been lawfully married, and having put away their companions for any other cause than for the cause of fornication, is unworthy of the fellowship of the saints of God ; and that the church be very careful, with all inquiry, that they receive none into the church who have put away their companions for adultery, they themselves being the offenders.

Resolved, That in view of the demand of the work in Utah, it is deemed advisable that, as far as practicable, the saints in that region remain for the present.

Minutes of the High Council were here reported. (See report.)

Resolved, That the subject of missions be the first business in order for the morning of the 10th.

Resolved, That the elders be requested,

through the *Herald*, to report themselves in person at the next Annual Conference, for the purpose of organizing their quorum.

Resolved, That every branch which has not reported a correct list of the names of official and non-official members, are hereby requested to send such list as soon as possible to the General Church Recorder.

Resolved, That Hiram P. Brown be ordained to the office of an high priest.

Resolved, That J. W. Briggs be instructed to ordain him to that office.

Resolved, That H. S. Dille be ordained to the office of an elder.

Resolved, That the Semi-Annual Conference be held at Council Bluffs City, or its vicinity.

Adjourned until 7½ P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Preaching by S. Powers. Adjourned till April 11, 9 o'clock A. M.

MORNING SESSION.

Appointment of missions deferred.

Resolved, That Geo. Hatt be ordained to the office of a seventy.

Resolved, That Jno. B. Lytle be ordained to the quorum of seventy.

Resolved, That Thos. Standeven be ordained an elder.

Resolved, That Thos. Standeven be associated with Geo. Hatt in his mission to England.

Resolved, That Ebenezer Barnum be ordained to the office of priest.

J. W. Briggs, E. C. Briggs, and S. Powers, ordained the fore-named persons to the offices named.

Resolved, That the seventy be instructed, through the *Herald*, to report themselves in person at the next Annual Conference for the purpose of organizing the quorum.

Report of Bishop Rogers: I desire that all should know how much money I have received, and the use that I have made of it. I desire to make an exhibit of the same through the *Herald*. I desire before the close of the Conference to choose my Counselors. My selections are William Aldrich and Philo Howard.

Resolved, That Wm. Aldrich, be appointed Counselor to the Bishop.

Resolved, That Philo Howard be appointed Counselor to the Bishop.

Conference adjourned until 1 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

L. B. Richmond was ordained under the hands of Z. H. Gurley and Josiah Ells to the office of seventy.

Resolved, That our thanks are hereby returned to the School Directors of the town of Plano, for the gratuitous use of this hall for Conference.

Resolved, That this Conference return their thanks to such citizens of Plano, as have kindly thrown open their doors, and extended their hospitalities to us during this Conference.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Conference are due, and are hereby extended to the committee heretofore attending to the fires, lights, &c.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Resolved, That the relief of the poor of the church, be more prominently brought before the church by Apostles, High Priests, Presiding Elders, Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons.

While we deeply deplore the great apostacy and turning the truth into lasciviousness, which has occurred in the Church of Christ in years gone by, resulting in the organization of numerous factions and schisms, yet we cannot shut our eyes to the great truth that the priesthood which was conferred by the ministry of the angel of God, upon the head of our martyred prophet, Joseph Smith, and Oliver Cowdrey, in May A. D. 1829, when he said, "upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer this priesthood, which shall remain on earth that the sons of Levi may yet offer an offering to the Lord in righteousness," still remains, and has continued to remain from that day to this. Therefore we believe it to be our duty, as individuals having received that priesthood, to hunt up and minister to the spiritual wants of the scattered sheep of the house of Israel, those who manifest by their fruits that they have received of the Spirit of God and have maintained their integrity before Him, therefore

Resolved, That we recognize no other rule by which to test the validity of the baptism of persons who have embraced the gospel, except the fruit and manifestation of the Spirit. Therefore, the question of re-baptism is a matter of conscience.

Resolved Further, That a connection with those factions during the dark and cloudy day, does not necessarily invalidate the priesthood; holding as we do, that those factions could neither confer nor take away the priesthood.

Resolved, That baptisms administered by elders without going down into the water, as the law directs, are null and void. Also, that members disfellowshipped by a branch, or other legal authorities, shall make reconciliation to said branch, or legal authorities, before being re-admitted into the church.

Resolved, That Nancy Seward be received into the church on her original baptism.

Resolved, That Anna Simmons and Edwin Chapin, be received on their original baptisms.

Resolved, That the ordination of an High Priest by the direction of a District Conference is null and void.

Resolved, That the above resolution be deferred.

Resolved, That the question deferred be called up at the direction of the President.

Adjourned until 7½ this evening.

Convened pursuant to adjournment for preaching.

Adjourned until April 12, at 9 A. M.

MORNING SESSION.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

Resolved, That J. C. Williams and Orrin Butts be appointed a mission to Virginia and Tennessee.

The Quorum of First Presidency, in view of the somewhat distracted and disjointed state of the church in the United States, feel impressed to appoint the following missions :

Zenos H. Gurley to travel in Illinois and Missouri, as the Spirit may direct, strengthening and confirming the churches.

Samuel Powers and James Blakeslee, to travel in Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, as the Spirit may direct, strengthening and confirming the churches.

C. Derry and R. Newkirk, to travel in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Minnesota, as the Spirit may direct, strengthening and confirming the churches.

John Shippy to travel in Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as the Spirit may direct, strengthening and confirming the churches.

Wm. W. Blair and E. C. Briggs, to travel in the Eastern States, as the Spirit may direct, strengthening and confirming the churches.

And considering that the European Mission is of great importance, and should at once be entered upon, if possible, Jason W. Briggs and Josiah Ells are appointed to that mission, and that in these missions, new fields of labor are to be opened, and churches organized, as the Spirit may from time to time direct.

Resolved, That these appointments made by the Presidency be sustained by the Conference.

Resolved, That the appointment of J. W. Gillen be reconsidered.

Upon such reconsideration:

Resolved, That the appointment of J. W. Gillen to Utah be sustained.

Resolved, That the Presidents of missions and of districts and branches, are hereby authorized to solicit subscriptions and donations, for the publishing of the New Translation of the Scriptures made by Joseph Smith, and forward the same to the Bishop, and it is agreed that each person subscribing for this object, shall receive one copy at cost.

Resolved, That Wm. Marks, I. L. Rogers and W. W. Blair be appointed a committee, to confer with Sister Emma Bidamon, respecting the relinquishment of the manuscripts of the New Translation of the Scriptures, for the purpose of publishing the same to the church and to the world, and that said committee be empowered to enter into and fulfill the contract for the same.

Resolved, That the Manuscript of the Scriptures, be engrossed, and the engrossed copy be put into the hands of the printer, with a view to the preservation of the original copy.

Resolved, That President J. Smith, I. L. Rogers and Ebenezer Robinson, be appointed a committee to publish the New Translation, and that they may be empowered to act in the name of the church, to take all necessary steps to secure its speedy completion.

Resolved, That a mission be appointed to California, and that two, or more missionaries be sent there.

Resolved, That the California Mission comprise the States of Nevada, California and Oregon, and the Territory of Washington.

Resolved, That Alexander H. Smith be appointed to take charge of the California Mission.

Resolved, That Alex. H. Smith be empowered to choose fellow laborers.

Resolved, That the brethren so chosen shall be considered as appointed by this Conference, and that this appointment be published in the Herald.

Resolved, That we reconsider the resolution whereby Wm. Anderson was appointed on a mission to England.

The mover of the resolution appointing such mission withdrew it.

The persons chosen by Alex. H. Smith to accompany him, are Wm. Anderson and Wm. H. Kelley.

Resolved, That R. H. Attwood be associated with E. C. Briggs in the mission to the Eastern States.

Resolved, That the privilege given to the

California missionary in the selection of his associates to that mission, be extended to all missions of like character.

Resolved, That the committee named as the Publication Committee of the New Translation, employ no person in writing, re-writing, proof reading, &c. who is not in the faith of the truth of the Latter-Day work, and favors the coming forth of said translation.

Resolved, That Elder Thomas Job of Utah, be appointed to preside over that mission, including Utah and Idaho.

Adjourned until 1 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Resolved, That the appointment of H. G. Whitlock as Presiding Elder of California, made by the President of the Church, subject to the voice of this Conference be sanctioned.

Resolved, That the appointment of J. H. Lake to preside in the Spring Prairie District, made by Z. H. Gurley, subject to the voice of this Conference, be sustained.

Resolved, That Elijah Banta labor in conjunction with W. W. Blair.

Resolved, That Jesse L. Adams labor in Northern Indiana, in connection with C. G. Lamphere.

Resolved, That Gordon Duel be associated with Wilson Sellers; to labor in Nebraska and Northern Kansas.

Resolved, That the President do have full editorial control of the *Herald*, and all matter published therein.

Resolved, That Alexander H. Smith be ordained a high priest.

A. H. Smith was ordained under the hands of Joseph Smith and Jason W. Briggs to the office of high priest.

The President called up the question that was deferred subject to his call, touching the ordination of high priests by district conferences.

Resolved, That the ordination of an high priest by the direction of a District Conference is null and void.

Bros. J. W. Briggs and J. Blakeslee voting in the negative, and requesting their votes recorded.

Motion to adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

MORNING SESSION.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Plano have expressed a desire that the church should erect a building for church purposes in said town, and will aid such an enterprise by liberal subscriptions. Therefore

Resolved, That the President and Bishop of the church, in connection with the Presi-

dents of the Churches of Fox River and Plano, take the matter under advisement, and if found expedient, measures shall be taken to accomplish the erection of such building.

Resolved, That we now proceed to the reading of the Minutes of the Conference.

Resolved, That the corrections proposed by the Committee on Conference Minutes be made.

Resolved, That the resolution of this Conference which says, "*Resolved*, members disfellowshipped," &c. be reconsidered.

Resolved, That the words "as far as practicable" be inserted after the words "shall make" and before the word "reconciliation."

Resolved, That the words "and middle," be inserted after the word "Eastern," in the vote on the appointment of W. W. Blair to his mission.

Resolved, That H. G. Whitlock be continued in the presidency of the California District until the arrival of his successor.

Resolved, That in subsequent conferences the reading of the minutes of the preceding day be the first thing in order.

Resolved, That the foregoing minutes are approved.

Resolved, That in publishing the minutes of this Conference, that the editor of the *Herald*, be permitted to abridge them as he shall choose.

Resolved, That we do now adjourn to meet October 6th, 1866.

Minutes of the High Council.

The High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, met at the house of President JOSEPH SMITH, in Plano, Kendall Co., Illinois, on the 9th day of April, 1866.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

JOSEPH SMITH, President.

MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COUNCIL:

Wm. Aldrich, John C. Gaylord, Jacob Doan, George Morey, O. P. Dunham, Winthrop H. Blair, and Hiel Bronson.

The following High Priests were chosen to act in the places of Edwin Cadwell, Zenos Whitcomb, Lyman Hewitt, Dwight Webster, and Jesse Price, who were absent, to wit: Lorin Babbitt, Joseph Parsons, Silas W. Condit, Geo. A. Blakeslee, and Ebenezer Robinson.

Opened by prayer by the President.

E. Robinson was chosen Clerk.

The President made a statement that the first business to be presented, was an appeal made by Cornelius Bagnall, Wm. Pot-

ter, E. C. Brand, Henry Robinson, Miriam Brand, Julia Marvin, Geo. W. Oman, Geo. C. Millgate, and others, from the 6th of April Conference of 1865, held in San Francisco, California.

Clerk read appeal from above parties.

President read proceedings of a Court of Elders, held at Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 20 and 21, 1864, and also commenced reading Minutes of a Semi-Annual Conference, held at San Francisco, Cal., April 6, 1865.

Voted to adjourn until 7 o'clock P. M.

Closed by prayer by the President.

7 o'clock P. M.—Council convened, and opened by prayer by the President.

Voted *unanimously* that the President continue reading said minutes, which was done. After remarks by several members,

Voted to adjourn until to-morrow morning at 7½ o'clock.

APRIL 10. MORNING SESSION.—Council opened by prayer by Bro. L. Babbitt.

Voted *unanimously*, that the Council proceed with the examination of the papers pertaining to the appeal.

Clerk read extensively from Minutes of Conference at San Francisco, and other papers.

After a full and free discussion of the whole subject, as appearing before the Council, the President made the following decision:

That this High Council sanction the action of the Conference held in San Francisco, California, April 6, 1865, in withdrawing the hand of fellowship from the following named persons, to wit:

Cornelius Bagnall, Wm. Potter, Edmund C. Brand, Henry Robinson, Miriam Brand and Julia Marvin, also in suspending Geo. W. Oman and George C. Millgate.

On motion it was voted *unanimously* to sanction the decision of the President.

Inasmuch as the full and careful examination of the foregoing appeal had also necessarily included an examination of the case of Elder George P. Dykes,

On motion, voted *unanimously*, that the action of the Conference held at San Francisco, California, April 6, 1865, in sustaining the action of the Court of Elders in the case of Elder George P. Dykes, be sanctioned by this High Council.

ON MOTION, Voted, That this High Council recommend that in all cases where persons are cited to trial, in this church, that the charges shall be specified in writing, at the time of citation.

Voted, That the proceedings of this Council be published in the *Herald*.

JACOB DOAN,
G. A. BLAKSLEE,
O. P. DUNHAM,

JOSEPH PARSONS,
HIEL BRONSON,
JOHN C. GAYLORD,

GEORGE MOREY,
S. W. CONDIT,
E. ROBINSON,
JOSEPH SMITH, PRES. OF COUNCIL.
LOREN BABBITT,
W. H. BLAIR,
WM. ALDRICH.
E. ROBINSON, Clerk.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Polygamy Attacked in its Stronghold.

[Correspondence of the Oshkosh (Wis.) North Western.]

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 26.

One year ago the banner of religious freedom was unfurled in Utah and the "Gentiles" of this city are now permitted unmolested to assemble together for divine worship. Every Sabbath, service is held in Independence Hall, and our pastor, the Rev. N. McLeod, who is a bold and fearless man, preaching the word of God in the morning and evening. He has now commenced a series of lectures on the vices of Polygamy. On the occasion of these lectures the hall is crowded both with Mormons and "Gentiles." Every observer can easily understand now that the power of the Mormon Hierarchy has passed its zenith and is now slowly but surely declining. The dark principles upon which is built the foundation of Mormon religion are fast melting away in the light of truth, as knowledge and civilization advances in Utah. The blind deluded victims of the One Man Power are having their eyes opened now to the deception their leaders have practiced upon them, and one by one the fairest and most intelligent of their daughters have abandoned the church of Latter-Day saints and come over to the "Gentile" party. Even in the face of these glaring proofs of the decay of his empire in the hearts of his people, the false Prophet Brigham employs threats, entreaties and commands to inveigle his reluctant followers into polygamy. It would seem that, believing his own desperate situation and the consequences of his dark career of crime when the hand of justice shall be laid upon him, he has determined to involve others in the same mighty ruin with himself. Nor will there be proofs lacking to condemn him when his day of trial comes. The Mountain Meadow massacre, that dark page of crime in the annals of Utah's history, is one fearful evidence of the secret power and atrocity of the Danite Band of this city of which Brigham Young was the grand master. Judge Titan, from this city, has recent-