

**Compilation of  
General Conference Resolutions**

**1852-1900.**

*PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF GENERAL CONFERENCE.*

LAMONI, IOWA:  
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REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

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## **Committees on Compilation.**

1852-1885, H. A. Stebbins, Rudolph Etzenhouser, D. F. Lambert.

1886, H. A. Stebbins, J. H. Hansen, A. S. Cochran.

1886-1892, H. A. Stebbins, R. S. Salyards, Columbus Scott.

1893-1900, E. L. Kelley, R. S. Salyards, H. A. Stebbins.

## COMPILATION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

Adopted June 12, 1852.

No. 1. Resolved, That this conference regards the pretensions of Brigham Young, James J. Strang, James C. Brewster, and William Smith and James Woods' joint claim to the leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as assumptions of power in violation of the law of God, and consequently we disclaim all connection and fellowship with them.

No. 2. That the successor of Joseph Smith Jun., as the Presiding High Priest in the Melchisedek priesthood, must of necessity be the seed of Joseph Smith Jun., in fulfillment of the law and promises of God.

No. 3. That, as the office of First President of the church grows out of the authority of the Presiding High Priest in the High Priesthood, no person can legally lay claim to the office of First President of the church without a previous ordination to the Presidency of the High Priesthood.

No. 4. That we recognize the validity of all legal ordinations in this church, and will fellowship all such as have been ordained while acting within the purview of such authority.

No. 5. That we believe that the Church of Christ organized on the 6th day of April, A. D. 1830, exists as on that day, wherever six or more Saints are organized according to the pattern in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

No. 6. That the whole law of the Church of Jesus Christ is contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

No. 7. That in the opinion of this conference, there is no stake to which the Saints on this continent are commanded to gather at the present time, but that the Saints in all other lands are commanded to gather to this land,

preparatory to the reestablishment of the church in Zion, when the scattered Saints on this land will also be commanded to gather and return to Zion, and to their inheritances in fulfillment of the promises of God. And it is the duty of the Saints to turn their hearts and their faces towards Zion, and supplicate the Lord God for such deliverance. (This resolution was reaffirmed April 7, 1863.)

No. 8. That this conference believe it the duty of the elders of this church, who have been legally ordained, to cry repentance and remission of sins to this generation through obedience to the gospel, as revealed in the record of the Jews, the Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and not to faint in the discharge of duty.

No. 9. That Elders Jason W. Briggs, Zenas H. Gurley, and John Herrington be a committee of three to write a pamphlet ["The Word of Consolation"] based on the foregoing resolutions.

Adopted October 7, 1852.

No. 10. That, in the opinion of this conference, the one holding the highest priesthood [Samuel Blair's original record says "highest office"] in the Church of God is to preside and represent the rightful heir to the Presidency of the High Priesthood.

Amendment—That the highest authority among the priesthood represents the legitimate President as a presiding authority.

No. 11. That Samuel Blair be the General Church Recorder.

Adopted April, 1853.

No. 12. On motion Jason W. Briggs was chosen Church Historian.

Adopted October 8, 1853.

No. 13. On motion J. W. Briggs was authorized to publish a pamphlet, the title to be, "The voice of the captives assembled at Zarahemla to their brethren scattered abroad."

No. 14. That Bro. Samuel Blair select and publish a hymn book suited to the doctrines of the church.

Adopted April 6, 1854.

No. 15. That this conference authorize the Twelve holding the highest authority in the priesthood, assembled at Zarahemla, as a council to try and examine all revelation and manifestations, that has or may come through any member of this church, male or female, and that such revelation or manifestations, after having been examined by this council and declared to be the word of God, may be taught as such until the next General Conference shall reject or receive it as the law. And if any member of the church assumes to teach, as law or doctrine, any revelation or manifestation before being presented to this council, shall be considered a transgressor of the law, and proceeded against as such.—[From original record.]

No. 16. That this council send copies of all revelations and manifestations to the several branches.

No. 17. On motion J. W. Briggs was sustained in the office of President of the Twelve and legal representative.

Adopted October 6, 1854.

No. 18. That this conference suspend from the exercise of their priesthood all holding the same, and also disfellowship all such as have departed from the faith and from the jurisdiction of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Zarahemla, until they return and make satisfaction.

No. 19. That all holding priesthood are sent by the church to preach the gospel as the doors may open.

Adopted April 6, 1855.

No. 20. That all apostles, high priests, seventies, elders, priests, teachers, and deacons, whose hearts the Lord has touched for the work of the preparation for the restoration of the captives of Zion, be requested to report themselves in person or otherwise at the next conference.

No. 21. That Z. H. Gurley be appointed Church Recorder.

No. 22. That this conference fill the Quorum of the Twelve as far as at the organization.

Adopted April 7, 1855.

No. 23. On motion a resolution adopted at a conference held at Beloit (Newark), June 12 and 13, 1852, affirming that the successor of Joseph Smith must come from his seed, was reaffirmed.

Adopted April 6, 1857.

No. 24. On motion the first five resolutions adopted at a conference held at Beloit [Newark], Wisconsin, June, 1852, were reaffirmed and readopted.

No. 25. That it shall be the duty of all who are connected with us, holding priesthood, to report themselves personally or by letter once in six months, showing their faith and labor in this work.

Adopted October 6, 1857.

No. 26. On motion Brn. Owen and Hedrick were received as the representatives of the Saints in Woodford county, Illinois, and vicinity, and the right hand of fellowship was given them.

No. 27. That this conference raise funds for printing purposes, and the work of the ministry; said fund to be at the disposal of the church and under its control.

No. 28. On motion, J. W. Briggs was appointed to cooperate with Bro. Hedrick in writing a pamphlet setting forth the true position of our doctrine.

Adopted April 6, 1858.

No. 29. That Jason W. Briggs be and is truly exonerated from acting in connection with Granville Hedrick, of Bloomington, Illinois, in writing out matter for publication, as directed by the previous fall conference.

Adopted June 11, 1859.

No. 30. That a Treasurer be appointed to receive moneys and property for the church and to disburse the same as he may be directed by the church, and that said Treasurer give security for the faithful performance of his duty.

No. 31. That Elder Edwin Cadwell be appointed Church Treasurer.

No. 32. That Elder William W. Blair be appointed Church Recorder.

No. 33. That the Church Treasurer shall give such securities for moneys and properties put into his hands as the Church Recorder may require.

No. 34. That Elders Wm. Marks, Z. H. Gurley, and James Blakeslee be appointed a committee to publish a hymn book.

Adopted October 6, 1859.

No. 35. That the church publish a monthly paper to be devoted solely to the interests of the church.

No. 36. That this church publish a monthly church paper, and continue it for six months.

No. 37. That Elders Z. H. Gurley, William Marks, and Wm. W. Blair be a committee to supervise the publishing of said paper.

Adopted April 6, 1860.

No. 38. On motion of Isaac Sheen, Bro. Joseph Smith was unanimously chosen President and Prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and successor of his father.

No. 39. On motion Bro. Joseph Smith was ordained to the office of President of the Melchisedec Priesthood.

Adopted April 7, 1860.

No. 40. Bro. Israel L. Rogers was ordained to be a high priest and Bishop of the church.

Adopted October 8, 1860.

No. 41. That Bro. W. W. Blair be released from the office of Church Recorder.

No. 42. That Bro. Isaac Sheen be appointed in his stead.

Adopted October 9, 1860.

No. 43. That the committee which were appointed to select hymns for a hymn book be discharged.

No. 44. That Sister Emma Bidamon be appointed to make a selection of hymns to make a hymn book.

Adopted April 8, 1861.

No. 45. That the Saints are requested to assist the elders and their families by donations.—Page 83, original record.

Adopted October 8, 1861.

No. 46. That traveling elders, who may be in need, shall call on the presidents of branches for assistance, and not on the members.

No. 47. That the Bishop be instructed to call on the presidents of the different branches for the necessary means to carry on the work.

Adopted October 7, 1862.

No. 48. It was here decided that whoever administers the ordinance of baptism should use the precise words given in the law, and not substitute our own words in place of the words of God; and with respect to the forms in the Book of Mormon and the Book of Covenants, there is in reality no difference, but it is proper to give the preference to the latter, it having been given expressly to us, but the words authority and commission are synonymous. [It is not clear from the record whether this is a resolution by the conference or a decision of the President.—Com.]

No. 49. Bishop Israel L. Rogers, William Aldrich, Philo Howard, George A. Blakeslee, and Jonathan D. Heywood, were appointed a committee by the church to procure a press and printing materials, and locate the same.

Adopted April 7, 1863.

No. 50. That the members and ministry avoid alluding to, or discussing the subject of polygamy when it is not imperatively necessary.

No. 51. That the seventh resolution in the "Word of Consolation" be reaffirmed, which says:

"7.—Resolved, That in the opinion of this conference, there is no stake to which the Saints on this continent, are commanded to gather at the present time; but that the Saints on all other lands, are commanded to gather to this land, preparatory to the reestablishment of the church in Zion; when the scattered Saints on this land, will also be commanded to gather and return to Zion, and to their inheritances in fulfillment of the promises of God. And, it is the duty of the Saints, to turn their hearts and their faces towards Zion, and supplicate the Lord God for such deliverance."



Adopted April 8, 1863.

No. 52. That section 110 of the Book of Covenants on Government with a preface prepared by the committee be published as the political sentiment of this conference.

No. 53. That all the elders of this church, who have not been appointed on missions, are requested and directed by this conference to labor to the extent of their ability and opportunities.

Adopted October 8, 1863.

No. 54. That this conference authorize the Committee of Publication to publish the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, with such corrections in arrangement as may be necessary.

Adopted April 8, 1865.

No. 55. That Pres. Joseph Smith be appointed to take charge of the publishing and editorial department of the *Herald* and of all our publications.

Adopted April 10, 1865.

No. 56. That all the conferences of districts are advised to recommend the branches to receive donations monthly from members of the churches, for the purpose of assisting poor Saints to emigrate from Europe to this country, and to send such donations to the Bishop.

No. 57. That the Emigration Fund remain in the hands of the Bishop until called for by a conference of the church in Europe, and endorsed by action of the General Conference of the church in America.

No. 58. That the necessities of the church require a Concordance and Synopsis, suited to the proper promulgation of the faith of the church.

No. 59. That the necessities of the church require the publication of a series of tracts, for distribution.

No. 60. That the necessities of the church require the establishment of a Church Library.

Adopted April 6, 1866.

No. 61. That this body now assembled, is a body of spiritual authorities within the purview of the law found in the fifth paragraph of section 99 of Book of Covenants.

Adopted April 10, 1866.

No. 62. That the church ought, as speedily as possible, to publish the Translation of the Scriptures made by Joseph Smith.

No. 63. That the time has arrived for the church to publish the New Translation immediately.

No. 64. 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.

No. 65. That the bishops be instructed to collect means for that purpose.

No. 66. 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 should be careful, with all inquiry, that they receive none into the church who have put away their companions for adultery, they themselves being the offenders.

No. 67. 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.

No. 68. 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.

No. 69. That every branch which has not reported a correct list of the names of official and nonofficial members, are hereby requested to send such list as soon as possible to the General Church Recorder.

Adopted April 11, 1866.

No. 70. 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.

No. 71. While we deeply deplore the great apostasy and turning the church 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 ministration of

the angel of God, upon the head of our martyred prophet, Joseph Smith, and Oliver Cowdery, in May, A. D. 1829, when he said, "Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of the 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 rebaptism is a matter of conscience.

No. 72. 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.

No. 73. That baptisms administered by elders without going down into the water, as the law directs, are null and void.

No. 74. That members disfellowshipped by a branch, or other legal authorities, shall make reconciliation, as far as practicable, to said branch or legal authorities, before being readmitted into the church.

Adopted April 12, 1866.

No. 75. 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.

No. 76. That William 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.

No. 77. 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.

No. 78. 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, and to take all necessary steps to secure its speedy completion.

No. 79. That the committee named as the Publication Committee of the New Translation, employ no person in writing, rewriting, proof reading, etc., who is not in the faith of the truth of the latter-day work, and favors the coming forth of said translation.

No. 80. That the ordination of an high priest by the direction of a district conference is null and void.

Adopted April 8, 1867.

No. 81. That the bishops or Bishop's agents of districts are responsible to the Bishop of the whole church for all monies or other properties received by them for the church; but they shall make a report to the quarterly conferences of their respective districts of the receipts and disbursements of said funds, said report to be examined by an auditing committee of three appointed by said district conferences.

No. 82. That the Presiding Bishop shall present, in detail, to each Annual Conference, his accounts with the church, and that an auditing committee of three shall be appointed to examine and report the same, a summary of which shall be published in the church paper.

No. 83. That district conferences have no authority to send missions beyond or outside of their respective limits.

No. 84. That all the traveling ministry be under the direction and control of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve.

No. 85. That a committee of three be appointed to draft or adopt a set of forms applicable to representation

and the general use of the church. That said committee report through the *Herald*.

Adopted October 7, 1867.

No. 86. Whereas, in the opinion of this conference, it is inexpedient that an apostle of the Quorum of the Twelve should have special local jurisdiction, except as the exigencies of foreign missions may require; be it Resolved, That each member of that quorum now holding presidency involving such jurisdiction, be and is hereby released.

That the same rule be applied to the Quorum of the Seventies.

Adopted April 6, 1868.

No. 87. That all private members, male and female, have a right to vote on all questions that the elders may deem of sufficient importance to bring before the church.

Adopted April 8, 1868.

No. 88. That the President of the High Priests' Quorum be requested to inquire into the spiritual condition of the high priests and report the names of those who have not magnified their calling, that they may be deprived of their office.

No. 89. That organized districts have the right to elect their own officers, their presidents included.

No. 90. That the legal official acts of elders, though in transgression, are valid till they are officially silenced by proper authority.

Adopted April 9, 1868.

No. 91. That unbaptized persons, whether children or adults, are not entitled to partake of the sacrament of bread and wine.

No. 92. That this conference deprecates the use of intoxicating drinks (as beverages), and the use of tobacco, and recommend to all officers of the church, total abstinence.

No. 93. That it is desirable that a more correct record should be kept by the several branches and districts of the church, and that more correct reports be sent to the conferences.

No. 94. That reports of branches are church property after being accepted by the conferences, and that no private individual has a right to them.

No. 95. That this conference would encourage the carrying out the provisions made for preaching the gospel to the Negro Race in the revelation of May 4, 1865.

Adopted October 7, 1868.

No. 96. That the money in the Bishop's hands, contributed to the Emigration Fund, be subject to the committee appointed for their disposal.

No. 97. That this conference expects all the official members of the church to do their duties to the utmost of their abilities.

No. 98. The President spoke respecting the great necessity of the Saints lending more aid to the press, after which it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to receive means, and that the presidents of branches take the matter in hand and deliver to said committee all moneys collected for that purpose.

Adopted April 7, 1869.

No. 99. The compilation and publication of a new hymn book was authorized; and upon motion, the President appointed a committee of three, consisting of the following named brethren, to collate and compile said book: Mark H. Forscutt, David H. Smith, and, in case of his absence before the completion of the work, Bro. Norman Smith; Pres. Joseph Smith, by vote, being one of said committee.

Adopted April 8, 1869.

No. 100. That it is not the true policy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that the Twelve shall control the funds of the church in the hands of the Bishop, but that the Bishop shall be amenable to the General Conference alone.

No. 101. A motion prevailed, recommending to the publishing committee the issuing of a Sunday school paper, monthly or semimonthly.

Adopted April 9, 1869.

No. 102. Resolved, That in the opinion of this conference, the true policy of the church, in this matter, is to be found in the epistle of the Twelve to the church on tithings and offerings, viz.: through the branch presidents as Bishop's agents, should all moneys come into the church treasury, and that the spiritual authorities of the church should discountenance the paying of moneys directly to the Bishop, where that policy works to the injury of the poor in districts or branches. [The foregoing resolution was preceded by a preamble, but the resolution only was adopted.]

Adopted April 10, 1869.

No. 103. That the conference deprecate the circumstances which seem to surround many of the elders of the church, causing them to withdraw their presence from the different sessions of the conference, and request for the future a closer attendance.

No. 104. That brothers holding the priesthood, being convicted of inactivity in consequence of lukewarmness, may be silenced by the conference, or quorum of which they are members, and henceforth be reported as lay members, until such time as they reform and are reelected to fill their offices.

No. 105. Whereas, A period of nine years has passed away since the church was organized with a First Presidency; and

Whereas, There has never been a complete representation by report, it is hereby

Resolved, That this conference does hereby deem it imperative upon it to demand that hereafter, every mission, district and branch (where there is a branch not belonging to an organized district), send to every Annual and Semiannual Conference, such properly authenticated reports as the general church authorities may from time to time require, that a complete report may be had.

No. 106. That a bishop for the Saint Louis district be appointed and ordained.

Adopted April 7, 1870.

No. 107. 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.

(Said Memorial, as approved by the conference, is as follows):—

Memorial to Congress from a committee of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, on the claims and faith of the church.

*Printed at the True Latter Day Saints' Herald Steam Book Office, Plano, Illinois.*

To their Excellencies, the President and Vice President, and the Hon. Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled:

Having learned that counter influences are at work to prevent or thwart the action proposed by Congress to remedy evils existing in the Territory of Utah, and knowing that a claim to be "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" has been made by a large portion of the inhabitants of Utah Territory, and by other religious bodies than that which your memorialists represent, by whom doctrines are held and practiced which are at variance with the proper usages of civilized nations, and opposed to the law of our common country; and that these doctrines are claimed by those who practice them to be made binding upon them, as Latter Day Saints, by the revelations governing said church, we, your memorialists, would respectfully call your attention to the following statement of facts:

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized on the 6th day of April, 1830, and was subsequently represented by its ministry and by the establishment of churches in many of the States, the Canadas, and Europe, under the ecclesiastical presidency of Joseph Smith, until June 27, 1844, when he and his brother Hyrum were killed at Carthage, Ills.

2. At the time of the organizing of the church, and at all subsequent time prior to the dispersion of its members from Nauvoo, the church was simply an Ecclesiasticism; and, as such, could confer no privileges before the law not contained in the provisions of the law; nor authorize as a tenet that which was *forbidden by the law of the State where the church might exist*, or in contravention of the constitutional basis on which the church was built,—the word of God.



3. Under the presidency of Joseph Smith, the church became a corporate body, and adopted as a constitution or form of church government and discipline, the Scriptures, the Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants. The Bible and Book of Mormon have ever been the foundation on which the church has rested its faith, and there has been added to them the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, first published in the year 1835, and republished in 1845; the former edition during the presidential term of Joseph Smith, the latter edition under the *regime* of Brigham Young, as "President of the Twelve." This book, the "Book of Doctrine and Covenants," was, on the 17th day of August, 1835, presented to each and all the quorums of officers belonging to the church, separately, and acted upon by them; it was also presented to the Church in General Assembly, and was adopted unanimously. It *then became a part of the law of the church*, and the church became bound by its provisions, equally as by those of the Bible and Book of Mormon. The doctrines and law of the church so established must ever remain the basis of its government; the endorsement of them an endorsement of the church, the departure from or denial of them a departure from or denial of the church.

4. We would respectfully urge our conviction that there can be no true Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints excepting that which is based on the law of the church, and that the observance of the law is not only the contradistinctive feature of the church, but of every individual member thereof. That we may not present an unsupported statement on so important a point, we most respectfully call attention to the following quotations from the Book of Covenants, which we submit as evidence:

Sec. 42, par. 5. "The Elders, Priests and Teachers of THIS CHURCH shall teach the principles of my gospel which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the FULLNESS OF THE GOSPEL, and they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings." (Old Edition Sec. 13.)

Sec. 42, par. 21. "Every person who belongeth to this church of Christ shall observe to keep all the commandments and covenants of the church." (Old Ed. Sec. 13.)

5. Having, we trust, set forth sufficiently clearly the binding character of the church, state and national law

upon whoever may claim to be "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," your memorialists would beg permission to refer to the following items of church law found in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, touching matters in which there is a direct antagonism between the church your memorialists represent and the church in Utah with which the government is at issue, and presenting the actual law on those points which are in disputation;—and more especially upon the duties and privileges of the marriage relation:

#### BIBLE.

Mal. ii. 14, 15. "Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the *wife* of thy covenant. And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the Spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the *wife* of his youth."

Matt. xix. 4-6. "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his *wife*: and they *twain* shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

1 Cor. vii. 2. "Nevertheless, *to avoid* fornication, let every man have his *own wife*, and let every woman have her own husband."

#### BOOK OF MORMON.

Jacob ii. 6. "Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord; for *there shall not any man among you have save it be ONE WIFE*; and concubines he shall have none."

#### DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS.

Sec. 42, par. 7. "Thou shalt love thy *wife* with all thy heart, and shall cleave unto her and *none else*; and he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her, shall *deny the faith*." (Old Ed. Sec. 13.)

Sec. 49:3. "And again, I say unto you, that whoso forbiddeth to marry, is not ordained of God, for marriage is ordained of God unto man; wherefore it is *lawful* that he

should have *one wife*, and they *twain* shall be one flesh." (Old Ed. Sec. 65.)

6. Again, and to conclude our direct evidence upon this point from the church law, we submit the following extract from the article on marriage, in which the minister officiating is required first to ascertain if there be any legal objections, and on becoming satisfied that there are none, the law thus instructs—"He *shall say*, calling each by their names: 'You both mutually agree to be each other's companion, husband and wife, observing the legal rights belonging to this condition; that is, keeping yourselves WHOLLY FOR EACH OTHER AND FROM ALL OTHERS *during your lives.*' And when they have answered 'Yes,' he shall pronounce them 'husband and wife,' in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by virtue of the laws of the country and authority vested in him."

7. The claim put forth by the advocates of polygamy that a subsequent revelation authorizes the practice of polygamy, is rendered invalid by the law of the church in Book of Covenants sec. 27, par. 4, which reads: "Neither shall any thing be appointed unto any of this church *contrary to the church covenants*, for all things must be done in order and by *common consent* in the church." (Old Ed. Sec. 51.)

8. That *polygamy* could not become a tenet of the church while the church existed in the several states of the union, is plainly indicated by a clause of the law governing the church from an early day, which reads: "Let no man break the laws of the land; for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land."—Book of Covenants, sec. 58, par. 5. (Old Ed. Sec. 18.)

9. In a careful examination of the publications of the gospel church from its earliest existence to the present time, your memorialists have not found one single clause authorizing, justifying, or even permitting polygamy. The New Testament; the Book of Mormon; the Book of Covenants; the standard works of the Latter Day Saints' Church; the periodicals of the church, embracing the *Evening and Morning Star*, the *Messenger and Advocate*, the *Gospel Reflector*, the *Nauvoo Neighbor*, the *Times and Seasons*, published in America; and the *Millennial Star*, published in England, are all silent on the question of polygamy, except wherein they refer to it historically, or

to condemn either impliedly or directly its practice. The Scriptures are opposed to it, and the works published in the church of Latter Day Saints most unqualifiedly condemn it. Not even the body that now practices and teaches polygamy made any public profession of it till the year 1851, and not officially to the outside world before 1852.

10. Four months before the death of Joseph Smith, and *seven months after polygamists date the receiving of a revelation which they assert came through him, authorizing polygamy*, this same Joseph Smith published in the *Times and Seasons* a notice of the *excommunication of a man* for "*preaching polygamy and other false and corrupt doctrines in the county of Lapeer, state of Michigan,*" in the following terse language: "This is to notify him and the church in general that he has been *cut off from the church* for HIS INIQUITY, and he is further notified to appear at the special conference on the 6th of April next to answer to these charges."

(Signed)

JOSEPH SMITH, }  
HYRUM SMITH, } *Presidents of said Church.*

This expulsion, we submit, could not have taken place had polygamy been made a church tenet *seven months previously*.

11. In addition to this, Mr. John Taylor, now one of the apostles of the polygamic doctrine, in a public discussion held in Boulogne, France, July 11, 1850, impliedly denied the doctrine of polygamy and condemned it in the following language: "We are accused here of polygamy, and actions *the most indelicate, obscene and disgusting*, such than none but a corrupt and depraved heart could have contrived." (Taylor's Discussion, p. 8.)

12. We, your memorialists, would therefore submit for the consideration of Congress in its action on the Utah question, and in its legislation on the question of the right of Congress to interfere with polygamy as being a part of the faith of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:—

1st. That the law of the church found in the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Book of Covenants, books accepted by the polygamists themselves, expressly *forbids to one man more than one living wife*.

2d. That the law contained in those books is the constitution of the church; that no law can obtain in the church in contravention thereof, and that therefore the

pretended revelation on polygamy is illegal and of no force.

3d. That in the "Remonstrance" presented to Congress from the polygamists of Utah, dated March 31, 1870, the non-publication of this pretended revelation till the year 1852 is admitted in the following language:

"Eighteen years ago, and ten years before the passage of the anti-polygamy act of 1862, one of our leading men, Elder Orson Pratt, was expressly deputed and sent to Washington to publish and lecture on the principles of plural marriage as practiced by us. . . . For ten years before the passage of the act of 1862, the principle was widely preached throughout the union and the world, and was universally known and recognized as the principle of our holy faith."

4th. That the plea of polygamy not being at variance with the law of the land because not expressly in violation of any law on the statute book of the Territory of Utah, is not admissible, for this reason, the polygamic revelation claims to have been given in 1843, when the church as a body was in Illinois, in which state bigamy, or polygamy, was then, as now, *a crime*.

5th. That polygamy, being a crime against the law of the State of Illinois, could not have been authorized by revelation from Him whom polygamists themselves affirm gave the revelation found in Book of Covenants sec. 58, par. 5, which declares:—"Let no man break the law of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land; wherefore be subject to the powers that be." (Old. Ed. Sec. 18.)

6th. That the pretended revelation on polygamy was not published till 1852, is strong presumptive evidence that it was not in existence; but even if it were, it would still be of no force in the church, as it contravenes revelations previously given to and accepted by the church, and is therefore precluded from becoming a church tenet by that clause of the church law before quoted, which declares, "Neither shall any thing be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the church covenants."

13. It is known throughout the nation, and in many parts of the old world, that there is an influential and rapidly growing organization of Latter Day Saints, separate and distinct from, and in this matter of polygamy, in church polity, and in the relations of the church to the government, entirely dissimilar and opposed to that

which the Cullom Bill requires Congress to legislate upon.

14. This organization, known as the "Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints," is now being represented in Conference at Plano, Ill., by delegates and visitors from many of the eastern, southern and western states, from the Pacific states, the Territories, including Utah, and Great Britain. Your memorialists are a committee appointed by this conference, and as such, would respectfully present to their Excellencies, the President and Vice-President of the United States, and to each of the Honorable Members of the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, our views on the questions herein set forth, and accompany them with an abstract of the Faith of the true Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in relation to governments and laws in general as published in 1835 and in 1845, and affirmed by the Reorganized Church at as early a date as 1853 and again in 1864; which faith, as so affirmed, is based upon the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants:

[Here was quoted in full Section 112 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants.]

15. We, your memorialists, regret that a necessity exists for the faith of the Reorganized Church being presented in contradistinction to that of other churches claiming the same name that we bear; but there is so manifest a tendency to confound the Reorganized Church with the polygamic factions, that we deem it but just that we be placed aright upon the record, theologically, socially and morally, as well as politically. We therefore respectfully submit the following:

[Here was inserted a copy of the "Epitome of Faith and Doctrine of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints."]

16. In some States of the Union, the church has not been without representatives for the past forty years, or nearly, and in these churches neither the theory nor practice of polygamy has ever obtained. The body which your memorialists represent is mostly composed of churches and members scattered throughout the land from Maine to California and from Florida to Minnesota

—all subscribing to the constitution of the church—all opposed to polygamy.

17. In view of the foregoing facts, we, your memorialists, would urge the validity of the claim of the Reorganized Church to be *the* Church of Latter Day Saints, and in urging this claim, declare unqualifiedly the faith of the body your memorialists represent that, according to the law of the church given under the presidency of Joseph Smith, no body of people can be properly considered "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints" but that body which recognizes the constitutional provisions of the law under which the church obtained an existence; and as loyalty to the government and a monogamic institution of marriage are absolutely and imperatively demanded by the law of the church, as necessary to govern it in its political and social relations, we do most fully, freely and unreservedly affirm that there is nothing required by the law or polity of the church that can render its members violators of the laws of the land in any of their legal provisions.

18. We, your memorialists, would therefore petition that in the consideration of the questions of polygamy and disloyalty, as affecting a body calling themselves the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in the Territory of Utah, the crimes of polygamy and disloyalty may not be made to stain the mantle of the pure faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, by such official sanction and legislation of your honorable bodies as shall, in order to legalize the crimes of a few hundreds of polygamists in Utah (many of whom we trust will yet abandon their folly), enstamp with infamy and disloyalty the faith of many thousands throughout the United States, whose bold stand in the hour of the nation's trials, whose integrity of purpose and life, whose loyalty is unquestioned,—and whose faith is that of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. And for the peace, prosperity and perpetuity of the Government your memorialists will ever pray.

JOSEPH SMITH,	}	<i>Committee on Memorial.</i>
ALEX. H. SMITH,		
MARK H. FORSCUTT,		
WM. W. BLAIR,		
JOSIAH ELLS,		

Presented and read before the Annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,

held at Plano, Ills., on the 11th day of April, 1870, and adopted by said conference.

JOSEPH SMITH, President.

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

No. 108. 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.

Adopted April 8, 1870.

No 109. That all presidents of quorums, and counselors to presidents of quorums, be set apart to their offices by ordination.

No. 110. That the School of the Prophets be organized at as early a time as practicable.

Adopted April 9, 1870.

No. 111. 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.

No. 112. 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.

Adopted April 11, 1870.

[Committee on Finance reported, and the following concerning the Board of Publication was adopted]:—

No. 113. 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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

Adopted April 12, 1870.

No. 114. That this conference recognize the movement being made in the Order of Enoch as a good one.

No. 115. 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.

No. 116. That Mark H. Forscutt be that secretary.

No. 117. That all presidents and clerks of quorums be authorized to issue licenses to the members of their respective quorums, and that the President and Secretary of the Church be authorized to issue licenses to the general officers of the church.

No. 118. 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.

Adopted April 6, 1871.

No. 119. That we receive and approve of all reports not objected to, without further motion.

Adopted April 8, 1871.

No. 120. That the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints shall not be counted in good standing who will contract debts without a fair prospect of being able to pay the same.

No. 121. That it is understood by the reading of par. 4, Sec. 72, B. of C., that all persons removing are enjoined in every instance to take with them certificates of their standing from the church where they had previously resided.

Adopted April 10, 1871.

No. 122. That this conference send out no elders to labor or represent this church except they are out of debt, or make satisfaction with their creditors, and this to be a precedent to act upon in the future.

No. 123. That the bishops have no right to take accounts from elders who have collected money as tithing, and have used the same without being authorized by the bishops to do so.

No. 124. That this conference considers it very improper for branches to ordain men not belonging to their branch or district, and more especially when it is done without the knowledge or consent of the branch to which they belong, and that we hereby condemn all such action as unwise, and request all churches to be governed by the spirit of this resolution in the matter of ordinations in the future.

No. 125. That an appeal from the decision of a branch to a quarterly district conference of which said branch forms a part, is proper, and should be had previous to an appeal to the High Council, and that such appeal gives the district conference the right to examine, and, if necessary, to re-try all questions that may be so appealed.

No. 126. That this conference proceed to appoint a Publishing Committee of five to carry on the printing and publishing department, and that this committee shall proceed to organize and commence business as speedily as possible, according to the law of the State of Illinois.

No. 127. That the first resolution of last Annual Conference as touching the officers of the Board of Publica-

tion be amended by striking out the clause in parenthesis, "who shall be the President of the church," leaving the board to elect its own president.

That the resolution as amended be affirmed.

No. 128. That as the Sunday school cause forms an important feature in the great work of the last days, the officers and teachers thereof are hereby sustained in their calling to care for the lambs of Israel's fold.

Adopted September 22, 1871.

No. 129. That this conference appoint and authorize a committee on music to compile a tune book for the use of the church, adapted to the hymns and anthems in the Saints' Harp; that said committee consist of members, to be nominated by the President of this conference, who shall collect or write music, and forward it to the president of the committee; that two years from the date of their appointment shall be given for the compilation of the work; that the money expended for music paper, postage stamps, and necessary stationery, for the carrying out of this resolution, not exceeding \$50, be advanced by the Bishop from the general church funds, and returned from the sales of books; that the committee report progress through its president at each General Conference until the work be completed; and that it then be at the disposal of the Publishing Committee of the church, or the next ensuing General Conference.

Adopted September 23, 1871.

No. 130. That this conference does hereby reaffirm the decree of the Grand Council held at Kirtland, Ohio, in 1835, Joseph Smith, jr., presiding, which council asserted the exclusive jurisdiction of all branches, regarding the right to labor only by permission within their own recognized limits.

No. 131. That all baptisms, confirmations, ordinations, and blessings, which may be attended to in this district, outside of branches, should be reported to the next ensuing district conference thereafter, so they may be recorded in the General Church Record. [Presented by Northern Illinois district and adopted.]

No. 132. That in the opinion of this conference the law of the Lord does not authorize the administration of

the ordinance for the healing of the sick to be performed by any person in the church, except those holding the Melchisedec priesthood, and that any officer teaching otherwise should be and is hereby reprov'd and instructed to teach only what the word of God commands according to the spirit and letter of the passage. "Is any sick among you, let him call for the ELDERS of the church.

No. 133. That when a person, already a member of the church, is baptized to satisfy the demands of his conscience, or because of informality in the first baptism, his membership and his priesthood, if he hold any priesthood, should be again confirmed upon him by the laying on of hands.

No. 134. Whereas a diversity of opinion exists among the spiritual authorities of the church in relation to a resolution which passed at the Annual Conference of 1869, which reads:

"Resolved, That it is not the true policy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, that the Twelve shall control the funds of the church in the hands of the Bishop, but that the Bishop shall be amenable to the General Conference alone;" it is hereby Resolved, That this conference reconsider that resolution.

Resolved, That the resolution of General Annual Conference of 1869, respecting the authority of the Twelve, in relation to tithing, be and is hereby repealed.

No. 135. That this conference does hereby affirm the Appendix to the Epistle of the Quorum of the Twelve, given October 7, 1861, which reads: "In order to place the church in a position to carry on the promulgation of the gospel, and as a means of fulfilling the law, the Twelve will take measures in connection with the Bishop, to execute the law of tithing; and let them before God see to it, that the temporal means so obtained is truly used for the purposes of the church, and not as a weapon of power in the hands of one man for the oppression of others, or for the purposes of self-aggrandizement by anyone, be he whomsoever he may be. As I live, saith the Lord, in the manner ye execute this matter, so shall ye be judged in the day of judgment," and recommend to the Twelve and Presiding Bishop the issuing of such instructions as they may deem proper for the more perfect execution of this law.

Adopted April 8, 1872.

No. 136. That all questions for the consideration of conference be presented in writing, except permissive questions, motions for adjournment, motions determining the order of business, or motions calling the question.

No. 137. That this conference does hereby request every branch of the church throughout the world to forward to the General Church Secretary an Annual Report, on or near the 31st of December of each year, embracing all the items required by the Secretary for each year, from January 1 to December 31 inclusive.

Adopted April 9, 1872.

No. 138. That the church adopt the order taught by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 16: 1, 2, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come;" and in the Book of Covenants, sec. 59, par. 2, "Remember that on this, the Lord's day, thou shalt offer thine oblations, and thy sacraments, unto the Most High, confessing thy sins unto thy brethren, and before the Lord," to raise moneys for legitimate church purposes. And that, whereas we, the elders in General Conference assembled, believe that the church should put forth a greater effort, financially, than in the past, therefore be it resolved, That we consider it to be the duty of the presiding officers of missions, districts, and branches to teach the law of tithing and freewill offerings, presidents of branches to act as the Bishop's agents in collecting and disbursing such tithing and offerings, keeping an account of all moneys received and forwarding the same to the Bishop to carry on the work of the ministry, etc.

Adopted April 9, 1872.

No. 139. That in the event of any suitable and effective minister desiring a foreign mission at any time when General Conference is not in session, the First Presidency or the Quorum of the Twelve are hereby authorized to grant them letters of appointment, the persons so appointed to report to and labor under the direction of the president of the mission where they may go.

No. 140. That in consequence of the appointment of Bro. Mark H. Forscutt to the presidency of the English mission, he be released from the secretaryship of the church.

No. 141. That Bro. Henry Goodcell, Jr., of California, be appointed to succeed Bro. Mark H. Forscutt as General Church Secretary.

Adopted September 14, 1872.

No. 142. That a Utah Chapel Fund be established, and that contributions be solicited thereto, and that the erection of a suitable building be authorized, said building to be erected as soon as practicable. That the presidents of branches be requested to take up collections immediately for the Utah Chapel Fund, and remit the same to Bishop I. L. Rogers, and continue to do so until a sufficient amount be obtained.

Adopted September 14, 15, 1872.

No. 143. The original Articles of Incorporation of the Church under the laws of the State of Illinois, were adopted.

[They are omitted here, because of their length, and having been published formerly in pamphlet form, and because superseded by the Articles of Association adopted April 10 and June 6, 1891; see Rules of Order and Debate, chapter 17.]

Adopted April 9, 1873.

No. 144. That the two quarterly reports of the Bishop, made between the General Conferences, be considered his semiannual report to said conference, and that all resolutions or parts of resolutions conflicting with this resolution, be and are hereby repealed.

No. 145. Whereas, The String Prairie and Nauvoo district conference has at its last session, as published in the *Herald*, adopted a resolution expressive of their opinion, to the effect, that none had a legal right to vote on the business before the body except the elders, or Melchisedek priesthood; and whereas, The General Conference of 1868, resolved, and decided affirmatively, "That all private members, male and female, have a right to vote upon all questions that may be brought before the General Conference;" it is hereby

Resolved, That this conference considers the action of the String Prairie and Nauvoo district conference, on the suffrage question, premature, and disrespectful to the entire body, and that said conference is hereby respectfully requested to reconsider and rescind said resolution at their next quarterly conference session.

Adopted April 10, 1873.

No. 146. That in the opinion of this conference, the organization of a quorum of elders in foreign lands is impracticable, impolitic and unwarranted in the law of God.

That the names of all elders in foreign lands should be enrolled in quorums in the land of Zion.

Adopted April 11, 1873.

No. 147. That the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles travel and labor in the ministry of the gospel, severally, as directed by that quorum, under the direction of the First Presidency, according to the revelations of God.

No. 148. That the mission which now includes all the Southern States, be divided into at least two departments, one to be known as the Southeastern Mission, bounded on the north by the Ohio river and West Virginia and Pennsylvania; south by Gulf of Mexico; east by the Atlantic ocean, and west by Mississippi river. The other, bounded north by Missouri and Kansas; south by the gulf of Mexico; east by the Mississippi river; west by Mexico and Colorado territory, to be called the Southwestern Mission.

Adopted April 12, 1873.

No. 149. That Schuyler county, Missouri, be added with Clark and Scotland counties to the String Prairie and Nauvoo district.

No. 150. That the Quorum of Seventy travel in the ministry and labor under the direction of the Traveling High Council, according to the law of God.

No. 151. The high priests after the order of the Melchisedek priesthood have a right to officiate in their own standing, under the direction of the Presidency, in administering spiritual things.

No. 152. That high priests, when traveling in the ministry, are subject to the direction of the Traveling High Council.

No. 153. That this conference accept and sustain Elder Joseph Smith as President of the High Priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, by virtue of which office he is Prophet, Seer, and Revelator to the church.

Adopted September 5, 1873.

No. 154. [The resignation of Bro. Henry Goodcell as Church Secretary was accepted and he was released.]

Adopted September 6, 1873.

No. 155. That this conference order that the First Presidency and the Twelve, the Bishop and his counselors, take steps to furnish for the church, suitable tracts for distribution, both in America and in foreign lands; and that the expenses thereof be defrayed by the Bishop.

No. 156. That the Emigration Fund, now in the hands of the Bishop, be turned over to the general fund of the church, subject to draft as per resolution creating the fund, when it shall be required.

Adopted April 7, 1874.

No. 157. 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. (In April, 1880, the name was changed to the Rocky Mountain Mission.)

Adopted April 8, 1874.

No. 158. 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.

No. 159. Elder Henry A. Stebbins was unanimously chosen to the office of Church Recorder.

No. 160. 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 while in the field.

No. 161. On motion . . . Bro. John Scott was chosen Church Librarian.



No. 162. That hereafter all motions offered to the house shall be put in writing, with the name of the mover, except such as are privileged questions.

No. 163. A committee of three was appointed to draft a style and form of Church Seal.

On the same day the committee reported a design for the Church Seal, with legend, date, and motto as follows: "Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." Emblem, a lion and a lamb lying down at rest. Motto, 'Peace.' 'Incorporated 1872.'" The report was adopted, and the committee empowered to purchase the seal.

Adopted April 9, 1874.

No. 164. Whereas, The Committee on Tracts appointed by the Semiannual 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.

Adopted April 10, 1874.

No. 165. 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.

No. 166. 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.

Adopted April 11, 1874.

No. 167. 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 seventy-five dollars per annum.

No. 168. That in distinguishing between official and non-official members, the term "lay" member be not used.

No. 169. That until a Church Secretary be appointed, the Church Recorder be authorized to act, ex officio, in case occasion so require.

Adopted April 8, 1875.

No. 170. That the Church Recorder be Church Secretary also.

Adopted April 10, 1875.

No. 171. That it is the opinion of this assembly that the gospel is to be offered to all mankind, irrespective of color, nationality, sex, or condition in life; and that elders in Christ are not justified in making, or insisting on being made, any separation in church privileges, worship or sacrament, other than is made in the church articles and revelations in regard to ministerial ordinations and labor; and that we advise all officers of the church to be governed by the spirit and tenor of this teaching and this resolution.

No. 172. Whereas, Believing that the bread and wine used at the sacrament are simply blessed for the use of those who at the time, and with an understanding of its purpose, partake of it, in no way relating to its subsequent use, therefore be it

Resolved, That we rescind a former resolution of General Conference making necessary the passing of the bread until all be taken.

No. 173. That it is the duty of the Quorum of the Twelve to take charge of all important missions, especially those to foreign countries.

No. 174. That the law of tithing is binding upon the church in its scattered condition.

No. 175. That in the opinion of this body, this church has no right to subvert the liberties of its members by prohibiting their membership with what is known as "a secret society," unless such society shall first be condemned by either a decision of the General Assembly of the church, or by the law of the land.

Adopted April 9 and 10, 1875.

No. 176. Whereas, The impression seems to be gaining ground, and it is believed that this impression results from the prevalence of the spirit of the gathering, that the circumstances of the country and the condition of the church indicate that the time is come that there should be a gathering of the Saints into a more centralized condition, and that such centralization is demanded by the necessities of the church and the genius of the latter-day work; and

Whereas, The spiritual condition is favorable to such gathering; and Whereas, Such a gathering contemplates the centralizing of the chief authorities of the church at as early a day as practicable, in order to the more effectual work of the ministry, and building up of the Church of Christ and the locating of the "Publishing Department," press and fixtures within the limits of such gathering place; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a standing committee of five be appointed by this conference, whose duty it shall be to select and make such location as is contemplated in the foregoing preamble, and arrange for and effect the purchase of lands, locate a town site, and perform such other acts as are consistent with the making of such locations, and consummating such purchases; and that said committee make report of their labors to a General Conference of the church at as early a time as they shall deem prudent.

Adopted September 10, 1875.

No. 177. That Brn. P. Cadwell, H. J. Hudson and J. W. Briggs are hereby appointed a committee to draft a petition for the consideration of this conference, asking Congress to inaugurate more decisive measures in the suppression of misrule and tyranny in Utah, embodying such statements of fact and documentary evidence

as the interests of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints demand; that the world may be warranted in believing that Mormonism does not endorse nor favor in any degree the criminal policy of Brigham Young and assistants; and further, that we request the press of the United States to keep the matter before the public continually, and to make such statements as are due us as a corporate body, desiring the welfare of our beloved country, and the just and supreme administration of the laws thereof.

Committee Report Adopted April 12, 1876.

No. 178. Report of the Committee on Memorial to Congress being called for, Bro. Jason W. Briggs verbally reported that after it had been approved by the First Presidency it had been sent to the member from this congressional district, the Hon. Alexander Campbell, and his reply was read:

House of Representatives, WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
March 2, 1876.

Elder J. W. Briggs, Plano, Illinois, Dear Sir:—Your letter, petition and Memorial reached me in due course of the mails, and were this day referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. They would have been presented when they came to hand, but I was in doubt as to whether they should be referred to Committee on Territories or on the Judiciary. I called on Mr. Page this morning and learned from him that his bill was referred to the Judiciary Com., consequently I had the Memorial, &c. sent to that Com. which hope will be satisfactory.

I am very truly yours,

A. CAMPBELL.

Also the following:

Extract from the *Congressional Globe* for March 3, 1876:  
Presented by Mr. Campbell. Memorial of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Conference assembled at Council Bluffs, Iowa, that more decisive measures be inaugurated in the suppression of alleged misrule and tyranny in Utah, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Conference accepted the report and discharged the committee.

#### MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

From a Committee of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, petitioning Congress to

inaugurate more decisive measures in the suppression of misrule and tyranny in Utah: setting forth, with documentary evidence, that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints does in no wise favor the criminal policy of Brigham Young, etc., etc., etc.

To their Excellencies, the President and Vice President; and the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, of the United States, in Congress Assembled:—

At the Semiannual Conference of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the eighth day of September, 1875, the following resolution was adopted:—

Resolved, That Phineas Cadwell, H. J. Hudson and Jason W. Briggs be hereby appointed a committee to draft a petition for the consideration of this conference asking Congress to inaugurate more decisive measures in the suppression of misrule and tyranny in Utah, embodying such statements of fact and documentary evidence as the interests of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints demand; that the world may be warranted in believing that "Mormonism" does not endorse nor favor in any degree the criminal policy of Brigham Young and assistants, and further that we request the press of the United States to keep the matter before the public continually, and make such statements that are due us a corporate body, which desires the welfare of our beloved country and the just and supreme administration of the laws thereof.

The committee to whom was referred the foregoing resolution, would most respectfully present for your consideration, and action, the necessity for "Congress to inaugurate more decisive measures in the suppression of misrule and tyranny in Utah." That there is a distinctive line of demarcation between the tenets and practices of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, under the leadership of Joseph Smith, and those under the leadership of Brigham Young, in Utah, has been fully set forth before your honorable body in a former memorial, and presented to the Senate of the United States by the Hon. Lyman Trumbull, May 5, 1870, and was referred to the Committee on Territories.

Your Memorialists do not deem it necessary to recapitulate those doctrines at this time; but in brief, would say that in Utah, "doctrines are held and practiced which are at variance with the proper usages of civilized

nations, and opposed to the law of our common country;" whilst on the other hand, "we do most fully, freely, and unreservedly affirm, that there is nothing required by the law or polity of the church, that can render its members violators of the laws of the land in any of their legal provisions."

We would respectfully represent that from our knowledge of the teachings and practices of the leaders of the Utah Church organization, it is opposed to all free governments, and especially to the government of the United States; in proof of which we refer to the following declarations from their leading men, and published by themselves:—

"Our ecclesiastical government is the government of heaven, and incorporates all governments in earth and hell. It is the fountain, the mainspring, the source of all light, power and governments that ever did, or ever will exist. It circumscribes the governments of this world."—Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, vol. 7, p. 141.

"The kingdom of God is an order of government established by divine authority. It is the only legal government that can exist in any part of the universe. All other governments are illegal and unauthorized—any people attempting to govern themselves by laws of their own making and by officers of their own appointment are in direct rebellion against the kingdom of God."—Orson Pratt's Kingdom of God, part 1, page 1.

And in accordance with the above teachings, the government of the United States is considered illegal; and in Utah, an intruder. In proof of which, we refer to the forcible resistance to the entry of United States troops and federal officers, and the obstacles thrown in the way of the Federal Courts, and the constant evasion of the United States law.

We further represent, that in accordance with the foregoing statement of belief respecting all governments, (except their own), being illegal; it is held, that oaths administered by officers of such courts, or governments, are not binding upon jurors, or witnesses; and to this may be attributed the well known fact that not one criminal in fellowship with that "Ecclesiastical government," in Utah, has ever been found guilty and punished by jurors in the same fellowship, however clear the evidence has been; and that it is the cherished design, and hope of these leaders, to throw off, what they call the

shackles of the United States; and to this end they urge the emigration to Utah of all their adherents, which are mainly of foreign birth, and from the humbler class; who, on arriving in Utah, are sent into the far off settlements, that they may not come in contact with any who entertain other views. The results are, that communities are forming, and the young are growing up, all over the Territory, with just such sentiments respecting the governments as its sworn enemies and haters inculcate. And, while no Territorial Statute law exists in Utah regulating marriage, there do exist Territorial laws respecting property; which, by the ruling of the Probate Courts, places the wives of Utah, and their children, upon a level with mistresses and their illegitimate children; and, under certain circumstances, discriminating in favor of the latter, against the former; the design of which, is apparent; viz., to disarm and discourage the wife, and protect polygamy. Further; that the mail service is practically abridged to publishers of newspapers and periodicals opposed to this Polygamous Oligarchy, at some Post-Offices through which it is impossible to transmit such mail matter, with regularity and certainty; pre-eminent among them, is the Post-Office at Ogden.

We, your memorialists, while representing the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, throughout the United States; we, also, represent those members of the said church now resident in Utah, which constitutes no inconsiderable part of the population of that Territory, as before stated, in common with those of other sects, and of no sect; have felt, and still feel, the pernicious effects of this unwarranted and unnatural union of Church and State, sought to be forced upon us by an Oligarchy of Priests; who, declaring against human governments, assume to be the government of God, and rule the legislature and territorial courts, to the detriment of all law-abiding citizens.

We ask on the part of (Congress) your Honorable Body:

Firstly;—An examination of the Statutes of Utah; and the disapproval of all such enactments as are inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States, justice and republicanism in its true sense.

Secondly;—To provide for the untrammelled exercise of the right of franchise, by disallowing the present practice of so marking the ballot, and numbering the votes as to show how each votes.

Thirdly;—To so amend the jury law, as to exclude from the jury box, such as are confederates with criminals on trial; this would, among other results, throw open to actual settlers thousands of acres of land now fraudulently held by Brigham Young, and others of the ruling Oligarchy in Utah.

Fourthly;—The placing of the Post Offices in the hands of persons who recognize the authority of the government, and the sanctity of the oath of office.

And we further implore Congress to apply the needed remedy for the “suppression of misrule and tyranny in Utah,” and thus bring to justice criminals of every character; as Congress has the unquestioned power to legislate over the Territories.

And for the peace, prosperity, and perpetuity of the Government of the United States of America, we, your memorialists, will ever pray.

P. CADWELL,  
H. J. HUDSON, } *Committee.*  
J. W. BRIGGS,

Adopted September 10, 1875.

No. 179. That the Board of Publication be authorized to furnish *Heralds* and *Hopes* for the European Mission at the cost of publication.

That said bills be referred to the Bishopric for adjustment and payment in the future.

No. 180. That each organized district of the church and each branch not in an organized district, throughout the world, be requested to make out an annual statistical report, covering and designating all changes up to the last day of each year.

Adopted September 11, 1875.

No. 181. That until it shall be otherwise decided by revelation or act of a General Assembly, the ordination of seventies prior to April, 1873, shall be held as legal, and those so ordained authorized to act as such officers; but that this action does not warrant the further ordinations of seventies except as provided by the rules and precedents of the April session of 1873; and further that it be ordered that the secretary of the quorum record the names and issue license to those seventies acting under the ordination referred to in the reorganization.



Adopted April 6, 1876.

No. 182. That said book be adopted as a manual of practice and Rules of Order and Debate to govern the legislative assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Adopted April 8, 1876.

No. 183. Whereas, The members of the church have not sufficiently responded to the call of the Locating Committee in furnishing the means adequate for the purchase of land for the location of the press, and the gathering together more closely the spiritual authorities of the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the report be accepted, [except that portion which relates of the appointment of another committee,] and that the moneys already in the hands of the committee be refunded.

Adopted April 10, 1876.

No. 184. Whereas, The Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints locate the present business center of the church at Plano, Illinois, and,

Whereas, Provisions are made in said Articles of Incorporation for the changing of said business center to some other place; and,—

Whereas, We believe that upon grounds of economy, convenience, the common good, and a wise reference to the coming wants of the church, such change should be made at an early day;

Therefore be it Resolved, That this conference does hereby recommend that active steps be taken by those having the matter in charge, to make such change, at such time, and to such place, as they in their wisdom may think best.

Adopted April 11, 1876.

No. 185. Whereas, Much unpleasantness has occurred through members leaving one branch and joining another without a Certificate of Membership; therefore, be it,

Resolved, That members leaving one branch, shall not be permitted to join another without a certificate of membership.

Adopted April 12, 1876.

No. 186. That this conference look with favor upon the effort to build a chapel, as a house of worship, in Salt Lake City, when found practicable, and that we will encourage its erection.

No. 187. Whereas, The conferences in the past have affirmed that there is at present no place of gathering, therefore, be it

Resolved, That any elder teaching contrary to the resolutions of General Conference is censurable.

Adopted October 7, 1876.

No. 188. That the practice of citing members to trial, on their church membership, through the *Herald*, be discontinued.

Adopted October 9, 1876.

No. 189. That the action of the session of April, 1870, be amended by making the meetings of the Board of Publication half-yearly instead of quarterly, and by inserting the word "may" before the word "issue," in regard to certificates of indebtedness authorized. [Substance of action on committee reports.]

No. 190. Whereas, The Committee on Music has repeatedly failed to report to the General Conference; and, whereas, it is important that the work assigned them be performed, therefore it is hereby resolved, That the present committee be released from further duty.

No. 191. That this conference reaffirm a resolution passed by the Annual Conference of 1871, touching the Sunday school cause, which reads, That the Sunday school cause forms an important feature in the work of the last days, and the officers and teachers thereof are hereby sustained; and furthermore it is hereby

Resolved, That we request the presidents of branches, throughout the world, to use their utmost endeavors to organize Sunday schools in their respective branches, and to make reports to their several district conferences of the condition and progress of said schools; and that districts make reports to the Annual Conference; and that presidents of districts and the traveling ministry be also requested to use their influence to establish and sustain Sunday schools.

No. 192. That this conference reaffirm the resolution passed at the Semiannual conference of 1875, . . . that the districts and scattered branches make statistical reports but once a year; the resolution, hereby reaffirmed, reading as follows: Resolved, That each organized district of the church, and each branch not in an organized district, throughout the world, be and are hereby requested to make out regularly full annual statistical reports, covering and designating all changes up to the last day of each year.

No. 193. That a Committee on Music be now appointed, and that M. H. Forscutt be the chairman thereof, with power to choose two assistants.

No. 194. That the Bishop be, and hereby is, instructed to report to the General Conference whether the necessary measures have been taken to have the title of the Kirtland Temple transferred to the church corporation, as provided for in Article six of the Articles of Incorporation of the church.

Adopted April 7, 1877.

No. 195. That the Bishop be, and is hereby instructed to pay all moneys now in his hands for the Utah Chapel to the present building committee, on their order.

Adopted April 9, 1877.

No. 196. That the committee, who have labored so diligently in this matter, complete the Tune Book, and submit the same to the Board of Publication for their further investigation before publishing the same. That when the Board of Publication have determined upon what form they will publish the Tune Book they will give notice through the columns of the *Herald*.

Adopted April 10, 1877.

No. 197. That this conference request the Board of Publication to issue in pamphlet form the article written by Bro. W. H. Kelley, and published, some time since, in the *Herald*, entitled "Presidency and Priesthood," subject to revision by Bro. W. H. Kelley, if desired.

No. 198. Whereas, B. Winchester's "Synopsis of the Holy Scriptures" has proven a benefit to many in the search of truth, therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider the advisability and practicability of republishing said Synopsis or a revision of it, or a similar one, and report at this or the next General Conference.

Adopted April 11, 1877.

No. 199. Whereas, The General Conferences have the power to authorize the organization of quorums, Resolved, therefore, That said conferences have the power, and the right also, to authorize such changes or transfers of the members of such quorums as the interests of the church may demand.

No. 200. That hereafter the Bishop be requested to incorporate with his annual reports a list of all real estate deeded to the church from time to time.

Adopted April 12, 1877.

No. 201. The Presidency presented their replies to the matters referred to them yesterday.

First one read:—

To the Brethren in Conference Assembled:—Whereas, A certain elder and priest having been ordained by an elder whom they subsequently thought to be an unworthy man at the time of said ordination, and feeling dissatisfied with their ordinations and their usefulness in the church being impaired thereby, they have requested me to present to the General Conference such questions as would cause such action to be taken as shall remove from their minds the present doubts regarding the validity of said ordinations, all of which is respectfully submitted. Signed, J. S. PATTERSON.

To the Conference of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Session at Plano, Illinois:—The Presidency to whom the question couched in the affixed paper, referred by you on yesterday, submit:

We decide that the legality of the ordinations referred to is not affected by the subsequent feelings of the parties so ordained; but, in order that unanimity of feeling and action may be obtained, we deem it proper, or permissible, that such ordinations may be reconferred by the direction and action of the branch, or district conferences to which the parties belong, a record of such reconfer-

ring of authority by reordination to be kept by the branch or district.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH SMITH, }  
W. W. BLAIR, } Of the Presidency.

PLANO, Ill., April 12, 1877.

Upon motion the report and recommendations were adopted.

No. 202. The following was read:

Whereas, I have been informed by the president of the London (Canada) branch, that two elders (at a time when they were silenced) did profess to have received revelation commanding or instructing them to seal up to eternal life a young sister of said branch, which command they did put into operation by performing something like an ordinance, we therefore present this paper to the conference, desiring that the matter be investigated, as to the nature of the ordinance, and also as to the rights of elders to perform such ordinances, if such there be in the church.

Signed,

JOHN S. PATTERSON.

To the Conference of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Session at Plano, Illinois:—The First Presidency, to whom your honorable body referred the question respecting "sealing unto eternal life," propounded in the paper attached hereto, submit the following in reply:

We know of no law of the church creating or authorizing "sealing up to eternal life," as an ordinance; other than such sealing as may be found in the "laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost," in confirming members into the church. We therefore decide that such persons as may have performed a rite supposed to be one of "sealing unto life," as an ordinance of the church, have erred, but such error is not of such a nature as to become a crime against the law governing the church, as the fact of such "sealing up unto eternal life" cannot be determined as to its truth, or falsity, except at the judgment day, when the acts of all are to appear for arbitration and decision; therefore the act of those men referred to in the inquiry submitted to us, and of which complaint is made, is not such an act as demands official inquiry and condemnation.

While this is our decision, we decide, while there is no ordinance of the kind referred to known to the law, the written law of the church, it is therefore of the things of

the unwritten law, if the right exists at all to seal up unto eternal life, other than in confirmation by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, the performance of such an ordinance, or the solemnizing of such a rite is of doubtful propriety, and should in no case be done except upon unqualified directions of the Spirit. Further, that elders should not teach, nor practice such rites as a rule of the church.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH SMITH, } Of the First Presidency.  
WM. W. BLAIR, }

Done at PLANO, Illinois, April 12, 1877.

Resolved, That the conference adopt said report as the voice of the body.

Adopted September 22, 1877.

No. 203. Whereas, We believe that the History of Joseph Smith, as contained in the *Times and Seasons*, and in other publications of the church, should be revised and published by the Reorganized Church in book form, therefore be it resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare it for publication. [Substance of item reported by the Board of Publication and adopted.]

Adopted April 8, 1878.

No. 204. That the report [of the Music Committee] be received and the committee discharged, with instructions that all matter in their hands belonging to the church be turned over to the Bishop.

Adopted April 9, 1878.

No. 205. That the report of the committee on Winchester's Synopsis be referred to the Board of Publication, with instructions to revise and enlarge in such manner as will best serve the use of the church, and that they publish the same when practicable, in the name of the church.

Adopted April 10, 1878.

No. 206. That those having charge of church property be required to value the same and forward to the Bishop the report of such valuation, and that all property not yet deeded to the church, as given in the Bishop's report, be alike valued, and proper deeds made, as provided in the church articles.

Adopted April 11, 1878.

No. 207. That section 159, chapter 13, Book of Rules, be affirmed by this conference, as the proper construction to be put upon the church law respecting the powers of Elders' Courts, as stated therein, and that we enjoin its observance.

Adopted April 12, 1878.

No. 208. That the Bishop, the legal trustee of the church, be authorized and instructed by this conference to take the proper steps to secure the church in its rights to said property [Kirtland temple].

Adopted April 13, 1878.

No. 209. That at the present time or hereafter, the First Presidency be excused from sitting on committees, if so desired by them.

Adopted September 11, 1878.

No. 210. That the law of tithing as given in the revelation of 1838, and referred to in the revelation of 1861, is applicable to the church in its present condition, and should be observed.

No. 211. That the building of houses of worship in the various branches of the church is in keeping with the law, and an excellent aid to the preaching of the word.

No. 212. That *all* baptisms, in order to be legal, must be done by both the administrator and the candidate going down into the water, according to the instructions in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants; and if there are any now numbered with the church who have received the ordinance with any less than the above requirements, that they are hereby required to receive the administration of the ordinance in the above form.

Adopted September 13, 1878.

No. 213. That the Music Committee (Brn. M. H. Forscutt, N. W. Smith, and J. T. Kinnaman, discharged last April) be reappointed, with Bro. S. I. Smith added to the number, and that we recommend that the work be given to the public at as early a day as practicable; Further,

That said committee are requested to report to the Board of Publication their work and its accomplishment as early as practicable, the committee being authorized to retain the books and documents in their hands. [Statement of substance of committee report adopted.]

No. 214. That this body, representing the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, does hereby authoritatively indorse the Holy Scriptures, as revised, corrected and translated by the Spirit of revelation, by Joseph Smith Jun., the Seer, and as published by the church we represent.

No. 215. That this body, representing the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, recognize the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Mormon, the revelations of God contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and all other revelations which have been or shall be revealed through God's appointed prophet, which have been or may be hereafter accepted by the church as the standard of authority on all matters of church government and doctrine, and the final standard of reference on appeal in all controversies arising, or which may arise in this Church of Christ.

No. 216. Whereas, We accept the revelations heretofore given to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, through the present presiding officer thereof, as being the word of the Lord to his church, equally with those published in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the revelations received by the President of the church in 1861, 1863 and 1865, be received as from God, authoritative and binding on us as a body; and in connection with the revelation of 1873, that they be hereafter compiled with that book.

No. 217. That this body declares that the use of tobacco is expensive, injurious and filthy, and that it should be discouraged by the ministry.

No. 218. That the Building Committee of the Utah Chapel, or other competent body, be requested to send a report of all receipts and expenditures, to the next April Conference, and that said committee be also requested to say whether or not they think the building of the chapel expedient and should be continued.



Adopted April 9, 1879.

No. 219. Whereas, The present system of reporting the church finances by the Bishop and agents is not uniform, neither satisfactory, but is discriminating and partial, in that the means received by the Bishop direct, is properly itemized and reported through the *Herald*, giving the names of the parties paying in the means and to whom paid, but that which is paid to the agents is not itemized in their reports, neither the names of the donors, nor of the ones to whom money is paid, but only the aggregate is given, therefore be it

Resolved, That we require of the Bishop of the church a report through the *Herald*, or in a supplement sheet, an itemized report of the means received and paid out by the agents, with the names of the donors and to whom paid, and that this report be made annually.

Adopted April 11, 1879.

No. 220. That it is the opinion of this conference that when a member has been legally excommunicated from the church, he can be received back into the fold only through the door, baptism.

Adopted September 25, 1879.

No. 221. That the labors of the Music Committee be accepted and that they be discharged; that Bro. M. H. Forscutt be appointed Musical Editor, and that the material in the hands of the committee be turned over to him; that measures be at once taken to prepare the manuscript for publication by said Musical Editor; that the book be published as soon as the Board of Publication may direct, and that it be called the "Saints' Harmony." [Summary of part of committee's report amended and adopted.]

Adopted September 29, 1879.

No. 222. The report of the First Presidency, concerning the resolution from Decatur district, in reference to the Book of Doctrine and Covenants was read and adopted as expressing the view of the conference:—

To the Elders and Saints in Conference Assembled, Greeting:—In the matter of preamble and resolution from the Decatur district, referred to us on a previous day of the session, we beg leave and submit:

It is our opinion that the free rendering and meaning of the resolution passed at the Semiannual session of

1878, and referred to in said resolution from Decatur district, is that:

Whereas, Certain rumors had obtained currency that the church had not at any time so attested the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and the later revelations given to the church, by vote and affirmation, that they should form with the Bible and Book of Mormon, a standard of reference in case of controversy and difference of opinion upon questions of doctrine and practice in the church; therefore to remedy this defect, if it existed, the resolution referred to was introduced and passed.

We are further of the opinion, that it is not the intent and meaning of the said resolution to make a belief in the revelations in the Book of Covenants, or the abstract doctrines possibly contained in it, a *test* of reception and fellowship in the church; but that the things therein contained relating to the doctrine, rules of procedure and practice in the church, should govern the ministry and elders as representatives of the church.

We are further of the opinion, that, while it is not intended, or indeed practicable to bind, or proscribe the liberty of conscience, whereby violence is done to the honesty and integrity of the people by prescribing dogmas and tenets other than the plain provisions of the gospel, as affirmed in the New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, and set forth in the Epitome of Faith and Doctrine; it is clear to us that it is destructive to the faith of the church, and inconsistent with the calling and dignity of the ministry, to decry, disclaim, preach or teach contrary to the revelations in said Book of Covenants, or to arraign them in such a way that the faith of the people of the church is weakened and they thereby distressed.

We are further of the opinion, that the elders should confine their teaching to such doctrines and tenets, church articles and practices, a knowledge of which is necessary to obedience and salvation; and that in all questions upon which there is much controversy, and upon which the church has not clearly declared, and which are not unmistakably essential to salvation, the elders should refrain from teaching; or if called upon, in defense of the church, or when wisdom should dictate, they should so clearly discriminate in their teaching between their own views and opinions, and the affirmations and defined declarations of the church that they

shall not be found antagonizing their own and others' views as a conflict in teaching upon the part of the church.

We are further of the opinion, that the advancing of speculative theories upon abstruse questions, a belief, or disbelief in which cannot affect the salvation of the hearers, is a reprehensible practice; and should not be indulged in by the elders; especially should this not be done in those branches where personal antagonisms must inevitably arise, to the hindering of the work of grace; and should be reserved for the schools of inquiry among the elders themselves.

We are further of the opinion, that until such time as vexed questions now pending are definitively settled by the competent quorums of the church, the discussion of them should be avoided in all places where the elders labor, in the world and in the branches, and should only be had in solemn conclave when necessary to examine them for settlement, under proper rules of restraint.

J. SMITH, }  
W. W. BLAIR, } Presidency.

GALLAND'S GROVE, Sept. 29, 1879.

No. 223. That President J. Smith, and those whom he may call to his aid, shall be a committee to prepare and present to the publishers of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Johnson's, and other encyclopedias, an article setting forth the leading facts touching the rise and progress of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, embracing its distinctive doctrines and principles.

No. 224. That no quorum is authorized to enroll a brother without his consent.

No. 225. Whereas, The constitution of the Board of Publication requires the Bishop to nominate the members of the board; and whereas, In the opinion of this conference it would be in harmony with the spirit of his office, that he be one of the members of that board; and whereas, further, We believe him to be eminently qualified for the position, be it

Resolved, That we hereby request him to act as a member of that board.

Adopted April 8, 1880.

No. 226. That in the opinion of this conference the ministry who neglect or refuse to be members of

branches or districts, are disqualified for serving on missions.

Adopted April 10, 1880.

No. 227. Whereas, We believe that the practice of dropping the names of absent members from the branch rolls works injury to the cause and confusion to the Church Record, therefore be it

Resolved, That this conference instruct that the names of all scattered members be retained on the branch rolls; and that branch clerks hereafter be required to report the number of resident and the number of scattered members; until such scattered members be removed from the rolls according to law concerning the granting of letters of removal.

That hereafter blank reports for branches be so changed by adding blank space providing for so reporting.

And we further recommend that an Assistant Church Recorder be appointed, or that we empower the Recorder to select such assistant. [Preamble in foregoing summarized from lengthy report.]

Adopted April 12, 1880.

No. 228. Whereas, The extended growth of the church in the various states and territories of the United States and in all parts of the world, separates its membership by distances of hundreds and thousands of miles from each other, and renders any one place of meeting in a body for the transaction of general church business impracticable, and

Whereas, By reason of this and other obstacles, it is impossible to secure the presence of members and officers at the general church gatherings in such numbers as to obtain the consent, and a fair and true expression of the will of the entire church on questions which arise in the transaction of the business of the same, and

Whereas, The only General Assembly of the church as at present represented are its General Conferences, which fail to afford an effective means of ascertaining the general wishes and expressions of the church at large, by reason of the danger of advantages being taken to defeat the will of the body as a church by persons unscrupulous or ambitious influencing the masses who form the majority of the present voting membership in the localities where such conferences are, or may be held, and

Whereas, It is necessary and desirable to obtain the full and free expression of the entire church membership upon all questions of general interest relating to the transaction of the business of the church and thereby maintain inviolate the great principle held sacred by all free men, viz.: "Action by common consent under the law," and

Whereas, Under the laws of the church we recognize the right of the body to adopt such rules and regulations in the calling and organization of General Conferences as shall tend to subserve the general good and advance the highest interests of the whole body, therefore be it

Resolved, by the General Conference now assembled at Plano, Illinois, That all conferences and assemblies which shall hereafter be held for the transaction of business for the church as a whole, whether such conference or assembly be special or annual, shall be composed of members having one or more of the following qualifications: (1) Persons ex-officio members of such conference or assembly. (2) Members made such by reason of their being under appointment from General Conference. (3) Delegates to General Conferences. Provided however, that nothing herein contained, shall relate to, or prevent the calling of a conference of the quorums of the church for the transaction of business as authorized by the laws of the church, the General Assembly, proper, and provided further, that nothing herein shall prevent any quorum of the church transacting such business as may legally come before it and the right to present the same to such General Conference or Assembly for its action thereon.

2.—Resolved that a committee of five (of whom the President of the church shall be the chairman) be appointed by the President of this conference to arrange and report a system of representation in accordance with the foregoing preambles and resolution.

A motion to defer was made and amended, the whole reading as follows:

Resolved, That these preambles and resolutions be spread upon the record, and their further consideration be laid over till the next meeting of conference, but the committee shall be appointed at this conference, and requested to report at the next fall conference.

No. 229. That the Board of Publication is hereby requested to have the "Concordance and Reference Guide" revised and printed in or bound with the Book of

Covenants, omitting from said concordance, etc., only such revelations as were ordered by the last Fall Conference to be hereafter added to the Book of Covenants.

Adopted September 16, 1880.

No. 230. Whereas, first, The revelations accepted by the church make it the duty of the church to liberate the hands of the Twelve and the Seventy; and

Whereas, second, The Twelve and the Seventy, as the especial witnesses of the church to the world, should first go as missionaries into all the world, and

Whereas, third, We believe that the funds of the General Church Treasury should be first used to supply the families of the Twelve and Seventy, before the families of the high priests, elders or priests are supplied, or money employed to send high priests, elders or priests to distant fields of labor, therefore be it hereby

Resolved, 1st, That no member of this, or of any quorum other than that of the Twelve and Seventy, should be sent out as missionaries under General Conference appointment, until all members of these two quorums shall have been sent, or shall have been excused for cause by proper authority, or shall have positively declined to go.

2d, That the members of the Twelve and the Seventy should be all assigned to missionary labor, in harmony with the law; the funds of the church be used for the prosecution of their missions, and the support of their families.

3d, That if the number of the Twelve and Seventy are insufficient to supply demands for general ministerial labor, and there be funds to sustain other families than those of these quorums, then members of other quorums may be chosen and sent by General Conference, and their families also supplied from the Church Treasury, impartially, with the families of the Twelve and the Seventy. (Above article presented by the High Priests' Quorum.)

No. 231. Whereas, The General Church funds have heretofore been used in sending out elders and priests as missionaries, instead of sending those whom the law directs as the proper ones who should have precedence; therefore be it

Resolved, That we recommend to this conference that the funds for missionary purposes be used to release, *first*, the quorums of the Twelve and Seventy, who should, properly, be the general and leading missionaries of the church to the world as the law directs. (Above presented by the Quorum of Seventy.)

No. 232. Whereas, Action has been had that moneys shall only be paid out of the Church Treasury to members of the Quorum of the Twelve and of the Seventy; therefore, be it

Resolved, That if there are any elders laboring in distant fields who are not members of the above quorums, they shall receive, if necessary, aid to return home.

Adopted September 19, 1880.

No. 233. Whereas, Injury may result to the cause and perhaps also to individuals, in that the labors of some of the ministry may be lessened through misunderstanding as to the action of this conference in regard to sending only the Twelve and the Seventy into the field (unless sufficient means be in the Church Treasury to do otherwise), therefore be it

Resolved, That those of the ministry who were under General Conference appointment, but who are not named in the list of missions appointed at this session, neither have been individually released, nor otherwise provided for, are hereby recommended to district and mission authorities and conferences for appointment, either in those fields to which they were formerly assigned by the General Conference, or to other districts and regions where they may profitably work; and we also recommend such authorities or conferences to receive them in the same spirit as though they were sent by the General Conference; and furthermore we recommend that such districts and missions sustain such laborers with the necessary means, so far as is practicable and just, and this in order that the work of God may be prosecuted with no less vigor and success than has been heretofore. And we also recommend that all others who can labor to the benefit of the cause, be also in like manner appointed and sustained, according as the Spirit may direct and means and circumstances may justify or permit.

Adopted April 12, 1881.

No. 234.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION.

To the Conference in Session Assembled: Your Committee on Representation, beg leave and report:

Whereas, The method and fact of church representation in General Conferences, as at present practiced, seem not to be within the law, and are made inadequate to secure the common consent contemplated in that law. Therefore,

Resolved, That a more clearly defined method of representation should be adopted, and that to secure that system your committee recommended [recommend?] the adoption of the following rules on Representation:

1. That the General Officers of the church known as the Presidency, the Twelve, the High Council, the Seventy and the Bishopric (proper), are *ex officio* members of conference, and entitled to a voice and vote as representatives of the Spiritual Authorities of the church at large.

2. That high priests, elders and priests engaged in the ministry and under missionary appointment of General Conference, or the General Authorities of the church, and not laboring in and by the authority of organized districts, are hereby declared to be entitled to voice and vote in General Conferences when present.

3. That organized districts be authorized to appoint from their members, at their last quarterly session of district conference next preceding the session of the Annual and Semiannual General Conferences, delegates to said Annual and Semiannual sessions; who shall be entitled to represent said districts, which delegates so appointed shall be declared members of said General Conferences entitled to voice and vote.

Provided: That the choice and appointment by said districts shall be made by a majority of those present and voting, in regular or called session of district conference, of the holding of which due notice shall have been given, as to time and place within the district, to each and every branch composing said district; together with a statement of any important business or action that is to be presented to, or likely to be had by said general session, affecting said district, and to which their consent or denial is desired, that instructions to said delegates may be given as to their action.



And provided further: That the only qualifications to eligibility to the office of delegate from district to General Conference shall be membership and good standing.

Provided further: That not less than one, nor more than five delegates may be sent from any one district; but that said delegate, or delegates, shall be entitled to voice and vote in such General Conferences to which they may be appointed, upon a presentation of a certificate from the clerk of district conference to the said General Conferences, upon their organization at the times specified for their assembling.

And provided further: That said delegate or delegates shall be entitled to cast one vote for each branch of six members; and one vote for each twenty members in excess of six, that there may be in the branches of their said districts, in all cases where such a vote may be necessary, or desired, to secure the common consent designed in the law; but that in the common routine of business said delegates may vote as units, each in his own right, and in cases of division, the majority of the delegation from a district shall cast the whole vote of said district.

4. That each branch of six or more members, not included in an organized district, be authorized to appoint one delegate to the General Conferences, who may or may not be a member of said branch, but who shall be a member of the church and in good standing, whose qualifications to eligibility shall be the same as those required in districts, and who shall represent said branch and be entitled to voice and vote in said conferences to which he may be appointed; and who shall be entitled to cast one vote for the six members required to appoint, and one for each twenty members in excess of six composing said branch.

Provided further: That two or more branches in near proximity to each other, not in organized district, may unite in choosing a delegate, who shall cast their vote, one vote for six members of each branch, and one vote for each twenty members in excess of the number six, multiplied by the number of branches represented; the manner of casting their votes in cases of importance and common routine of business to be as provided in cases of districts.

Provided further, That due general notice to the members of branches of the time and place of meeting for the choosing of said delegate be properly given, as required in cases of districts; certificate of appointment of branch

delegate to be signed by the president or clerk of branch, and to be presented as provided in cases of districts.

5. That in all questions of grave importance, affecting the polity and faith of the church; districts and branches may instruct delegates to cast a majority and a minority vote, for and against; but in no case shall the number of the votes cast by said delegates so instructed, exceed the number to which the district appointing him or them shall be entitled as herein before provided, and in cases of a tie in districts or branches on questions presented to them, certified to said delegates, the votes of said districts or branches shall be cast in equal numbers by the delegates.

6. In all questions of debate, incidental motions, and routine business, Representatives, *Ex officio*, and Delegates, appointed, shall speak and vote as units and in their own separate and personal right.

JOSEPH SMITH, *Chairman*.

That the foregoing rules on Representation may be altered and amended at any General Conference of the church, and that all the provisions of said Report on Representation may be altered or amended at the next conference of the church to be held at ———, on ———, which shall be composed of members as provided by the rules adopted for the purpose of obtaining the voice of the whole people of the church.

Provided, That at least two months' notice of the nature of such amendment or amendments shall be given in the *Herald*, before the date of the sitting of the session of conference at which such amendment or amendments will be presented, giving manner and form in which such amendments are desired.

Adopted April 13, 1881.

No. 235. That this conference discourage the use of tobacco, and of strong drinks, as a beverage, by the church, and especially by the ministry.

No. 236. That we approve of the translation and publication of tracts and other printed matter in the Scandinavian and German languages, such translation, etc., to be hereafter regulated by an understanding between the Bishopric and the Twelve.

Adopted April 15, 1881.

No. 237. Whereas, It is desirable that the greatest possible amount of efficient ministerial labor be performed, and, whereas, there are elders and priests who are prepared and willing to take the field, provided they have evidence that their labors will be acceptable to the church; therefore we [the Quorum of the Twelve] petition your honorable body to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Twelve and Seventy, when in charge of fields, have the privilege and right to take with them elders and priests as traveling companions, or to appoint them to labor in their respective fields, provided that such elders or priests require nothing from the General Church Treasury to keep them in the field.

No. 238. Epistle of the Twelve and the Bishopric.

To the Church of Christ, Called to be Saints, in all the World, Greeting:—

It has been apparent to the Saints, everywhere, that there has been a misunderstanding for some time between the Bishopric and the Twelve on financial matters, and that considerable injury to the cause has arisen thereby. Therefore, it was deemed wise and expedient that these two quorums should meet and confer together, and, if possible, agree upon the proper construction to be put upon the commandment of the Lord, given in 1861, whereby it appears that they should unitedly "take measures" to execute the "law of tithing;" and to adopt such rules as would place the financial affairs of the church on clearer and more effectual bases than have hitherto obtained. The commandment is as follows:

In order to place the church in a position to carry on the promulgation of the gospel, and as a means of fulfilling the law, the Twelve will take measures in connection with the Bishop, to execute the law of tithing; and let them before God see to it, that the temporal means so obtained is truly used for the purposes of the church, and not as a weapon of power in the hands of one man for the oppression of others; or for the purposes of self-aggrandizement by any one, *be he whomsoever he may be.*

As I live, saith the Lord, in the manner ye execute this matter, so shall ye be judged in the day of judgment.

JOSEPH SMITH,

*President of the Church.*

SANDWICH, Illinois, October 7, 1861.

To this end, on Wednesday, April 17, 1878, these two bodies met in Plano, Kendall county, Illinois, at the house of Bro. Joseph Smith; the First Presidency being present by invitation.

The following paper, designed mainly as an explanation of the scope and meaning of the commandment referred to, was submitted by the First Presidency to the Council:

#### BASIS OF ADJUSTMENT.

1.—The word "execute," as used in the revelation of 1861, is, in our view, to be construed to mean to "carry into effect," to set in motion legitimate forces, to put existing laws into active operation. To "execute" any given law may, and in this instance does, involve different offices, or the administration of different officers.

2.—The charge to the Twelve is intended to define their duty as an advisory and judicial body, with whom lies the "regulating" of "the affairs of the church," according to law.

3.—The part to be performed by the Twelve in carrying into effect the "Law of Tithing," is precedent and subsequent, and involves both teaching the law and administering it; administration and teaching to be upon principles *agreed* to by the Twelve and the Bishopric.

4.—The Bishopric are the legal custodians of all the temporalities of the church, upon whom devolves the duty of gathering, safely keeping, and disbursing the moneys and properties of the church, in keeping with the law, and agreeably to the rules mutually agreed to by the Twelve and the Bishopric.

5.—In the receiving and disbursing of church funds, all persons who may be entrusted therewith are in fact, or *ex officio*, agents for the Bishopric, and should account to the Bishopric; and in disbursing general church funds should do so by the direction of the Bishop, or in accordance with an agreement and understanding with the Bishopric previously had; specific, in regard to objects before determined upon; general, in regard to objects incidental to the prosecution of missionary labor, for which, in the nature of things, no specific directions can be given.

6.—The Bishopric being created by and responsible to the church for the proper administration of their duty, should not, in justice, be made finally responsible to the Twelve, in any other sense than all other church officers

are responsible to the same quorum; that is, by proper charge and adjudication before the general church officers, or by decision of General Conference.

7.—Discretionary power to receive and disburse church funds, and dispose of church property for the uses of the church, according to the laws of the church, and subject to inquiry by the Twelve and the church, must rest in the Bishopric only, as, by law, the Bishopric only are legal custodians of such properties; but the Twelve may and should exercise such supervisory jurisdiction, according to previous arrangement and agreement with the Bishopric, as will prevent unnecessary delay and injury to the work of the ministry, and will facilitate the proper expenditure of funds in the Church Treasury for the purpose of carrying on the preaching of the word, in which is included the support of the families of traveling ministers in the field; the publication and distribution of such books and tracts as may be deemed expedient, for which no other provision is made; the erection of houses of worship; purchase of lands, together with the care and uses of them in missions assigned by conferences.

8.—The Twelve being by law a traveling, spiritual, ministerial body, supposed to be in the missionary field, can not in justice be expected to act as a council exercising local and decisive direction in the disbursement of church moneys, in the sense that no expenditure could be had, except upon their consent or order, first obtained; it is necessary that there be a full understanding between that Quorum and the Bishopric, as to the scope of the law demanding their attention to the temporal affairs of the church; also as to the rules which may govern both parties; which rules once agreed upon shall obtain until modified by mutual agreement and understanding; no power being given to either party to dictate those rules.

These principles were adopted singly, and afterward as a whole, by the council of the several quorums assembled.

On the day following, the Twelve and the Bishopric, being assembled in council, adopted the following principles and rules, after each quorum had separately considered and acted upon them.

#### PRINCIPLES AND RULES OF ACTION.

1.—We believe the duty of the Twelve to be to teach the law of tithing, viz.: Explaining to the church the necessity, and the mode of complying therewith, in order

that the financial interests of the church shall be properly supported, and that they may receive tithing and forward the same to the Bishop, who is the acknowledged Treasurer of the church, or to his appointed agents.

2.—That it is devolvent upon the Bishopric and their authorized agents (such agents to be elders\*), to travel among the churches from time to time, to teach the law of, and collect tithing and free-will offerings, and see that the financial interests of the church are duly cared for, and the wants of the poor duly administered to, and use their best and earnest endeavors to keep the ministry in the field, as appointed by General Conference, especially the members of the Quorum of the Twelve and of the Seventy, and to see to it that the families of such receive proper support.

3.—That officers in charge of missions appointed by General Conference, receive necessary support in the prosecution thereof, from the agents of the Bishop in said missions, and that said agents in the disbursing of moneys be not subject to the direction of district conferences, or branches (yet said conferences may advise or recommend), but should make itemized reports to said conferences, who may audit and approve the same, and said reports as certified to, be forwarded to the Bishop.

4.—And that in all missions where there is no agent to represent the Bishop, the officer in charge of said mission may receive tithing and free-will offerings, and use such sums as shall be considered necessary for said mission, keeping an account thereof, together with the names of persons from whom received, and forward a quarterly account thereof, together with whatever moneys may remain in his hands as a residue, and not needed by him, to the Bishop; and upon receipt thereof, the Bishop should enter the same upon his books, crediting and debiting the church with said amounts, received and paid out, together with the names of those from whom received and to whom paid; and that all such itemized reports be published by the Bishop from time to time with his regular reports.

\*“By act of General Conference Sept. 27, 1882, the proviso that the agents should be elders was repealed.”

5.—In all missions where the officer in charge can not consult with the agent (though one may have been appointed thereto), he may receive tithings and free-will offerings and use the same (as hereinbefore provided for in Article 5, of Basis of Adjustment), or only part thereof for said mission, accounting therefor to the agent and to the Bishop in his quarterly reports.

6.—We advise the utmost care and economy in the expenditure of money; that the first of all objects to be attained by the church is the promulgation of the gospel, and all other interests are but secondary compared with it, which object must ever demand our first attention; next to which is the support of the poor. And believing that moneys have been extravagantly expended in the publication of books, and unnecessarily so, we advise the utmost care in that direction, and the strictest economy. And we recommend that the Bishopric encourage so far as seems wise and is practicable, the building of church houses, and that they take the advisory oversight thereof; and also the erection of store-houses in such localities where the interests of the church do now or may hereafter demand it; believing that through this channel the families of traveling elders would receive more ready support, and which means does not now come into the Church Treasury.

7.—Members should be taught the moral obligation that rests upon them, to put forth an effort to do something of some moment, during the year, either in tithings, free-will offerings, or donations, according to their financial abilities.

8.—Where branches, districts or individuals wish labor in any special locality, the needed funds to sustain such effort should not be taken from the means designed for or belonging to the General Treasury.

9.—When means are given to ministers of the church for their benefit, by persons in and out of the church, such "means" should be reported to the Bishop, that he may be cognizant of the help that each receives, and that said report be made to the Bishop on the first of March, annually.

We present the foregoing principles of action to all the Saints as being the rules and regulations adopted by us for the government of and administration in the financial affairs of the church, and we respectfully commend them

to the consideration of and observance by the church in all circumstances and cases included in and covered by the above specification of principles.

WILLIAM H. KELLEY,  
 THOMAS W. SMITH,  
 JAMES CAFFALL,  
 JOHN H. LAKE,  
 ALEXANDER H. SMITH,  
 ZENAS H. GURLEY,  
 JOSEPH R. LAMBERT,  
*Of the Quorum of the Twelve.*

ISRAEL L. ROGERS,  
 HENRY A. STEBBINS,  
 DAVID DANCER,  
*The Bishopric of the Church.*

PLANO, Illinois, April 8, 1878.

AMENDMENT ADOPTED IN APRIL, 1881.

Whereas, The General Conference in September, 1880, adopted resolutions requiring that the moneys in the General Church Treasury should only be used to send out such of the ministry as are appointed or sustained, from time to time, by the General Conference; and

Whereas, A difference of opinion seems to prevail since the above action, as to its effect upon the means received by the agents of the Bishop, and some of the latter hold themselves as subject to the above resolutions, the same as the Bishop, while others do not so hold themselves, but continue to pay out for district purposes just as they formerly did; and

Whereas, The agents were created as agents of the Bishop and not of the districts, nor accountable to them, therefore whatever rulings of the General Conference govern the Bishop and the general funds of the church in his hands, also govern the agents and the funds in their hands as tithes and offerings; therefore

Resolved by the Twelve and Bishopric, conjointly, That the Bishop's agents cannot rightfully, under rule of said resolutions of General Conference, pay from the funds received by them as said agents of the Bishop for district purposes or to sustain missions appointed by the districts. But the district may, if they wish and find it necessary, appoint a district treasurer (who may be the Bishop's agent, or another as may be agreed), who shall keep a separate account of moneys paid him for district



purposes, and be under the instruction and accountable to the district conferences only, all of which ought to be made plain to every member, so that every one giving may do so understandingly, their offerings being placed for the general use of the church with the Bishop or his agent, or otherwise for the support of the work in the district, as the giver may direct.

Provided, however, That it be understood by all, that the district conferences are still authorized and requested to appoint committees quarterly to audit the books and report of the Bishop's agents, as heretofore; and further, that any and all instruction to the agents, as to the use of general church funds in their hands, shall be obtained from the Bishopric only.

ADOPTED BY TWELVE AND BISHOPRIC.

PLANO, Illinois, April 13, 1881.

Adopted April 16, 1881.

No. 239. That the utmost care be used by all missionaries, laboring under appointment of General Conference, in the use of means placed in their hands for the benefit of the work; and we discourage and condemn the leaving of distant fields which have been occupied by them but for a little season, and the expenditure of time and means in going to and from conference; unless special and important reasons justify such a course.

No. 240. That the Church Secretary be authorized to enroll the names of such elders as may apply to him for the purpose, and that the Fifth Quorum of Elders be organized at the Fall Conference of 1881, if enough of those enrolled shall be present at that time to effect such organization.

Adopted September 1, 1881.

No. 241. That his name [one chosen to represent a district] be recorded upon the record of some branch of the district, as a member.

Adopted September 5, 1881.

No. 242. That the Bishop and his agents are hereby instructed to solicit aid for the erection of the Utah Chapel.

Adopted September 6, 1881.

No. 243. That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the feasibility of some general plan of conducting Sunday schools, and if found feasible, report said general plan to the coming Annual Conference; and

That they also take into consideration the feasibility and practicability of using one page of the *Hope* as a lesson sheet, or of using an extra sheet for such purpose.

No. 244. Whereas, There exists a resolution which as interpreted by some prohibits the sending out of any of the ministry from General Conference but the Twelve and Seventy; and,

Whereas, This has had a tendency to keep out of active labor a number of our most efficient men; therefore,

Resolved, That said resolution be so interpreted to mean that at each session of conference, if it shall be found by a consultation by the Twelve and Bishopric that there are more means in the treasury, and likely to be, than which will be required to send the Twelve and Seventy known to be available, that others of the ministry available, may be sent as may be thought wise by the Twelve and Bishopric.

Adopted September 8, 1881.

No. 245. That paragraph two of "Report of Committee on Representation" be amended by striking out all after the word "that" and insert all high priests and elders are entitled to voice and vote in General Conference when present.

Adopted September 10, 1881.

No. 246. That in the efforts made by the church, in the year 1863, and since said time, to plant and maintain a missionary society in Utah to oppose the abominable practices of that people, and teach them the principles of the gospel of Christ, we recognize a great and revolutionary work, which has already been the means of calling hundreds and thousands out from among those practicing so great evils, and blessing them under a work of righteousness.

That we also now deem it the duty of the church to redouble its efforts to maintain its missionaries in the prosecution of that mission, and

Whereas, We have seen in the proceedings of assem-

blies of other societies, resolutions showing that the efforts of their ministers to meet and oppose the ministers of the Utah organization in the past, in public preaching, have been unsuccessful; be it

Resolved, That inasmuch as such denominations and societies will aid and assist us with means to maintain a larger missionary force in said mission, we will furnish the men to meet and oppose that abominable order established in the west, and we believe that if said aid is proffered, there will be an early solution of the Utah problem.

Adopted April 8, 1882.

No. 247. Whereas, The Edmunds Bill, originating in the Senate of the United States, has become a law, by which it is intended on the part of the Government to extirpate the practice of polygamy, which practice is by this act recognized as a crime and not as a religion; and

Whereas, In the discussion and consideration of this question in Congress it was frequently stated by Senators and members of the House of Representatives that the object of this measure was not intended as an attack on Mormonism, but against the evil practices in the territories of the United States, enjoined by the loathsome incumbrance upon that faith; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the Reorganized Church of Christ, do hereby tender our sincere thanks to President Chester A. Arthur and all the Senators and members of Congress who took an active part in passing such laws, by which the "twin relic" is to be removed from the institutions of the country, to the honor and dignity of the nation, and to the especial good of all true Mormons, who abide in the original faith of the church.

On April 12 a committee was appointed "to attend at Washington, D. C., in case our interests as a church should demand it."

Adopted April 10, 1882.

No. 248. The Committee or Board of Location reported having purchased land, in Decatur county, Iowa, erected a building for church offices and publishing plant, disposed of former plant at Plano, Illinois, and removed the Herald Office and fixtures to Lamoni, Decatur county, Iowa; as authorized by General Conference. The Board had filed a copy of the Church Articles of Incorporation in the office of the County Clerk of said county.

Adopted April 11, 1882.

No. 249. That it is the judgment of this body, that the sense to be conveyed in paragraph 4, of "Rules on Representation," beginning with line 61 and ending with line 68, that the aggregate of members in districts shall be counted, from which the product of the number of branches, multiplied by six, shall be taken and the remainder divided by twenty, in order that no fractional vote may be lost in any branch of the district.

Adopted April 12, 1882.

No. 250. Whereas, There are certain German tracts written and published which are not in harmony with the doctrines of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ; be it

Resolved, That all tracts be submitted to the German committee, appointed by conference of September, 1881, for correction.

(The committee on compiling conference resolutions find that certain preambles and resolutions were presented at the September conference of 1881 on this subject, also that they were referred to the Bishopric and Twelve; but the minutes of said conference show no further mention of the subject, nor as being reported upon by the Twelve and Bishopric at any time since then.)

No. 251. That paragraph 4 of the "Report of the Committee on Representation" be amended by substituting the word "six" for the word "twenty," wherever it occurs.

Adopted April 13, 1882.

No. 252. Elder G. A. Blakeslee was appointed Presiding Bishop of the church, and Elders E. L. Kelley and Elijah Banta as his Counselors; vice Bishop I. L. Rogers, and Elders H. A. Stebbins and David Dancer, Counselors, resigned.

Adopted September 22, 1882.

No. 253. Whereas, The ministry of the church in the several quorums seem to be in a measure inadequate to the pressing demands made upon them, and believing this [they?] should by virtue of their calling take the lead in establishing the work in the regulating of its affairs in general; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we do hereby ask the church to engage in solemn, earnest prayer, asking the Lord to reveal his will concerning these various quorums, that they may be properly filled, and that in so doing we may act agreeable to that will.

No. 254. That the report [of the Committee on Danish Publications] be received, . . . and pamphlet ordered printed under the direction of the Board of Publication, in the Danish language.

Adopted September 23, 1882.

No. 255. Whereas, The Book of Covenants issued by authority of the church at Salt Lake has been materially changed from that accepted by the church; be it

Resolved, That this conference advise the Danish brethren against the use of the same.

No. 256. That the Kirtland Temple Committee be continued, with instructions to solicit subscriptions and make such repairs as the money so raised will enable them to do.

No. 257. That Joseph Smith, E. L. Kelley, J. W. Gillen, J. C. Crabb, and W. C. Cadwell, be a committee to revise and enlarge the Rules on Representation, and so far as practicable make the same applicable to district conferences and branches; reporting to the church the results of their labors as soon as convenient.

Adopted September 25, 1882.

No. 258. That when this conference adjourns it do so to meet April 6, 1883, and annually thereafter.

Adopted September 26, 1882.

No. 259. That we request the Presidency of the church to nominate persons to fill the vacancies now existing in the Standing High Council, agreeable to section 99, paragraph 5, in Book of Doctrine and Covenants.

No. 260. That the action in the appointment of District Treasurers, aside from the General Agents in the church, we find is working injury to the cause and defeating the placing of funds either in the hands of the District Treasury or Bishop's agents; therefore

Resolved, That the action authorizing it be and is hereby repealed.

No. 261. That under the present system of reporting to the Bishop, on the part of the ministry, injury is wrought in this, that in some cases all funds are sent to the Bishop or his agents, and in others not so done, but kept by the ministry, and privately reported to the Bishop, and so never known to the church, which fact causes complaints on the part of those who contribute; therefore we recommend that hereafter all persons under General Church appointment, report all church moneys received to the Bishop, together with the names of persons paying, so far as possible, and that they draw for their expenses directly from the Bishop or his agents.

No. 262. We believe that it will be to the interest of the church and the good of all, if the Bishop's reports are published annually instead of quarterly, and they will be in a shape to be better understood by the Saints, and the transactions for the year are then in such shape as to be properly considered and criticised.

No. 263. That to prevent doubt and distrust, and the abuse of the discretion now exercised by the Bishop, all persons under appointment of General Church Authorities, requiring expenses paid by the church, should before appointed, state to the Twelve and Bishopric, the probable amount required for expenses per annum.

No. 264. By resolution all rules and conjoint agreements heretofore obtaining, which conflict with the operation of any of these rules and agreements be declared to be rescinded. (The above five rules were presented by the Twelve and Bishopric and adopted by the conference.)

Adopted September 29, 1882.

No. 265. Whereas, The circular letter of Hon. William M. Evarts, while Secretary of State, asking all foreign governments to prevent the immigration of Mormons (so-called) to this country, as they come to practice crime, being polygamists; and, Whereas, This has conduced to the injury of the body of Latter Day Saints who affirm the original faith under which no such practice is tolerable, and because such distinction has not been had, and we have been confounded with that people whom this letter very properly brands as criminals; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we ask the present Secretary of State to correct this error, and place us in our proper light before the world.

A committee was appointed to present the preamble and resolution to the Secretary of State.

On April 7, 1883, the committee reported, including a copy of document presented to the Secretary of State.

On April 4, 1883, the Secretary of State replied, declining to request foreign governments to discriminate between "polygamous Mormons of Utah and the non-polygamous Mormons of the reformed church;" stating that "lawabiding immigrants are secure against interference."

Adopted September 29, 1882.

No. 266. That the Church Secretary be instructed to take the necessary steps toward arranging the different quorums mentioned in the revelation received September 28, 1882.

Adopted April 11, 1883.

No. 267. That it is the wish and desire of this body that President Joseph Smith be retained as Editor of the *Herald* and *Hope*, but that no work be required of him by the Board of Publication, but that which comes strictly under the duties of Editor; so that he may have more time to devote to his duties as President of the church.

Adopted April 13, 1883.

No. 268. That this conference advise that mission and district authorities arrange for such reunions for religious services, when and where it may be by them deemed best.

Adopted April 14, 1883.

No. 269. That the Quorum of the Twelve be requested to meet at least ten days prior to the sitting of the next Spring Conference, at the place appointed for its meeting; and further, that the appointees of the conference be requested to report to the Secretary of the Quorum of Twelve in time to allow action in their several cases.

No. 270. That we request the Board of Publication to issue in tract form, as soon as practicable, the reply of the Editor of *Herald* to the pamphlet of Rev. R. Patterson of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on the origin of the Book of Mormon.

No. 271. That California, Western Nevada and Oregon constitute a mission, the districts therein remaining intact.

Adopted April 9, 1884.

No. 272. Whereas, We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock, for either man or woman—except in cases where the contract is broken by death or transgression; therefore

Resolved, That it is our understanding that in case of separation of husband and wife, one of which is guilty of the crime of fornication, or adultery, the other becomes released from the marriage bond, and if they so desire may obtain a divorce and marry again.

No. 273. That the boundary lines of the Des Moines district be established as follows: "Beginning at southwest with Madison county, and extending to the east line of Washington county; on the east to along the line of Johnson, Linn, Buchanan and Bremer counties; on the west to along the western line of Wright, Hamilton, Boone, Dallas and Madison counties, to the place of commencement." [Summarized from petition granted.]

No. 274. Whereas, In the past, California was considered as a general mission, and provided for in appointment to such missions; and Whereas, A change was made a few years ago, and the mission discontinued and divided into districts, each district choosing its presiding officer, and reports therefrom show that the change has not worked advantageously; therefore be it

Resolved, That California, Nevada and Oregon, be restored to their former condition as a mission, and that a missionary be assigned to said mission.

No. 275. The committee call attention to the fact that on April 8, 1874, the Eastern and New England States and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were formed into three missions, divisions specified, which order has not been repealed but seems to have been forgotten.

No. 276. The committee would also mention that in September, 1880, the following matters were presented, discussed, and finally referred to the General Assembly of the Quorums, namely:—

The question as to what is the rock upon which the church is built; the question as to whether any elder can be a true representative of the church and reject any of the revelations found in the Book of Covenants; and the subject of the ministry going out literally without purse or scrip to proclaim the gospel.



No. 277. On April 12, 1880, certain preambles and resolutions concerning a revelation said to have been given in 1853 through Bro. Henry H. Deam, were referred to the First Presidency, but we find no reply or decision upon the subject.

Adopted April 10, 1884.

No. 278.

#### RULES OF REPRESENTATION.

Sec. 1. That the general officers of the church, known as the Presidency, the Twelve, the High Council, the Seventy, and the Bishopric (proper), are ex-officio members of conference, and entitled to a voice and vote as representatives of the spiritual authorities of the church at large.

Sec. 2. That all high priests and elders are, ex-officio, entitled to voice and vote in General Conference when present.

Sec. 3. That organized districts be authorized to appoint at their last quarterly session of district conference, next preceding the session of General Conference, delegates to said session of General Conference, who shall be entitled to represent said districts; which delegates so appointed shall be declared members of said General Conference, entitled to voice and vote.

Provided 1st. That the choice and appointment by said districts shall be made by a majority of those present and voting in regular or called sessions of district conference, of the holding of which due notice shall have been given as to time and place within the district, together with a statement of any important business or action that is to be presented to, or likely to be had by said General Session, affecting said district, and to which their approval or disapproval is desired; that instructions to said delegates, may be given as to their action.

Provided 2d. That the only qualification to eligibility to the office of delegate from district to General Conference shall be membership and good standing in the church.

Provided 3d. That each district shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members of said district, and one vote in conference for each delegate to which they may be entitled. The delegates present at conference from any one district shall be entitled to cast the full vote of the district of which they are delegates,

unless otherwise instructed by their district conference; Provided, That in case of a disagreement of views among the members of said delegation, the full delegation not being present they shall be entitled to cast only their individual votes as said delegates.

Provided 4th. That no one delegate shall represent in the same conference more than one district.

Sec. 4th. That each regularly-organized branch of the church not included in an organized district, shall be entitled to one delegate, who shall have the same privileges as delegates of districts.

Provided 1st. That due general notice to the members of branch of the time and place of meeting for the choosing of said delegate be properly given as in the case of districts.

Provided 2d. That delegates shall be entitled to act as such as hereinbefore provided, upon presenting certificates of appointment signed by the presidents, or clerks of districts or branches appointing them.

Sec. 5. That in all cases of grave importance, affecting the polity and faith of the church, districts and branches may instruct delegates to cast a majority and minority vote, for and against; but in no case shall the number of the votes cast by said delegates so instructed exceed the number to which the district appointing shall be entitled as hereinbefore provided; and in case of a tie in districts, or branches, on questions presented to them, certified to said delegates, the votes of said districts or branches, shall be cast in equal numbers by the delegates.

Sec. 6. That districts may organize their sessions of conference agreeably to the above rules, by providing for delegate conferences, of which the basis of representation shall be one delegate for each six members in each branch or fraction thereof. And that districts may constitute priests, teachers and deacons as members of their conferences as well as the elders if they choose.

Adopted April 11, 1884.

No. 279. That by virtue of their office and calling, as declared by the organic law of the church, the members of the Quorum of the Twelve are the lawful presidents of the church abroad in all the world, to preside over, regulate and set in order the same, and that in all the branches of the church and districts, this presiding

authority should be acknowledged and acquiesced in by the presidents of its branches and districts. And when one of them is present at a district conference or branch meeting, it should be left discretionary with him, as to whether it would best serve the cause by presiding.

No. 280. That the Quorum of the Twelve, as a judicial body have the right, collectively or individually, to render decisions involving the law and usages of the church, in their various fields of labor, and when such decisions are made by individual members of the quorum, said decisions are binding on the church, and should be respected until brought before the quorum and its decision had.

No. 281. That a committee from our number be appointed for the purpose of comparing the present and Palmyra edition of the Book of Mormon, with the manuscript in the hands of David Whitmer, and that Wm. H. Kelley, T. W. Smith, and A. H. Smith compose said committee. That the committee be requested to report the result of their labors through the *Herald*.

No. 282. That it is the sense of this quorum that the commandments of a local character, given to the first organization of the church are binding on the Reorganization, only so far as they are either reiterated, or referred to as binding by commandment to this church. [The preceding four resolutions were presented by the Quorum of Twelve and were adopted by the General Conference.]

No. 283. Whereas, By joint action of the Quorum of the Twelve and the Bishopric, a resolution was passed, authorizing the publication of the moneys given to the elders in their various mission fields through the *Herald*, the same as the means given directly into the hands of the Bishop, and his agents; and which was endorsed by the conference; and

Whereas, The Editor of the *Herald*, or Board of Publication, refused to publish these statements when submitted to them; therefore,

Resolved, That this assumption of power is without authority of law and usage and dangerous to the liberties of the people.

No. 284. Resolved, That in the opinion of this council, no person's name should be stricken from the Church

Records until specific charges have been preferred against them, and lawful action had in the case, and that the cause or causes of action and expulsion should be stated upon the Church Record.

No. 285. Resolved, That from the meager information that has been presented before us, concerning the publishing of a periodical in the Danish language, we are unable to make any recommendations concerning it.

(The above motions were presented by the Quorum of the Twelve and were adopted by the conference, with the proviso that the Editor attach his reasons for not publishing the financial reports referred to in the first resolution. The minutes show that the Editor made the following statement:—

“The Editor of the *Herald* states that the fault of refusing to publish the reports referred to was his, and not the Board’s. His reasons for refusing are: (1) It was not ordered to be done specifically in the resolution referred to. (2) He did not consider that the order to publish the Bishop’s report included the reports of elders referred to in the resolution. (3) That the reports which he refused to publish were sent him detached from the Bishop’s report, and were not incorporated in it; if they had been, he could not have refused, although he believed then, and believes now that a publication of the totals of the amount each received and reported to the Bishop is all that is necessary.”)

(The resolution referred to by the Twelve and the Editor was published in the minutes of September 26, 1882, and under that date will be found in this book.)

No. 286. Whereas, Since the reports of the elders to the Bishop to this date have been made out and handed to the auditing committee in totals, and not by giving the names of the contributors, by reason of the failure to publish names of the past year; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a publication of the totals only of such reports already made be considered a compliance with the rule.

No. 287. Whereas, The question has been raised with regard to the publication of the work entitled “The Life of Joseph the Prophet” forestalling the history of the church, as before contemplated by it through its appointed “Historian.” And Whereas, It cannot be considered that the book entitled “Life of Joseph the

Prophet" was intended to forestall, or take the place of the history of the Reorganized Church, which Elder Jason W. Briggs, Church Historian, was appointed and expected to prepare for publication.

Therefore, be it Resolved, That he be hereby requested to proceed to prepare said history, which when completed shall be presented to the next ensuing conference thereafter for examination and approval upon its merits, by a proper committee then to be appointed; and that without regard on his part, or further action by us in reference to what may be contained in the work entitled *Life of Joseph the Prophet*.

Adopted April 12, 1884.

No. 288. That the nature of the calling of the First Quorums of the church is of such a character as to prohibit them, or any one of them, engaging in secular pursuits, which in their nature demand the time and talent of the same.

Adopted April 14, 1884.

No. 289. "The Church Secretary and Recorder was authorized to permit the Church Historian the use of such records as may be necessary to the latter in the performance of his work."

No. 290. That the Board of Publication be requested to take such measures as they shall deem proper to furnish for Sabbath schools suitable lesson papers, and if practicable, reduce the size of the *Hope*, make it a weekly, and publish through it the lessons, and that W. C. Cadwell, Sr. Alice Cobb and D. F. Lambert, be a committee to prepare and furnish said lessons for publication.

No. 291. That the committee on repairing the Kirtland Temple be authorized to continue the collection of funds for the finishing of the Temple, and that they proceed with the work as found practicable.

No. 292. That Brn. James Caffall, Peter Anderson and Hans N. Hausen, be a committee to look after the interests of publishing a Danish periodical, as contemplated in a resolution adopted by the Semiannual Conference held at Lamoni, Iowa, in the fall of 1882, whose duty it shall be to receive names and moneys of those to become subscribers to said periodical when published, with all

freewill offerings given in the interests of said publication, reporting their action at the soonest practical opportunity to the Board of Publication.

That the Board of Publication shall proceed to publish said periodical as soon as the prospect shall justify them in so doing.

That Bro. Peter Anderson, in connection with the Editor of the *Herald*, take charge of the editorial department of said publication.

Adopted April 7, 1885.

No. 293. That a committee, consisting of Brn. W. W. Blair, S. Maloney and I. L. Rogers, be appointed to confer with the committee appointed by the brethren of the Church of Christ known as Hedrickites.

Adopted April 8, 1885.

No. 294. That this conference present the case of Bro. D. H. Smith and the condition of the First Quorums of the church, before the Lord in special prayer, and that information be sought from him, through the President of the church, in relation thereto, that we may act wisely concerning the matter.

No. 295. Whereas, Some of the acts of the General Conferences have at least been lost sight of, for a time, and there is a possibility of transcending the rules, as enacted by the body; therefore, be it

Resolved, That measures be taken for the compilation of all resolutions and acts now binding, and that all of these be numbered, and kept in schedule form from time to time, and be it further

Resolved, That a committee of three, of which the Church Secretary shall be one, be appointed to make such compilation, and report to this body in April, 1886.

Adopted April 9, 1885.

No. 296. That it would be expedient that elders, branches and conferences when ordaining brethren to the office of an elder, be requested to indorse across the licenses of such elders the words: "The holder of this license should seek to join some quorum at his earliest opportunity, and present his license to be exchanged for a new one from the quorum he unites with," or words to that effect. (Presented by the Second Quorum of Elders.)

No. 297. Inasmuch as some of the members of this church are in the habit of visiting saloons and drinking intoxicants, which habit seems to hinder the spread of the work, therefore be it

Resolved, That . . . it be made a test of fellowship for any member of this church who will persist in this practice. (This presented by the Third Quorum of Elders.)

Adopted April 10, 1885.

No. 298. A committee having been appointed on the 8th to consider a preamble and resolution from the Pottawattamie district concerning controversy and discussion in the *Herald* upon the revelations and doctrines governing the church, presented the following opinions. They were adopted by the body and Resolution No. 6 was added to them, all reading as given below:—

The committee to which was referred the resolution presented by the Pottawattamie district conference, relative to the adoption of certain measures which shall govern in the publication of articles through the *Saints' Herald*, submit the following:

1. That in its opinion, the enforcement of iron-clad rules and arbitrary decisions by persons who were not governed in their work by broad and liberal principles of toleration, as is shown by the history of societies in the past, has had such a tendency to subvert the liberties and retard the progress of the race, as to make the enactment of any set of rules to be followed under all circumstances of doubtful propriety and final good.

2. That in our opinion there is a just and proper line to be drawn between the positions of permitting a fair hearing of the views of any and all through the church paper, and the abuse of the sacred principle of toleration and freedom adhered to by the church by using to excess the columns of the church paper, in making a series of attack upon the life of the body, or an undue effort to enforce personal views upon the people, when they are clearly in part antagonistic to the accepted faith of the body; and that the responsibility is upon the Editor and Board of Publication to see that this line is truly made in their discrimination, the improper exercise or abuse of such discretion, or agency, to be remedied by the selection of such persons for these positions as will fill them in wisdom and fairness to all.

3. That where radical differences of opinion occur

between leading representatives of the body, the discussion of them should take place in quorum capacity, and not through the columns of the *Herald*.

4. That in our opinion in the acceptance of articles for publication through the *Herald*, the parties doing the same should exclude all such as make special attack upon the supposed private views and character of the dead, or that impugn motives and question the integrity of the living; there being neither sound argument nor wisdom attained by such methods.

5. The committee has not deemed it within its duty to pass judgment upon the right or abuse of the exercise of privileges in the extended controversy of the past few months, but to point out the proper steps to be taken in case the rights of the body are left unguarded in the future.

E. L. KELLEY.  
J. T. KINNAMAN.  
J. W. GILLEN.  
C. SCOTT.  
G. T. GRIFFITHS.

6. Resolved, That it is the sense of this body, that any man who accepts appointment and ordination as a representative of the church is under obligations to teach, sustain, and seek to establish the faith of the church; and no one, be he whosoever he may be, has any right to attack the divinity of the faith in part, or as a whole, as said faith is set forth in the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants.

No. 299. That the Secretary be requested in giving the names of the parties speaking upon all questions discussed hereafter, to record those speaking as they may appear for or against the same.

No. 300. Whereas, The amount paid to the elders, and expended otherwise for church purposes, by the Bishop of the church, stands against the elders, and the several accounts for which they were expended, and there is now no provision made to balance those accounts in the Bishop's ledger, be it hereby

Resolved, That when elders shall have reported labor done for the church, on account of which labor such expenditures were or shall have been made, and when their reports of labor done shall have been accepted and approved by conference, and the Bishop's report to conference shall have been audited and approved, the



several accounts so presented and approved shall be balanced on his ledger by means of entries that shall cover the amounts charged, each credited entry being a statement in effect that account is closed by services rendered.

Adopted April 11, 1885.

No. 301. That Joseph Smith, J. R. Lambert and E. L. Kelley be appointed as a committee to formulate a set of rules to govern in cases of trial and appeal in the church.

Adopted April 13, 1885.

No. 302. That we request the Bishop to organize a Quorum of Teachers and a Quorum of Deacons, also another Quorum of Priests.

No. 303. Whereas, This body requested that the concordance be bound with future editions of the Doctrine and Covenants, and as this has not been observed, therefore be it

Resolved, That the attention of the Board of Publication be called to this omission.

No. 304. Whereas, There are books in the Church Library which are rare, and valuable to the office of publication; and whereas, Said books are becoming worn and defaced by handling; and whereas, It is important that said books be preserved and kept in the office of publication for the use of those who control the literary concerns of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Editor be and is hereby instructed to select and control such books as he may choose.

"It was amended by including the Church Librarian with the Editor to carry out the resolution."

No. 305. That the true names of all contributors to our publications be attached in good faith.

No. 306. That it is not necessary to publish the names of contributors to articles in the *Herald*, unless requested by the writers.

No. 307. "Bro. E. L. Kelley asked a question as to the appointment of the Bishopric to travel, and a motion was adopted that the law fully provided as to that, and they were instructed to so travel."

Adopted April 9, 1886.

No. 308. . . . And the committee are of the opinion that the matter of the presentation of individual opinions by elders, or others of the body, such opinions not having been affirmed by the body as a rule of faith or practice, does not make them a part of the faith or belief of the body; but relate to us individually upon the issue of toleration, which toleration we believe as was manifested in the action of Jesus while dealing with men here in his ministry, should be so broad as to make no occasion for persons to wish to withdraw from the body by reason of these individual differences of opinion.

3. The committee noticing specifically some of the alleged entertained views set forth in the reasons given, state:

That as to the alleged "temple building and ceremonial endowments therein," that we know of no temple building, except as edifices wherein to worship God, and no endowment except the endowment of the Holy Spirit of the kind experienced by the early Saints on Pentecost day.

4. "Baptism for the dead" referred to belongs to those local questions of which the body has said by resolution:

"That the commandments of a local character, given to the first organization of the church are binding on the Reorganization only so far as they are either reiterated or referred to as binding by commandment to this church." And *that* principle has neither been reiterated nor referred to as a commandment.

5. "Tithing as a law applicable to the church" is accepted in the sense set forth by the Savior in the 16th chapter of the Gospel recorded by Luke, that we are stewards of our heavenly Father so far as the riches of this world are concerned and that as such we should render an account of our stewardship here; the rendition is in all cases however, *necessarily* voluntary on the part of the member complying with the law.

6. We know of no "consecration" by which individuals are made legal heirs to the kingdom of God, or Church of Christ, when the rewards are apportioned; except, that of a life consecrated to the service of the Master as ordained in his word together with the consecration of properties for the aid of the poor, preaching of the gospel and establishment of the said kingdom, as a member of the same has so to impart.

7. "The sole mouthpiece of the church," is Jesus Christ. We are to receive commandments *as a church* only as Christ communicates the same; and we are entitled, as a church, to be first satisfied that Christ did give any commandment purporting to come from him, before accepting, or receiving the same.

8. "Plenary inspiration" has never been affirmed by the church; but we believe in the so named "authorized" books of the church as true and proper standards of evidence in the determination of all controverted doctrines in theology.

9. The doctrine of "cursing" and "avenging enemies," we accept only as explained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of section 102, Doctrine and Covenants, the section referred to by the brethren, wherein the Lord is made the sole executor in behalf of the children of Zion as follows: . . .

10. So far as the necessity and failure on the part of the church is concerned to convene the quorums in General Assembly, the wisdom of the majority of the body as to the practicability and necessity of such a step seems to have been adverse thereto in the past.

11. That part of the reasons in the addenda to the application referring to providing a place of living for certain officers of the church is incorrect and misleading; for said revelation provides for the erection of a boarding house, a hotel for strangers, in which house the President of the church as such, and his successors, were to "have place;" but neither he nor they were to own said house, neither were he or they to be its "governor," or keeper; and further the commandment to build is largely of a local character; has never been reiterated to this church and consequently under the resolution of the body, before referred to, not made binding upon us.

(2) We further believe in an "imperial dynasty" *only*, wherein Christ is to be King, and the reigning of such of his servants who keep the faith here, with him when he shall come with his rewards. . . .

Adopted April 10, 1886.

No. 309. That we grant the request of those desiring to withdraw from the church, and that their names be stricken from the Church Records. (The names thus acted upon by conference were those of J. W. Briggs, Z. H. Gurley, E. H. Gurley, Margaret Gurley, Grace Gurley and Mida Gurley.)

No. 310. That hereafter when any five members shall demand that the vote be taken by yeas and nays it shall be so taken, providing they shall not be demanded when a vote is partially taken.

Adopted April 12, 1886.

No. 311. The Bishopric presented the following report:—

“The work referred to the Bishopric at the last conference of organizing and setting in order the lesser quorums of the church, has been duly considered by us; and after an examination of the law, we are led to conclude that this is a duty enjoined upon the Quorum of the Twelve.

“We therefore refer the matter back to the conference, together with all applications for membership to the quorums, lest we should transcend our duties and interfere with that of our brethren, and await your further action in the premises.”

“It was ordered that the matter be referred to the Twelve.”

Adopted April 13, 1886.

No. 312. That in organized districts, no one be ordained to the office of an elder, without the voice of the district or conference be had ordering such ordination, or by sanction of the missionary in charge.

Adopted April 14, 1886.

No. 313. Whereas, In past years Elder J. W. Briggs was appointed Church Historian; and whereas, By action of church in granting his withdrawal, such appointment is cancelled. Therefore, be it resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to wait upon J. W. Briggs, authorized to request and receive from him all or any books or papers belonging to said church in his hands as such historian.

No. 314. That provision four, of section three, of the Articles of Representation, which reads:—

“Provided 4th; That no one delegate shall represent in the same conference more than one district,” be stricken out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof: “Provided 4th; That no one delegate shall be entitled to cast, as representative, in the same conference, more than twenty votes.”

Adopted April 16, 1886.

No. 315. That the Bishop of the church be authorized to transfer to the Business Manager of the Board of Publication the sum of \$500, from moneys now due the church by the board, for the purpose of furnishing tracts for free distribution, such as the Bishop and Business Manager may direct.

No. 316. Whereas, Much confusion and disappointment are experienced by the present method of enrolling elders in the several quorums of the eldership; therefore, be it resolved, That all applications for enrollment be made to the Secretary of the church.

No. 317. Resolved, That the practice of dancing should be discouraged, and that members of the church should be urged to avoid the practice, as being one likely to lead their minds from Christ and his gospel.

No. 318. That no one in the future who has been placed under silence, appear as an elder in any sense in public, presenting in any shape the claims of the church.

No. 319. That all that part of Wyoming west of Cheyenne, be annexed to the Rocky Mountain Mission.

Adopted April 17, 1886.

No. 320. Whereas, Inequality and loss to the church result from the practice of taking up collections for the support of the ministry; and whereas, such practice is in opposition to the recommendation of the Twelve and the Bishopric, with the endorsement of the General Conference thereon (see minutes of September conference, 1882),

Therefore, be it resolved by this council, That we call the special attention of all General Conference appointees, branch presidents and all whom it may concern, to this matter, and we declare in harmony with the expressed views of the Twelve, Bishopric, and church, that none but the Bishopric, their agents, or some one either authorized by them, or holding an *ex officio* right, are authorized to take up collections for the ministry.

No. 321. Whereas, There have been, from time to time, numbers of elders in the field, in addition to General Conference appointees, some with and some without

the permission of the missionary in charge; and whereas, Many, if not all, of said elders have received money, but failed to report the same to the Bishop, as required by him; therefore, be it

Resolved, That while we look with favor upon and shall ever seek to encourage the efforts made by the elders to preach the gospel as their circumstances will permit, we deprecate their failure to properly account for all moneys received and advise that all elders receiving help while laboring in the Master's vineyard be required to report the same in full to the Bishop of the church.

Adopted April 8, 1887.

No. 322. That the request of the Northern California district touching a lack of ministerial aid be supplied at the earliest time those in charge of such work find it practicable; and that it is the mind of this conference that all moneys coming into the church treasury are to be expended at the discretion of those who are held responsible before the Lord therefor; subject to inquiry by the body in cases of misappropriation.

Adopted April 9, 1887.

No. 323. That the Board of Publication be requested as soon as practicable to publish a cheap edition of hymns and tunes, for use by the church.

Adopted April 11, 1887.

No. 324. That there be "an annual examination of the books and management of the Herald Office, by a committee duly appointed by the body for that purpose." (Substance of committee report adopted.)

No. 325. Upon motion to sustain the Board of Publication, a subsidiary motion was introduced to reaffirm the report of a committee adopted April 10, 1885, found as No. 298 in this compilation. The motion to so reaffirm prevailed.

No. 326. That this conference as a body accept and indorse the revelation presented to us as being the word of God, and additional direction by which we should walk in faith and truth before him.

Adopted April 12, 1887.

No. 327. We, the members of the Quorum of the Twelve, believing that the President of the church should be furnished with additional facilities for the performance of important duties made imperative by virtue of his high and holy calling; respectfully suggest to your honorable body, that the Bishop be requested to confer with the President concerning this matter; and that he be authorized to expend means from the church treasury, so far as it may be prudent to do so for such facilities at the earliest possible time which in his judgment shall be practicable and wise.

We further suggest the propriety of relieving the Presidency from editorial labor, except that which is necessary in the exercise of a supervisory watchcare as soon as it can be done, without jeopardizing the welfare of the work.

Adopted April 9, 10, 1888.

No. 328. Lengthy amendments to chapter 13 of the Book of Rules were adopted, for which, with later amendments, the committee on compilation refers to the "Rules of Order and Debate."

Adopted April 11, 1888.

No. 329. 1.—Whereas, The Lord has spoken against the use of tobacco and strong drink on different occasions; and whereas, In all our appointments we ought to show respect unto said counsel. Therefore, resolved, That henceforth we recommend no man for General Conference appointment whom we know to be addicted to either of the above evils, and that this decision take effect one year from date.

2.—Whereas, There is a divided opinion in the church regarding the meaning of the clause in Doctrine and Covenants 42: 22, which says: "And the church shall lift up their hands against him or her," and the right to take a negative vote on the question of expelling members when so recommended by an elder's court; and whereas, Said division of opinion has prevented uniformity of action by the branch presidents and others. Therefore, resolved, That it is our opinion that both affirmative and negative vote should be taken in all cases of the kind referred to.

3.—Resolved, That in the event of a necessity for baptism, for a renewal of the gospel covenant, the former ordination of the individual thus baptized become null and void.

Adopted April 12, 1888.

No. 330. The Twelve and the Bishopric met April 10, and after examination and discussion, the following was unanimously adopted:—

“Resolved, That we reaffirm the basis of Adjustment, and Principles and Rules of Action contained in our joint epistle of 1878 as subsequently amended.” This resolution does not include the preface to said epistle, but it is understood that said preface shall be dropped. The subsequent amendment referred to is the striking out of the words ‘said agents to be elders.’

“The following was adopted as the unanimous decision and request of the two quorums:—Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to prepare a proper introduction to the Epistle of the Twelve and Bishopric and furnish the same with the request that it be published, and incorporated in the Book of Rules when that is revised.

“It was also ordered that the names of all members of each quorum, who are present should be attached to said joint epistle when published.”

The foregoing was adopted by the General Conference, with the proviso that said Principles and Rules be amended to read, “That the ministry shall report annually to the Bishop instead of semiannually.”

Adopted April 10, 1890.

No. 331. Whereas, The recognized duty of the church is to care for and provide for the poor; and whereas, It is admitted that in their scattered condition they cannot be cared for as they should be, therefore be it

Resolved, That we now take some active measures towards providing a home for the poor; such a home as will be in accord with the Savior’s injunction, “Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you.”

This was discussed and then referred to the Bishopric, and they were authorized to act in this matter as found practicable.

Adopted April 11, 1890.

No. 332. That the First Presidency and the General Church Secretary be authorized to prepare a blank form



upon which all ministers are hereby requested to report, and as briefly as possible. Be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Publication be requested to hereafter publish said reports, together with the minutes of future General Conferences in pamphlet form, as supplements to the *Herald* instead of in the *Herald* columns as at present published.

No. 333. That a committee of two be selected by this body to prepare an article representing the faith and principles of the church, for standard encyclopedias and school histories.

No. 334. Whereas, The undertaking of building a place ample to accommodate the Saints for public worship at Independence, Missouri, has required an outlay of means greater than the Saints of the Independence branch have been able to raise themselves; and

Whereas, The services of Bro. Joseph Luff have been for the past three years and are now restricted in great measure to looking after this work, and under the present outlook will necessarily by reason of this be further kept from his ministerial work for a long time; and

Whereas, The Bishopric of the church is the proper department to take charge of and see after the construction of buildings and expenditure of church funds generally.

Therefore, be it resolved, That this conference instruct and authorize the Bishopric of the church to take such steps as they shall deem proper, and as they may satisfactorily arrange with the local committee of said church, to take charge of said work and raise such special fund as shall be necessary to meet the indebtedness and completion of said structure, and that the said Luff shall as soon as such arrangements are perfected in a satisfactory manner to the Bishopric and local committee be released from personal oversight, so as to enable him to discharge the duties of his office as one of the Twelve.

No. 335. Resolved, That in the opinion of this conference, the time has arrived when it may be expedient to establish an institution of learning under the control or influence of our church organization, and to this end there shall be a committee appointed (by the body) to receive proposals for a location and take such other preliminary measures as may be necessary; and said committee are empowered after receiving such proposals

to make all necessary arrangements for the establishment of such institution.

No. 336. That a committee of three be appointed by this body to revise the Rules of Order, suggesting whatever amendments are necessary, and collate for publication therewith the principles and rules governing in church representation and arranging the whole ready for publication, upon endorsement of the next Annual Conference.

Adopted April 12, 1890.

No. 337. The committee on college reported having organized, choosing Bishop G. A. Blakeslee as President, David Dancer as Treasurer, and Robert Winning as Secretary, and that they had adopted the following resolutions:—

That the committee take measures to secure a proper fund for carrying into effect the resolution relative to the establishment of an institution of learning passed by the conference on yesterday and to this end that we open proper subscription books and arrange for a special fund to be known as the "College Fund," for this purpose.

That E. L. Kelley and Robert Winning be a committee to prepare the necessary subscription lists and books.

That the personal canvass be under the direct supervision of the Bishopric, they appointing suitable persons to solicit subscriptions.

That all authorized canvassers be instructed to report monthly to the Secretary whose duty is to collect all moneys and to turn over same to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

That when committee adjourns it shall be subject to the call of the President or that of a majority of the committee.

That we adopt the installment plan of subscription, one fifth of the amount subscribed to be due and payable six months from April 6, 1890, and the balance in equal payments every three months thereafter. All subscriptions made after October 6, 1890, will be due and payable, the first installment of one fifth three months from date of said subscription, and the balance in equal installments each three months until paid.

That the Secretary communicate with Lamoni College Committee and subscribers, and if possible secure the

turning over to this committee of all cash and other subscriptions made.

That the Treasurer and Secretary be called upon to give bonds in such amounts as the Bishopric may determine; said bonds to be subject to the approval of the Bishopric.

The report of the committee was adopted by the conference.

No. 338. The revelation given to the church through President Joseph Smith April 8, 1890, was accepted by the several quorums present, after which it was unanimously approved by the body.

No. 339. Whereas, The Sunday school movement in the church, which is becoming an important part of the work of the body of Christ, has now arrived at that period of its existence that it invites and needs assistance and encouragement as well as recognition in a more general and definite way, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this conference appoint a committee whose duty shall be to devise ways and means towards the further establishment of the Sunday school work, with a view to making it a department of regular church work and care.

Adopted April 14, 1890.

No. 340. That the revelation received by the President of the church April 8, 1890, and accepted by the General Conference, April 12, 1890, be compiled in future editions of the Book of Covenants, and that the Board of Publication be requested to issue the said revelation as a supplement to the *Herald* as section 120, of Doctrine and Covenants, and properly paged; and also the revelations of 1882 and 1887 be published in the same supplement.

Adopted April 15, 1890.

No. 341. Twelve high priests were chosen to form a High Council, in harmony with the revelation received during the conference, and it was

Resolved, That the First Presidency call the council and attend to the matter of organization as soon as they can conveniently.

Adopted April 9, 1891.

No. 342. On call the committee appointed September 22, 1877, to revise and publish the "History of Joseph

Smith," as contained in the *Times and Seasons* and in other publications of the church. Their reports were received and the committee was continued, with request for further action by them.

No. 343.

WITNESSES IN ADULTERY CASES.

Whereas, There is a difference of opinion existing in the minds of the Saints regarding the requirements of Doctrine and Covenants 42:22, relating to the trial of parties charged with adultery, some holding that two or more eye witnesses to the act charged are necessary before conviction, and others believing differently,

Resolved, That . . . the law referred to does not require eye witnesses to the act charged, but if there are found members of the church who as witnesses testify concerning facts or circumstances bearing upon the case, whose evidence is of a character to remove all reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the parties charged, from the minds of the elders trying the case, it is sufficient. If one eye witness be found willing to testify in addition to the above it is better, though not absolutely necessary.

No. 344. Upon receiving the report of Committee on General Sunday School Organization, the conference by vote recognized their work.

No. 345. Elder E. L. Kelley was appointed Presiding Bishop, vice Bishop G. A. Blakeslee deceased. He selected Elders G. H. Hilliard and E. A. Blakeslee as his Counselors.

No. 346. The branch at Keb, near Ottumwa, Iowa, and the counties of Jefferson, Wapello, and Davis, in the state of Iowa were annexed to the "Nauvoo and String Prairie district."

Adopted April 10, 1891.

No. 347. The subject of the reincorporation of the church was taken up and the following was moved and adopted: "That a committee of three be appointed to prepare Articles of Incorporation in harmony and in conformity with the present incorporation under the laws of the state of Illinois, the same to be used to further incorporate the society in the state of Iowa and other states by vote of any large branch or stake in such states as provided by the laws of the same."

No. 348. Whereas, The publication of the financial reports of the ministry is attended with great expense; and, whereas, The law only provides for elders making reports to the Bishop, therefore be it resolved, That hereafter only the totals of receipts and expenditures by the ministry be published.

No. 349. That the Bishopric be authorized to take such steps to remove the cloud of title to real estate in Independence, Missouri, as may be deemed wise and proper by them.

No. 350. Whereas, By reason of the disorganization of branches and districts there have been valuable records lost to the church, therefore be it resolved, That hereafter when branches become disorganized, either by the removal of members or the act of conference, that those having possession of such branch records are hereby requested and instructed to deposit them with their district clerks; and that if the district clerks do not need them that they send these records to the General Church Secretary and Recorder for deposit in the vaults of his office; and furthermore, That upon the disorganization of districts their records should also be sent to the same place for safe keeping.

No. 351. 1 Whereas, The growth of the church has been attended with an increase of responsibilities and cares, making necessary the liberation our chief officers from all burdens not necessarily included in their office and calling; and

2 Whereas, We have witnessed with deep consideration the effect of overanxiety and work upon the Presidency of the church; and

3 Whereas, The law provides that they should be so cared for by the church as to enable them to devote their time and energy exclusively to the duties of the office held by them, and

4 Whereas, We believe that the editorial or other management of the *Herald* is not comprehended in their official calling, but is an added burden, imposed without command of the Spirit, or being necessary under the law,

Resolved, That the Quorum of the Twelve and the Bishopric be authorized to take such steps and provide such means as in their judgment shall be proper to relieve the members of the Presidency from their present

financial burdens and encumbrances (if any shall be found) and provide for the support of themselves and families according to the law, thus leaving them free and untrammled to attend exclusively to the duties of the office of the Presidency.

Resolved, That the Board of Publication be requested to act in accord with the foregoing and release said brethren from all obligations connected with the editing of the *Herald*.

No. 352. We, your committee appointed to examine and report upon the petition from the annual conference of the English Mission, held at Birmingham, August 2-4, 1890, beg leave to report as follows:

Resolved, That this committee recommend that mission and district conferences may be composed of both the ministry and members residing within the limits of said conferences and that such shall be entitled to voice and vote; or that they may, if such bodies shall deem it best for their interests, adopt the rules governing the composition and organization of General Conferences as set forth in the Rules or Order and Rules of Representation.

No. 353. We, your committee appointed to examine and report regarding petition from the Nodaway, Missouri, district, asking the conference to define the duties of a missionary in charge, submissionary in charge and of district presidents, would respectfully submit the following:

Resolved, That we recommend that all parties interested in these and similar questions be referred to the law of the church, especially to the revelation of April 8, 1890, and the missionary in charge; and in case a mutual understanding is not had they may appeal to the First Presidency.

No. 354. "The committee on credentials reported, advising that hereafter, when practicable, the credentials [of delegates to the General Conferences] be written out and sent to the Church Secretary in time for him to make up his yea and nay forms prior to the conference session, as he also himself has suggested that it be done."

Adopted April 13, 14, 1891.

No. 355. Various amendments to the Rules of Order and Debate, recommended by the committee on revision

and by the First Presidency, together with a provision that the Articles of Incorporation be included in said book, were adopted. See edition of 1891.

Adopted April 9, 1892.

No. 356. That in the preparation of the Church Secretary's report, this body desires that of the Church Secretary, and not those of district clerks, who are not under direction of the body.

Adopted April 11, 1892.

No. 357. That a committee be appointed to take the steps necessary, and to make arrangements to properly represent the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ and its standard works at the "World's Fair" in Chicago, in 1893.

No. 358. Resolved, That the reply of Bro. J. R. Lambert in advocacy and defense of the Book of Mormon, and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, as offered to the church in his report to this body, be referred to the Board of Publication, with request that it be published in the *Herald*, or in pamphlet form if they deem best.

No. 359. Whereas, Should the Bishop of the church be able to close his fiscal year on March 15th, at the same time that the Herald Office year closes, the committee on auditing Herald Office accounts could, without additional expense, audit the Bishop's books also; and

Whereas, Such audit of accounts would enable the Bishop to present his report for direct action without delaying conference by committee work, be it hereby

Resolved, That in the year 1893, and thenceforward the Bishop's books and accounts be audited prior to the convening of each April Conference, by the above named committee.

Adopted April 12, 1892.

No. 360. The following was adopted, as presented by the Board of Publication, together with the proviso for a committee of revision that follows:—

"That an authentic history of the rise and progress of the church should be compiled and published, and we therefore recommend that the conference of the church shall now take action authorizing the Board to cause such compilation and publication to be made."

Resolved, That we appoint a committee of examination and revision, consisting of Brn. Joseph Smith, W. H. Kelley, Charles Derry, and J. R. Lambert, in connection with the Board of Publication.

Adopted April 13, 1892.

No. 361. Resolved, That we instruct the elders of the church who are not under general church appointment to not report to this body, unless the labor performed has been outside of all districts and branches; and that the Secretary of the church be authorized to reject all ministerial reports which do not properly belong to the General Conference of the church.

No. 362. Whereas, The Quorum of the Twelve deem it wisdom to appoint none as church missionaries who do not honor the Lord in "avoiding the use of tobacco," etc., as enjoined in the revelation of April, 1887, and

Whereas, Branch, and especially district presidents, are important church servants, therefore be it

Resolved, That we do respectfully call the attention of all Saints to the propriety of observing the example of the Twelve in appointing such officers, especially where others equally competent are available who do thus honor the Lord.

No. 363. Resolved, That ministers who are eligible to the law of tithing, and refuse to comply with it; or who ignore the law by neither paying nor making proper effort to pay, are not justly entitled to claim upon the church for family support.

No. 364. Resolved, That the work done by a committee appointed to compile acts of General Conferences binding upon the body, accepted by the conference of 1887, and referred to the Board of Publication "with authority to publish if deemed best by them," be completed, including similar acts that this conference has passed or may pass; that a committee be appointed to so complete the compilation, said committee to report its work for examination to the Board of Publication, which is requested to publish the completed work if practicable.

No. 365. A report was presented from the Young People's Mutual Improvement Society, of St. Joseph, Missouri, asking that action be taken toward complet ng



an organization of the young people's societies. The matter was "left with the society for such further action as they may deem best."

No. 366. The Presiding Bishop presented a special report, calling attention to the effort of the Bishopric "to provide for a special fund to aid the church in its work as emergency might arise, and provide for a suitable Home for Saints, when circumstances demanded the same," etc.

"A motion was adopted that this body approves of the movement for the object stated."

Adopted April 15, 1892.

The four following resolutions were presented by the Quorum of the Twelve:—

No. 367. 1st. Whereas, A question has arisen in regard to the right of a missionary in charge to move a missionary placed under him from one subdivision of his field to another, after the General Conference has ratified his appointment to the first subdivision, and, whereas, The missionary in charge is expected to direct the labor of all under him for the best good of the cause throughout his mission, resolved, That in our opinion the authority is vested in the missionary in charge to make all such changes of the above character as in his judgment are necessary to advance the church work, and in so doing he does not violate the sense of the General Conference action regarding the missionary whose field of operation is thus changed.

No. 368. 2d. Resolved, That we recognize the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants as the only standard works of the church; and it is our opinion that every other book, pamphlet, or other publication, should simply rest upon its own merits, the church being responsible only for that which it authorized to be done, or which it accepts after it is done.

No. 369. 3d. Sunday school and branch entertainments:—

The young, middle-aged, and aged, are alike under obligations to shun the evils of the world, and adhere to the teachings of the word of God. They are not their own, but having been "bought with a price," they belong to Christ. That which is immoral in its tendency, or that which will in anywise interfere with the perform-

ance of duty as presented to us in the Sacred Word, or that which tends to prevent us from rising to that high standard of thought and action to which all the Saints of God should aspire, should be excluded from the entertainments held in different branches of the church. And we believe that the enactment of tragedies should be avoided, and that purely frivolous display, or farces which embody no moral, as a prominent feature, are improper.

While in the very nature of the case it is difficult, if not impracticable, for us to denounce in a wholesale manner any class of performances known by a specific name, yet we may safely condemn all that we are unable to harmonize with the teachings of the sacred books of the church; that is, the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants. That which is harmless and pure in its character and tendency may safely be admitted; that which is not should be excluded. The holding of Sunday school and church entertainments for laudable purposes, when of a proper kind, are not only permissible, but commendable. The exercises, however, should be of such a character as will tend to develop the latent powers of mind in the young, and those of riper years, imparting broader views of morality and social enjoyment, thus imparting that innocent pleasure which inspires those who possess it to reach still higher after all that is elevating and instructive. We are further of the opinion that those who are in charge of Sunday schools and branches where these entertainments are to be had, may with proper care, be qualified to choose between that which is innocent and beneficial, and that which is not. All should so live as to enjoy that measure of the Spirit of truth which will prevent them from indulging in that which would lead them away from God.

No. 370. 4th. Action on Book of Rules:—

Whereas, We find certain portions of the "Rules of Order" to be in conflict with the revelation of 1890, and whereas, Said conflict has occasioned difficulty in certain quarters, and is likely to cause trouble hereafter, resolved, That we ask General Conference to order the following amendment; viz.:—

1. To strike out the last seven lines of section 4, and instead thereof insert the words, "organizations may be effected by the missionary in charge, or by the district

president with the consent, knowledge, and direction of the missionary in charge, when circumstances prevent the latter from being present; or by order of the conferences."

2. By striking out the first sentence of section 11, and inserting the following words in the place thereof: "Districts should be organized by direction of the conferences, or by the personal presence and direction of the Twelve, or some member of that quorum who may be in charge, if practicable."

No. 371. Resolved that . . . when conflict of authority, or difficulty arises in regard to branch boundaries, the matter be referred to the missionary in charge, for adjudication, and that his decision be final.

Adopted April 7, 1893.

No. 372. That the boundary lines of the Northern Illinois district be as follows:—

"Beginning at the Wisconsin line at the northwest corner of Winnebago county, Illinois, and running south, straight with the west side of said county to a line running due east from Pekin City, following said line to the Indiana state line, thence north to Lake Michigan, thence following the west shore to the southeast corner of Wisconsin, leaving the north boundary undefined."

Adopted April 8, 1893.

No. 373. That the Central Missouri district be disorganized. "That Ray county and all the territory lying west of said county, in said district, be added to the Far West district, and that Carroll county and all the territory lying east and north of said county, in said district, be added to the Northeastern Missouri district."

No. 374. Resolved, That the committee on encyclopedias be authorized to present the matter prepared by them to each publisher, or publishing company, of the standard encyclopedias and school histories, with request for publication; also to such of the magazines, journals, and papers as they may deem best calculated to accomplish the object of their appointment.

Adopted April 10, 1893.

No. 375. Resolved, That hereafter all reports of the general ministry, the Bishopric, and the Presidency, be

sent to the Church Secretary at least ten days prior to the time of assembling of any General Conference, and that the same may be presented to the publishing board, who shall publish the same in supplemental form, and send out with the *Herald*, and present a copy to each member of the conference; and that the reading of reports to the conference be dispensed with.

Adopted April 12, 1893.

No. 376. Resolved, That this conference favor the active prosecution of the work in the city of Chicago during the time of the Columbian Exposition, and that we encourage and sustain the missionaries in charge in making such special efforts in this direction as shall be deemed proper by them with the means the Bishop may be able to supply for the purpose.

No. 377. Resolved, That we consider the practice of dancing and card playing as unbecoming true Christians, and should be avoided by all Saints.

Adopted April 13, 1893.

No. 378. Resolved, That in our judgment much of the church history contained in the *Millennial Star* and also in *Times and Seasons* is of extremely doubtful character, and cannot be safely relied upon; therefore it should not be employed as authority in matters affecting the government of the church.

Adopted April 14, 1893.

No. 379. Presented by the First Seventy:—

“Resolved, That in the opinion of this quorum general church ministers who labor in the literary concerns of the church should conform to the provisions of the law in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, as found in the sections quoted as follows (70:3; 72:4). . . .”

“Resolved, further, That the Board of Publication be instructed to carry this resolution into effect in its management of the Herald Office.”

Adopted April 15, 1893.

No. 380. That we use our influence, and, so far as possible, aid the General Sunday School Association.

Adopted April 7, 1894.

No. 381. We your committee appointed to examine the resolution of the Eastern Iowa district relating to the term "Mormon," beg to report: That in view of the fact that the church has already officially placed itself on record as to name, designation, or title, and by incorporation in the states of both Illinois and Iowa has the stamp of legality affixed thereto, we see no necessity for this conference to take other action than to discourage the use of such term in both writing and speaking.

Adopted April 9, 1894.

No. 382. That Brn. E. L. Kelley, R. S. Salyards, and H. A. Stebbins be appointed to revise the acts of General Conferences that have already been compiled, and make them ready for publication, and report to this body.

Adopted April 10, 1894.

No. 383. Substance of committee report on boundaries of St. Louis district:—

That the counties so included be designated as Lincoln, Montgomery, Warren, St. Charles, St. Louis, Franklin, Gasconade, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Crawford, Washington, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, Perry, and Jefferson. . . .

We find that in Illinois the Illinois Central railroad line is already the eastern boundary of the St. Louis district, and we recommend that the northern boundaries of the following counties; to wit, Christian, Sangamon, and Morgan be the northern boundary of the St. Louis district, from the Illinois Central railroad line west to the Illinois river, and that the Illinois river be the western boundary of the district south to the southern boundary of Pike county, and thence the southern boundary of Pike county form the northern boundary to the Mississippi river.

Correction; We further recommend that all that part of Illinois lying west of the Illinois Central railroad line and south of the northern boundary herein defined be included in the St. Louis district.

Adopted April 11, 1894.

No. 384. The following was adopted in response to a request from the Western Wisconsin district that the state be divided into two districts:—

"That their petition be granted and the organization

of said districts be provided for; that the northern boundaries of Vernon, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee counties be the dividing line between the two districts."

No. 385. Resolved, That a committee on American Archæology be appointed, who shall report their labors to the General Conference, and as they deem necessary through the *Herald*, so that the church can have the benefit of their labors; that said committee be composed of five, three of whom shall be appointed by this conference, the remaining two to be selected by the committee at their discretion.

Adopted April 12, 1894.

No. 386.

REPORT OF JOINT COUNCIL.

The Joint Council of the First Presidency, Twelve, and High Priests, which has been holding sessions during this conference, made report, reading:—

To the Conference:—The Joint Council, in compliance with your request, presents the following report, which embraces what has been agreed upon.

1. Office in the Church of Christ is not conferred to distinguish, or glorify, or increase the importance of the person on whom it is conferred.

2. Office in the church is conferred for the purpose of accomplishing certain results designed in the instituting and establishing the church.

3. All offices in the church come properly under the head of the priesthood. Under this general head all the officers are arranged, there being two orders of priesthood; the Melchisedec and the Aaronic.

4. The scope of the present council is confined to an inquiry into the calling, duties, and prerogatives of the First Presidency, Twelve, and the Quorum of High Priests.

5. The President of the church is primarily appointed by revelation.

6. This appointment is confirmed by the vote of the church properly taken.

7. That the Presidency is the leading quorum in the church. That the duty of presiding over the church devolves on that quorum. That it is the prerogative of the President to preside over the whole church, to bear the responsibility of the care and oversight of the work

of the church, in all its different departments, and through the constituted officers of the church in their various callings, according to the laws, rules, and regulations in force and recognized by the church.

8. That it is the prerogative of the President to receive revelations from God and give them to the church for the direction and government of the affairs of the church.

9. That the members of the Presidency are leading interpreters and teachers of the laws and revelations of God, and are of right presidents of the General Assemblies of the church.

10. That the members of the Presidency are to preside over the High Council, and in the exercise of this duty to render decisions on important causes submitted to that council.

11. That it is the prerogative of the Presidency, to receive revelations from God through the President and present them to the church.

12. That the Presidency are the counselors of the Twelve and exercise the right of presidency by direction and council to that quorum.

13. That the calling and duties of the High Priests are those of standing or local presidency of branches, districts, conferences, or stakes, to the presidency of which they may be called, or appointed by the constituted authorities of the church, in accordance to the law.

14. That "the Twelve" are the second quorum in authority and importance in the general work of the church; and is the leading missionary body of laborers, under the direction and counsel of the Presidency, whose duty it is to preach the gospel, win souls to Christ, administer in the rites of the gospel, carry the gospel to this and every other nation, take charge of and direct other missionaries; and to do any work within their calling, which the necessities of the work and general welfare of the church may demand.

JOSEPH SMITH, President of Council.

HEMAN C. SMITH,  
HENRY A. STEBBINS, } Secretaries of Council.

Adopted April 14, 1894.

No. 387. That it is the sense of this conference that our ministry should confine themselves to the preaching of the gospel, and that they desist from preaching that which cannot be fully sustained by the standard works of the church.

No. 388. A blank form for ministry reports, also a form of summons to appear, before elders' courts, were adopted, with a provision that the Board of Publication furnish said forms.

Adopted April 17, 1894.

No. 389. Whereas, In the prosecution of the Temple Lot Suit, questions and settlement of title and property interests are likely to further arise requiring attention, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Bishopric be authorized and instructed to look after the same, if found necessary, and to take such steps as shall be deemed necessary for the good of the body and in justice to all parties concerned.

Adopted April 19, 1894.

No. 390. Resolved, That Lamoni, Iowa, be considered and declared to be the seat of the First Presidency of the church.

No. 391. The Presidency to whom the resolution on the subject of the resurrection was referred, report:—

That, While we are of the opinion that the standard books of the church clearly teach the unconditional resurrection of man, we believe it to be of doubtful propriety for the church to put unnecessary restrictions upon the ministry as to the manner of their teaching those doctrines and matters of faith which are of secondary importance; for, while possible injury may accrue to individuals, here and there, who may be inquiring for the word, from the advocacy of individual views held by some of the laborers in the field; we think such injury less hurtful to the general work than that which would result from the creation of a creed, or the putting restrictions upon the ministry in the form of resolutions restraining the liberty of inquiry and investigation, and censuring those who may venture into such investigation, upon what seems to them to be fair grounds.

We therefore recommend that the conference go no further than to say that it is the belief of the church that the doctrine of the resurrection provides for the rising from the dead, of all men, each in his own order, through the atonement wrought by Jesus Christ.



We cite from the Scriptures such passages as may be aids to understanding upon the subject: Doctrine and Covenants 28: 7, 8; 43: 5; 45: 10; 63: 13; 76: 3, 4, 7; 85: 6, 29. Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 6: 4, 6; Mosiah 8: 9; 11: 16. Alma 8: 10; 9: 3; 19: 4. Book of Nephi 11: 7; Book of Mormon 4: 6. Bible, John 5: 28; Acts 24: 15; 1 Cor. 15: 21, 22, 23, 25, 26; Rev. 20: 5, 12, 13; 21: 8; 22: 15.

No. 392. Presented by First Seventy:—

“Resolved, That we request President Joseph Smith to insert in section 121 Doctrine and Covenants a statement of the instruction given to the Seventy in 1885—that directing them to choose presidents of Seventy and instructing the presidents thus chosen to choose other Seventy—that it may be preserved with other important instruction given to the church and published in that section.”

Adopted April 8, 1895.

No. 393. The Quorum of the Twelve presented all the following resolutions under the above date:—

Resolved, That while we recognize the Seventy as the missionary force which is subject to the appointment and demand of the Twelve, yet under existing circumstances, we find it impracticable to appoint in complete harmony with the preambles and resolutions of one year ago.

Resolved, further, That we now proceed to appoint as nearly in harmony with our action of one year ago as the circumstances now confronting us will permit.

The action of the Twelve in 1894, referred to above, is as follows:—

“Whereas, High priests, elders, and priests are local or standing ministers to the church, (D. C. 107: 42; 120: 3; 17: 10, 25; 83: 22,) and,—

“Whereas, The local ministry are not under the law subject to appointment as general missionaries, and,—

“Whereas, The law says that ‘it is the duty of the Traveling High Council to call upon the Seventy, when they need assistance to fill the several calls for preaching and administering the gospel, instead of any others,’ (D. C. 104: 16,) and,—

“Whereas, The law provides for as many traveling ministers as ‘the labor in the vineyard of necessity requires,’ (D. C. 104: 43; 120: 3,) and,—

“Whereas, We deem it unwise that the Twelve should be burdened with anything more than that which is necessary in order to fulfill the duties of their calling, and,—

“Whereas, We believe that the church has reached that juncture in the progress of the work which will enable us now, or very soon to more fully harmonize with and carry out these provisions of Divine law, Therefore be it,

“Resolved by this council, That we take this method of notifying this conference and the whole church, that at the next convening of the General Conference we shall expect to appoint in harmony with the above statements and the law cited therein.”

No. 394. Whereas, It is understood that ministers who are appointed to labor as their circumstances permit, have no claim upon the treasury of the church for financial support; and whereas, It is the privilege and duty of all ministers to labor in their respective callings, in harmony with local authority, wherever and whenever they can, without an appointment from General Conference; therefore be it resolved, That we take this method of informing the church and ministry that hereafter we will discontinue the practice of so appointing, unless special and extraordinary reasons be furnished in favor of such appointments.

No. 395. Resolved, That in the event of an order by the conference to publish the revelation of April, 1894, in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, we request the body to indorse and order published in connection therewith, the proceedings of the Joint Council which was provided for in the revelation.

Adopted April 9, 1895.

No. 396. That this conference authorize and instruct the college committee to incorporate, as provided by the laws of Iowa, for institutions of learning.

No. 397. As presented by the Bishopric, to whom the question had been referred:—

1. That we fail to find any reference in the revelation of 1894 in regard to the support of families of district presidents, and hence nothing that could be construed to change in any regard the maintenance of any family from the plan set out in former church articles.

2. The common and universal rule of the church upon which any elder's family is supplied is based upon the law of necessity, and all are to be supplied according to their several needs under the supervision of the general church authorities, and can hardly expect any variation from the rule; for the revelation states, section 70, paragraph 3: "Behold, this is what the Lord requires of every man in his stewardship, even as I the Lord have appointed, or shall hereafter appoint unto any man." District presidents when under general appointment and giving their entire time, or, by agreement, a part, to church work in like manner, are supplied according to their needs.

Adopted April 11, 1895.

No. 398. "We indorse and recommend the use of tents for gospel work as being not only useful and economical, but as an available and effective means of reaching classes who would otherwise remain ignorant of the faith delivered unto us; therefore we recommend that district presidents and missionaries in charge be requested to aid and encourage the tent work throughout all their missions wherever it may be practicable."

No. 399. Whereas, In the prosecution of the college work it is likely that there will be need of a board of directors prior to the assembling of the next General Conference therefore be it

Resolved, That this body proceed to name a board of nine directors to be known as the College Board, who shall, under the articles of incorporation, have the usual authority of such boards, except as may be varied by such articles.

No. 400. In response to a petition from the St. Louis district a committee was appointed to compile music and words for the "Saints' Hymnal." The Hymnal was issued and subsequently approved by the conference.

Adopted April 12, 1895.

No. 401. Resolved, That we go upon record as believing that the act of conveying the emblems to those partaking forms a part of the work of "administering the sacrament," and, under the law, neither teachers, deacons, nor laity have right to serve in that capacity.

Adopted April 8, 1896.

No. 402. Resolved, That inasmuch as section 113 in Book of Doctrine and Covenants was not given by inspiration, but seems to be an individual statement relative to the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and in some degree has a tendency to do the church harm when used by the enemy as it is now published, that the President of the church and the Board of Publication be instructed to prepare and publish an explanation with said section.

Adopted April 9, 1896.

No. 403. The committee on American Archæology was instructed to complete its report, and to publish therewith the map prepared by its direction, in pamphlet form.

Adopted April 10, 1896.

No. 404. Whereas, We are at a disadvantage with some railroads, the Pennsylvania lines and others, in reference to permits, therefore be it resolved, That the President, Secretary, and Bishop are hereby requested to make effort to secure our rights and privileges in such matters and that the action before passed by us in this conference be hereby placed in the hands of this committee, to be consummated or not as shall be found advisable.

No. 405. Resolved, That the Board of Publication be instructed to inquire into the feasibility of purchasing *Zion's Ensign* with its printing plant and property at Independence, Missouri, and if the purchase shall be found possible at a price and terms suitable, the board be authorized to make said purchase as soon as found practicable.

No. 406. Whereas, The work attending the duties of General Secretary and Recorder for the church is increasing largely, and owing to the progress of the work will be still further increased, therefore be it

Resolved, That the offices be separated. . . .

No. 407. Elder R. S. Salyards was elected to the office of Church Secretary.

No. 408. Elder H. A. Stebbins was retained as Church Recorder.

No. 409. Whereas, There is a growing need that we have an authorized history of the church, therefore be it resolved that the body elect a General Church Historian.

“The matter was then referred to the Board of Publication with instructions to choose a historian.”

No. 410. Whereas, It is believed by some that in the Voice of Warning there is archæological matter, good in its time but which can now be replaced with later and better matter; and

Whereas, It is believed the Voice of Warning can be improved in several features;

Therefore be it resolved, That it be submitted to a committee of three for revision; and that the President of the Board of Publication with the committee review the work done, after which it be at once published by the board.

No. 411. On motion the office of the Church Secretary was designated as, “Secretary of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.”

Adopted April 11, 1896.

No. 412. The statement on the question of “Marriage and Divorce,” reported by a committee to the General Conference of 1895, and deferred for consideration at this conference, was amended and adopted, reading as follows:

We your committee to whom was referred the preamble and resolution upon the subject of marriage and divorce, pending Friday, April 13, 1894, as found upon page 34 of the published minutes of the session of conference for 1894, beg leave and report:—

“Whereas, There exists in the church no definite and positive understanding on the law governing divorce-ment, therefore be it resolved that there be a committee of three appointed to draft a statement of the law together with an explanation thereof governing the relationship of husband and wife, touching the following features:—

“1. Justifiable causes for separation of husband and wife.

“2. On what conditions can husband or wife whose companion is still living be privileged to marry again?

“3. The lawfulness or unlawfulness of receiving individuals into the church when having one or more companions living from whom they have been separated.

“4. The lawfulness or unlawfulness of expelling members from the church for separating from companions.

“5. As to whether we as a church should recognize that the divorce law of the land separates and frees in a gospel sense.”

1. Marriage is a condition of life between the sexes instituted by God at the creation of man, in which two individuals, man and woman, enter into an agreement to abide with each other for the purpose of companionship, mental, moral, and social, and for the purposes of procreation, named in the word as multiplying and replenishing, that “the earth might answer the end of its creation and be filled with the measure of man.”

2. This condition of life known as the domestic or marriage relation should not be entered into hastily, nor without due consideration upon the part of those being parties to it; and in all cases it should be understood that the covenant of marriage was to bind those entering into it for life. (Note a.)

3. The causes justifying separation between married persons are; (a) Adultery; (b) Abandonment without cause, constituting presumption of crime, referred to in Matthew 5:32. (Note b.)

4. Persons who have been married and who have afterwards been separated may marry other companions, on condition that the cause for separation was a justifiable one. When either party to a contract of marriage has so conducted himself toward the other that the presumptive cause referred to in Matthew 5:32, has occurred; the putting away being understood to be the act of either one, or both. (Note c.)

5. Persons who have separated from their companions for cause may be received by baptism into the church. The church being under obligation to observe the law of the land, where persons who have been legally separated from former companions and have remarried present themselves for baptism it is to be presumed that the separation sanctioned by the courts was for cause. Persons who at the time of being received into the church are married should be required to keep the contract of marriage then existing sacred, and fulfill it to the end. (Note d.)

6. Separation alone is not justifiable cause for expulsion from the church. (Note e.)

7. The church should recognize the acts of the courts

of the land under the existing law governing divorce-ment, when the acts of the offending party have been such that the putting away is the presumptive act of guilt referred to in Matthew 5: 32. (Note f.)

## NOTES.

Note a.—The church has already declared that there is but one sufficient cause for absolute separation of married persons; resolution presented at April session of conference for 1883 reads:—

“1. Whereas, We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock, for either man or woman—except in cases where the contract is broken by death or transgression; therefore,

“Resolved, That it is our understanding that in case of separation of husband and wife, one of which is guilty of the crime of fornication, or adultery, the other becomes released from the marriage bond, and if they so desire may obtain a divorce and marry again.”

At the session of 1884, this resolution was, on April 9, on proper motion adopted and became the rule of the church.

The law relied upon as the basis of this rule will be found in Genesis 2: 24; Matthew 19: 5; Book of Mormon, Book of Jacob 2: 6; Doctrine and Covenants 49: 3.

Note b.—The law of God as found in the books having no provision for divorce-ment, it is fair to presume that no separation of married persons was contemplated at the time marriage was instituted. However, the necessity having occurred, through lapse of time and man's perversity, Jesus makes statement of cause justifying separation; this cause is, adultery, unfaithfulness to the bond of marriage; and is in an additional statement, covered in the terms “putting away.”

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus, referring to the inadequateness of the law, declared:—

“Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”—Matthew 5: 32.

It is stated by Matthew in 19: 9, that Jesus taught thus:—

“Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adul-

tery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

In Mark 10: 11, 12, thus:—

"Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

Luke has it thus:—

"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."—Luke 16: 18.

Any extreme rendition of these passages will do injustice in every case where the husband, or wife is put away being innocent of the offense of adultery. Neither Mark, nor Luke has the justifying provision of adultery, or fornication: but this is found in both passages in Matthew, 5th and 19th chapters.

The declaration of the church in 1835 was that in "case of death," either party was at liberty to marry again.

The rule found in section 42, paragraph 7, Doctrine and Covenants forbids adultery, and makes the second offense one that the church may not forgive.

These taken with the statement of Jesus, Matthew 5: 32, warrant the belief that the married man, or married woman that is guilty of adultery becomes dead to the law of marriage, and justifies putting away.

A distinction must be made between "putting away" and divorcement; the last being but the legal recognition of the act of putting away. Jesus clearly makes this distinction, in the sermon, and in the teaching to the disciples, Matthew 19.

This "putting away" of either husband or wife, except for the one cause actually committed, is by the teaching of Jesus, Matthew 5: 32, made to be presumptive adultery; and in such case, the person so put away is sinned against; and if the person so putting away marries, the one put away is certainly free because the crime of adultery in fact has followed and the offending party is dead to the bond. The married man or woman, that puts away a companion being innocent of wrongdoing, is in the transgression, and is constructively guilty of adultery and causes the same wrong to attach to the one put away. If such act of putting away is followed by the marriage of either party the wrong is completed and the other, being innocent, is free.



Paul impresses the sacredness of the marriage bond in his teaching to the Corinthians, seventh chapter, first letter:—

“And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband; but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.”—1 Corinthians 7: 10, 11.

However, Paul, realizing the unsatisfactory condition surrounding the church, adds:—

“But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”—1 Corinthians 7: 15.

Paul’s statement evidently means that the duty of marriage, obligation to the legal performance of all the covenants imposed by marriage has ceased, and the person so released is no longer bound.

Note c.—Putting away is the primary cause of offense, or primary wrong in case of separation; divorcement being but the legal inquiry into the cause, recognition of the fact that a separation has occurred, and a final bar to further association under the bond of marriage. In such cases the presumption is that the legal cause exists and the parties must be considered free to form other associations as if the separated companion was dead in fact, as in transgression, and in law.

Note d.—The church having been designed as the institution into which the sons and daughters of men may be received and assisted to overcome through grace, the evils of their nature and become worthy to live, should not deny any who may be penitent and needing salvation; hence should receive those who have been separated from their companions, being put away, themselves not having been the guilty ones in transgression; and those who having been married again before making application for baptism, if legally divorced.

Note e.—No one should be expelled from the church except for good cause; hence, though one may be separated from a companion, if such separation does not involve transgression worthy of condemnation, it should not be a bar to fellowship. Doctrine and Covenants 42: 20.

Note f.—Putting away precedes divorcement, and so long as persons having been married are content to remain undivorced and unmarried, there may be reconciliation and an end of the separation; but when recourse has been had to the arbitrament of the courts of the land,

the separation, or putting away is complete; and where this is done before persons are baptized, the church cannot under existing conditions do otherwise than to assume that the divorcement has been for cause; hence must recognize the decree of such courts, "provided that nothing in this article shall be so construed as to prevent the inquiry provided for in Doctrine and Covenants 42: 20."

Adopted April 14, 1896.

No. 413. Resolved, That the First Presidency and Bishop be appointed a committee to protect the interest of the church in the Independence Temple Lot property.

No. 414. Whereas, We have found it impracticable to continue the rule of appointing men to labor as circumstances permit, resolved, That we refer all of the ministry who wish to labor thus to the district authorities where they desire to work.

No. 415. That the request of the Second Quorum of Seventy "that Bro. Columbus Scott be transferred from the First Quorum to the Second Quorum, as its president, be granted."

No. 416. That in the opinion of this council it is not advisable to organize an elders' quorum in the European mission.

The above was presented by a joint council of the Presidency and Twelve.

No. 417. Resolved, That in the opinion of this body it will be advisable to place Decatur district under the charge of the missionaries who are in charge of the territory in which said district is found.

No. 418. The First Presidency presented the following recommendation with their appointments of the Quorum of the Twelve:—

"We recommend that the quorum, by agreement as to fields and times of holding, appoint special conferences, visiting them two by two, in those places where it may be deemed such conferences may be productive of good results; at such conferences ascertaining the needs of the work in those places and instituting measures to more effectually organize and set at work the local ministry."

Adopted April 6, 1897.

No. 419. "The actions of a Joint Council composed of the President, a number of the Quorum of Twelve, and the Bishop, published with the minutes of 1896, in determining that Bro. A. H. Smith, President of the Twelve, should act as Counselor to the President during the conference year, and in appointing Bro. J. F. Burton to have charge of the Society Islands mission, were approved and ratified by the conference."

No. 420. That the . . . General Conference . . . authorize each district to issue letters of appointment to the missionaries laboring in the several districts who are spending their whole time in the ministry but who are not General Conference appointees.

No. 421. Bro. F. M. Smith was elected Church Librarian.

No. 422. That the sum of seventy-five dollars per year, already provided for the purchase of books, be expended by the Librarian with the advice and consent of the First Presidency.

No. 423. The committee appointed in 1896 to revise the Voice of Warning reported that for reasons good to them they had not proceeded with the work; among others, that if revised it would cease to be the work of the author. A statement of the President of the Board of Publication concurring in the conclusions of the committee was presented with the report.

The report was adopted, the committee discharged.

Adopted April 7, 1897.

No. 424. The Board of Publication reported that in harmony with action of the General Conference of 1896 they had made provision for getting out the History of the Church "by securing the services of Brn. Joseph Smith and Heman C. Smith to write and compile the history;" that one volume had been issued, the remainder being almost complete in manuscript, which in their judgment should be issued at the earliest practicable time; that they had "selected as Historian under the resolution referred to" them, "Bro. Frederick M. Smith, of Lamoni, Iowa, at a meeting of the board May 1, 1896."

“The action of the board in appointing a Historian, also its appointments providing for writing and compiling the Church History, were adopted.”

No. 425. A German manuscript translation of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, presented with request that it be examined and published if found acceptable, was referred to the Board of Publication.

Adopted April 10, 1897.

No. 426. Boundary lines of Pittsburg, Kirtland, and Ohio districts:—

The eastern boundary of the district, to be known as the Pittsburg district, is the seventy-seventh meridian.

The northern boundary from the seventy-seventh meridian westward to Erie county, Pennsylvania.

The western boundary includes Warren, Venango, Butler, Lawrence, and Beaver counties, Pennsylvania; also Jefferson and Belmont counties, Ohio; also Ohio and Marshall counties, West Virginia.

The southern boundaries to be the southern line of Pennsylvania to the seventy-seventh meridian.

The eastern line of the division, to be known as the Kirtland district, is the above-described line of the Pittsburg district as herein described.

The southern line is the fortieth parallel, the western boundary is the western line of the state of Ohio.

The northern boundary is the northern line of the state of Ohio.

Adopted April 12, 1897.

No. 427. A motion providing for publication of the revelation [of 1897] in the Doctrine and Covenants was adopted.

No. 428. A resolution providing for publication of the revelation of 1894 in the Doctrine and Covenants, was also adopted.

No. 429. Bro. Alexander H. Smith was ordained Counselor to the President, and Patriarch and Evangelical Minister to the whole church.

No. 430. Resolved, That we accede to the request of the [Church] Recorder that one be appointed to assist him.

No. 431. Elder W. H. Kelley was ordained President of the Twelve.

Adopted April 14, 1897.

No. 432. A form of license for the Seventy, reported by a joint council of the Seventy, was approved and adopted.

Adopted April 15, 1897.

No. 433. "A resolution to adopt that portion of the Second Seventy's report pertaining to license, to grant the request, and authorize the President and Secretary to issue the licenses to the Seventy as general officers of the church, was adopted." That portion of the report is as follows:—

That we petition the body for a license signed by the President and Secretary of the church showing our ordination and authority as seventies in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

No. 434. The Second Seventy presented the following:—

"Whereas, By our action at this conference district presidents have been authorized to issue certificates of appointment to local ministers, same to labor in their districts; and,

"Whereas, The law locates the responsibilities of missionary work with the traveling councils of the church; be it

"Resolved, That district presidents who contemplate making appointments as before provided, be required to consult with and secure the consent of the missionary in charge of their districts before making such appointments and issuing certificates."

"It was moved to amend by striking out the word 'presidents' in the preamble. This prevailed. The following was then moved and adopted as a substitute for the resolution":—

"Resolved, That districts be required to consult with and secure the consent of the missionary in charge before making such appointments."

"The report of the Second Seventy, as amended, and as affected by the substitute concerning district appointments, was adopted."

Adopted April 15, 1897.

No. 435. Resolved, That the Board of Publication be instructed to compile and publish a complete concordance of the Book of Mormon as speedily as possible.

Suggestions Nos. 1 and 2, contained in the report of Bishop Kelley, were adopted, as follows:—

No. 436. That the reports of Bishop's agents be closed the thirty-first day of December of each year, instead of the first day of March, as at the present; and that the Bishop's report close the thirty-first day of December instead of the fifteenth of March, as under the present rule, so that ample time will be had to complete report and have same audited by the first of April.

No. 437. The printing and sending out circulars known as "Ministry Reports" has, together with the publishing of conference minutes for the year, amounted to the sum of \$197.12. It is a question of whether we can afford to pay for this matter each year an amount almost sufficient to keep an elder in the field for a year. If the reports necessary to the transaction of the business of the conference were made by those in charge of missions, with the provision that in case of any dissatisfaction on the part of any laborer in the field he should have the privilege of presenting his objections to the President of the church or General Conference for consideration, it would answer the purpose as completely as does the present, and save the expense to the church.

No. 438. Suggestion No. 4, that additional office room be provided for the department of the Bishopric, was referred to the Presidency and Bishopric with power to act.

No. 439. "A resolution was adopted authorizing the Bishop to provide blank forms for financial reports of the ministry."

Adopted April 16, 1897.

No. 440. Whereas, Vacancies sometimes occur in quorum organizations, by reason of ordinations or other causes, too late to be filled at regular meeting of such quorum; and, in consequence of the present system of filling vacancies, such vacancies must remain unfilled till such a time as a meeting can be held, and our quorums are thus crippled for one or more years, therefore be it,

Resolved, That when such vacancies occur in a quorum of elders, priests, teachers, or deacons they may be filled by the unanimous concurrence of the officers of such quorum; and that vacancies so filled must be filled from applications coming through the Church Secretary;

members so enrolled to be subject to ratification of members of quorums.

No. 441. The Presidency, to whom was submitted the matter of the Nauvoo district and the boundary line between the Northern and Southern Illinois districts, hereby report:—

That the Nauvoo district has never been considered as belonging to the Northern Illinois district, although the line of division between it and the Southern Illinois district runs south of Hancock and Adams counties in Illinois, which counties are in the Northern Illinois district, as are Brown and Pike, the latter being in the Southern district.

Part of the Nauvoo district lies in Missouri; the larger part of the district, however, lies in Iowa. We therefore recommend that the district be under the joint jurisdiction of the missionaries in charge of the Missouri and Southern Illinois, the Northern Illinois and Wisconsin and the state of Iowa; the three to confer and agree as to which one of the three the authorities of the district should report to, and have immediate charge; and in case the three fail to agree, the Presidency will then decide; and appoint accordingly, subject to conference action and approval.

JOSEPH SMITH,  
ALEX. H. SMITH, } Of the Presidency.  
E. L. KELLEY,

LAMONI, Iowa, April 16, 1897.

No. 442. We your committee to whom was referred the defining of "the duties, powers, and privileges of the Auditing Committee," beg leave and report as follows:—

In our opinion it is the duty of the Auditing Committee to examine carefully all accounts, compare the several entries with the corresponding vouchers, and to determine as to the real possession of balance on hand, if any. If accuracy be found to so certify; if otherwise, to point out errors to the body appointing.

It is the privilege of such a committee to determine the value of all stock, machinery, tools, and other appurtenances of the Herald Office plant, bringing to their aid such expert help as may be required to insure correctness, so far as possible. It is expected that they treat with courtesy the employees of the Herald and Bishop's offices, as they may expect from them the same, with

such aid as can be bestowed by them without undue interference with duties otherwise imposed.

The time and place of the work be left discretionary with the committee; provided, however, that the work be completed in time, that the duly certified report may be presented to the ensuing General Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. TERRY.

R. M. ELVIN.

FRED B. BLAIR.

LAMONI, Iowa, April 16, 1897.

No. 443. "In addition to the general licenses provided for the Seventy, the President and Secretary were authorized to issue licenses to the Patriarch and all other general officers of the church."

No. 444. Elder Heman C. Smith was elected Church Historian. He was authorized to nominate an assistant.

No. 445. "A request from the Fourth Quorum of Elders for a pamphlet in answer to Elder B. H. Roberts' work on 'Succession,' was referred to the Board of Publication."

Adopted April 7, 1898.

No. 446. That our present practice of publishing an itemized account of all moneys placed in the hands of the Bishop be continued.

Adopted April 8, 1898.

No. 447. "Instead of defining the boundaries of these districts [Southeastern Illinois and St. Louis] by railroad lines, we believe it would be better to establish boundaries by county lines. Hence we recommend that the following counties compose the Illinois part of the St. Louis district; namely, Morgan, Scott, Macoupin, Greene, Calhoun, Jersey, Madison, Bond, Clinton, Saint Clair, Monroe, Washington, Randolph, Perry, Jackson, Union, and Alexander; and that the Southeastern Illinois district be composed of the following counties: Sangamon, Macon, Moultrie, Douglas, Edgar, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Shelby, Christian, Montgomery, Fayette, Effingham, Jasper, Crawford, Lawrence, Richland, Clay, Marion, Jefferson, Wayne, Edwards, Wabash, White, Hamilton, Franklin, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Hardin, Pope, Johnson, and Massac, all in Illinois."



No. 448. "We, your committee, to whom was referred the resolution looking to a uniform system of reporting missionary work to the church, by the missionaries in charge, report as follows:—

"1. The cost of getting out suitable blanks to be used by the missionaries in charge, would largely defeat the purpose had in view by the conference when it abolished the practice of publishing all the reports of the missionaries in supplement form; namely, the saving of means.

"2. In our judgment the mistake of making our reports too lengthy, and the lack of uniformity (so far as that lack may be undesirable and injurious), may be corrected without the use of blanks. A free interchange of thought among the missionaries in charge, together with a careful comparison of the reports already made, will go far to bring about needed reform. And so far as the general remarks of these reports are concerned, this is the only proper way in which the error of being too lengthy can be corrected.

"3. As one means of greater uniformity we advise that the missionaries in charge be instructed to report the total number of sermons, baptisms, ordinations, public debates, and new openings made for preaching the word; also the number of General Conference appointees laboring in their respective missions, with the general average number of sermons preached by each missionary."

Adopted April 9, 1898.

No. 449. As presented by the Quorum of Twelve:—

As a quorum we have considered the question referred to us—the right of teachers and deacons to publicly preach—and report as follows:—

Whereas, The law contained in section 17, paragraph 11, Doctrine and Covenants, clearly authorizes teachers and deacons to "take the lead of meetings, . . . to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ;" and,

Whereas, In section 42, paragraph 5, teachers are required, together with elders and priests, to teach the principles of the gospel; and in section 120, paragraph 2, either of said officers is permitted to preside; and,

Whereas, In our judgment said duties include in their performance what is commonly understood to be *preaching*; and,

Whereas, In section 83, paragraph 22, teachers and deacons are limited in their duties to local service,

Resolved, That in our judgment teachers and deacons are authorized by the law to labor as preachers within branches to which they belong, when they are presidents thereof, or with the advice and consent of the chief presiding officer.

No. 450. "Whereas, There is in Shinn's School History of America, pages 289 and 290, an extremely gross misrepresentation of the teaching and contents of the Book of Mormon;

"Therefore be it resolved, That we take this opportunity to express our regret at such uncalled for treatment from one who could so easily have obtained a knowledge of the truth; and we hereby call the attention of our committee on encyclopedias and histories to this matter, and request them to take measures to provide at once that said history be corrected."

No. 451. Resolved, That the Secretary be and is hereby authorized to devise and have printed a blank form of delegate credentials; and that a copy or copies be sent to each district or branch entitled to representation, prior to the convening of each General Conference.

Adopted April 12, 1898.

No. 452. Resolved, That the Board of Publication be requested to publish the third volume of Church History as soon as practicable.

No. 453. We, your committee to whom was referred the matter of members of elders' quorums being dropped for failure to report for two years or longer, report as follows:—

1. It is evident to us that quorum rules are not explicit and full in every particular, but as branches may make some rules affecting their procedure, so may quorums.

2. We believe, under this head, your body has recognized such reports of quorums, and such procedure by them for ten years or more; the practice first having originated with the Fifth Quorum shortly after its organization in 1884.

3. We call your attention to the fact that practically the effect has been to reconstruct and infuse new life into the quorums acting upon this rule, and therefore it seems to be a good one.

4. We would suggest that in our opinion the man or men dropped from a quorum for such cause loses his quorum standing and quorum license, and is merged among the mass of elders who are not organized.

Adopted April 13, 1898.

No. 454. That the conference minutes published in pamphlet form be numbered, in paging, in the ascending scale—continuing from the last issue.

Adopted April 14, 1898.

No. 455. The scattering members not enrolled upon branch records be instructed to unite with branches most convenient to their places of residence.

No. 456. That members changing their residences from branches where enrolled, be instructed to unite with branches most convenient to places where they reside.

No. 457. Whereas, In the past members have obtained letters of removal which they have not presented to any branch, whereby such names have been removed from the general records of the church,

Resolved, That letters of removal be issued only to persons actually changing residence from one branch to another, and that names of branches to which removals are made be included in said letters of removal.

No. 458. A petition from the Eastern Iowa district concerning boundary lines between that and the Des Moines district was referred to said districts with permission to establish said boundary lines.

Adopted April 15, 1898.

No. 459. 1. That the west line of the Central and Southern Nebraska districts be on the west line of Keyapaha, Brown, Blaine, Custer, and Dawson to the Platte river; thence east on the Platte river to the west line of Kearney county, thence south on the west line of Kearney and Franklin counties to the southern line of the state.

2. That the south line of the Northern and Central Nebraska districts shall be the Platte river, as formerly.

3. That all that part of Nebraska west of the Central and Southern Nebraska districts, be considered unorganized territory.

Adopted April 16, 1898.

Recommendations of the First Presidency accompanying appointments of the Twelve: —

No. 460. That suitable subdivisions of fields be made and competent men placed in charge as soon as practicable.

No. 461. It is to be understood if there should be any territory not included in these appointments, such territory is not exempt, but is still under the supervision of the missionaries thus appointed.

No. 462. Whereas, The financial report of the Board of Trustees of Graceland College shows a large indebtedness, to the proper payment of which the church is morally in honor bound; and believing that the church should use that department of its working forces which the law creates to be the financial agents for the accomplishment of its financial ends; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Bishopric be hereby authorized and instructed to devise and make such arrangements for the collection of means as may be adequate, and out of such means so collected, and such funds of the church as are not otherwise appropriated, liquidate the indebtedness, and provide for the further carrying out of the desires of the church heretofore expressed in conference enactments directing the establishment of an institution of learning to be maintained by the church.

No. 463. Whereas, The Lord has spoken against the use of tobacco and strong drink on different occasions; and whereas, In all our appointments we ought to show respect unto said counsel. Therefore, resolved, That henceforth we recommend no man for General Conference appointment whom we know to be addicted to either of the above evils, and that this decision take effect one year from date.

Adopted April 18, 1898.

No. 464. Resolved, That the Church Librarian be authorized to choose an assistant if he shall so desire.

Adopted April 9, 1900.

No. 465. Resolved, That the Board of Publication continue the publication of *Autumn Leaves*, and that the executive committees of the Religio and the Sun-

day School Association be consulted in the choice of its editors.

No. 466. Moved, That this body indorse the appointment by the President, of the committee to meet the brethren of the Church of Christ at Independence, and that this report be spread upon the minutes and the committee continued.

April 10, 1900.

No. 467. Attention was called to Book of Rules, section 177, paragraph 1.

The chair made the following ruling:—

Upon the subject of the report of committee on credentials on the Honolulu branch, the President rules that a branch of more than twenty-five members is entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five of its membership, the same as a district.

Adopted April 10, 1900.

No. 468. We your committee to whom a petition from parties from Central Illinois was referred, asking for the formation of a new district to be known as the Central Illinois district, including the four following counties now in the Nauvoo district; Pike, Brown, Adams, and Schuyler, beg leave to report as follows:—

After a careful examination of the petition and the map of the said district, we believe that it will be to the advantage of the work to grant the petitioners their request, and in order that the boundary lines may be more easily determined, we recommend the following counties compose the new district: Bound northwardly as follows: Adams, Schuyler, Mason, Logan, Dewitt, Piatt, Champaign, and Vermillion counties, also Edgar on the east. Southwardly as follows: Coles, Shelby, Christian, Sangamon, Morgan, Scott, and Pike counties, including the interior counties, Brown, Cass, Menard, Macon, Moultrie, and Douglas. In this it became expedient to take two counties from the St. Louis district; namely, Morgan and Scott. seven from the Southeastern district; namely, Macon, Moultrie, Douglas, Edgar, Coles, Shelby, and Christian; four from the Nauvoo district, Pike, Brown, Adams, and Schuyler counties. This being done by mutual consent, we hereby recommend that the new district herein named be granted to the petitioners and ratified by this conference.

Adopted April 11, 1900.

No. 469. We your committee to whom was referred the petition from the Northern Michigan and Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana districts asking that three counties be taken from the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana district and given to the Northern Michigan district; viz., Oceana, Newaygo, and Mecosta counties, beg leave to report.

We find that this request has been agreed upon by both districts at their conferences, and believe it would be to the advantage of the work, therefore we recommend that the request be granted.

No. 470. Resolved, That this conference request each of the several quorums and all other departments to prepare a record of their work for the Church Historian for each year's report.

Adopted April 12, 1900.

No. 471.

#### REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

##### DUTIES OF DEACON.

The following report of the committee composed of the Presidency, the Twelve, and the Bishopric, upon the subject of the Duties of the Deacon, submitted at the session of conference held at Independence, Missouri, last April, will be the report of that committee to the next session of conference to be held at Lamoni, Iowa, according to the terms of resolution upon which the session adjourned.

It will be understood that this report is not published as the final action of the church upon the subject named in the resolution referring it, but is the report of the action of the committee, and published as their report to the conference when it shall convene, and is subject to approval or disapproval at such session; the object of publication being that the subject matter of it may be taken cognizance of by all who may be interested in the subject, and may desire to take part in the discussion and action of conference upon it when it shall come up in its place before the conference, to be determined upon its merits:—

REPORT OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY, TWELVE, AND BISHOP-  
RIC, ON "THE DUTIES OF A DEACON."

The committee composed of the Presidency, the Twelve, and the Bishopric, to which the following resolution presented to the late session of conference held at Independence, Missouri, April 6-18, 1898, was referred for consideration and report, do so report, as follows:—

The resolution presented to conference was:—

"Be it resolved by this body, in conference assembled, That we concur in and hereby adopt the definition of the duties of a deacon as defined by President Joseph Smith in *Herald* of June 15, 1871, and No. 25, vol. 31, of *Saints' Herald*.

C. F. CHURCH.

C. E. BLAIR."

The resolution of the conference by which that matter was referred, is:—

"Resolved, That a committee, consisting of the First Presidency, the Twelve, and the Bishopric, be appointed, to whom this matter be referred, with the request that they report as soon as practicable to the General Conference what in their judgment are the duties belonging to the office of deacon in the church."

This committee met in the church at Independence, Missouri, April 19, 1898, at nine a. m., and proceeded to the duties assigned them.

After a consultation of several hours the committee by a majority vote adopted the following as their judgment upon the matter submitted to them:—

"Resolved, That we approve of the duties set forth in the article referred to as a rule of action to aid the deacon in his labor, in addition to his duties as made plain in the law (D. C. 17:11) as a standing minister to the church, under the direction of the proper officers placed over him in the law."

The committee directed the Chairman and Secretary of the council to compile from the said article in the *Herald*, referred to in the resolution before the conference, the duties named therein and incorporate them in the report to be made of the action of the committee thereon. Those duties thus compiled from said article as stated in paragraphs 32 and 36, with the preliminary explanation at the beginning of paragraph 32, are as follows:—

"We have elsewhere written that every branch must have a place of meeting. This place of meeting, if a public building, hall, or meetinghouse, or church, must be in the actual possession of the association of church members worshipping there, at least during its occupancy while worshipping; and if the property is owned by the church, some one must have constructive possession at all times. What particular officer of the church has precedence of right in this constructive possession? The right to carry the keys; open the doors; conduct visitors, either those belonging or not belonging to the church; to see that the floors, doors, windows, pulpit or stand, seats, table or stand, lamps and other fixtures are clean and in good order; to open the doors at the hour of gathering for preaching, fellowship, prayer, or business meetings; to see that the lamps or candles are trimmed, lighted, and burning, in time for evening meetings; to see that the members coming in find seats; to keep watch over the Saints during meetings, repressing loud talking, whispering and laughing, reproving the thoughtless, and rebuking the giddy; putting a prompt stop to rude, indecent, and boisterous acts, by which the propriety, solemnity, and peace of the meetings may be disturbed; to exercise kind and diligent supervision over the health and comfort of the Saints while in meeting, by securing a proper ventilation of the room; to light and keep burning the fires by which the room is kept warm; to have charge of the treasury; to receive, disburse, and account for the contributions of the Saints, intended for necessary and incidental expenses of the association of members; to keep, preserve from damage, and account for all personal effects of the association; to visit the poor, ascertain their needs, and report the same to the church; and in fact, to perform any and all of those necessary duties by which the welfare of the Saints is secured through a careful administration of the outward ordinances, a faithful employment of the talents entrusted to that man. It follows then of a necessity that the right, the duty of the performing these acts,—these unwritten but essential things of the law, devolve upon the office of deacon."

JOSEPH SMITH, Chairman.

J. W. WRIGHT, Secretary.

Adopted April 13, 1900.

No. 472. The request of the President, in his report, that he be authorized to employ an office assistant or



secretary, and for office facilities, fixtures, etc., was granted.

No. 473. The request of the Patriarch, that he be furnished a stenographer, was granted. This was followed by a motion "that it be declared the sense of this body that such stenographer be placed on a ministerial basis."

Adopted April 14, 1900.

No. 474. Whereas, The report of the committee appointed to audit the Bishop's books shows that the books are not fully posted to date, and are therefore not in a satisfactory condition, and the publication of said report would no doubt be prejudicial to the Bishop and the financial interests of the church; and, whereas, The statements of the Bishop freely express the fact that because of the numerous demands made upon him he has not had time to place his books in a proper condition for a full report to this conference; and whereas, The report of the committee of experts recommends a more complete system of bookkeeping than has hitherto been in use in the Bishop's office; therefore, be it resolved, That the Bishop be and is hereby instructed to secure bookkeepers who shall assist him to make a complete examination of all his books, papers, and accounts of former years, and make a complete report from the time he became Presiding Bishop; that said report be presented to an auditing committee who shall be appointed by this conference, and that we suggest to the Bishop the advisability of adopting as far as practicable the method suggested by the expert committee; and be it further resolved, That the auditing committee herein referred to, is hereby instructed to report at as early a date as possible to a general committee which shall consist of the President of the Church, three apostles to be appointed by the Quorum of the Twelve, and three high priests to be appointed by the Quorum of the High Priests, which committee under the chairmanship of the President shall have full power to act and make such published report as soon as possible.

Adopted April 16, 1900.

No. 475. Recommendations of committee appointed to audit report of Treasurer of Graceland College:—

We recommend that a complete system of bookkeeping

by double entry be devised, suitable to fully show all transactions, the acquirement and disposition of all classes of property, the receipt and disbursements of moneys, the classification of accounts, in fact a complete history of the business, with such helps and forms as will most greatly facilitate the work of keeping such accounts, and their audit from time to time.

We again urgently advise the opening up of perfect books of account of all transactions, and suggest the propriety of such books being formed, written up, and posted, so as to show all transactions, from the beginning of the organization.

No. 476. That part of the Church Recorder's report referring to an assistant in his department, was referred to the committee appointed by the conference of 1897 on the same matter.

No. 477. The committee to whom was referred the petition of the Maysville and Fairland branches report as follows: After due consideration we recommend that the thirty-sixth parallel of north latitude be the south boundaryline of the Spring River district, both in Indian Territory and Arkansas, and that this be the north line of the Southwestern mission.

No. 478. Proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of Graceland College were referred to a committee, which reported they had compared the amendments and Articles and indicated by pencil the corrections necessary to correct reading of the Articles as amended.

On motion the reading of the Articles as they would stand if amended was waived.

The report of the committee, and the amendments were adopted, also the Articles as amended. See Articles, No. 493.

Adopted April 18, 1900.

No. 479. Presented by the First Seventy:—

The following action was passed upon and concurred in by the Second Seventy, which is herewith presented for your consideration and adoption upon missionaries reporting to General Conference: Whereas, The old time long and tedious method was superseded by the printed pamphlet reports; and, whereas, The pamphlet system,

because of its expense, and probable lack of being read by the masses, was also dispensed with; and, whereas, The present method of reporting to missionaries in charge, and their summarizing of reports is irregular, because of its variations in the method of different missionaries, and in effect resulting in but little more than statistics, and that imperfectly; and, whereas, By letters to *Herald* and *Ensign*, and also by mutual correspondence to the field forces among themselves, and missionaries in charge with the Presidency, the conditions in the field are sufficiently known so as to afford information for the appointment of missionaries; therefore we recommend that the reports of all missionaries be published in the *Herald*, previous to the convening of conference in the subjoined form:—

[See page 266 General Conference Minutes for blank form.]

No. 480. That the new Board of Publication be instructed and authorized to secure transfer of the *Ensign* office property and plant to the church as soon as practicable.

No. 481. Resolved, That the Board of Publication provide blanks to be sent to the missionaries as early as January 1 of each year, upon which they are to report to the Church Secretary not later than March 1, to compile for publication in the *Herald*, said blanks to be in accordance with the tabulated form of reporting as previously adopted.

No. 482. That we reaffirm the action of the conference of two years ago providing that the Bishopric take measures to liquidate the college debt.

No. 483. Elder F. E. Cochran was appointed Church Librarian, vice Elder F. M. Smith resigned.

No. 484. The following was referred to the Bishopric:—  
Resolved, That a committee, consisting of the Bishopric, be appointed by the body to formulate a plan by which one thousand subscribers of twenty-five dollars each shall be secured towards paying off the indebtedness of Graceland College, with the understanding that no money shall be called for until the thousand names are secured and the entire amount is thus pledged.

No. 485. The Bishopric reported as follows on the matter of making provision to liquidate the college indebtedness:—

For the purpose of paying off the debt against Grace-land College, subscriptions to the number of one thousand shall be taken of \$25 each, to be paid when the full number has been obtained. Persons who pay more than this amount shall be counted per amount subscribed on the \$25 basis. Parties who cannot pay full amount of one shall be counted as a part in proportion to amount, until the full one thousand subscriptions are had.

E. L. KELLEY.

G. H. HILLIARD.

E. A. BLAKESLEE.

No. 486. That in making reports to the General Conferences, all quorums be instructed to include names of members received into or dropped from said quorums.

No. 487. We the officers of the Fourth Quorum of Elders ask that the names that were ordered to be enrolled and organized as the Seventh Quorum of Elders, which organization has never been effected, be turned over to the Fourth Quorum for enrollment.

J. W. GILBERT, Secretary.

A. BARR, President.

Adopted April 20, 1900.

No. 488. The committee on compilation of General Conference resolutions were authorized to publish as soon as possible.

No. 489. A motion prevailed that the Church Secretary be authorized to cancel the enrollments of quorums reported to the General Conference of 1898, the organization of which was not then completed; viz., Sixth Quorum of Priests, Fourth Quorum of Teachers, Fifth Quorum of Teachers, and Fourth Quorum of Deacons; and those so enrolled to be permitted to join other quorums.

Adopted April 21, 1900.

No. 490. The First Presidency presented the following concerning the appointment of bishops, stating that the action has been concurred in by the Quorum of Twelve and the Quorum of High Priests:—

To the Brethren in Conference Assembled:—Having

been led thereto by the leadings of the Spirit, as we understand them, we feel assured that the time for the beginning of the appointment of Bishops, as seems suggested by the revelation of 1873, has come; we present for consideration the following names to be set apart for ordination as Bishops: C. A. Parkin, San Francisco, California; C. J. Hunt, Deloit, Iowa; Ellis Short, Independence, Missouri; R. May, Independence, Missouri; William Anderson, Lamoni, Iowa; J. Zimmermann, Philadelphia; R. Bullard, Boston, Massachusetts; William Leeka, Thurman, Iowa; George P. Lambert, Rock Creek, Illinois; Thomas Taylor, Birmingham, England.

If approved, we request that such ordinations be provided for and attended to upon their acceptance of the appointment as named.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH SMITH, for Presidency.

If approved, those not present can be referred to the Presidency for ordination as soon as found practicable.

LAMONI, Iowa, April 21, 1900.

No. 491. Resolved, That the First Presidency ordain these bishops at their earliest convenience.

No. 492. Resolved, That those selected as bishops, and ordained and those to be ordained, be authorized to select their counselors, to be ordained by direction of the Presidency of the Church.

No. 493.

AMENDED INCORPORATION AND ASSOCIATION ARTICLES OF GRACELAND COLLEGE, LAMONI, DECATUR CO., IOWA.

Statement:—For the purpose of establishing an institution of learning of an academical and collegiate character and providing a means of higher education and literary attainment in the town of Lamoni; Decatur Co., Iowa, for the benefit of all persons who are able to enter the same as provided in the course of study, without distinction of sex, caste, or religion, the undersigned incorporators do hereby associate themselves together and make and adopt articles as follows:—

Article 1.—The association assumes to itself all the powers and privileges conferred by chapter two (2), title nine (9), Code of Iowa, and such parts of chapter one (1), title nine (9), as are applicable to associations of an

academical or collegiate character; and shall exist as provided therein for the period of fifty years from the date of filing of these Articles of Association in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Decatur County, Iowa; and said corporation may be renewed at the expiration of fifty years.

Article 2.—The association shall be named and known as Graceland College.

Article 3.—It shall be the purpose of the association to establish and maintain in the town of Lamoni, Decatur County, Iowa, a school of an academical and collegiate character, which may include collegiate, scientific, normal, law, and such other departments with such course of instruction and elective studies as the Board of Trustees may determine, and transact all business, including the conferring of degrees, which the Board may do, such as are usual to institutions of this kind; the principal place of business of which shall be at Lamoni, in county and State before-named.

Article 4.—The officers of this association shall consist: first: Of a committee of seven, to be known as the Board of Trustees, whose duty it is to look after the property of the institution, disposing of the same, as provided herein, and erect and maintain all buildings which are necessary to said institution for properly carrying on its work as may be determined by them.

The Board of Trustees shall be elected by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at its General Conferences as the offices become vacant according to the order of classification herein set out and provided for. The officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a chairman, secretary, and treasurer, who shall hold their offices at the pleasure of the Board; but the secretary and treasurer may or may not be members of the Board of Trustees. A majority of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall be a quorum for transaction of business.

The committee duly appointed and authorized by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, of which said College is under the patronage, to be known as Trustees, and to act, under these articles, for the year beginning April, 1895, are as follows:—

Class 1.—For one year—E. L. Kelley, Dan Anderson, Lamoni, Iowa; Robert Winning, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Class 2.—For two years—Joseph Smith and William Anderson, Lamoni, Iowa.

Class 3.—For three years—E. A. Blakeslee, Galien, Michigan, and Ellis Short, Standley, Indian Territory.

The officers duly selected and authorized to act by said committee are: Joseph Smith, Chairman, Wm. Anderson, Treasurer, D. F. Nicholson, Secretary.

Article 5.—The Board of Trustees shall have power to perform the duties usual to such officers of similar institutions; except as they may be changed herein, and shall provide for suitable buildings, rooms, library, apparatus, incidentals, etc., for use according to the demands and interests of the College work, and as may be determined by them in connection with the Board of Trustees of said College hereinafter named, from any funds provided by said incorporation for such purpose; but they shall not take or use any donation or fund made, given, or decreed to the use of certain special purposes—such as the establishing or founding of any chair or professorship in said institution—and appropriate for building or incidental purposes which may be inconsistent with or contrary to the terms of the gift or donation.

Article 6.—The members of said Board of Trustees shall be divided into three classes: three of whom shall hold their offices for the period of one year from the time of the first election: two for two years, and two for three years, and each member selected thereafter shall hold his office for three years, unless removed for cause or such election is to supply or fill vacancy. The members shall determine at the time of the organization of said Board the length of term to which each shall be at first entitled to act. Said Trustees shall have authority to provide for and call special meetings for the furtherance of their work as they shall deem best, and to the interests of said institution.

Article 7.—The Board of Trustees shall employ and provide for such number of professors and teachers and such curriculum or course of study as shall fully meet the wants of those desiring the advantages of a good academical and collegiate education, and for the giving of diplomas and conferring of degrees as provided by the articles herein, in the manner usual to such institutions, and provide such rules and regulations as shall be necessary for the control and proper government of said Col-

lege; and in case of a vacancy occurring in the office of the President of the College, the President of the Board of Trustees shall act as President pro tempore, until the vacancy is filled.

Article 9.—The Board of Trustees shall annually during commencement week or immediately thereafter meet at the principal place of business noted herein, and shall perform the duties and work herein set forth of such officers; viz.:—

Of the selection of professors and teachers for the ensuing year; providing for janitor; arrange or adopt course of study for said institution; and perform any and all other duties required for the good of the same, not enjoined upon Board of Trustees herein.

Article 10.—In case of a failure at any time to elect or procure suitable officers or instructors, it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to meet on the first Monday thereafter at ten o'clock a. m., and proceed with such business, and so on each week until all necessary and proper officers and instructors are chosen. Special meetings of said Board may be had at any time by a call by the President and Secretary of the same, or by a majority of the said Trustees, which call shall be in writing and by notice given or mailed to each member; but a majority of said Board present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article 11.—The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys belonging to the association or due from scholarships, tuition, or incidentals; report all collections at the time to the Secretary, and keep an accurate account of the same; pay out money only to the written order of the President and Secretary of the Board; and shall be the custodian of all the funds and personal property of the association, and shall report to the association annually, and at such other times as he may be directed by the Board of Trustees.

Article 12.—The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate account of all the proceedings of the Board, and perform such other duties as usually devolve upon secretaries of similar Boards; and shall keep a true account of all collections, sales of real estate, donations, contributions, and stock, and turn over the same to the Treasurer and take his receipt therefor at the time of delivery.



Article 13.—The Treasurer and Secretary of this association shall each, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of their respective offices, execute and deliver to the association a bond in a sum not less than two thousand dollars, to be fixed by the Board of Trustees, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties, with sureties to be approved by the Board, and for their services they shall receive such sum only as the Board shall fix at a regular meeting of the same.

Article 14.—It shall be the duty of the President of the College to take charge of and preside at all meetings and gatherings of the membership and Faculty, and take an active supervision of all departments; and he may instruct in such branches of learning as he may deem properly in the interest of the school, and perform all other duties usually performed by presidents of colleges. He shall receive for his services, as also each member of the faculty, such salary as the Board of Trustees shall fix.

Article 15.—All real property of this association shall be held by the said Reorganized Church; and donations, gifts, and bequests of real property may be made to this institution by conveying directly to said church. All deeds and other instruments of writing affecting title to real estate must be executed by the Bishop of the Reorganized Church afore-named, who is the Trustee in trust of all real property of this association, and must be countersigned by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and previously authorized by said Board.

Article 16.—These Articles of Incorporation are also made by authority and instruction of a resolution passed by the General Conference of The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, on the 9th of April, 1895, as follows:—

“Resolved that this conference authorize and instruct the College Committee to incorporate, as provided by the laws of Iowa for institutions of learning.”

I hereby certify that the above was adopted by the General Conference on April 9th, 1895, while in session at Independence, Missouri.

Signed, H. A. STEBBINS,  
General Secretary of the Reorganized Church  
of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

LAMONI, Iowa, May 2, 1895.

These articles may be amended at any General Conference of said Reorganized Church, or at any meeting of the Board of Trustees herein named, providing sixty days published notice of said amendment and the nature of the same be given through the *Saints' Herald* prior to the time of such Annual Conference or meeting. It shall be the privilege of the Board of Trustees to make such by-laws from time to time for the carrying on of its work and duties and the facilitating of business as are not inconsistent with these articles.

The College shall never be sectarian in its work or instruction, but its advantages and privileges shall be open alike to all; and to guarantee this, it is herein provided, that the majority of the Board of Trustees shall be members of The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; and the President of said Society and College, if not of this Denomination, shall be a scholar of broad and tolerant views, with readiness to canvass and compare religious or political views in a fair and Christianlike manner with students and faculty. The professors and teachers shall be selected upon their merits and ability to impart instruction, irrespective of religion or politics.

Article 18.—The association shall provide a seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name, and perform any and all work through its officers necessary to its corporate existence.

Witness our hands this first day of May, A. D., 1895.

JOSEPH SMITH.

E. L. KELLEY.

D. F. NICHOLSON, Secretary.

WILLIAM ANDERSON.

DAN ANDERSON.

E. A. BLAKESLEE.

ROB'T. WINNING.

ELLIS SHORT.

STATE OF IOWA }  
Decatur County } ss.

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, this day personally appeared, Joseph Smith, E. L. Kelley, Wm. Anderson, Dan Anderson, E. A. Blakeslee, and D. F. Nicholson, who are personally known to me to be the identical persons whose names are affixed to the foregoing Articles of Association, and

acknowledged the execution of the same to be their voluntary act and deed and for the purposes and in the manner therein set forth.

Witness my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 1895.

ASA S. COCHRAN,  
Notary Public in and for the County of  
Decatur, State of Iowa.

STATE OF MISSOURI }  
County of Buchanan } ss.

Before me the undersigned notary public in and for said county and state, personally appeared this day Robt. Winning, who is personally known to me to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the foregoing Articles of Association and acknowledged the execution of the same to be their voluntary act and deed and for the purposes and in the manner therein set forth.

Witness my hand and notarial seal this 24th day of May, 1895.

CHAS. M. STREET, Notary Public.

INDIAN TERRITORY }  
Central District } ss.

Before me the undersigned a notary public in and for said district, personally appeared before me this day Ellis Short, who is personally well known to me to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the foregoing Articles of Association, and he acknowledged that he had executed the same for the purposes therein set forth as his free voluntary act and deed.

Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of June, 1895.

EDWARD C. PICKERING,  
Notary Public in and for said District.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
County of Decatur. } ss.

Filed for record on the 6th day of June, 1895, at 3:30 o'clock p. m., and recorded in Book 86, pages 240 to 246.

J. J. EVANS, Recorder.



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