

because we have no power. Now, when the lord of the vineyard saw that virtue and innocence was not regarded, and his vineyard occupied by wicked men, he sent men and took the possession of it to himself, and destroyed those unfaithful servants, and appointed them their portion among hypocrites.

And let me say, that all men who say that Congress has no power to restore and defend the rights of her citizens, have not the love of the truth abiding in them. Congress has power to protect the nation against foreign invasion and internal broil, and whenever that body passes an act to maintain right with any power; or to restore right to any portion of her citizens; it is the supreme law of the land; and should a State refuse submission, that State is guilty of insurrection or rebellion, and the President has as much power to repel it, as Washington had to march against the "whisky boys of Pittsburg," or General Jackson had to send an armed force to suppress the rebellion at South Carolina.

To close, I would admonish you, before you let your "candor compel" you again to write upon a subject, great as the salvation of man, consequential as the life of the Saviour, broad as the principles of eternal truth, and valuable as the jewels of eternity, to read in the eighth section and first article of the constitution of the United States, the first, fourteenth and seventeenth "specific" and not "very limited" powers of the federal government, what can be done to protect the lives, property and rights of a virtuous people, when the administrators of the law, and law makers, are unbought by bribes, uncorrupted by patronage, untempted by gold, unawed by fear, and uncontaminated by tangling alliances—even like Cæsar's wife, not only unspotted, but unsuspected; and God, who cooled the heat of a Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, or shut the mouths of lions for the honor of a Daniel, will raise your mind above the narrow notion, that the general government has no power, to the sublime idea that Congress, with the President as executor, is as Almighty in its sphere, as Jehovah is in his.

With great respect, I have the honor to be your obedient servant,
JOSEPH SMITH.

Hon. (Mr.!) J. C. Calhoun, Fort Hill, S. C.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF L. D. S.

Held at Mission, LaSalle County, Illinois, April 6th, 1862.

On motion, Bro. Joseph Smith was chosen as President of Conference, and William D. Morton and William Anderson, Clerks.

Hymn and prayer, after which Bro's Joseph Smith, George Rarick and John Shippy addressed the audience, showing that a knowledge of the existence of a God, must be obtained by a direct revelation from God. Intermission.

One o'clock, P. M.—A hymn was sung, prayer by Elder James Blakeslee, when Elder John Shippy spoke from the 6th chapter, 69th verse of St. John, showing that not a mere belief, but a knowledge of the gospel, is essential to salvation ; he was followed by Elder James Blakeslee, same subject. Bros. E. Page and A. M. Wilsey arose and bearing testimony to the truth of the Latter Day work, feelingly admonished the congregation to obey the Gospel.

Adjourned till early candlelight.

7 o'clock P. M.—Singing, prayer by E. Page, Elder James Blakeslee preached from Chronicles, 36th chapter, 14th verse, showing that through the transgression of the House of Israel they were rejected as a people, and the Gospel transferred to the Gentiles, and warning the people against rejecting the testimony of living witnesses. He was followed by Bro. Jens Jorgenson, in the Danish tongue, for the benefit of the Norwegian brethren.

Adjourned till Monday morning, 10 o'clock.

April 9th, A. M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. Singing and prayer. After which the minutes of the last October Conference were received and approved,

The following branches were reported :

Galien Branch, Galien, Michigan, an addition since last report of 32 members.

Henderson Grove Branch, Illinois, one removal and 22 additions, 9 Elders, 2 Teachers in the Branch. Reported by Jacob Brown Pres. and Edwin Stafford, Clerk.

Batavia Branch, Illinois, one child blessed, 10 added by baptism, one by vote since last report.

Amboy Branch, Illinois, 39 members.

Union Branch, Elkhart County, Indiana, 8 members. Organized March 16th, 1862, Stephen Bull, Elder, and Dan'l M. Cox, Clerk.

Buckhorn Branch, Canada West. Organized Feb. 16th, 1862, Geo. Cleveland, Presiding Elder and Clerk, Joseph Shippy, Priest, 7 members.

Fox River Branch, same as last reported, except one removal, reported by Bishop I. L. Rogers, Mission Branch, 40 members in good standing.

Keiser Creek Branch, Pike County, Illinois, 4 members.

Pittsfield Branch, Pike County, Illinois, 7 members, reported by Lorin Babbitt.

Louisa Creek Branch, Mercer County, Illinois, 5 members, reported by Jesse Adams.

Marengo Branch, McHenry County Illinois, 15 members, reported by Frederick Squires.

A letter from Elder W. W. Blair, concerning the condition of the Church in Western Iowa, was read by the President.

The reports of Elders were called for ; Bro. Shippy reported his mission to Canada and Michigan, saying, "it was hard to labor there on account of the prejudice of the people ; he had baptized eight per-

sons, organized a branch, and he thought there was a large field for labor presented in Canada.

Bro. James Blakeslee reported that he was received every where with kindness and open hearts, that he lacked for nothing, and that the Spirit was displayed in mighty power, in tongues, in dreams, and prophecy.

Elders E. Page, George Outhouse, Charles Williams, C. G. Lamphear, George Rarick, and A. M. Wilsey, made very encouraging reports.

Adjourned till one o'clock, P. M.

One o'clock, P. M.—Met pursuant to adjournment. Upon suggestion, a motion was made and carried, that a committee of three be appointed by the President to examine the accounts of Bishop I. L. Rogers and Bro. Isaac Sheen, and report to this Conference immediately. George Blakeslee, Yance Jacobs and George R. Outhouse were appointed said Committee, and they accordingly reported that they had examined said accounts and found the same correct.

On motion, Bro. E. Page was ordained an high priest—ordination by Elders John Shippy and James Blakeslee.

A child of A. M. and Mary Wilsey was blessed by James Blakeslee.

The missions assigned last conference were unchanged. The Elders were instructed to labor accordingly, unless called by the twelve to labor elsewhere.

Loren Page, Wm. Long, Isaac A Bogue, Margaret Mileure and Jemima McCoy presented themselves for baptism.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the next Semi-Annual Conference be held at Galland's Grove, Shelby County Iowa, October 6th, 1862.

Moved and carried, that Bros. Dan'l McCoy and Jesse Adams, be received and ordained into the quorum of Seventies. Ordination by Bros. James Blakeslee and A. M. Wilsee.

After some remarks by the President, in regard to the law of tithing as set forth by the epistle of the twelve and contained in the D. and C., it was moved to adjourn.

"When shall we all meet again," was sung with spirit and feeling Benediction by the President.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM D. MORTON, }
WILLIAM ANDERSON, } *Clerks.*

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CONFERENCE,

Held at Galland's Grove, Shelby County, Iowa, April 6th, 1862.

Sunday morning, 10 A. M.—Conference organized by calling Elder W. W. Blair of the Quorum of the Twelve, to preside, and O. E. Holcomb, Clerk.