

tion—a woe which all admit that we as a nation richly deserve. As to the cause that has produced this woe, it is true there is a diversity of opinions, some think that slavery is the only cause, others think there may be other gross sins that this people are guilty of, and which calls for the vengeance of Heaven upon the nation. We reason like this, that if slavery was the only evil the curse would only fall upon those that uphold it. For, as we said before, so say we again, “*the curse causeless does not come.*” But what next do we find foretold in the order of this prophecy, “For afore the harvest,” &c., “He shall both cut off the sprigs (young people) with pruning hooks, and take away and cut down the branches, (whole families of the nation.) They shall be left together unto the fowls of the mountains, and to the beasts of the earth; and the fowls shall summer upon them, and all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them.” This represents great destruction, so that the people will be left unburied, either by famine, pestilence or war, and perhaps by them all. It seems that something like this has already come to pass, for it was said that the South would neither bury the dead of the North, nor suffer the North to bury them. We will now notice the last verse, which seems to mark the time when this prophecy is to be fulfilled. In winding up this prophecy, Isaiah says, “in that time shall the present be brought unto the Lord of Hosts of a people scattered and peeled,” &c., “to the place of the name of the Lord of Hosts, the Mount Zion.” That the people scattered and peeled, a people terrible from their beginning (when God brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made the nations of the Canaanites tremble because of the great and mighty deeds that their God did for them in their beginning,) but since then trodden down, and scattered, and peeled, are the house of Israel, there can be no doubt. We ought to have made some remarks about the ambassadors who were to go forth from this land to hiss for, or call and gather a nation scattered and peeled, a people terrible from their beginning, and who were to present or lift up this ensign to all nations, first to the Gentiles and then to the Jews; but we have not room, and now if there be faults, they are the faults of the author, and he alone is accountable, and if any light has been given on the subject, to God be all the glory through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours in the bond of the everlasting covenant,

J. G. \_\_\_\_\_

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MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
CHURCH OF J. C. OF L. D. S.

*Held near Sandwich, Ill. Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9; 1861.*

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Brother Joseph Smith was chosen President, and Isaac Sheen and Wm. W. Blair, Secretaries.

Bro. Joseph Smith addressed the Conference on the duties of the Saints, as citizens and as saints.

Bro. Jason W. Briggs preached on Life and Immortality. Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. A. Powers preached on the First Principles of the Gospel. Bro. Z. H. Gurley preached on the setting up of the Standard to the Nations, from Isaiah, 11 c.

Conference adjourned to 10 o'clock, A. M. next day. Prayer meeting was held in the evening.

Oct. 7th, A. M. Conference met. The minutes of the last Annual Conference were read and adopted.

Reports of Branches of the Church were reported, *but a large majority of the Branches neglected to forward their Reports.*

The following Elders made very encouraging Reports of their success in the Ministry: James Blakeslee, Wm. W. Blair, John Shippy, Z. H. Gurley, George Rarick, and C. G. Lanphear. Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M..

Met pursuant to adjournment. Bro. W. W. Blair spoke in favor of the Saints making contributions to forward the work of the Ministry, and relieve the wants of the needy.

Bro. I. L. Rogers, the Bishop of the Church, presented his Report, which was received.

Bro. Samuel Powers made a Report of his Mission. He said that he baptized 13, and re-baptized one at Whitestown, Ind., and at Syracuse, Ohio, he baptized Sister Thomas, wife of Bro. Elias Thomas. Finding it was impracticable at that time to prosecute his Mission to England, he went to Canada, where he baptized two.

Bro. Jason W. Briggs reported that it was impracticable for him to prosecute his Mission to England.

Isaac Sheen reported that the cause of Christ is making great progress on this continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Bro. E. C. Briggs reported that he had been preaching in Western Iowa, and that the work is progressing rapidly in that region.

Bro. Walter Ostrander reported that he had been preaching in Michigan, and at St. Joseph, Mich. he found some old Saints, and that since his visit to that place, a Branch of the Church had been organized there.

Bro. Ebenezer Page reported that he was well received in his Mission, and met with great friendship and success among the people.

Conference adjourned to meet next day, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Bro. E. Page preached in the evening.

Oct. 8th, A. M. Conference met. The following named persons were confirmed who had been baptized the preceding evening: Austin Howard, Ruby Sutton, Eunice Butler, and the following, who had been re-baptized: Alva Smith and James Madison Wait.

Resolved, That traveling Elders, who may be in need, shall call on the Presidents of Branches for assistance, and not on the members,

Resolved, That the Bishop be instructed to call on the Presidents of the different Branches for the necessary means to carry on the work.

The following Missions were appointed : J. W. Briggs and S. Powers were appointed to go to England; W. W. Blair to Western Iowa; Z. H. Gurley to Illinois; James Blakeslee to Ohio and Indiana; John Shippy to Michigan and Canada, and E. C. Briggs to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Adjourned to 1½ o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The following persons, who were members of the First Organization of the Church, were received into the Church : Lorin Babbitt, an Elder of the Quorum of Seventy; Jonathan Delap, a Deacon; James W. Cooper, an Elder; James Burgess, an Elder.

Resolved, That Joseph Robinson be ordained an Elder.

Resolved, That James M. Wait, Ebenezer Page, and Jonathan Delap be ordained Elders in the Quorum of Seventy. They were ordained to these offices by Zenos H. Gurley and James Blakeslee.

Resolved, That Bro. Alva Smith be re-ordained an Elder. He was then re-ordained. Adjourned to 10 o'clock, A. M. next day.

Oct. 9th, A. M. It was stated that the Quorum of the Twelve had resolved that President Joseph Smith, with others whom he may call to his aid, have the examination and supervision of the matter going into the Herald.

The following Preamble and Resolution was offered and rejected : Inasmuch, as G. P. Dykes, B. Johns and R. Roberts, of Genoa, Carson Valley, Nevada Territory, and E. H. Webb, of San Francisco, Cal., express *by letter* to us, that they desire to unite with us and assist in advancing the cause of Christ, therefore,

Resolved, That they be instructed by President Joseph Smith and the Quorum of the Twelve, to do by their ordinations under the First Joseph, what they are legally authorized to do, in building up the Church of J. C. of L. D. S.

Resolved, That the Semi-Annual Conference of Oct. 26th, 1862, be held in Western Iowa.

Resolved, That the Annual Conference of April 6th, 1862, be held at Mission, La Salle Co. Illinois.

Resolved, That Charles Williams be ordained an Elder. He was then ordained by Z. H. Gurley and James Blakeslee.

Adjourned.

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THE FIRST GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE TWELVE, UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF JOSEPH SMITH, SON OF JOSEPH, THE MARTYR.

*To all the Saints scattered abroad, Greeting:*

Brethren, since it has pleased God to call forth the true successor in the Presidency of the