

The Saints' Herald.

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O. J. Bailey
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"I SAW ANOTHER ANGEL * *, HAVING THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL TO PREACH TO THEM THAT DWELL ON THE EARTH * *, SAYING; FEAR GOD, AND GIVE GLORY TO HIM, FOR THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT IS COME."—REV. 14: 6-7.
"SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH; THY WORD IS TRUTH."—JESUS; JOHN 17: 17.
"HEARKEN TO THE WORD OF THE LORD, FOR THERE SHALL NOT ANY MAN AMONG YOU HAVE SAVE IT BE ONE WIFE."—BOOK OF MORMON; JACOB 2: 6.

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No. 9.

GENERAL CONFERENCE MINUTES.

APRIL 6TH TO 14TH, 1880.

The forty-second Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ, being also the twenty-eighth of the Reorganization, convened on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the establishment of the Church in this last dispensation, at Plano, Kendall county, Illinois, April 6th, 1880, Joseph Smith and W. W. Blair, presiding; Henry A. Stebbins, Secretary, John Scott, assisting.

The session opened at 10 o'clock, a. m., the 6th, by President Smith announcing and the assembly singing the hymn beginning, "Come, let us anew our journey pursue." Prayer was offered by Pres. Blair, and the hymn, "Joy to the world, the Lord will come," was sung, Bro M. H. Forscutt being appointed and acting as Chorister for the Conference.

President Smith stated that, unless otherwise ordered, the sessions of the Conference would be as follows: Prayer meetings at 9 a. m., preaching at 10:30 a. m., business sessions in the afternoon, and preaching in the evening; thus leaving the forenoons for quorum and committee meetings to those who are engaged in such special duties.

After this the time was given to the assembly for bearing testimony and speaking of the good work. Those taking part were as follows: Brn. I. L. Rogers, J. H. Lake, J. S. Patterson, W. W. Blair, G. S. Yerrington, H. L. Thompson, Jobe Brown, E. C. Brand, D. D. Williams, and Sisters Mary Leer, Catherine Salisbury (sister of Joseph the Martyr) and Sr. Miriam Brand. Bro. Brand related some remarkable cases of healing that occurred in Montana the past winter, as also did Bro. D. D. Williams some that he was witness of. Pres. Smith made some closing remarks, the doxology was sung, and the benediction was pronounced by Pres. Smith.

At 1:30 p. m., the hymn, "Truth reflects upon our senses," was sung, and prayer was offered by Pres. Smith, followed by singing, "Watchman, who are these I see."

Pres. Smith requested the Committees appointed by previous conferences to report as early as possible.

The Church Secretary, Bro. Henry A. Stebbins, then read the reports of the ministry as prepared and compiled by him for reading and for publication with the minutes of the Conference.

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I herewith submit to the General Conference, and to the Church, the written reports

of nearly all of the ministry who have received appointments from previous sessions of this body, namely, to labor in the various mission fields assigned them, and from which they are now either present in person, or send accounts by letter:

MINISTRY REPORTS.

Thomas Taylor, in charge of the European Mission, writes from Birmingham, England:

I am pleased to state that the work generally in England is in a fair condition, notwithstanding the difficulties we have to contend with. About seventy have been added to our number by baptism through the past year, and the present one presents as fair a prospect; and I hope by constant and careful labor, that we shall still progress.

The brethren, as a body, are zealous and energetic; and, with such labor and the help of our Heavenly Father, we must progress. The Saints generally feel well and strong in the cause. In reference to myself, I am still desirous of doing all possible for the cause, and should you see fit to sustain me in my present position I will continue to do my best, by the help of God. But, on the other hand, should you deem it wisdom to release me, and to appoint another in my stead, I shall willingly accept it, and will render the one so appointed every assistance in the performance of his duty. I pray that the spirit of the gospel may be with you in your deliberations.

John R. Gibbs, in charge of the Welsh Mission, writes from Morriston, Wales:

I respectfully submit the following report to you. I have labored to the best of my ability since I had the care of this mission. I have visited the branches and have done my best to comfort them in the hope of the gospel. I have also done my best to preach to those that have not seen the light of the kingdom of God. Although but few have been added, yet some have given their names for baptism, and there is hope again for the revival of this mission, after the hard struggle we have had these last three years against the power of the evil one. The ex-president of this mission tried to bring into the Church the doctrines of Druidism and Spiritualism. After failing in his evil designs he is trying to form a sect of his own, and he has deceived some of the innocent Saints to believe his pernicious doctrines, by persuading them that the Lord has rejected the Church in America, and that the Church is governed by votes, and not by the Spirit of God. But I thank my Heavenly Father that many of those that he had influence over have seen his folly, and are now rejoicing with us. I feel to do all I can to further the work in this mission, but I am not able to give my whole time to the ministry because I have a large family to support, but I will be as busy as I can. I enjoy the comfort of God's Spirit. We have a hymn book all ready, but the troubles in the Church have hindered publishing it, yet we think to publish it soon. We have over £11 of the Herald money kept for its publishing for which we are very thankful to the Church, and we hope the mission will be able before long to return it. May the Lord bless you.

Peter N. Brix, in charge of the Danish Mission, writes from Aalborg, Denmark:

On March 8th I led two souls into the water,

and others are believing the gospel, thanks be to God, and glory be to his holy name. I present the following questions to the General Conference:

I wish the conference would appoint a committee to help the Saints here to get dwelling places; and also appoint a place for them to emigrate to; if any particular place can be made for them, and also to take care of them so that the gospel can be preached in the Scandinavian language for the building up of the kingdom, and that good news may come here from the Saints. (Bad news has already arrived several times).

And also provide that we may get the *Saints' Herald* in the Danish language, once a month if not more. We are just as anxious to get that as the American Saints are to have it weekly; and it is what must be done for the building up of the kingdom. Let something be done.

I am still in hopes that some brethren will be sent here from the conference, and God and the unity of his Church will have to decide if I shall stay in the mission any longer; God's will be done. I am not called by earthly power, but by the Spirit of God through his servants, and I must be about my Father's business wherever he wants me. May the spirit of revelation guide during the conference, that you may have a peaceful and profitable session.

James W. Gillen, in charge of the Australian Mission, writes from Wallsend, New South Wales, under date of February 18th, 1880:

No doubt the General Conference will expect to hear from this mission, but were it not that I felt it a duty, I would refrain from making a report at present. Of course the mission is a very extensive one, and I have not yet had time or means to visit the various localities where the Saints are scattered. But I have done so to the extent of my abilities, and I have tried to strengthen, encourage and build them up in the glorious truths of the gospel of the Son of God.

On my arrival I found some good, faithful Saints, notable among whom were Bro. Richard Ellis and wife, who kindly furnished me a home and ministered to my wants while in Sydney. The branch had been broken up, and there had been no meetings for some time; so I concluded it would be better to defer holding any until I would be prepared to continue them, which I was not at that time able to do, as it would require more money to pay for a hall than I could command. I also thought it advisable to visit the various places where the Saints live, and revive and strengthen them, so I went to North Willoughby (six miles from Sydney) and preached. Found some good Saints, but no one to conduct meetings, nor any suitable material for that purpose. Bro. Ellis was working at his trade, about eighty miles from Sydney, therefore, I was obliged to leave them in an unorganized condition.

From Sydney I went to New Castle; found one sister alive in the work; others have a name to live, but to whom the language of Paul would be applicable, "Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Went to Hamilton, about three miles from New Castle, and found three sisters. I preached in the house of sister Williams once. Besides these an aged brother and sister live seven miles from there. I went to Waratah and thence to Wallsend, and found several Saints in that place and vicinity. They had held meetings here for a time, but, for

some cause, they were broken up. I called them together and held a meeting, and on Sunday again, when they proceeded to confess their faults, and asked each others' forgiveness, and, as they expressed a willingness to work in harmony together, I partially organized the branch. I returned to and preached at Hamilton again. Then returned to Sydney and preached three Sundays at North Willoughby. From there to Bungwall, Myall Lake, where Bro. John Rodger lives. The Saints there received me kindly, and I preached there three or four weeks. Bro. Rodger has a Sunday-school in his own house. I did not organize them into a branch, as there were no officers there, and I am not very hasty in ordinations. A branch was there, but Bro. Wright, the Elder, moved to North Forester, about twenty-five miles away. I went where he was, found five members and preached once. Then I returned to Bro. Rodger's and preached on Sunday, and the next day started for Sydney to meet the mail steamer, thinking that an Elder would be on board. But none came; and you may rest assured that I felt very much disappointed when I read in the minutes of the Conference that they thought not best to appoint any until they heard from the mission; for I certainly understood that one was to be sent from the fall Conference; and I thought they would keep faith with me. Well, they certainly heard from me in a few days after the close of the Conference, and no one has come yet. Why is this? Is the treasury depleted? Or has the Church come to the conclusion that one is sufficient for a country that in area is equal to the United States?

Allow me to say, that if this mission is to be continued, it ought to be prosecuted vigorously. If possible, send two efficient Elders, and in time a good work will be done here. If this can not be done the mission will languish.

But to return: I spent New Year's Day with Bro. Ellis, and, while there, received a letter from Wallsend, informing me of some difficulties existing there, and requesting me to visit them. So I came to this place, settled the difficulty, and have held meetings four times each week since. I have baptized two, a man and his wife, excellent people. If he is faithful he will make a useful man. He has been a preacher of the Adventist doctrine, a man of good abilities and very energetic. Others are believing. I intend to complete the organization of the branch before I leave, the only one in Australia, so far as I am informed. I expect to go next to North Forester again, and try to get additions and organize them. Then to Bungwall, and strive to organize them.

I think you can form some idea of the mission from what I have written. You will discover that it is in a bad condition. Drunkenness has been the great cause, and there has been too much mercy, and justice has been robbed. Crime has been allowed to go unpunished, therefore some are hardened. I think the knife is the only remedy; and I shall not hesitate to cut out the ulcerated portions from the body if a cure can not be effected. I hope that the Elder, or Elders, will be sent on immediately. Let them not stop by the way. Love to all, and may God's Spirit direct you.

William W. Blair, of the First Presidency, (present), appointed in charge of the Utah Mission, reports:

Pursuant to the call of last Semi-Annual Conference, I have been laboring in Utah, Nevada, and Idaho, in connection with Elders Deuel, Luff, Anthony, Derry, and Brand.

The mission has proved successful thus far, in all its essential elements; and the prospects for its future success are fairly encouraging.

We have found better opportunities for preaching than has been had by our elders heretofore; and the Lord has signally blessed us in proclaiming the present truth, and in ministering the ordinances.

We have had the unspeakable pleasure of witnessing not a few, who had been engulfed in hopeless scepticism, lifted up into the warm, bright sunshine of Christ's precious gospel.

Our purposes and doctrines are being better understood, and more highly valued, by all classes in the Rocky Mountain regions, and by the

many government officials in Utah and in Washington.

Whilst there are many doctrines and practices had by the Utah Mormons that are contrary to Christ, yet we note with unfeigned pleasure the improved condition of that people in a moral, social, political, commercial, and religious sense, as compared with what they were in 1870 and before. Utah moves forward.

The mission needs to be wisely prosecuted with both suitable ministers and printed matter. The fruits of past efforts by the Reorganized Church continue to appear. Many and varied agencies are clearly at work for the early overthrow of priestly despotism and fanaticism, and for the general welfare of the people.

Patient, persistent, loving and spiritual efforts, with God's blessing, will certainly secure an early and glorious triumph.

Thomas W. Smith, of the Twelve, appointed to the Eastern Mission, writes from Winterport, Maine:

As there appeared in a recent *Herald* a sufficiently full report of my labors since last Fall Conference, I think that I need not burden you with more than report of what additional labors I have performed.

After preaching in all the branches of the Eastern Maine District, except Grand Manan, I came to this, the Western Maine District, February 23d, with Bro. John C. Foss. At Bro. John W. Blaster's, on Deere Isle, we found a hearty welcome and a comfortable home, and I preached in the school house. I failed a few times to fill appointments because of deep snow and storms. This country is bad enough to travel over in summer time, with its countless number of rocks and hollows, mountains and hills, and in winter it is ten fold worse. After preaching on Little Deer Isle we went to Bear Isle, which Bro. Peter and Jonathan Eaton own, where the people follow fishing, farming, and boat and vessel building. I spoke twice and people came from adjoining islands. We administered to Bro. Peter Eaton, who has been afflicted quite a while, and he was immediately helped, and can now do a good day's work. We returned in Bro. Otis C. Eaton's vessel to Little Deer Isle, where I spoke once more, and on Saturday, March 6th, after meeting Sr. Smith whom I left in New Jersey last December, we went to Green's Landing, where a special conference convened. On Sunday I preached the funeral discourse of the wife of Bro. Clarence Knowlton. A very large concourse of people assembled, the majority of whom had heard but little of our views. The subject interested them, and they continued to fill the house night after night. However but two obeyed. The Saints were plainly told that accessions to their number depended on their becoming reconciled and united. Confession and declared repentance are all right, but they produce no permanent good unless followed by restitution. I think that after the Saints there become united, and pay heed to the counsel given, that the Lord will add many good and faithful souls. It is disheartening to see people convinced of the truth, and yet see them restrained from uniting because of the lack of unity, and peace among the members. We left for Little Deer Isle yesterday. The day before I preached a funeral discourse in behalf of a young daughter of Bro. and Sr. Knowlton, who had been sick with consumption for nearly two years. By her own earnest request, Bro. John C. Foss baptized her last Sunday morning. She showed no evidence of being injuriously affected by the water, but endured it bravely, being so feeble, and assisted herself in changing her clothes, and experienced no chilliness while in the water or afterward. On Monday night she passed away, peacefully, without pain, and in peace she fell asleep. Doubtless her life was spared till she could have an opportunity of obeying the gospel.

There are many in all these regions worth the effort to save them; good, honest souls, who may yet be gathered out of the darkness, degradation, and ignorance. Hard, and in a measure unprofitable as this field is, I can see much improvement in personal habits, in cleanliness, and in intelli-

gence among the Saints, and some more liberality among the outside world.

In North West Harbor, Deer Isle, where I tried to preach years ago, and where I was publicly insulted, and the house stoned, &c., a young man named Green, wild, reckless, and given to intoxication, helped me in every way he could, and he has since reformed, and is one of the most respected men of the place. A Mr. Hardy, at the head of Deer Isle, who dared to face his neighbors' frowns, and bear their anathemas, is giving us a home, and helping us to get a place to preach, I called upon, yesterday, and found that God had blessed him temporarily in an abundant measure. A certain party who openly attacked us, on Little Deer Isle when we were here before, has become an outcast, and shunned by every one; his own relatives refusing to receive him into their houses.

Bro. Foss expects to return home this week. We shall stay here, at Bucks Harbor, a few days, and then expect to go to Winterport, a new point, where Sr. Mary Mansfield lives, and about the 1st of April we think of returning to Jonesport, and, after two or three weeks in that district, expect to go to Boston about the 1st of May, and spend about a month in that District, and about the first or middle of June we trust to begin to work our way westward, via Pittsburg, Kirland, and Coldwater.

I have not kept account of the number of discourses preached, but I have in most places, preached on an average seven discourses per week, and have, with but few exceptions, enjoyed good liberty in preaching. I have baptized seventeen since last conference. I prefer to be continued in this field for another season. I find in many places an idea prevailing that one of the Twelve has the right, and that it is his duty to investigate and try to settle difficulties which branch and district authorities have failed to settle, but I prefer to let them get along without my interference, giving my opinion only when asked for; although I find this course does not give much satisfaction. It might be well for the cause if the conference would decide or explain what relationship the Twelve sustain to branches and districts; in regard to troubles which they confess inability to settle, and which they desire any of the Twelve to help settle. I, for one, am desirous of knowing, under what circumstances can the Twelve, one or more of them, take hold of difficulties in branches or districts, and try to have them satisfactorily settled; for I neither desire to assume any power or authority not lawfully mine, nor to shirk from any duty incumbent upon me, or required by the law and order of the Church.

James Caffall, of the Twelve, laboring in Colorado, writes from that field:

I desire to tell you the true condition of, and prospects for the work in this country; for exaggerated or too highly colored reports are an abomination in my sight. And I am resolved before high heaven, and so declare to you, that the *Herald* shall not be made the vehicle of such reports through me.

During October I preached and baptized two adults in Northern Nebraska District. Since then I have labored in Colorado; and without giving in detail the obstacles which have loomed up to prevent the progress of the work, let it suffice to say that prejudice is greater, and, so far as I have gone, I have found less interest or disposition to hear than any other region I have been in. I would be glad to add to your joy by reporting large gatherings, many accessions, &c.; but inability to do this gives no compunctions of conscience, as I have left nothing unturned that my physical strength and other abilities would allow me to do. And what expense has been incurred in the attempt to prosecute the mission, has been cheerfully borne by the Saints of the Rocky Mountain Branch, with help from one or two others. Besides the greater prejudice here it is also more expensive to prosecute this mission than one further east. I had the benefit of Bro. James Kemp's company and labor for two months. I may state that, in some localities, prejudice has been allayed and a few friends have been made. Some silent messengers in the shape of tracts have been sent

forth. The effect, if any, thus produced time must tell.

Though our path has been beclouded, and obstacles have tended to prevent our progress, yet I have not thought to abandon the mission, unless in your legislative acts you should so decide. I learn that a herald of salvation should not be daunted at trifles. 'Tis ours to labor and to labor well, wisely, righteously and patiently; the increase is with Christ, and some with the people. Let me say to you, my fellow laborers in Christ, that whatever may be my discouragements in battling for the right, and the many evidences I might have given of human folly, I have peace and much joy in the thought and blessed assurance that God is in the Latter Day Work; and whether I sink or swim, survive or perish, I have put my hand thereto, and also what little else I have is upon the altar. I may recant, but I can not do so and not suffer loss.

It is thought that from one to two hundred miles south of Denver, where I have not been able to go yet, there is more interest or desire to hear. This I will prove as soon as practicable.

Being unable to meet with you, which I much regret, I may be indulged in congratulating you on the happy privilege you have in celebrating in conference capacity the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ. Yes, fifty years, or half a century, and fifty-six years since the young man, Joseph Smith, stood bewildered amid the confusion of the religious world, and only found relief after deciding to go to God. And how cheering the thought, that from the first inception of the Latter Day Work, the evidence exists of God being in it. As Pharaoh seemed to dread the young Hebrews, and Joseph was hated by his brethren, and Herod was apprehensive of the young child Jesus, so have the orthodox world hated this child commonly called Mormonism, from the time of its birth. To them it was not comely; it savored too much of primitiveness; it was not dandled upon the knees of kings and queens; it was not qualified. It was not a hot house plant, but the wind blew upon it, and storms beat against it from the moment it gave signs of life; and, though its first cries gave evidence of but babyhood, they were terrific and caused alarm. And, as was said of the former, so of the latter child, it must die. And to this end they labored. But with every plan devised to hinder the growth of, or kill this strange child, at the end of half a century, we find it like the mighty oak of the forest, against which the storms have beat but to impart additional strength, causing its roots to strike downward, giving a bracing and defiant position, so that it is so far from being weakened or moved by the storm as, through every additional blast, to be wrought upon only to pray God for additional strength to endure, as the mighty oak or every limb thereon, seems to bow when immersed with the wind as if to thank God for the storm by which they might be strong, and spread, affording shelter to man and beast.

And, O! what superlative joy filled my soul, when I read the decision of the court recognizing the Reorganized Church as a continuation of the church organized fifty years ago. How significant is the rendering of this decision, given but a few days before you meet to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Church of Christ, brought into being in the nineteenth century, after a long night of spiritual darkness, to prepare the way for Christ's second advent. And may you, during your sittings, receive additional evidence that we are recognized by heaven's court, as well as the courts of the land; that you may go out from this conference fired anew; and that, as one solid phalanx, we may stand amid the superstition and trying scenes of the age, doing battle for the Master, ever remembering that our weapons are not carnal.

I would suggest that if you have a young, strong, robust elder, whose conscientious scruples prevent his peace from flowing as the gentle stream, unless he can lie down every night with blistered feet, having faith to induce the people to administer to his wants, who thinks traveling to preach, without a stipulated salary is the sheerest nonsense, and those who do so are desir-

ous to escape manual labor, Colorado is the place for him; send him along.

And, as I close my report, and as my silent ejaculations ascend to God, I seem to be assured of your having a refreshing time from the presence of the Lord. And may I indulge in the hope (with other absentees) of being remembered by you.

Joseph R. Lambert, of the Twelve, (present), reports as follows:

When appointed by you, more than six months ago, to labor in the Northern Iowa and Minnesota Mission, it was my fond hope and ardent wish to do more for the spread of the work in that field than I had hitherto been able to accomplish. But circumstances which I was entirely unable to control, so far as I now know, blasted those hopes, and prevented me from taking the field for active service until February 26th, since which time I have devoted about one month to active labor in Green, Webster, Pocahontas and Calhoun counties. The work in these parts is making some advancement, though the people are slow to obey. Prejudice is giving way more and more every year, and the result is that we are being better understood, and this can not fail, we think, to result in lasting good to the cause of truth. I have received some cheering news from Grand Prairie and Lake Crystal, Minnesota. At other places the work has suffered because there has been no one to care for the flock. Since the fall Conference, I have preached twenty-nine times and ordained one Elder, besides doing other labor, such as usually devolves upon the ministry. I desire to continue in the work.

John H. Lake, of the Twelve, (present), reports as follows:

I have preached in the mission assigned me in Iowa and Illinois, one hundred and twelve times, baptized seventeen persons and blessed five children, and administered to quite a number of sick, with good results, the praise for the same be to God the Eternal Father, through his Son Jesus Christ.

Since June 1863 I have been a co-laborer with you in calling scattered Israel back to the fold of their shepherd, and inviting sinners to Christ, and preparing the way for the building up of Zion. During that time I have never enjoyed any more of the Spirit of God, nor more of liberty, light and power that it grants, than I have since your last session, and I never felt more the necessity of trying to purify myself from the dross of mortality, so that I may be a living epistle, read and known of all men, and that in deed and in truth I may be what God requires me to be and what the world might reasonably expect me to be, as one of Christ's ambassadors. I hope to be faithful in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, and help to establish his righteousness in the earth.

Charles Derry, of the High Priests, appointed to the Utah Mission, writes from Salt Lake City:

Peace be with you, and may wisdom characterize your deliberations, that God may be glorified and his cause advanced in the earth.

After situating my family, I left them to the care of God and his saints, and started with my brethren for Utah. We arrived here Nov. 22d, and met with the Saints in the Seventies' Hall on the 23d. The next day various persons volunteered their advice, which was as varied as the persons who gave it. Some advised us not to interfere with polygamy; others that we must deal tenderly with it, and others that we must strike at the root of the evil. However, all professed to wish us God speed.

On the 25th I tried to break the bread of life to the people, and Elders Luff, Anthony and Denel in turn preached the three succeeding evenings, to attentive and increasing audiences, and on Sunday, the 30th, Elder Luff and myself preached, Elder Blair having charge of the meetings.

On December 1st, the missionaries met in council and organized the mission, and I was appointed to the charge of the work in Ogden, and as far north as Brigham City, and east, including Rhodes' Valley, Wanship, Heber, Kay's Ward and intervening places.

I continued preaching in Salt Lake City, in connection with brethren Blair and Luff, until December 11th, when I left for my field. Since then I have preached in Kay's Ward, Ogden, Plain City, South Morgan, Peoa, Wanship, Park City and Kamas, and have distributed the printed word. My audiences have usually been very small, but generally attentive ones. While in Ogden I was assisted by Elder Anthony, who proved himself an able exponent and defender of the truth, and a very trusty and agreeable companion. Not having means to pay hall rent, and not being able to get a place in Ogden free of rent, we discontinued our efforts, and he left for Idaho, and I up the Weber Valley. The extreme cold, deep snows and frequent storms perhaps prevented my meetings in that valley from being well attended, but when it was fine there seemed no desire on the part of the people to hear. They seemed content with what they had, and the authorities closed every door they could. The only place in which I met with open opposition was at Wanship, where I was opposed two nights, but my opponents, finding it did not pay, ceased to trouble.

On March 13th, at the request of Bro. Blair, I came to Salt Lake City, where I am now preaching twice every Sunday, to attentive audiences.

I will now give my views of the general prospects of this mission, as far as my observation extends. In this city the prospects are brighter than in any other place I have been to in this Territory, yet they do not appear very flattering to me, even here. Yet I believe there is good being done. With few exceptions, those who come seem to be interested. I look upon this place as the key to the Territory. If we can get well established here, and can break down the fortifications of priestcraft here, we shall weaken the strongholds they have in all the smaller settlements, and, perhaps, pave the way to the hearts of the honest everywhere. But it will require mighty and continued efforts, wisely directed, to accomplish it. It is not going to be done in a year, neither will it be done without a free use of the Church treasury. Halls must be had, and money be supplied to pay for these halls, without asking the people who have no interest in the work, but to stop it, to assist in paying for those halls. As a class, the Mormon people are opposed to collections, and before you can get them to support anything, you must convince them it is true. This may take months or years to do. Yet it is well worth the trial. If we get a school-house in a settlement we feel bound, in a measure, and have to feel our way tenderly lest the house should be closed upon us, after the first night. I, at least, want to feel free, and that I have a right to the house where I am speaking. Hence the necessity of means to hire places and have them under our own control. Bye and bye the audiences will be willing to aid, and the work will be eventually self-sustaining, but until it is, we must have pecuniary aid, if any permanent good is to be accomplished. I feel that the Reorganized Church is now making its mark, and that, in this mission, is the place to engrave its name in delibily before the world, that the character and purposes of the Church may be known and read of all men. No matter if but little is accomplished with this people, we shall have forever freed the Church from the damning odium of complicity with polygamy and its kindred evils. And from the moment we have done this we can stand erect before the world and demand honorable recognition as a body of Christian people, and this fact will give us a mighty power for good.

The men needed here are those who are sound, true, faithful men, those well versed in the doctrine, laws and government of the Church, young enough to be able to rough it, yet possessing control over their passions; men who will not allow themselves to be mixed up with difficulties, only to settle them in the spirit of love and justice; men of moral courage, who will neither trail the standard of truth in the dust nor permit another to do it.

Elder Blair is the unanimous choice of all Saints here for the presidency of this mission, and we all pray for his return. Jew and Gentile have confidence in him. I believe the brethren of the mission are all in harmony with each other and

the work. I expect to return east the coming August. May God fill you all with the spirit of love and peace.

Mark H. Forscutt, of the High Priests, (present), reports as follows:

At the Semi-Annual Conference last held, I was appointed to Chicago and Northern Illinois, as my field of missionary labor.

As soon thereafter as practicable, I commenced my journey, preaching *en route* at Omaha, Nebraska; at Council Bluffs, Little Sioux, Magnolia, Leland's Grove, Shelby, Harlan, Deloit, Dunlap, Galland's Grove, Lucas, Cleveland, and Burlington, Iowa; at Pittsfield and Sandwich, Illinois. From the last named place, I came to Chicago, where I have since labored exclusively. My labors in the first fifteen places named occupied about the first half of the conference semi-year that closes with the opening of this conference, my labors in Chicago the remaining portion of the time.

On January 8th, 1880, Bro. Charles Wickes and I came to Chicago. We spent the week in necessary preparations. After some trouble, obtained a hall, Temperance Hall, 213 West Madison Street. Assisted by Brother Wickes, who declined preaching, but rendered effective and valuable aid otherwise, I had the pleasure of preaching on the following Sabbath to small audiences, aggregating about ninety persons at the two services. The good Spirit was present, and has been to a greater or lesser degree at every service since. This is the best omen an Elder can have in a new field. I was encouraged by my brother Charles, who left me the following week for his own field of labor. God bless him, and make him as useful and as noble as he aspires to be. I missed him much.

From that time, I have continued my labors in the great city alone; yet not alone; for I have often felt how precious and near my God was to me by his ministering angel, and the blessed assurance that my Heavenly Father approved my feeble effort as a labor of love, has consoled me when adverse circumstances have thwarted and discouraged me.

The few Saints there are in Chicago are already fondly endeared to me, and solicitous for my welfare. I have not deemed it wise to yet organize them into a branch—proper and sufficient instruction should be first given, I have thought, and suitable material for building is as necessary to a good spiritual edifice as to one of coarser nature. There are but sixteen members of the Church in Chicago, that I have discovered yet, and of these twelve are sisters, rich in love of the truth, but poor in the wealth of this world. Of the four brethren, one has been out of work a goodly portion of the time I have been in the city,—and he a generous hearted man. A second is so situated that he can not attend meeting and retain the situation by which he earns his bread. A third, recently arrived, has only an occasional job to work; but he is an old soldier of the cross, and will do all he can. The fourth is not keeping house, but makes me welcome at his son-in-law's home when I go, as do all of the household proper. I have been thus explicit in stating circumstances, that you, my brethren, may be prepared to act advisedly concerning this mission.

Financially, the Chicago mission is very poor, and can at best, as you can readily discover from what I have said, do no more than merely sustain a minister with food and lodging. The Saints, however, as are all who have this work deeply at heart, are willing to do far more than they are able to do. Would to God the able were all as willing as those who are willing long to be able to do.

The expenses of the hall and the multifarious expenses of the mission have been borne by the Bishopric. For their substantial aid I thank them, as well as for their moral support and that of the First Presidency, and numbers of warm-hearted, loving Saints elsewhere.

Our hall is not suited to us; but it is the only place we have been able to secure till recently in a suitable locality. Another, and, in every sense, a better place has been offered me, but by the advice of the Bishopric, I secured the promise of the

proprietor to give me the refusal of it till April 15th, that the voice of the Conference may be had upon the propriety or impropriety of continuing this mission.

Upon this question, much might be said; but as I have only a very few suggestive thoughts to offer, with your permission I will embody them in this report, that they may come before you, and be properly canvassed by the proper authority, when the subject of missions comes under advisement:

1st. Chicago, as the centre of the great Northwest, ought to have a branch of the Church of Christ, as by us represented, well established and ably represented within her precincts.

2nd. The nearly half a million souls reputed as dwelling there, represent nearly all classes and all conditions of humanity that enter into the heterogeneous mass of our common republic. The enlightenment of individuals of these varied nationalities and peoples upon the great and sublime themes of a perfect gospel, would necessarily reflect the light of truth in divergent rays, and as the preaching of the gospel at Jerusalem's Pentecostal period sowed the seeds of life that germinated and prepared a harvest in many lands, so might it do here, if we can but reach the masses.

3rd. The press is a mighty lever of power; the strongest weapon the intellect can employ. The press of Chicago is becoming famous for its potency, and is accredited by critics of the old world as being the most ably edited, excepting only those of New York and Philadelphia, of any in America. And, thank God, and honored be these able ministers of the "mightier than the sword," the press of Chicago has given me fair play and honorable mention, excepting only a scurrilous but weak attack in the *Western Rural*, which they have since apologized for and corrected. The four great leading dailies have given me admission to their columns, and treated me and my correspondence with gentlemanly courtesy, refusing nothing I have contributed, and voluntarily setting us upon the plane of our own accepted faith before their readers. As an illustration of the great good already accomplished, permit me to cite you to one fact: The play of "The Danites," founded upon Utah institutions by Joaquin Miller, was performed in Chicago, and to give it eclat among the religious and anti-Saint class, a hand bill was circulated by thousands, stating, in effect, that the play of the "Danites" then being performed in the city was the best sermon on Mormonism ever delivered. Some nibbled at the bait, others swallowed it whole. To counteract this, and yet take advantage of it, I advertised a discourse on "The Danites." A fair audience greeted me, and among them, gentlemanly reporters of the *Tribune* and *Times*. The following morning a very fair, and sufficiently lengthy synopsis of the discourse appeared in those papers. Tens of thousands would read the facts that distinguished between the Reorganized and the Utah Churches, though not more than a hundred, probably, heard those facts stated. This discourse was delivered February 22d; the same night its leading thought was flashed over the wires north, south, east, and west, and on the 23d, twenty-four hours afterwards, appeared in various papers thousands of miles apart. Thus that morning, while your representative seemed to be preaching to not more than a hundred, he was virtually proclaiming to millions that the Reorganized Church was the banner-bearer of law, order, and peace. By what better means can the distant multitudes be reached, prejudice removed, and the way prepared for the heralds of the cross?

4th. A foothold has been gained in Chicago. Ought it to be forfeited again? Many earnest and independent thinkers are examining our claims. The prospect is encouraging, though not brilliant.

For these reasons, in brief, I hope that the Chicago Mission will be sustained by your honorable body, and that the conference will send some better qualified man than I to represent the work here, if in your wisdom, it be thought best to release me.

The four papers that I have referred to as dealing with us in a spirit of gentlemanly courtesy and candor should not be unrecognized; they are the *Inter-Ocean*, *Times*, *Tribune* and *Evening Journal*. Nor do I think you will charge me with

any but proper motives if I express the hope that the masses whom your honorable body represents will remember, in subscribing for secular papers, that the papers which manifest a desire for justice and unsectarian liberty are alone worthy the support of this people, whose love for truth and fair-play has been made conspicuous by the persecutions and wrongs they have suffered through injustice, intolerance, and falsehood.

Samuel S. Wilcox, of the High Priests, appointed last fall to the Utah Mission, writes from Shenandoah, Iowa:

For the past six months I have been trying to fill the presidency of the Shenandoah Branch of the Church to the best of my ability and I feel that I have the approval of the Holy Spirit. I regret my inability to fill the mission assigned me by the Fall Conference. If I had been present at the time I would have declined, as my financial condition would not permit. I have an anxiety to fill it at some future day, if prosperity attends me, but at present I can not go. I was very much dissatisfied with my condition, as I felt the Church wanted me to do something that I was unable to do. And, for fear I would be considered derelict, I have been ready to discharge my duty in branch capacity, by night or day, and at present must content myself with doing what is in my reach.

Crowell G. Lanphear, of the High Priests, (present), reports:

After reporting last September I preached near Davenport, Iowa, also at Butternut Grove Branch, at Maquoketa and at Smithtown, Iowa. I crossed the Mississippi, November 21st, and came to Buffalo Prairie, where I preached a funeral sermon the 24th, and another sermon the 30th. I attended the Kewanee Conference early in December and preached once. Thence to the Mission Branch, LaSalle county, and preached December 22d. I next held three meetings at Streator, and then went to Piper City Branch, Livingston county, and staid till early in February, preaching five times and having charge of other meetings. On February 8th I preached on Grand Prairie; on the 15th in Braidwood, Will county; on the 22d, east of Wilmington; on the 29th at Wilton Center, and on March 7th and 8th at Streator again. On March 21st I was with the Saints at Amboy, Lee county, and preached, and the same week I preached north of Shabbona, DeKalb county, and also on the following Sabbath, March 28th.

Since September 18th I have received moneys as follows: Of the Saints and friends in Iowa, \$4.85; of Agent Benjamin, Kewanee District, \$2.50; of Bro. Danielson, Leland, 50 cents, and from December to March, of the Saints at Streator, Mission, Piper City, Braidwood, Grand Prairie, Wilton Center, Wilmington, I received money and clothing to the amount of about \$16.85. Also a friend (not a member) near Wilton Center, gave me a pair of boots, a very acceptable present.

I have administered to the sick and officiated in all duties when required.

Though not free from trial, yet I feel that the blessings of the Lord have been with me, and, in my weakness, his Spirit and grace have borne me up, and enabled me to make his cause honorable, which, by his help, has ever been, and I trust ever may be, my desire and purpose, for I wish to honor Christ and the glorious gospel, now being preached for a witness to all nations before the end shall come.

I desire to visit the eastern country again, (Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York,) where I have heretofore labored, and to do what I can for the confirming and strengthening the work in that direction. But I leave it to the wisdom of the conference to decide what is best to do in the matter. I have received several letters from New York desiring help and to hear again the glad tidings.

John Landers, of the High Priests, writes from Blue Rapids, Kansas:

Grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ be with you, that your deliberations may prove to the extension of the glorious kingdom of God on the earth. * I am now

in the last half of my eighty-sixth year, and the cause is as precious to me as ever, and I am bound to do all I can to promote it. Our quarterly conference of February 21st and 22d, was one that will long be remembered by many who attended it. We began to baptize in conference time, and, up to this time, have baptized twelve; and more seem about ready to obey. Love and harmony are increasing in the Church, and the gifts of the gospel are bestowed upon us. It would give me great joy to be with you.

Robert J. Anthony, of the Seventy, under appointment to the Utah Mission, writes from Malad, Idaho:

I arrived in Salt Lake City, November 22d, 1879, and remained there until December 1st, when, having been appointed to labor in Northern Utah and a portion of Idaho, I left the city and went to Ogden. I there wandered around a few days trying to get a place to hold services in, but could get none without paying a price for it, and that we did not have. On the 7th I went to Plain City and made application for the Episcopal school house, and was refused. We then tried to get the school house from the Brighamites, and they could not give us an answer, one of the trustees being absent. We held services in Bro. Stocker's house. The attendance was small. I then went to Ogden and met Bro. Derry on the 13th, and the Liberal Hall was secured for us, to hold two services, the next day being Sunday. At the two o'clock services sixteen attended and eight at night. During the week we held two meetings in the Mound Fort school house, and the first night the congregation numbered about forty, the next evening there was about twenty-five. On Sunday the 21st we held forth twice in the Liberal Hall, there being twenty-four at the 2 p.m. services, and thirty-three at night. We then gave up meetings there for lack of money. We had to pay \$2.75 for each Sunday. We then tried tract distributing. We passed them to the school children, and put them in the letter boxes. We met one of the high and mighty ones, and politely handed him an *Advocate*. He immediately about faced, and asked, "What is this?" Bro. Derry, gently leaning on his staff, began to explain, but he that had entered into the higher order, and had kingdoms, thrones, principalities and powers sealed upon him, remarked, "Jest so, I know all about it," waved his hand and majestically walked on. We visited Bro. Derry's old acquaintances. Some were a little shy, but nearly all gave him a kind word; but, with one exception, all referred to the joy they had felt together in other days, and how Bro. Derry had worked to build up the kingdom. Bro. Derry told them that we came with the same glad message now, to call the wanderers home; but they would shake their heads, and, with a long breath say, "O Charlie, you have apostatized and left our holy religion. Talk to us about anything but your religion; we know all about it." I speak of this that you may understand the feeling, and judge of the situation. On Sunday night, 28th, Bro. Derry spoke in the M. E. Church, to five persons. The night was very stormy, and perhaps that prevented some from coming out. I then went to Plain City, and our Episcopal friends kindly offered us the house. We published the appointment but I was unable to fill it, being severely attacked with diphtheria; Bro. Derry came and labored with them to the general satisfaction of all. There was a fair turnout, and good interest. We then separated, he to go up the Weber, and I to Malad, for the people seemed to have a fullness of their kind of religion, and did not want any other. I arrived at Malad City January 18th, and at once commenced operations. We seemed to be in a different atmosphere; the spirit of liberty was felt to some degree, and the people seemed to be somewhat interested. I have preached here, at Cherry Creek, Oregon Springs, and once in Portage. About twelve attended our meeting at Portage; that place is in possession of the Phillistines. Upon the whole, in this part of the mission the prospects seem fair. A number here say that they will unite with us soon. I baptized one here yesterday. Only think, four months of earnest praying and labor, and only to get one into the fold! Yet we

are not discouraged; the interest is widening, and is becoming permanent. Quite a division has taken place within the last few days in the ranks of the enemy, one that will result in great good. And it is bound to widen, unless the people surrender their manhood to a corrupt priesthood. The Church ought to sustain the Utah mission; and, if possible, reinforce it by men who will maintain the dignity of the Church, and prove true to God, and to themselves. It seems to me that it would be suicide for the Church to weaken on the Utah question now. However, the wisdom of the Church can best decide that question. None who come need expect to overthrow the strongholds in a month, or a year, but my mind is that we will have to fight a silent and entrenched enemy for every inch of ground we seek. The mission is not a pleasant one to me, yet, if you think it wisdom that I should remain here, I will do so and do the best I can; but I am persuaded that there are others who would do the Church greater service than myself. I have not been disappointed in regard to the work of the Lord in the valleys of the mountains, but I believe that the Reorganized Church will ultimately triumph. I will remain till fall if you wish.

Thomas J. Phillips, of the Seventy, appointed to labor in Missouri, writes from Renick, Missouri:

I send this as a sort of a report of what I have been doing since last April Conference. I have the charge of this branch, and hold meetings every Sunday; sometimes in Welsh and sometimes in English. I have distributed tracts all through this town to almost every house, and books also. I have been to some houses four and five times, and sometimes three and four miles out of town, besides preaching once at Salt River. I have opened a place in Elliott, a small town about three miles from here; and at Taunton I preached three times, baptized and confirmed four people, and blessed two children. I have laid hands on the sick with good effect. I feel well towards the cause, and desire to do more good if possible. I am getting along in years, and I ask an interest in your prayers.

Thomas E. Jenkins, of the Seventy, writes from Dowlais, Wales:

At a conference held in Amboy, Illinois, in 1864, I was appointed on a mission to Wales. For the first three years I labored hard and faithfully; but my constitution was a weak one, my health failed, and I had to give up continual traveling. But I did not give up attending meetings and conferences, but assisted the brethren here all I could. I never lost one particle of good feelings toward the work of God, but was always ready and anxious to do anything I could. Since I came to Wales five other good Elders have been laboring here besides the local Elders; viz: J. Seville from England and J. T. Phillips, J. D. Jones, John E. Reese, and J. T. Davies from America; all good men and true to their calling. But the appointment of Robert Evans to preside over the mission was a sad mistake, but Elder Taylor saw the evil tendency of this, and recommended the appointment of Elder J. R. Gibbs to preside over the mission. Bro. Gibbs is a good, faithful man, and I believe worthy of the appointment. He is well assisted by a young and growing Elder of promising abilities, Bro. Alma Bishop, president of the Llanelly Branch, and other local Elders. I pray that God will restore me to health and strength, that I may labor with them, to the glory of his holy name, also that from the coming Conference God will endow his Elders with greater power than ever before. May the grace of God abide with you.

Robert Davis, of the Seventy, appointed to Michigan and Canada, writes from Genesee county, Michigan:

I desired much to have met with you, but unfavorable circumstances have prevented. One of my daughters has been very sick, but is now recovering, for which I thank my heavenly Father. I pray that God may direct you for the advancement of his kingdom. I am now laboring in new places, and have more calls than I am able to at-

tend to. A good interest is manifested, and I believe that good will result from the same. Within the last year I have baptized about thirty-five persons; preached in a number of new places; administered to the sick with good effects, and otherwise administered in the ordinances of the gospel. I desire to labor on in the work of the Lord, where the Lord and the conference direct.

John H. Hansen, of the Seventy, writes from Farmington, Kentucky:

I herewith report in relation to the church here. We are nearly on a standstill. I am sorry to write it, but it is a fact. There are many believing who, in time, will no doubt obey the gospel, but at present there is but little interest. We need a new man here, that is, some one besides myself, and in this connection I would recommend the return of Bro. Smith. And it seems to me that the South is entitled to one of the Twelve. Can you not give us Bro. Lambert? The southern air would be beneficial to his lungs, I think. If he can not come, try to send one of the others, or some one else besides Bro. Smith, but be sure to send him at least.

It will not be expedient for me to do any thing except near home this summer. I hope I will soon be able to take the field again, provided the Church desires me to do so. In the meantime I will try to do what I can near home. Bro. Smith can tell you much better than I can write it about this mission. I trust that the conference may do much to prosecute the work, and to sustain it where it is started.

John C. Foss, of the Seventy, writes from Deer Isle, Maine:

Since you assigned me to the state of Maine with permission also to labor in Rhode Island, I would state that I have labored wholly here and have not been to Rhode Island for the want of means to travel with. The way looks clearer before me for the coming year, and I think that I shall be able to do more for the gospel than I have for the past year. Also the cause brightens in this region, and the people are more friendly than before. I have more calls for preaching than I can fill. The past year I have baptized seventeen. As a general thing the Saints have been very low spirited, but now are reviving and going onward. Bro. S. O. Foss, though young, is thrusting in his sickle and is doing good. If there is any other mission you wish to assign me to you are at liberty so to do, but if not, I wish to labor in Maine, with permission to go to New Jersey.

John S. Patterson, of the Seventy, (present), reports as follows:

The field assigned me being Northern Illinois, my time has been exclusively devoted to the interests of the cause in it, laboring principally in parts of the Kewanee and Northern Illinois Districts, visiting quite a number of branches and opening quite a number of new places for preaching. As a general thing I have had a kind reception in the new places, and also received urgent requests to return. Prejudice seems to be giving way, and our true position is becoming better known than ever before. As a consequence we are gaining favor in the eyes of the people. In my travels I have met several of Utah's representatives, with whom I desired to compare notes, but, true to their past history, they declined in such a way as showed that cowardice was a leading feature of their character. But the issue will eventually come, and they must meet it or back down. As the results of my labor I have baptized eighteen persons, blessed twenty-eight children, celebrated one marriage, preached four funeral discourses, and administered to a large number of sick people, many of whom received direct and permanent evidence of God's power, in confirmation of his word of promise. In all my labors I have been blessed with renewed evidence of God's approval, and my faith in the ultimate triumph of truth grows stronger as time advances. I have forwarded to the Bishop an itemized financial report for the year; the following are the totals: Receipts from all sources, \$213.67; traveling and incidental expenses, \$81.80; balance in my favor

for the year, 131.87. I have been received and kindly cared for by the Saints in my travels, for which I feel duly grateful. I am still with you in faith, and at the disposal of the Conference.

Edmund C. Brand, of the Seventy, (present), appointed to Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, reports:

Having been appointed a mission in charge of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana territories, I left conference on its adjournment, October 1st, and started on my journey, preaching by the way, and have preached in the following places: Iowa—Pleasant Ridge 1, Leland's Grove 3; Nebraska—Omaha 4, Valley Station 7, Fremont 3, Elkhorn 2; Wyoming—Cheyenne 3; Utah—Salt Lake City 3, Cottonwood 2, Ogden 1; Idaho—Malad City 2, Oneida 1, Soda Springs 1, Beaver Canyon 1; Montana—Ruby Valley 2, Virginia City 2, Willow Creek 10, Galatin City 1, Reese Creek 13, Helena 2, Blackfoot 3, Deer Lodge 4, Race Track 1, Willow Springs 2, Butte 4, Divide Creek 1, Glendale 5, Twin Bridges 3, Harrison 1, Salisbury 1, Bozeman City 3, total 92 discourses. I baptized in Idaho 5, Montana 7, total 12. Branches organized 3, conferences 1. Children blessed 24. Priest ordained 1, Teacher 1. Funeral meetings 2, special prayer 2, business meetings 3. Have traveled since I left my home September 5th, 4,766 miles. Since I left conference October 1st, 4,680, and out of this 1,114 miles in Montana Territory.

In Idaho there are only two branches, Malad City and Elkhorn, and as they are close on the borders of Utah, I would suggest that Idaho be attached to the Utah Mission, and that they report to that conference; also that, as there are only two Saints in Cheyenne, and the same in Carbon, and as all Elders going into Colorado have to stop at Cheyenne, I would suggest that Wyoming be attached to Colorado. At Cheyenne Elder John Eames is trying to do all he can for the cause, and he proposes to hire five men and one woman, good Latter Day Saints. He will give them good wages; and if we can send out a force of six good Saints a branch can there be organized, which will form a nucleus for the work. He will hire a clerk, cook, dish-washer, runner, chambermaid and hospital steward, if well recommended, and may, perhaps, assist them in part payment of their passage, by way of an advance.

Montana I believe to be the most important field, next to Utah. It can and will support two missionaries in the field; and, besides this has promised to assist the Utah Mission, and has already sent from one Branch \$25 00. My desire is to do all I can in the cause of my Master. Should the conference retain me in the field I am willing to labor as my circumstances may permit, in south-western Iowa, or in Nebraska, till the end of August, and then resume the field, either in Montana or any portion of the Rocky Mountains where I can do the most good. I feel greatly encouraged in the prospects of the work.

Joseph F. McDowell, of the Seventy, (present), reports as follows:

Since last report I have labored in Northern Illinois, and Southwest Ohio. Opened two new places in each of these regions. Preached and lectured at Plano, Pecatonica, Kent and Amboy, Illinois, and at Amanda, Miltonville and Wooddale, in Ohio. Preached 100 times and delivered 25 lectures; assisted in settling difficulties in two branches; ordained 2 teachers; blessed 5 children; baptized 2; assisted in and confirmed 5, and administered to the sick with remarkable results. Have had many calls for preaching that I could not respond to. In all my ministrations God has blessed me. To him be praise and thanksgiving evermore. I feel firm in the faith and am willing to continue in the Master's service.

Isaac N. Roberts, of the Seventy, appointed to labor in Kansas, writes from that field:

I have just come home, and I feel much encouraged in the work of the Lord. Since last conference I have tried to prosecute that part entrusted to me, and my whole time has been spent to advance the cause. I thank the good Master for his Spirit given me. I have met much opposition,

but, thank God, his truth prevails. I never felt better in my life than I have in the past six months. The Lord has been with me in all my administrations, in word, in doctrine, and in setting things in order. I have baptized fourteen into the kingdom of God, solemnized one marriage and administered to the sick with good results. I would love to be with you, but can not. I will stand at the disposal of the conference, to work wherever I can do the most good. If in Kansas, I am here; if some other place, I will go, by the help of God. I pray that love, peace, and the gift of God's Spirit may be with you.

J. F. Mintun, of the Seventy, writes from Western Iowa:

I have preached about once a week, sometimes once, sometimes twice on Sundays. On account of sickness immediately after last conference I was not able to do any preaching for nearly a month. Have administered to the sick, in some cases with great blessings following. I am yet in the hands of God, to do as he may see fit as to my future work. I desire to spend my whole time in the ministry, and can, if my family can be provided with the necessaries of life, without which I can only spend a part of the time. If the conference, should so decide, I will convert all I have into a little home, get my family settled thereon, and, with my valise in my hand, start out in the fear of the Lord to do his will, trusting to him for food and for raiment for myself. Praying God to guide you, and to bless you with his love, I am your humble brother in Christ.

William T. Bozarth, of the Seventy, (present), appointed to Missouri and Southern Iowa, reports:

Since last fall conference I have been busily engaged in the ministry in Missouri, except about one month when I was hindered by sickness. I have traveled in company with Bro. G. T. Griffith, and have preached 65 times, baptized 1, confirmed 1, ordained 1; found many interested and have many calls for preaching. I am still willing to do all that I can for the cause.

Gomer T. Griffiths, of the Seventy, (present), associated with Bro. Bozarth, reports:

During the last six months I have been constantly engaged laboring in the field, partially alone, and partially in company with Bro. Wm. T. Bozarth; have baptized one. Am still willing to labor for the Master, if the conference deems it wisdom to sustain me in the field.

Charles N. Brown, of the Seventy, appointed to New York and the Massachusetts District, writes from Providence, Rhode Island:

Since last April Conference I have been constantly occupied during the working days of the week, but upon the Sabbaths have labored in new fields in Woonsocket and Cumberland, in the northern part of Rhode Island, and of late in Hopkinton in the southern part; also, by request, with Bro. G. S. Yerrington at Jacob's Hill and in other places; and with Bro. Webster in Boston, Bro. Squires in Brooklyn, and with the Douglass Branch, and much with Bro. C. A. Coombs and the Plainville Saints. Have held about 118 services for preaching, besides sacrament and testimony meetings. Have baptized ten; attended two funerals, and solemnized one marriage. Our meetings have been well attended, good liberty enjoyed, and many calls could not be filled.

Heman C. Smith, of the Seventy, (present), under appointment to the South-Eastern States, reports:

After reporting to the Semi-annual Conference from Gainesville, Florida, I returned to the western part of the state, where I labored until November 1st, during which time I baptized three. From November 1st until December 22d I was in Alabama, and baptized two. I then labored in Mississippi until near March 1st, and baptized four. During March I preached a few times at Farmington, Kentucky, also in the Eagle Creek Branch, Tennessee. In some parts of the mission the cause has advanced some; in other parts, I am sorry to say, it has made no progress. The

mission needs more ministerial labor. I am satisfied that its importance has never been fully comprehended by the Church. The mission covers a vast extent of territory, and no one man can do justice to the work. East Florida and Georgia should be neglected no longer; Mississippi needs immediate attention, while Alabama and West Florida should be looked after. A large and effective field has been opened in Kentucky and Tennessee. I learn by letter that the Alabama conference will present a petition to this conference asking that Bro. John H. Lake be sent south. I hope their request will be granted, and one or more sent with him. Bro. Hansen informs me that no missionary labor can be expected of him, so some one should be appointed to succeed him in charge of the mission, and I think the suggestion of the Alabama conference is a good one.

I am still in the faith, and ready to labor for the Master. Dispose of me as you will and I will make an effort to serve you, and for the cause of Zion I shall ever pray. For the last three-months Bro. D. G. McPherson of Alabama labored with me.

Morris T. Short, of the Seventy, (present), appointed to labor in Kansas and Missouri, reports:

Within the last six months I have held one discussion of seven two-hour sessions, on four propositions; conducted three funeral exercises; baptized a lady and a gentleman, solemnized one marriage, and preached all I well could in numerous localities. My aged father was dangerously ill and I was detained at home two months. My labors have been chiefly in the Spring River District, but I spoke twice in Independence and about a dozen times in several branches in the St. Louis District. I have been listened to, kindly received, and greatly blessed. I desire to merit the love of all that honor the truth.

Bradford V. Springer, of the Seventy, (present), appointed to Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, reports:

I have labored almost constantly in Southern Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, striving to magnify my calling, in presenting the gospel of Christ in plainness and kindness, by example as well as by precept. I have endeavored, always and under all circumstances, to be careful and watchful, that no reproach come upon the work, or upon the people whom I represent, by any act or word of mine. The record I have made in this mission is with the people with whom I have associated during sixteen months. I could not change it if I desired to, and I leave the field with a consciousness of having done the best I could under the circumstances. I also believe that I take with me the confidence and love of the dear Saints of the Southern Indiana District, and the good will and wishes of hundreds of friends and noble souls outside of the Church. I have succeeded in opening several new fields of labor, in which I look for good results, if the work is promptly followed up. The prejudice of six years ago seems to have melted away, like the dew before the sun's rays. The outlook is indeed encouraging, and I trust that the mission will not be overlooked by this conference, and, if at all practicable, a good man or men will be sent there to continue the work. I have organized one branch, ordained two Priests, one Teacher and one Deacon; baptized and confirmed seventeen persons between the ages of fifteen and fifty; blessed twenty-one children; traveled over 1,000 miles on foot, and preached 114 times, and am still willing to continue to exercise my powers of body and mind in any manner that will accomplish good.

James W. Bryan, of the Texas Mission, writes from Eikhart, Anderson county, as follows:

On account of rheumatic troubles and neuralgia, affecting the nerve centres, I have been physically and mentally disqualified from presenting the gospel with power, as it should be done, and therefore I have deemed it prudent to retire from the active ministry, until such time as my health may

be restored, and I ask to be released from this mission for these reasons, and I hope that some more able brother may be sent here to carry on the work. I still hope for the triumph of the everlasting gospel.

Joseph A. Crawford, (present), appointed to Missouri and Southern Iowa, reports:

During the past six months I have been constantly engaged in laboring in the field.

In the Far West District, Missouri, I was at places as follows:—Jameson's Mill, Pleasant Grove School House, Stewartville Church, Court House in Plattsburgh, Starfield Church, Mount Pleasant School House, Thorpe's School House, near Far West.

In the String Prairie and Nauvoo District as follows:—Farmington, String Prairie, Keokuk and Burlington, Iowa; Carthage, Rock Creek, Cottage School House, Madison School House and West Union School House, Illinois.

In the Kewanee District, at Canton and Bryant, Illinois.

Also during the past February, I held a four days' discussion at Rock Creek, Illinois; with the Rev. Joshua Dunham, of the United Brethren Church, three days being occupied on the mode, and one day on the design of baptism.

During March I held a three days' discussion with Prof. S. Palmer, at Rock Creek, Illinois, one day and one half being devoted to the question of the existence of a personal God, and the same length of time on the subject of the Bible's authenticity.

In addition to these personal labors, I had the pleasure of assisting President Joseph Smith in a series of meetings at Colchester, Burnside and Carthage, Illinois.

As delegate from the String Prairie and Nauvoo District, I desire to report the district as improving. Many causes of discontent and variance, have been and are being removed. All public feuds have been removed, and only some minor local troubles remain, which it is hoped are in a fair way for adjustment. The local ministry have in a good measure become alive to their duty, and are trying to "sow the seed" in their local missions.

A serious fault yet remains, and that is regarding the district record, which is sadly out of order, caused by the neglect of branch clerks in failing to make regular and proper reports to the district conference.

The conferences of the district have become almost a marvel of order and promptness, and I think it only remains for the elders and members to go forward in the same order in which a majority are now moving, and the cause in that section will continue to prevail over all opposition.

During the last year a vast amount of prejudice has been removed, particularly so in Hancock county, where many new openings have been made; while many calls for labor in new localities have not been filled for want of time, and lack of laborers.

In closing this report, I feel indeed to thank God for the light and liberty of his Holy Spirit extended to me; and will say that I desire to make the cause of Christ my life interest, and am still ready and willing to do all I can for the latter day work. If this conference deems it wisdom to retain me in the field, I am willing to go and labor wherever it may with you seem wise and prudent to send me.

Joseph Luff, of the Utah Mission, writes from Salt Lake City, Utah:

Preached six times in Independence, Mo.; once in Wyandotte, Kansas; twenty-six times in Salt Lake City, Utah; twice in Bingham; five times in Union Fort, and three times in Sandy. Baptized nine persons in Salt Lake City. These are the result, in part, of the labors of all the brethren who have preached here, I only officiating at the request of the branch president.

Have met with considerable opposition outside of Salt Lake City, but am hopeful of good results, though not sanguine. The prospect in Salt Lake City is, to me, encouraging.

Am feeling pretty well in spirits, though rather poorly in body, on account of the climate. Hope

to be continued in this field till fall conference, unless you shall see fit to order otherwise.

Gordon E. Deuel, also of the Utah Mission, writes from Beaver, Utah, as follows:

Since my arrival in Beaver I have preached under unfavorable circumstances. I have to travel on foot, not having any railway to go on; and, having received a hurt, I could not travel as I would have done had I not been disabled. But, thank the Lord, I feel better, and shall travel to Minersville this week, and then to Frisco. I have been to Parowan and preached nine times. They turned out well, notwithstanding the cold and stormy weather and deep snow; left some tracts for Bro. Barton to distribute. A poor sister, Wardell, strong in the faith, goes about doctoring the sick, and she is a good hand to give the tracts to the people. So the seed is being sown; may it grow and bear fruit to salvation, and to God's glory. Have preached in Beaver thirty-six times, and assisted at fifteen prayer and testimony meetings; have gone from house to house, leaving tracts and talking to the people. Many admit that we have the truth, but some are dependent on others for their living, so are afraid to unite with us, and some expect that if they stay with the Utah Church they will be delivered.

All kinds of opinions exist in these valleys; and many don't believe in any God but Nature. The Methodists are kind and obliging, and give us the use of their chapel, but the Old Mormons don't like to go to meeting in their house, so I obtained permission to preach in the Institute, and the people turned out well. More and more came to hear, and then they shut the house against me. I can have the M. E. Church at any time, and Mr. Ed. Thompson gave me the use of his hall on Sundays free of charge, so when the weather comes mild we will be all right. Had hopes of having a discussion with Philo T. Farnsworth, Bishop, but he failed me.

I was in hopes of adding some to the Church; but, owing to some disunion in the branch, it chilled some that were very favorable. Some old folks want to be baptized, but they are dependent upon their son, and it is thought best to defer their baptism, for he is opposed to it.

The branch here thought proper to elect Bro. Charles Van Vleet to preside over the branch for the time being, and by vote of the branch, he was ordained Priest, and Bro. Wm. Thompson chosen secretary. I make my home at Bro. Wm. W. Hutchings, who was ordained an Elder the first Sabbath after my arrival by an unanimous vote of the branch. His wife has been kind, and spared no pains to make me comfortable, though not a member. There are but seven families, and four out of that number but one member each, thirteen members altogether. Thanks to Brn. Van Vleet, Thompson and Bennett, and to Sr. Thimblebee, and to all who have in any way aided me since I have been here. I have received \$8 in money, and sent \$4.50 of that to my family in Iowa. I am not discouraged, or homesick, but shall try to work on in truth and righteousness, till I shall fill the mission assigned me. May the Lord bless you all in your jubilee conference. I feel my weakness, and ask the prayers of the Saints. I will be thankful if an Elder will be sent here, or I be changed to some other stake, where I can have some one to labor with. I do not fear any attack on the doctrine, for the Lord will give the victory. All the sorrow I feel is from within. I have blessed three children, ordained one Elder and one Priest, administered to a few sick, and the Lord blessed and raised them up.

Robert M. Elvin, appointed to Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, writes from Nebraska City:

Having been sadly disappointed in not meeting with you, I herewith report my labors. Since the 1879 fall conference I have tried to follow the direction of the Spirit, and to dispel as much prejudice as possible, and I feel that my labors have not been sterile.

The following are the places and number of times I have preached; Iowa: Eight Mile Grove 1, Hastings 1, Farm Creek 4, Wheelers Grove 2, Crescent City 15, Downsview 10, Glenwood 7,

Dawsonburg 2, Council Bluffs 4; Nebraska: Wilber 24, Mumford School-house 3, Savage School-house 1, Palmyra 4, Plattsmouth 3, Nebraska City 5, Omaha 4, Xenia 7, Platte Valley 6, Barker School-house 2, Clear Creek 12, South Bend 3, making a total of 120 times. Have travelled per train, wagon and on foot 1622 miles. Ordained one Priest and assisted in the ordination of one Teacher. In company with Elder Levi Anthony, organized Clear Creek Branch, February 15th, 1880. Baptized 5, confirmed 6, blessed 9 children, administered to several sick, with God's approval.

I feel well in the cause, and can freely certify that God has been good and kind to me. I am still willing to be a sacrifice upon the altar for the spread of truth, and if thought advisable, I desire to occupy the same field. Have not reached Missouri or Kansas, but hope to before the Semi-Annual Conference.

J. J. Cornish, appointed to Michigan and Canada, writes from Sanilac Co., Michigan:

Since my last report (April 1879) I have preached nearly every Sunday, once, twice, or three times, and, besides, spent about two thirds of my time in the field. Have baptized twenty-eight and administered in the ordinances of the gospel as duty led. I hope to spend all my time in the field, and I desire to continue in Michigan and Canada, if agreeable to you. I will be in Canada soon again.

G. S. Yerrington, (present), assigned to labor in the East, under authorities there, writes:

I have continued to labor to the best of my ability, such time as I had. A year ago I returned home by way of Pittsburg and labored with them there about eight days; then to Brooklyn, N. Y., and staid seven days; then to Bridgeport, Connecticut, and remained fourteen days. I preached several times in each of the places named, holding eleven meetings at the last named place, and baptized two. I then went to Jewett City, Connecticut, and staid about one week, but owing to the temperance meetings being held there I only had a chance to take part in those meetings; but I did not fail to improve the chances to speak of the gospel, and to give out some tracts. I got some to reading, and the result is that they are inquiring and want to hear more. I got back to my daily labor the first of June, and since then I have tried to do all I could, and have preached in Providence, Simonsville and Pawtucket, R. I., and at Douglass, Plainville, Boston and Dennisport, Mass., also at Jacob's Hill near Providence, where we have held meetings for about six months. The Lord has helped us to keep the place open, and there seems to be a good interest. He has blessed us much this year in all our labors. I hope to be able to understand the doctrines of the Church so that, while I represent her, I may live by the law and preach the gospel of the kingdom of God and to do all the good I can. The prospects are better in this part of the land than ever before. My faith in the great latter day work is unshaken. Upon its principles I am willing to risk my soul's salvation, believing that they came from the great head of the Church, Jesus Christ, and I desire to labor wherever the Church thinks I can do so most effectually. I have labored in concert with Bro. C. N. Brown, and our desire still is to be in the field as much as we can. The Saints here are all poor in this world's goods but they hope to be rich in their future inheritance.

Columbus Scott, (present), appointed to Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, reports:

Since my report to the Semi-Annual Conference of 1879, I have devoted a great portion of my time to Christ's cause, though for awhile sickness in my family prevented continual labor, but I did occasional service. And from November 20th I have been in the field continuously up to March 1st, performing labor in Berrien, Van Buren, and Sanilac counties, Michigan, and in Perth, Gray and Elgin counties, in Canada West, in connection with Elders Kelley, Samuel Brown and J. A. McIntosh.

To mention all the points visited would be

tedious; and suffice it to say that in most of the localities, the interest increased, and sincere inquirers were found seeking to know the way of truth, and some possessed the moral courage to start out in the "narrow way."

Some of the branches visited were found in good working order,—officers and members striving to do their duty respectively. Where such is the case the influence on the communities is good, which is favorable to the cause of Christ. (Would that all Saints could realize this.) At other places the Saints appeared to be somewhat derelict in duty, and the effect was rather an indifference to the truth by the friends and neighbors. We believe that an occasional visit of some good faithful Elder to such places would be beneficial, and remedial, to a great extent. Culture and discipline are as necessary as planting and watering.

Looking at the work in the mission as a whole, it is very encouraging, and it is onward, decidedly so. Our greatest need is laborers; ten, at least, are necessary in this mission. Kind Saints ministered to my necessities, along with friends, during my labors among them, for all of which I feel grateful and tender my thanks.

Have traveled some 800 to 1000 miles; baptized 9 persons, and confirmed five; administered to the sick, in a number of instances with good results. I have also written out the scriptural texts of the three subjects—Law of Moses, its objects, continuance and termination; Satan, his power, sphere, emissaries, and final condition; Sunday, the Christian Sabbath, as intended for the anticipated Synopses. In all these labors I have been blessed abundantly by the assisting grace and Holy Spirit of a kind heavenly Father, and I have been strengthened and confirmed in the faith of our Savior. Am still willing to do all I can to forward the interests of the glorious cause.

James Brown, appointed last to West Virginia and Ohio, writes from Gill Hall, Pa.:

You appointed me to a mission two years ago in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia; but as circumstances over which at present I have no control, have prevented me from filling said mission, I desire that you release me from the same, and would recommend that Bro. L. R. Devore be associated with Bro. Ells on said mission. I hoped to have attended conference this spring, but failed to get the means, so will be content. I pray that you may have a good time.

Chas. Wickes, (present), appointed to Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, writes:

As one of the appointed missionaries of the Church, I respectfully submit a report of my labors since my ordination, which took place May 8th, 1879. From that date to July 14th, I remained in Plano, preaching three times.

I then went to Michigan, under the direction of the First Presidency, visiting Grand Rapids, Jenisonville, Muskegon, Lawrence, New Troy and vicinity, and Galien. Returning to Plano, August 11th, I remained until August 25th, when, by the advice of the First Presidency, I went to Pecatonica, Illinois, to join Bro. J. F. McDowell. I remained with him until October 6th, and then I returned to Plano.

Being appointed by the Semi-Annual Conference of 1879 to travel in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, I left Plano, October 11th; preached in Sandwich, Illinois, the 12th, and then to Meriden, Illinois, and spoke twice. Went from there to Amboy, and attended the district conference, after which I spoke in that vicinity eleven times. From there I called off Bro. L. Cheney, at Kent, Illinois. At that place Bro. McDowell joined me, and we held a series of meetings together. We enjoyed a pleasant time, and were blessed of the Spirit. On December 24th we separated, he going to Amboy, and I to Plano, preaching once while here, and at Sandwich, on January 4th, assisted Bro. Forscutt. On the 8th, we went to Chicago, where I stopped with him one week, helping him to open the Chicago Mission. On the 18th, I bade him a regretful farewell and took train for Troy, Mich., at the invitation of Bro. Wm. Kelley. I was kindly entertained by Bro. Babcock. I preached

there four times, and on the 19th went to Benton Harbor and began a series of meetings. I preached in that vicinity until February 21st, twenty-five times all told.

The field was entirely new, and, of course, some strenuous opposition was offered, but the Lord blessed my efforts beyond my most sanguine expectations, and the opposers' influence was ruined by the very weapons they used against me. Many are believing, and the place should not be neglected.

I went to Hartford on the 21st and spoke to the Saints there three times. On the 23rd I went to Muskegon; spoke three times during my stay there, besides holding a short discussion at a club meeting with an Episcopal Clergyman; subject: "The general merits of the Roman Catholic Church," he (Rev. Fellows) defending, I attacking their policy and government.

From Muskegon I went to Alpine, speaking twice on the Sunday I was there. From thence I returned to Plano, stopping on the way at Hopkins, Lawrence, Benton Harbor, and Galien, speaking a few times at each of these places, making a total of sixty-five sermons since October 11th. I am ready to take any mission the Church may give me, to the extent of three and one-half years.

In addition to the above reports I have some from those who are under no General Conference appointment, but who have nevertheless labored in the ministry where they have no local authorities to report to, as follows:

John Eames, at Cheyenne, Wyoming, writes that he has turned one room of his house of entertainment into a meeting room, and there preaches about three times per week to good sized congregations, and he writes that he wishes to employ saints to do the work in his hotel, if he can get them, and will pay good wages, and by that means a branch of the Church might be organized there. He has baptized one, and is anxious to do all he can.

James Kemp writes from Hutchinson, Colorado, that for three months he has been traveling with Bro. James Caffall in Jefferson, Arapaho and Douglas counties, Colorado; and, though much prejudice exists, on account of the abominations of Utah, yet he hopes to see good results from their labors, even as God may bless the seed sown and give a harvest of precious souls. The summer time will bring them increased facilities, and they intend to do all that is possible to be done, hoping that conference will continue Bro. Caffall, and also send one or two more Elders into that country.

O. E. Cleveland, in Augusta county, Virginia, writes that he has done some preaching. Prejudice is departing, and though there is no urgent calls for preaching, yet he believes that the time has come for a faithful and energetic Elder to be sent there, an able expounder and defender of the latter day work of God. Therefore, understanding that Bro. I. N. Roberts of Kansas intends visiting Virginia, his native state, Bro. Cleveland asks if he may not be appointed to come and minister to them. The Saints there will aid all they can. Bro. Cleveland can be addressed at Staunton, Virginia, or Bro. Benjamin Bowman at Dayton, Virginia.

G. F. Weston (present) reports his labors in Southern Indiana during the past winter, and especially since February 28th. He preached in the Union branch and vicinity, in Jefferson county, till March 21st; then he went to Ripley county and preached some in the Olive branch, and seven miles west of there where he was aided by Bro. J. S. Christie. Good attendance and prospects encouraging. On April 2d came to Whites-town, Indiana, and thence to Plano the 5th. He is glad to have been able during the past year to magnify his calling. Has preached 75 times since October last. He desires to be continued in Southern Indiana, but expects to be engaged during the summer in other business.

J. Lamoreaux writes from Solon, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, that he is trying to advance the cause, and he asks that the conference give him

the privilege to labor in that region and also in Kirtland, as the Saints there have requested him to come.

Robert Fuller writes from Bedford, Ohio, that he has presided at Kirtland for two years past, doing what he could and also laboring around about Kirtland some. He has now been compelled to move away and for this reason and because the members are scattered and also strife and contention exist, he suggests that the branch be declared disorganized. They are in no district and hence can not report to district authorities.

Rudolph Etzenhuser (present) reports that he has labored what he could and here presents himself for missionary labor in the Church, desiring to be associated with Bro. G. T. Griffiths, if it can be granted.

I also have in hand some reports from special Church officers, such as that of Bishop I. L. Rogers, the report of the Church Librarian, and the report of the Musical Editor. I have also a report of the Plano Sunday School, and a request from Bro. M. Shaw, of Minnesota, concerning Sunday School lesson papers.

Of petitions for the return or appointment of missionaries to various fields I have the following: One from the Eastern Maine District asking for the continuance of Bro. T. W. Smith to that field, and one from Pittsburg, Pa., asking for his labor among them part of the season. One from Colorado asking that Bro. James Caffall be continued to them. One from Chicago signed by sixty-three names asking that Bro. M. H. Forscutt be delegated to labor there still longer. One from Montana asking that Bro. E. C. Brand be returned to that country. One from the Florida District and another from the Gainesville Branch calling for the return of Bro. Heman C. Smith or that some other minister be sent from here. One from Red River Branch, Texas, asking that Bro. A. J. Cato be appointed to that region. One from the Southern Nebraska District calling for the continuance of Bro. R. M. Elvin in that field. One from Johnson county, Missouri, asking for Bro. W. T. Bozarth or some other minister. One from London, Ontario, that an Elder be sent there to keep the flock together and prosecute the work. One from Staunton, Virginia, asking for a minister. Bro. J. W. Wight offers himself for an appointment, and Bro. G. H. Graves, of Canada, announces his readiness to go and minister to the colored people of the South. There are also some papers in hand relative to the Danish Mission, and Bro. J. L. Bear is prepared to go to Germany.

There are also documents in hand, for the consideration of the conference, concerning difficulties existing at Bevier, Missouri.

The Pottawattamie District requests that the next Fall Conference be held at Council Bluffs, and the Galland's Grove District asks that it be held at Galland's Grove.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY A. STEBBINS,

Secretary of the Church.

CHURCH RECORDER'S REPORT.

I have the pleasure of presenting to the General Conference the following statement of numbers of all the branches of the Church as they stand upon the General Church Record of names, so far as records, reports and corrections have been sent to me by the presidents and clerks of districts and branches. And those who have been diligent in this matter of keeping one of the commandments of God to his Church, and who have so willingly and kindly furnished lists of names, with dates and items of gains and losses are to be commended as doing a good work; and I believe that this class of workers for order and system increases in the Church. I heartily thank them for their aid. The following is the list by nations and states:

AUSTRALIA.		Caseyville	43	Otter Lake	No Record	St. Louis	252		
Bungay	23	Deer Creek	18	Scranton	14	Valley	45		
Bungwall	15	Dry Fork	20	Solomon Valley	13	Wacoada	31		
Hunter River	29	Elm River	15	South Logan	15	Wearso	10		
Port Stephens	12	Elvaston	25	White Cloud	25	NEBRASKA.			
Sydney	20	Fox River	32	Wyandotte	22	Bell Creek	17		
SCOTLAND.		Henderson Grove	34	KENTUCKY.				Blue River	34
Penston	15	Kewanee	114	Farmington	29	Cedar Creek	16		
SWITZERLAND.		Leland	7	TENNESSEE.				Clear Creek	11
Zurich	16	Marengo	16	Eagle Creek	19	Clear Water	No Record		
DENMARK.		Millersburg	46	MISSISSIPPI.				Columbus	39
North Star	3	Mission	110	Bluff Creek	12	DoSoto	22		
ENGLAND.		New Canton	11	Three Rivers	33	Deer Creek	16		
Birmingham	81	North Bend	27	MAINE.				Douglas	27
Clay Cross	29	Pecatonica	8	Bear Isle	12	Elkhorn	11		
Farnworth	35	Peoria	29	Brooksville	37	Florence	25		
Hanley	38	Pilot Grove	31	Deer Isle	27	Lake Shore	No Record		
London, No. 1	70	Piper City	19	Green's Landing	37	Moroni	19		
London, No. 2	24	Pittsfield	42	Kennebec	40	Nebraska City	106		
Manchester	54	Plano	193	Mason's Bay	39	Omaha (English)	69		
Sheffield	11	Princeville	14	May	34	Omaha (Scandinavian)	32		
Stafford	7	Rock Creek	56	Olive	43	Palmyra	40		
Portsmouth	No Record	Sandwich	63	Pleasant River	22	Plattsburgh	14		
Plymouth	No Record	St. Davids	10	Pleasant View	25	Platte River	34		
Walsall	No Record	Streator	45	Rockland	13	Platte Valley	33		
WALES.		Springerton	53	Seaside	22	Pleasant Grove	24		
Aberaman	25	Truro	13	Union	13	Rock Bluffs	8		
Beaufort	14	Tunnel Hill	76	MONTANA.				OREGON.	
Caernarvon	6	Wabash	18	Butte	9	Coos County	12		
Llanelly	60	INDIANA.		Gallatin	31	Myrtle Creek	13		
Merthyr	13	Clear Lake	48	Willow	16	Prairie City	10		
Havod	No Record	Eden	32	MASSACHUSETTS.				Sweet Home	56
Llansamlet	25	Low Gap	18	Boston	38	NEW JERSEY.			
New Tredegar	27	Mount Pleasant	22	Douglas	23	Horners town	19		
Ogmore	37	New Trenton	14	Dennisport	72	NEW YORK.			
Ystradgynlais	13	Olive	29	Fall River	84	Brooklyn	16		
CANADA.		Pleasant Ridge	37	Plainville	31	Savannah	13		
Bayham	11	Union	25	MINNESOTA.				NEVADA.	
Botany	19	Yellow River	10	Grand Prairie	16	Carson	43		
Buckhorn	55	IOWA.		Hope of Zion	18	Dayton	10		
Buxton	5	Boomer	15	Lake Crystal	10	Franktown	13		
Carlingford	14	Boonsboro	21	Little Cannon	23	Mottsville	50		
East Dover	13	Royers Valley	47	Oak Lake	26	OHIO.			
Gray County	No Record	Buffalo	23	MICHIGAN.				Amanda	19
London	137	Burlington	70	Bridgemanpton	18	Belmont	21		
Lindsley	19	Butternut Grove	32	Coldwater	51	Chur ch Hill	17		
Norton Creek	19	Cann Creek	19	Forester	20	Jackson	12		
Olive	29	Chariton	27	Gallen	41	Kirtland	21		
Puce River	12	Coalville	26	Genesee	12	Lampsville	19		
St. Thomas	16	Couville Bluffs	131	Hopkins	21	Lebanon	22		
Toronto	20	Davenport	46	Lawrence	57	Minersville	9		
Usborne	25	Davis City	37	Lebanon	26	Monroe	15		
Wellington	12	Des Moines Valley	33	Maple Valley	30	Syracuse	48		
Wilkesport	22	Elm Creek	37	Mill Creek	9	West Wheeling	28		
Zone	35	Eyening Star	26	Reese	20	PENNSYLVANIA.			
ALABAMA.		Farmington	30	Sherman	36	Danville	12		
Brewers Creek	9	Farmington	53	St. Clair	13	Hyde Park	21		
Butler	31	Fontabelle	7	St. Johns	20	Mansfield	14		
Flat Rock	29	Franklin	7	Union	37	Pittsburgh	78		
Lone Star	92	Fromont	12	MISSOURI.				Philadelphia	50
Pleasant Hill	41	Galland's Grove	223	Allenville	43	Plymouth	17		
FLORIDA.		Glenwood	31	Alma	16	RHODE ISLAND.			
Coldwater	51	Harlan	30	Belton	10	Pawtucket	9		
Eureka	35	Independence	57	Bevier	91	Providence	115		
Hinote	11	Inland	9	Bigelow	8	UTAH.			
Gainesville	13	Jackson	15	Boone Creek	20	Beaver	14		
Mount Olivet	41	Keokuk	49	Carrollton	42	Ephraim	42		
Perseverance	64	Lamoni	256	Center Creek	12	Heber City	29		
Santa Rosa	24	Lemars	9	Center Prairie	20	Kaysville	8		
Unity	15	Little River	102	Cheltenham	30	Plain City	No Record		
CALIFORNIA.		Little Sioux	130	Clear Fork	15	Pleasant Grove	11		
Alameda Creek	60	Lucas	89	Coon Creek	9	Providence	18		
Brighton	9	Mason's Grove	89	Delana	51	Salt Lake City	167		
Davisville	20	Magnolia	143	Far West	64	Union Fort	46		
Humboldt	20	Mill Creek	27	Galesburg	40	Wanship	29		
Jefferson	17	Montrose	34	German DeKalb	30	VIRGINIA.			
Laguna	12	Nephi	8	Grand River	26	Fairview	20		
Lodi	20	Newton	54	Gravois	51	Sugar Creek	33		
Long Valley	27	North Coon	57	Guilford	16	TEXAS.			
Newport	148	North Star	32	Haden	6	Bandera	27		
Nortonville	15	Pilot Rock	32	Hannibal	21	Central	No Record		
Oakland	44	Pleasant Grove	15	Hazel Dell	20	Cheesland	15		
Sacramento	63	Pleasant Ridge	16	Holden	7	Lone Star	9		
San Benito	19	Pleasantville	9	Independence	129	Oak Island	17		
San Bernardino	227	Pleasant View	20	Joplin	13	Shawnee	8		
San Francisco	31	Plum Creek	83	Kansas City	17	Stockdale	24		
Santa Maria	16	Salem	78	Knoxville	9	Red River	24		
Santa Rosa	68	Shenandoah	105	Lone Rock	20	WISCONSIN.			
Stockton	68	Sheridan	14	Moselle	6	Binghampton	42		
Visalia	41	Six Mile Grove	23	Oregon	37	Burlington	32		
Watsonville	60	Spring Creek	45	Platte	35	Freedom	13		
CONNECTICUT.		String Prairie	30	Pleasant Grove	23	Janesville	27		
Brookline	7	Union	No Record	Remick	15	Sandusky	No Record		
Fair Haven	8	Unionburg	37	Ross Grove	35	Webster	31		
COLORADO.		Union Center	80	Salt River	21	Wheatville	23		
Rocky Mountain	24	Union Hill	14	Starfield	32	Willow	36		
IDAMO.		Vincennes	20	Stewartsville	87				
Elkhorn	No Record	Wheeler's Grove	85	St. Joseph	89				
Malad	41	Yell	14						
Soda Springs	8	KANSAS.							
ILLINOIS.		Armstrong	23						
Alma (Schuyler Co.)	20	Atchison	33						
Alma (St. Clair Co.)	30	Black Wolf Creek	4						
Alton	28	Blue Rapids	8						
Amboy	44	Centralia	7						
Batavia	14	Columbus	28						
Belleville	67	Elmira	21						
Boone County	8	Fanning	28						
Braidwood	74	Gaylord	37						
Brush Creek	67	Good Intent	22						
Bryant	14	Indian Creek	20						
Buffalo Prairie	87	Jacksonville	8						
Canton	80	Leavenworth	16						
		Mound Valley	30						
		Pleasant Ridge	No Record						
		Pleasant View	91						
		Netawaka	13						
		Nobletown	24						

as nearly to a state of perfection as possible; and though a large number of reports and records came in, even in the last few weeks before Conference, yet I obtained help at the writing, and brought up the books to March 28th, 1880, entering all reports that came before that date. Hence I can say that in a majority of cases the General Church Record agrees in numbers with the branch records. But where it does not I invite the kind aid of district and branch officers towards having all corrections sent to me, losses and gains, with items of the same, so that all the records may agree.

Of all branches marked "No Record," I would like to receive full lists of names, with items of birth, baptism, confirmation and ordination, date of organization and by whom.

I would like to give the number of each order of the priesthood in each branch, but thought best not to take up space occupied by the conference minutes, for that purpose.

The net gain stands this year 651 against 1,116 last year, but I think that we would have had a much larger net increase had there not been in practice a habit among branches of declaring by vote the removal of absent members, without any granting of letters to them to join other branches, of course many times because their residence was not known. But in either case it causes the loss from the Record of so many names, and therefore puts further away the, by me at least, hoped for time when all the members in the Church who are scattered about, would be numbered with some branch, so that we might know just our numerical standing as a body instead of approximately as is now the case, notwithstanding we have nearly four hundred branch organizations.

Therefore as this matter of either quietly dropping the names by the branch officers, or, on the other hand, voting them out, has increased greatly, I present it to the Conference suggestively, and ask if it has any pleasure or will to express in the matter. I know it is not pleasant for a branch to feel that they are rated at so many when they have a less number actually resident. But nearly all branches have quite a large per cent of their members absent, and it may be generally understood and accepted, as a necessary fact, and therefore no one be troubled by it. And, still further, the general representation of the Church is to be looked to as well as the other side of the question, and, instead of even those whose residence is unknown being put out of the fold without their knowledge, I believe that all scattering ones should be looked after and enrolled with some branch. Many are thus scattered, whose souls are alike precious with others, but whose spiritual and moral good is perhaps not looked after at all.

Therefore, with these my views I simply present the matter to the Conference, and ask if it has any will or wish in the matter, or if it is willing that names of members shall still be removed otherwise than by properly taking letters from one branch to another, as the blank letters now in use provide for.

If the Conference so wishes the records of names of the Church are at their pleasure to examine by committee, as to their correctness, so far as they may be able to judge.

Furthermore, I would say that as I have injured my health by much work upon the books by night, and in extra hours when I ought not to have labored, I am willing to be succeeded by another in the Recorder's work, or, if it is still desired that I remain in the duty, I will need some one to labor under my instruction upon the books.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
HENRY A. STEBBINS,
Church Recorder.

The suggestion of the Recorder in regard to the dropping of names from the branches was spoken upon by several, and it was ordered that a committee be appointed to consider the matter and report. Brethren H. A. Stebbins, J. A. Crawford and John Chisnall, were appointed as said committee. Bro. Stebbins re-

In the above list there are 375 branches recorded, with names of members and their items of birth, baptism, confirmation and ordination, the net aggregate of names in these being 12,398
Thirteen branches are not recorded, whose average, according to the others, would add 429
Making a total of 12,827
Number last report in 359 branches 12,176
Showing a net gain over losses of 651

I have labored by night, during all the time that I could, in order to bring the Church Records

fused; but, being so requested by the vote of the assembly, he consented to act.

The report of Bishop I. L. Rogers was taken up, and, without reading, referred to a committee, consisting of brethren P. Cadwell, G. A. Blakeslee and W. H. Kelley.

Bro. John Scott, Church Librarian, reported as follows:

As librarian I would respectfully report that during the past two years 54 volumes have been added by donation and purchase, making a total of 403 volumes now in the library. The titles of the most important are as follows:—"God's Plan of Salvation," "Second Coming of Christ," "Geological Evidences of the Antiquity of Man," "Travels in Yucatan," 2 vol.; "The Holy Word in its own Defense," "Mummies and Moslems," "Life of Brigham Young, or Utah and her Founder," "Conquest of Mexico," 3 vols.; "Conquest of Peru," 2 vols.; "Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History," 6 vol.; "The Douay Bible," "Domestic Manners and Customs of Asia," "Giesler's Church History," 3 vols.; "Milner's Church History," 5 vols.; "Millennial Star," vol. 1; "Sun Worshipers of Asia," "History of the United States," 3 vols., (Bryant).

JOHN SCOTT,

Church Librarian.

Appointments for this evening and to-morrow of brethren to preach were made, and the session adjourned after singing the hymn, "Once more before we part."

At 7:30 p.m. the congregation sung, "Jesus lover of my soul," followed by prayer from Bro. Joseph Smith, after which the hymn, "Let all the saints their voices raise," was sung; then Bro. Heman C. Smith preached a sermon upon the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Sung, "Blest privilege to mortals given," and adjourned, closing with the benediction.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH.

At 9 a.m. a prayer meeting was held, presided over by brethren R. C. Elvin and J. H. Lake.

At 10:30 a.m., Bro. A. J. Cato preached, assisted by Bro. George Hicklin. It is said to have been a good discourse.

At 1 p.m., Pres. Blair in the chair, the assembly now quite large and constantly increasing, sung the hymn, "The morning light is breaking," and prayer was offered by Bro. Glauud Rodger.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read.

CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT.

(Continued.)

The Secretary read the following ministry reports received since the reading of those at yesterday's session:

Alexander H. Smith, of the Twelve, writes from Andover, Harrison county, Missouri:

Agreeably to the request in the *Herald* I hereby make my report. At last Fall Conference I was appointed (as a mission) the state of Missouri and Southwestern Iowa. Immediately after adjournment of conference, I labored in the Iowa part of my mission, holding two meetings at Galland's Grove, one at Woodbine, and a succession of nine or ten meetings at Magnolia. From thence to Little Sioux, and held three or four meetings there. Then to Council Bluffs, where I held three or four more. While there I received word of sickness in my family. Being uneasy, I returned home, and found my presence much needed. Since then I have only labored on the Sabbath as my circumstances would admit of. Have not been able to visit the Missouri part of

my mission, which I regret very much, sickness preventing. Have been blessed in preaching the word, even beyond my own expectations. My observations of the work are that there never was a better time to preach the word, the people everywhere seem hungry for it. If 'tis thought wisdom to continue me in my present field, I shall do my best and try to honor the Church, my calling and the cause of Christ. My time, unless different provisions are made, must be divided, hence I can not do the good I would be glad to do in the field. For all God's blessings I render him thanks, and shall always labor and pray for the advancement of his cause.

Robert C. Elvin, of the High Priests, (present), reports:

For the last six months I have labored for the good of the work, as herein stated: I preached in Nebraska City twice, in Omaha 7 times, Moroni Branch 4 times, Wilber 13 times, McKenzie School-house 2 times, Raperville School-house 8 times, Savage School-house 5 times, Barker School-house 9 times, at other places 9 times, in all 59 times. I have been greatly assisted by the printed word from the Herald Office. The work in Nebraska, south and west of the Platte River, and west of Nebraska City, is cheering in prospects. I have visited some of the branches and find a better union among the Saints. And as my labors have been mostly outside of those branches I find that a good interest exists wherever I go, some friendly but others do all they can against us, trying to keep us from getting school houses to preach in. At the Barker School-house a deep interest is awakened, so much that a few went to the school directors and asked them to close the school house against us. The directors told them that when they closed the door against the Saints it would stand closed against all parties; and, as four parties preach there, they became afraid of censure. So I continued to preach and was blessed with liberty, yet I have had many trials the past winter, but the Lord has brought me through. I have blessed five children, assisted in confirming one, administered to a few sick, and some have recovered right away. From the Saints and others I have received \$49. If I am permitted to return to my former field I will continue to labor.

Frederick C. Warnky, (present), released last fall from the Colorado Mission, and now presiding over the Independence District, Missouri, presents a brief review of his labors in Colorado during the five years he was there. For three years he prosecuted the mission vigorously, and after that as his circumstances permitted. During his stay there he baptized 39 persons, confirmed 46, blessed 28 children, organized two branches, and ordained several.

Daniel S. Crawley, not under General Conference appointment, writes from Cherokee, Kansas, that he continues to devote all of his time that he can to ministering in the Master's cause, going out from home and preaching in numbers of places. He also intends to do still more than heretofore, and would like to situate his family so that he could be in the field all the time.

A. J. Cato, (present), from Texas, reports that the disabilities that rested upon him at the last Fall Conference having been removed about the first of last January, he again begun labor for the Church, in Texas, preaching 43 times, blessing two children, and assisting the brethren in their church business, in which works the Lord had blessed him, and he hopes to be a more efficient, better and wiser laborer in the future than in the past, and is at the disposal of the conference.

H. L. Thompson, (present), from Bell county, Texas, reports having labored in Bell, Hill, Limestone, and Milam counties, Texas, opening six new places. Since the first of last January, he had preached 31 times, baptized four persons, organized one branch, (the Texas Central, in Robertson county), ordained one Elder and one Priest, and blessed 15 children. He considers that an excellent field lies open there, and the calls for ministers are so many that this conference should send some one there. He is ready to work as he may be appointed.

Jobe Brown (present) reports that since his ordination in January last, he has preached at Clinton and Maquoketa, Iowa, in all 25 times, given five lectures on chronology, baptized and confirmed four persons, ordained one Priest, and administered to the sick. Had also spoken at Plano and Sandwich a few times. At Clinton, Iowa, there is quite a great desire to hear the gospel preached. He is subject to the will of the conference.

DISTRICT AND MISSION REPORTS.

District reports received from presidents, clerks and delegates, I have copied and placed in alphabetical order by states and districts, joining the reports of the situation and progress of the work to the statistical items furnished, by which method all is seen at a glance. And it is pleasant to note the progress being made in order and system in the matters of reporting and of sending before the conference assembles the reports of branches, of districts, and of the ministry, so that they may be prepared and placed in order without delaying the business of conference to arrange, as was formerly the case. It will be noticed that only a few districts and missions have failed to report:

English Mission: The secretary of this mission, Bro. C. H. Caton, presents the names of 12 branches, 11 in England and 1 in Scotland, the names of which are found in my Recorder's Report. Bro. Caton also reports scattering and unorganized ones, as follows: At Wallsall 17, at Nottingham 3, at Mansfield 2, and at Leeds, Leicester and Glasgow each 1 member, with a present total altogether of 424, including 47 Elders, 30 Priests, 11 Teachers and 9 Deacons. He reports 67 baptisms for the year and 25 received by letter and certificate; also a loss of 21 by emigration, 5 by expulsion and 4 by death; net gain 62. One new branch organized, namely in London, known as the Lyme Grove Branch. (London, No. 2 in Recorder's Report). By this second London organization the work has a wider spread in that great city. Bro. Caton says that in most parts of that country where the Saints reside, the brethren are doing their best in the gospel work, and the chief branches are making steady progress, while at the same time the brethren and sisters in them are showing, by a praiseworthy example, the value of their faith. There are now 3 districts, Birmingham, Manchester and London, presided over respectively by Brn. John Seville, Joseph Dewsnup and Charles D. Norton. Bro. Caton speaks highly of the President of the Mission, Bro. Thomas Taylor, and his work. For further upon this mission see Bro. Taylor's letter elsewhere.

Welsh Mission: No statistical report. For account of its condition see the report of Bro. J. R. Gibbs, President of the Mission.

Danish Mission: No statistical report. See letter from Bro. P. N. Brix, in charge of the mission, for a statement of the situation of the work there.

Australian Mission: No statistical report. Bro. J. W. Gillen, in charge of the mission, gives an account of the condition of things in that country in his report found elsewhere.

Canada, Kent and Elgin District: Eight branches, besides 13 scattering members, making a total of 212, including 1 Seventy, 8 Elders, 11 Priests, 5 Teachers and 1 Deacon. Signed, R. Coburn, clerk of district.

Canada, London District: No statistical or other report from this district.

Alabama District: Four branches, total 199, 8 Elders, 5 Priests, 6 Teachers, 2 Deacons. Bro. W. D. Clark, clerk of the district, says that he has no official knowledge of the Macedonia and Brower's Creek branches, and so does not include them. Bro. Clark says that Bro. Heman C. Smith has done considerable preaching in that district, and the local ministry also, the past year. Many have been baptized, but he can not give totals of gain and loss for the year.

California, Pacific Slope Mission: No reports received, either statistical or spiritual.

Colorado District: No report except that of Bro. James Caffall, found elsewhere.

Florida District: No statistical report. Bro. L. F. West, the president, writes that there are 8 branches, and about 180 or 200 members, including 10 Elders, besides some Priests, Teachers and Deacons. During the year two branches have been organized and about 15 persons have been baptized. Little labor has been

done excepting by Bro. Heman C. Smith, who has been diligent when he was with them. There is much demand for preaching, and the district asks the General Conference for the return of Bro. Smith to them. Bro. West reports that he is not able to do much himself, on account of necessary labor for his family. Spiritually the situation is not very encouraging, and the moral standing and prestige is not as good as it has been in the past. If Bro. Smith can not return, send us another good man.

Idaho, Malad District: No report, either statistical or spiritual.

Illinois, Kewanee District: Bro. J. A. Robinson, president, writes that from the lack of work being done in that district, the cause has not advanced the past year as was hoped for. He considers this lack of labor to be due to the unwillingness of the members to do their share of sacrificing in means to keep a minister in the field; but they expect that one or two Elders will do it all, and for the mutual benefit too, being satisfied if they only receive their railway fare and no more, though the district is able both in numbers and means to support an active ministry, provided they would give in a systematic way. Also some ill feelings and jealousies exist. The district has gained a few in numbers, and sufficient laborers to prosecute the work are still hoped for.

Illinois Northern District: 12 branches and 3 fragments, with 692 members; 67 baptized, 9 received, 27 removed by letter, 2 expelled, 8 died; net gain 39. The work progresses fairly well in the district, and no cases of difficulty exist that I am aware of; some branches lukewarm and not active, but the most of them are progressing, both in numbers and in spirituality. Outside of local authorities and the labor here and there in the district by Brn. J. Smith, Blair, Lanphear, Stebbins, Kier, Loftly, Pitt, Conover, Wickes, Weston, and perhaps others, we have also had ministerial labor by Brn. Forscutt and Patterson in some of the branches, both doing good work for us. H. A. Stebbins, secretary.

Illinois, Nauvoo and Spring Prairie District: 9 branches, 3 in Illinois, 6 in Iowa, 354 total membership, 1 Apostle, 3 High Priests, 2 of the Seventy, 22 Elders, 5 Priests, 12 Teachers and 8 Deacons. During the year 30 have been baptized, 9 received otherwise, 15 have been removed by letter, 5 died, 2 expelled; net gain 16. J. A. Crawford, president; H. N. Snively, clerk.

Illinois, Pittsfield District: 4 branches, including 1 High Priest, 1 Seventy, 4 Elders and 3 Priests. The North Bend Branch was organized May 25th, 1879. Net gain for the year was 13 members. Jackson Goodale, President; Emma E. Johnson, Clerk. The president mentions the unity and harmony that exist in their conferences. In one branch (Alma) some difficulty exists between members as yet not settled. Brn. Lake, Forscutt, Taylor and Crawford have labored some in the district during the year, and with good effect. The Pittsfield Branch have begun to build a chapel. Bro. Goodale says that he has labored all he could for the cause, and all his hope is centered in it. He expended during the year in his ministry \$41.50 and received \$28.24 towards it.

Illinois South-Eastern District: 6 branches, with a total of 256 members, including 1 High Priest, 13 Elders, 4 Priests, 9 Teachers, 4 Deacons. Dry Fork, Deer Creek, Springerton, Brush Creek, Tunnel Hill and Elm River are the branches. Spiritually the district is in a fair condition. The calls for preaching are many and laborers few. We would like to have a good Elder sent here. G. H. Hilliard, president; I. A. Morris, clerk.

Indiana, Southern: Eight branches, 189 members, including 10 Elders, 9 Priests, 3 Teachers and 4 Deacons. Harbert Scott, president, and E. C. Mayhew, clerk. The latter reports that during the two years post 40 have been baptized, 4 received, 19 have been removed by letter, 5 have been expelled and 4 have died, leaving 16 as the net increase for the two years. Bro. Mayhew refers the conference to Brn. Kelley, Springer and Weston for accounts of the condition of the work there.

Iowa, Decatur District: Eight branches, 2 of them in Harrison county, Missouri; 591 members, including 2 Apostles, 7 High Priests, 6 of the Seventy, 42 Elders, 16 Priests, 12 Teachers and 7 Deacons. During the year 83 have been baptized, 104 have been received, making a total increase of 187, and 47 have been removed by letter, 8 have died and 1 has been ex-

pelled, leaving a net increase of 133 for the year. J. S. Snively, president; O. B. Thomas, clerk. No report of the spiritual condition received.

Iowa, Des Moines District: Six branches, 242 members, including 17 Elders, 8 Priests, 5 Teachers, 2 Deacons. During the year 49 have been baptized, 9 gained by letter or vote, 11 have been removed by letter, 3 have been expelled and 2 have died, leaving a net gain of 42 for the year. I. N. White, president; John Sayer, clerk. The president says that spiritually the work stands much higher than one year ago. The local ministry are showing a greater energy, and Brn. D. C. White, N. Stamm and W. C. Nirk have done considerable work. Bro. J. H. Lake, of the Twelve, labored in the district a few weeks with good effect. Calls come from every side for preaching, and by the help of those who say they "will do all they can," it is hoped that the work will go forward.

Iowa, Eastern District: Five branches and about 125 members, including 1 of the Seventy, 9 Elders, 4 Priests, 3 Teachers and 2 Deacons. Bro. E. Larkey, president, reports that there are many calls for preaching, more than the few who can go to answer. Bro. Jerome Ruby was with him, and they were holding meetings every evening when Bro. Larkey wrote.

Iowa, Fremont District: 7 branches, 310 members, inclusive of 2 High Priests, 3 of the Seventy, 25 Elders, 9 Priests, 10 Teachers and 3 Deacons; also some scattering members not reckoned among the above; Brn. Daniel Hougas, president, and William Leeka, clerk of the district, represent the district as in good condition, with a few exceptions. The branches gain in spirituality, and the chances for preaching are many, but few of the Elders are responding. At Shenandoah the Saints are striving to build a meeting house. Bro. Hougas recently visited that branch, also Mill Creek and Plum Creek and found affairs in a good state. He has never seen a time when there was so great a demand to hear the gospel preached as there is now and the prospects are good for additions to the Church in that region soon.

Iowa, Galland's Grove District: 12 branches, (1 organized the past year), 627 members, besides 25 scattering ones, 1 Apostle, 3 High Priests, 3 of the Seventy, 49 Elders, 20 Priests, 20 Teachers, 10 Deacons; net gain of 25 for the year. Bro. J. R. Lambert, as delegate, reports that the spiritual condition of the district is good, in fact better than for a number of years past. All of the branches but one are in working order. The local Elders have made good efforts so that the truth has taken a firm hold on many hearts. J. W. Chatburn, president; John Pett, clerk.

Iowa, Little Sioux District: 8 branches, 520 members, including 7 High Priests, 5 of the Seventy, 42 Elders, 15 Priests, 15 Teachers and 8 Deacons. During the year 31 have been baptized, 48 added by letter and vote, showing 79 as the increase, while 21 have been removed by letter, 1 has been expelled and 6 have died, total loss 28, and therefore 51 is the net increase. There are also about 40 members scattered throughout the district. J. C. Crabb, president; W. C. Cadwell, clerk. They report the condition of the work in the district as being fair. Buena Vista branch was disorganized July 19th, 1879 and its members joined other branches: the Evening Star branch was organized April 20th, 1879.

Iowa, Pottawattamie District: 6 branches, 353 members, including 1 Apostle, 1 High Priest, 2 of the Seventy, 30 Elders, 10 Priests, 8 Teachers, 8 Deacons. 38 baptized, 21 received by letter and vote, total gain 59, 2 removed, 3 died, total loss 5; net gain 54. There are also about 25 scattering members in the district, including 2 Apostles, 2 or 3 of the Seventy, several Elders and 1 Priest. C. G. McIntosh, president; Frederick Hanson, secretary.

Kansas, Central District: Seven branches, 123 members, including 14 Elders, 4 Priests, 4 Teachers.—David Williams, president; William Williams, clerk.

Kansas, North-Western District: No reports of numbers or spiritual condition.

Kansas, Spring River District: Eight branches, 221 members, including 2 of the Seventy, 15 Elders, 7 Priests, 9 Teachers, 5 Deacons. A gain of 25 by baptism and 2 by letter during the year, a loss of 8 removed by letter, 3 expelled, 1 died, leaving a net gain of 11 for the year. There are also a number of scattering members in the district who are not recorded. J. T. Davies, president; J. A. Davies, clerk. The

president writes that the work is in a tolerably fair condition, with plenty of chance for improvement remaining. There is no regular traveling Elder in the district, the excuse being inability to support one, but he has done what he could, considering his own temporal affairs. He refers the conference to Bro. Short for further news, as his labors have been there.

Maine, Eastern and Nova Scotia District: Nine branches, 243 members, including 2 of the Seventy, 9 Elders, 11 Priests, 7 Teachers, 1 Deacon. A gain of 32 by baptism, a loss of 3 by death; a net gain of 29 for the year. The spiritual condition of the work in this district is now improving, and the labors of Bro. T. W. Smith are encouraging, and his efforts successful in reviving affairs, and in stimulating to activity the local ministry, so that prospects are very encouraging. Samuel O. Foss, president and clerk.

Maine, Western District: No report statistical or otherwise, except as contained in the ministry reports of Brn. T. W. Smith and J. C. Foss, found elsewhere.

Massachusetts District: 7 branches, 5 in Massachusetts and 2 in Rhode Island, 445 members, 1 of the Seventy, 26 Elders, 15 Priests, 14 Teachers, 14 Deacons; 97 baptized, 2 died, 10 expelled; net gain of 85 for the year. Wm. Bradbury, president; F. A. Potter, clerk. The president says that the work seems to be advancing there, and all but one of the branches are doing well. Outside of the branches a number of the brethren are laboring, and people are realizing that there is more in the latter day work than they had dreamed of before. But not one of the ministry is laboring steadily, and so the work does not flourish as it should do. The Saints have not learned to make such practical sacrifices as the work of God demands in order for it to be preached everywhere. Bro. Bradbury has labored as president of the Providence branch, and elsewhere all that he could.

Michigan and Northern Indiana District: 16 branches, 8 of which in Eastern Michigan are not on the District Record, and Bro. S. M. Bass, secretary, requests their officers to send him full records to Lawrence, Michigan. The 8 branches on record have 309 members, and the work in the Western division is onward, and the prospect is that many will be baptized this season.

Minnesota, Northern District: 2 branches, but no statistical report of them received. In my report as Church Recorder, their numbers are given as they stand on my record. Bro. Marcus Shaw, president, says that they are neither flourishing nor have they apostatized, although no regular meetings have been held in either branch the past year, but he hopes for better times among them. They meet together and also teach their neighbors so that prejudice and ignorance of our doctrines are passing away. Bro. Shaw teaches the Bible Class in a Baptist Sunday School, and, taking his Inspired Translation with him, he has been able to create a good influence for the cause he tries to advance.

Missouri, Central District: No report of numbers or of its condition.

Missouri, Far West District: 8 branches, 396 members, including 1 Apostle, 1 High Priest, 1 of the Seventy, 36 Elders, 16 Priests, 18 Teachers, and 14 Deacons. During the year 48 have been baptized, 47 were received by letter and vote, 37 removed by letter, 4 were expelled and 5 died, leaving a net gain of 49 for the year. The Hayden Branch has been disorganized. No report of the condition of the work given. Signed, J. M. Terry, secretary of district.

Missouri, Independence District: 5 branches, (1 in Kansas), 187 members: 11 baptized, 55 received by letter, 14 decrease; net gain 52 for the year. F. C. Warny, president; C. M. Schroder, clerk.

Missouri, Nodaway District: No reports received either of the numerical strength or of the spiritual condition of the work.

Missouri, North-Eastern District: Four branches, 148 members. Three branches are progressing well, but the other one is not, yet it is hoped that the difficulties and differences will be overcome, and God's Spirit prevail to the peace of all concerned. John Taylor, president; Edward L. Page, clerk.

Missouri, St. Louis District: Nine branches, 569 members, 2 High Priests, 1 of the Seventy, 35 Elders, 23 Priests, 11 Teachers, 10 Deacons. During the year past 22 baptized, 1 received by letter, 15 removed by letter, 6 expelled, 4 died, showing a net loss of 2 members. A. W. Reese, president; Geo. Hicklin, clerk. Bro. Hicklin as delegate (present) reports that

he considers the district in a pretty good condition with a few exceptions, and they are still trying to improve and get into a better one.

Montana District: Three branches, Reese Creek, Willow Creek and Butte, containing 56 members at last report, but a large increase by baptism has occurred since then. There are also many scattering members in the district. Bro. A. B. Moore is president, but Bro. E. C. Brand represents the district to this conference. Bro. Gomer Reese is clerk. Bro. Brand is instructed by the district to call upon the conference for two missionaries to be sent there, for they are needed, and will be well sustained financially. In fact the Saints intend also to aid in prosecuting the Utah Mission. The work in Montana prospers and peace and harmony prevail, and the spiritual gifts and blessings are eminently enjoyed.

Nebraska, Central District: 4 branches, 83 members, 1 High Priest, 6 Elders, 4 Priests, 4 Teachers, 1 Deacon; 6 baptized, 1 expelled, 1 died, net gain of 4 for the year, so reports Bro. G. N. Derry the clerk of the district. The Church record contains 3 of these branches with a total of 71 members, and Bro. G. W. Galley, the president of the district, reports the fourth branch of 8 members as having been organized recently. He also reports a gain of 7 by baptism and 8 by letter during the year, also a loss of 2, leaving a net gain of thirteen. Bro. Galley has evidently done much good labor in that district, both among the branches and away from them. He reports the arrival, March 14th of Bro. G. S. Hyde of Iowa, who is to labor in that part of Nebraska. Thus the prospects brighten, the Saints are growing, and the ministry finds plenty to do.

Nebraska, Northern District: The president, Bro. T. J. Smith, reports the spiritual condition of the district as being tolerably good. Some difficulty in two of the branches, but hopes of an early settlement of these things are had. 17 have been baptized and one new branch, the Lake Shore Branch, has been organized with a membership of 27. Considerable preaching has been done by local and traveling ministers, and besides those already baptized many others believe the gospel, and others are waking to an interest and inquiring and searching, so that outside of the branch difficulties referred to the prospects are flattering.

Nebraska, Southern District: 6 branches, (1 new), 290 members, including 1 High Priest, 18 Elders, 12 Priests, 7 Teachers and 8 Deacons. A gain of 15 by baptism and 4 received; 8 removed by letter, 5 died, leaving a net gain of 6 for the year. Nebraska City Branch has endured severe trials, Moroni and Plattsmouth are not very active, Palmyra and Blue River are enjoying the blessings of Christ and his gospel, and at Platte River the cause flourishes well. On the whole the state of the district is encouraging. Elders J. Caffall, R. C. Elvin, R. J. Anthony, James Perkins, G. E. Deuel, N. Brown and R. M. Elvin have labored in the district beyond branch labor. The demand for preaching calls for one or two to be actively engaged all the time. R. M. Elvin, clerk of the district reports as above, and Levi Anthony, the president, writes of his having visited most of the branches, and assisted Bro. Elvin in organizing the new branch reported above. He found some cold in the cause, but that the majority are working members. Demands for preaching come from every direction, and Bro. Anthony asks that Bro. R. M. Elvin be continued in that field, and also that another be sent to them. That district embraces 36 counties, making it a very wide field for the gospel work, with the Saints living in every part of it, and they pray for more laborers to come into those regions.

Nevada District: No report of numerical strength or of the progress of the work.

Ohio, South-Eastern District: No statistical or other reports.

Oregon District: No reports concerning this district.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia District: Three branches, one in New York, one in New Jersey, one in Pennsylvania, 80 members, including 10 Elders, 7 Priests, 2 Teachers, 2 Deacons.

Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh District: No reports of numbers or of condition,

Pennsylvania, Wyoming Valley District: No report received.

Texas Mission: No statistical report. For the condition of the work therein see the ministry reports of Brn. Bryan, Cato and Thompson.

Utah, Salt Lake District: No statistical report. For accounts of the situation there, see the ministry reports of Brn. Blair, Derry, Anthony, Luff and Deuel.

Wisconsin, North-Eastern District: There are Saints living at Binghamton, Freedom, Seymour, Appleton, Oshkosh, Winneconne, Royalton, Waupaca and Flintville, Wisconsin, all numbered in the one branch of the district, called the Binghamton Branch, of about 40 members. At Fish Creek there are also some six or eight members, not of the branch. Hence they are all much separated, which hinders congregational worship, but Bro. W. S. Montgomery, the district president, writes that the Saints are trying to keep their covenants, except perhaps a few. Bro. Wait is laboring faithfully, the only one who does so, and has interested congregations. Bro. Montgomery has not been able in health to go out preaching this winter.

Wisconsin, Western District: 4 branches, 114 members, including 1 High Priest, 1 of the Seventy, 11 Elders, 2 Priests, 4 Teachers, 2 Deacons. Added during year 15 by baptism, and 1 lost by death; net increase 14 members. Frank Hackett, president, (present); Willis McDowell, clerk. The branches except one, are represented as prospering, having good meetings and enjoying the gifts of the gospel and the favor of the Lord. The district traveling Elder, Bro. F. M. Cooper, has done a great deal of good in the branches and elsewhere. Bro. C. W. Lange has also done some preaching this winter, and good branch labor has been done by Brn. Whitaker and Hackett. The district requests that those whose fields of labor include the region where that district is, should come and visit them, and give aid to the cause and strengthen the Saints and the ministry there.

The above is all that I have to report in addition to that submitted on yesterday.

HENRY A. STEBBINS, *Church Secretary.*

The report concerning the Pottawattamie District was called up and re-read, and the correctness of there being among the scattering members in that district two apostles was discussed, and it was stated that as one of those referred to had been declared by the last General Conference as rejected from the Quorum of the Twelve, therefore the report was erroneous in thus mentioning two. The chair thought, notwithstanding that act, he was still an apostle. This was differed from, and upon statement of the chair in answer to Bro. Forscutt that it could be called up hereafter if wished, was so left. [It was an error in copying the report, by which two apostles were spoken of. The original only spoke of one.—Sec'y.]

The report of the Musical Editor, Bro. M. H. Forscutt, was read as follows:

As Musical Editor of the Church, I beg to herewith submit my report, which is brief, and simply this:—As soon as the authorities of the Church are ready to publish the Harmony, I will be ready with the music. In fact, I am ready now, if the Board of Publication shall signify their willingness and ability to enter upon the work. Suggestively, I would ask, would it be improper to try and ascertain how many copies will be subscribed for at \$1.25 each, and how many of those subscribing would pay in advance, so as to secure the Board of Publication in the enterprise? Numbers of very urgent letters have been received requesting that the publication be not delayed. It is hoped that some measures will be taken ere long looking to that end.

Very respectfully,
MARK H. FORSCUTT.

The report of the Plano Sunday School was read:

Herewith we beg leave to present the report of the "Rising Star" S. S., of Plano, Ill., for the year ending February, 1880. During the year 50 sessions were held, and the average attendance was 69; viz: of male officers and teachers, 5½; of female officers and teachers, 5½; of male scholars, 25½; of female scholars, 31½; of visitors, 2½; of offering, 35½ cents. Total attendance, 3,450. Total offering, \$17.79; proceeds of Christmas entertainment, \$16.38; total, \$34.17. Paid for Hopes, books, etc., \$34.06. During the past year the

school has increased 248 in the total attendance.

F. G. PIRTELL, *Superintendent.*
L. CONOVER, *Assistant Supt.*

JOHN SCOTT, *Treas. and Sec'y.*

A letter from Bro. Marcus Shaw of Minnesota, relative to the issuing of lesson leaves for Sunday Schools was read by the Secretary.

A petition, signed by seven Priests, brethren Wickes, Conover, Crick, Etzenhouser, Steffe, Weston and Adams, asking that permission be granted to organize a Priest's Quorum, was read, and on motion the request was granted, with the provision that the Bishop take charge of the matter of organization, as provided for in the law.

The request of Bro. John Taylor in reference to difficulties at Bevier, together with the minutes of a council, was received and ordered to be referred to a committee. Brethren J. W. Chatburn, M. H. Forscutt and G. H. Hilliard, were appointed as said committee.

Requests concerning the holding of the Fall Conference were read: namely one from the Pottawattamie District that it be held at Council Bluffs, Iowa; one from the Galland's Grove District that it be held at Galland's Grove, Iowa; and one from the Decatur District that it be held at Lamoni, Iowa. These, together with a resolution from the Decatur District favoring the re-appointment of Bro. W. W. Blair in charge of the Utah Mission, were referred to the First Presidency and Twelve for their consideration, and to report.

The half yearly report of the Board of Publication was read and then referred to a committee of three, namely J. M. Harvey, M. H. Forscutt and I. N. White, to consider the document and report. The report of the Board reads as follows:

Financial Report of the Board of Publication from August 16th, 1879, to February 16th, 1880:

RECEIPTS.	
Cash on hand August 16th, 1879.....	\$ 66 12
Receipts by mail.....	5,711 87
" job work.....	22 03
" desk sales.....	25 62
" on deposit.....	288 00
Total.....	\$6,113 64
EXPENDITURES.	
Wages to employees.....	\$2,588 88
Mailing expenses.	
Semi-monthly mail.....	74 62
Postal cards and stamps bought.....	16 50
Stamps received in mail.....	203 11
Total.....	294 23
Coal and wood.....	48 08
Freight and hauling on coal.....	65 13
Total.....	113 21
Sundry expenses.	
Repairs, oil, soap, towels, &c.....	33 59
Freight and expressage on books and paper.....	51 39
Traveling expenses of Board.....	46 28
Mailing machine.....	10 35
Chicago Tribune.....	5 00
Stove in Editorial Room.....	26 00
Total.....	172 61
Chicago firms for stock and material.	
Bradner Smith & Co., paper, &c.....	944 05
A. J. Cox & Co., binding.....	456 59
Marder, Luse & Co., type and ink....	40 94
Jansen, McClurg & Co., books.....	44 89
Shneidewend & Lee, electrotypes....	3 50
Van Bibber & Co., roller composition	10 00
Wm. H. Curwen, olive oil.....	24 70
Total.....	1,524 67
Life of Joseph account.	
E. W. Tullidge, for services.....	80 00
Tullidge & Crandall, for type.....	40 00
Freight on plates and type.....	8 90
Total.....	128 90

Paid out on deposit.	
Rhoda Thurston.....	170 00
R. Wallace.....	50 00
H. S. Dille.....	42 97
	262 97
Paid out on sundry accounts.	
Church.....	477 17
W. W. Blair, on <i>Advocate</i> receipts....	87 55
Robbins, Chapel Fund, Cal.....	18 50
E. W. Tullidge.....	76 82
Church Library.....	2 15
Money Orders and Checks returned .	7 75
	669 94
Total expenditures.....	5,755 41
Cash on hand February 16th, 1880.....	358 23
	\$6,113 64

LAURENCE CONOVER, *Secretary.*

Report of the Board of Publication to the Annual Conference, April 6th, 1880.

The Board of Publication respectfully submit the following report of their operations for the past six months.

Immediately after the organization of the Board appointed by the semi-annual conference of 1879, an inventory of all property belonging to the Board of Publication was taken. The inventory of machinery, type, &c., has been based upon the actual value of the property at the present time, or what the same property could be replaced for to-day, showing a loss on valuation as compared with the inventory of February 16th, 1879, of \$2084.07, and that the property represented by that inventory had been overvalued to that amount.

The Board found the stock of books on hand low, and at once set to work to replenish the stock, and are now able to report a full stock of all the Church publications with the exception of the Scriptures, which can not be printed upon the press now in use.

Your Board found upon the books of the Herald Office a large balance due the Church, arising from moneys sent as tithing, freewill offerings, &c., which had been passed to the credit of the Church account, but the money retained as a loan to the office and used in the purchase and alterations of the Herald Office building. This balance amounted to \$850.00. There were also balances due Chicago firms for binding, paper, &c, \$456.18. Your Board have to report that the balance due the Church has been reduced to \$295. The balance due Bradner Smith & Co., for paper, amounting to \$310.18 has been paid and in addition, bills of paper to the amount of \$1944.40, making a total paid out for paper of \$1354.18, which includes a six months' supply of paper now on hand. The balance due A. J. Cox & Co. for binding, amounting to \$146.34, has also been paid and in addition bills for binding to the amount of \$596.69, making a total paid out for binding Church publications of \$743.03. The response to the call for new subscribers for the *Herald* is shown by an increase of over 500 since the 15th of December last. The larger part of these are on six months' credit as offered by the Business Manager, in December. Of them the greater part will expire in June and July, and the promptness with which the promises to pay in six months are met will determine the feasibility of issuing the *Herald* weekly instead of semi-monthly. Your Board being satisfied that it would result to the best interest of the Board and through them to the Church at large, for them to have the entire control of the book *Joseph the Prophet*, a one half interest in which had been bought by the former Board, made an offer to E. W. Tullidge for the remaining half interest which he accepted, and the entire right and interest in the copyright, plates, and all other appurtenances of the book is now vested in the Board of Publication. The work on the book is now being pushed forward as rapidly as circumstances will permit of, and will be ready for sale in the early part of July.

The Taylor cylinder press now in use, and upon which all the books issued by the Board, with the exception of the Scriptures, have heretofore been printed has become much worn in the tracks by twelve years constant use. This wearing, with the lost motion engendered by the same cause, render it impossible to obtain that accuracy requisite in the printing of books, while it will still answer all the requirements of a newspaper press for some years to come. This fact, together with the constantly increasing demand for books and the impossibility of printing such books as the Scriptures and *Joseph the Prophet*

on that kind of press, render a book press an absolute necessity, and your Board have therefore contracted for a four roller Campbell book press, capable of producing the finest book work. The regular price of this press is \$1600, but your Board obtain the press for \$1300 cash and the Globe job press, valued at \$175, making the total cost of the book press \$1475. Of this amount there has been already donated by various brethren and sisters the sum of \$350. The closing of the books of the Board of Publication on March 16th, 1880, show the net worth of the property in charge of the Board to be \$9723.28. As compared with the net worth as shown by the opening of the books in May, this shows an apparent loss of \$2074.07, but by a reference to the inventory of February 16th, 1879, and a comparison of that inventory with that of the present Board shows that the loss is not on the current business, but is due to the overvaluation of the property in the past, and the carrying of such overvaluation on the books. The current business of the Board shows a net gain of \$858.92.

It is proposed in the future to balance and close the books every six months, so that the report of the Board to each succeeding conference will show the exact state of the business with the comparative gain or loss.

For the Board of Publication,
LAURENCE CONOVER, *Secretary.*

An appeal from Bro. Robert Fuller against an action of Bishop I. L. Rogers pertaining to him was read and referred to a committee, consisting of brethren Glaud Rodger, J. F. Adams and B. V. Springer, appointed by the chair.

The committee appointed last fall to audit the books of the released Board of Publication presented their report. It was read and ordered to be made the special business at two o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

The petition from Chicago (mentioned in the Secretary's report of yesterday) that Bro. M. H. Forscutt be continued by this conference in his ministry in that city, was taken up, read and considered.

It was moved that the petition be granted, and, upon request, Bro. Forscutt gave a statement of the situation in Chicago, and of the wants and necessities of the work if it should be prosecuted. Questions were asked and remarks were made by brethren Harvey, Kelley, Culver, Brand, Short, Yerrington and J. Smith, generally in favor of the work being continued. The chair suggested that the matter be referred to a committee, consisting of I. L. Rogers, G. A. Blakeslee and J. Smith. Then it was moved that the motion to grant the petition be amended by adding to it the words "that it be referred to the committee suggested by the chair." This was spoken to by brethren Crawford, Harvey, H. Robinson and Wickes, and the question being called, a vote was ordered to be taken upon the so-called amendment, and it was declared adopted. The motion as amended was called for and read, and spoken upon by brethren Short and Patterson, and it being considered that the original and the amendment were opposite in meaning, it was moved to reconsider the motion adopting the amendment, which was accordingly done, and thereby the amendment as well as the original motion were still left before the house for discussion. Then it was moved to lay the whole matter upon the table for future taking up. This was spoken upon by brethren Short and Harvey, and the question being called, the motion to lay upon the table prevailed.

A request was read in behalf of Sr. Springer, of Amboy, Illinois, for prayers, that she may receive health; and also one from Bro. Simmonds, of Canton, Illinois, in behalf of

his daughter who is insane. Appointments for preaching this evening and to-morrow were made, a hymn was sung, and the benediction pronounced by Bro. R. C. Elvin.

At 7:30 p.m. Bro. M. T. Short preached, assisted by Bro. G. T. Griffiths.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH.

At 9 a.m. the Saints met for prayer service, and were presided over by brethren John Chisnall and G. S. Yerrington.

At 10:30 a.m. preaching by Bro. E. C. Brand, assisted by Bro. H. L. Thompson.

At 1:30 p.m., Pres. Smith in the chair, the hymn beginning "Lord of the harvest hear," was sung, and prayer was offered by Bishop I. L. Rogers.

The Secretary read the minutes of yesterday.

On the suggestion of the chair, the rules were suspended, by which the hour of two o'clock to-day was set to consider the report of the Herald Office auditing committee, and the President read a telegram from California, as follows:

San Bernardino, Cal., April 7th, 1880.
To Joseph Smith:
Mission divided: Oregon, Nevada, Northern California, Southern California. Endorse. Sent by Conference authority. Answer by telegraph.
J. BURTON.

It was moved that this conference endorse the division of the Pacific Slope Mission, as made by their conference in California as stated in the telegram.

Brethren J. M. Harvey and C. G. Lanphear asked questions on the matter, and they were answered by the chair. Brethren Warnky and W. H. Kelley spoke upon the subject, and the motion to endorse being put was carried by unanimous vote, and the Secretary was authorized to send a telegram to California, stating to the conference in session there that we so endorse.

A motion was adopted making it the rule that those who take part in discussions be limited to five minutes each, unless further time be granted by the body.

The chair then presented the question that was made the special order for this afternoon, and as both the President and his assistant were concerned in the matter under consideration as members of the Board of Publication, they vacated the stand and Bro. M. H. Forscutt was called to preside during the discussion of this question.

The report of the committee appointed to investigate the books and affairs of the Board of Publication was taken up, and Bro. W. H. Kelley stated that it had come to the knowledge of said committee that there were some errors in their report of yesterday which they wished time to correct, and upon motion being made to recommit the document to the committee for them to amend it, it was so voted.

President Smith took the chair, Elder Forscutt vacating.

The President announced having received a document from Bro. J. W. Briggs, and then proceeded to read it, as follows:

Again, and I trust for the last time, I am impelled to ask at your hand redress for wrong inflicted upon me by the late Semi-Annual Conference of September, 1879.

The facts connected with the said act complained of I will briefly recite:

At the Semi-Annual Conference of September, 1878, certain charges were made against me of teaching contrary to the belief of the Church, and an order made by said conference that the First Presidency appoint a court to adjudicate the case. To this I demurred, and gave my reasons to the Annual Conference of April 6th, 1879, and demanded, as a right, to be heard before the Quorum of the Twelve in their capacity of a presiding High Council. This was ordered by said Annual Conference, fixing the time for such investigation during the sitting of the next Semi-Annual Conference of September, 1879, at which time the quorum met, and the case was called, though the quorum declined to organize as such High Council, or to be governed by the rules applicable to an High Council. This was in contravention of my request, and the order of the said Annual Conference; and was so far, I think, a grave error, which entitled their findings to the character of a report only, and not a decision.

To that report and to the action of the said Semi-Annual Conference I now call your attention. The quorum report upon all the charges investigated, save one, either "not sustained" or find something not charged, which is equivalent, hence I regard these disposed of.

The remaining one on the Gathering, they report as follows: "We find that the brother does not believe there is any place of gathering as pertains to this Church, and holds that there is no command, now in force, requiring a gathering either into what is called the regions round about or to a local Zion or to a stake. He refers to the revelation of 1841, par. 15, as defining his position."

This finding is correct; but whether so holding is antagonistic to the view generally held by the Church (as affirmed) we will now inquire:

At the first conference of the Reorganized Church, held in the town of Beloit, Wisconsin, June 12th to 13th, 1853, the following was 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."—Word of Consolation, page 2. As the author of this resolution I declare the intention to mean by the phrase "no stake," no place, and it was so understood; and at the Annual Conference of 1863 this same resolution was affirmed, and again at the Annual Conference of 1876. Here are three several declarations of General Conferences that there is no place to which the Saints are commanded to gather.

Further, in the report of the Quorum of the Twelve in April, 1878 upon the charge they say: "And it (the Church) particularly declared, in 1876 at the Annual Conference that there is *now* no place to which we are commanded to gather, and we consider the position of Bro. Briggs in apparent harmony with these positions etc."

Further, It is taught in *Herald* by a member of the First Presidency, (see *Herald* of September 1st, 1876), that there is not only now no law requiring a gathering, but that it is not "permitted." In the same article the same construction is put upon par. 15 of the revelation of 1831; viz, that the Church was exonerated from that work.

In the face of these facts and utterances on the part of the Church and its chief quorums, the Twelve report that the charge on "gathering is sustained," which implies that there is a place of gathering and a command now in force requiring it; thus contradicting themselves and all the utterances of the Church on that point.

Then follows the act of the late Semi-Annual Conference upon that strangely contradictory report, "that he (J. W. Briggs) stand rejected from the Quorum of the Twelve, and that he be forbidden to act, etc., until he make restitution to the Church."

This act is inconsistent with the several acts cited, inconsistent with its own act restoring Bro. Z. H. Gurley, who occupied identical ground with myself upon this question, which was well known to the Church. In his reasons for resignation he says: "I reject the local Zion or gathering in the Doctrine and Covenants."

It is inconsistent with its own act in adopting the report on the Decatur resolutions which re-

port says; "We are further of the opinion, that it is not the intent and meaning of the said resolutions to make a belief in the revelations in the Book of Covenants a test of reception and fellowship in the Church."

The single issue now remaining is, I trust, so clearly pointed out and defined, that your perceptions of truth in the matter, of consistency, of impartiality, and of justice, will enable you to correct the errors and wrongs complained of. The question is not, Has there been a time for gathering, or will there be such a time in the future, but is there now a law in force requiring a gathering to a particular place?

I therefore ask the conference to pass upon this specific question, and justify me on this point, or justify my accusers. While I am not willing to anticipate God upon this, or upon any other subject, I hope to be willing to live in humble obedience to whatever may be his revealed will. And here I rest; in hope for the realization of that spirituality in religion of which Zion is and ever has been the lively symbol. All of which is respectfully and prayerfully submitted.

J. W. BRIGGS.

WHEELER'S GROVE, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa,
April 3d, 1880.

It was moved by brethren Kelley and Hilliard that it be received and considered. Bro. Chatburn asked the reason why it should be considered, and Bro. Kelley gave his reasons. Bro. Brand asked a question. Bro. Harvey thought the report last Fall was the decision of the traveling High Council, and that the case was then settled. If that was only a committee, then he and others had misunderstood the matter at that time. Bro. J. F. Adams asked a question. Bro. Chatburn did not think the petition had any right before this body, and gave his reasons. Conference by resolution had given the conditions upon which he might be restored, and he was opposed to taking up this document. Bro. Lake considered that it was not as a committee but as a council that the body having it in charge considered it last Fall. Bro. E. L. Kelley thought that the brother had a right to urge his objection to the finding of that body, and was in favor of considering his message. Bro. Crawford thought the appeal of an Apostle should be a direct one to the High Council. Bro. E. L. Kelley being allowed a second speech, said that the court did not wish to cripple Bro. Briggs as a minister, but the conference had passed such a resolution. Bro. Brand was allowed a second speech, and considered that Bro. Briggs ignored the court and erroneously calls it a committee. Bro. Patterson thought that as the brother had requested that his case be referred to his quorum, where it properly belonged, and his now calling the finding of that quorum as only the report of a committee, is a weak statement; but if there be a higher court to which he may desire to appeal, he is in favor of Bro. Briggs having the privilege. Bro. Harvey desired permission to speak again, but the question being called, the motion for privilege was denied, and the motion to receive and consider was voted upon and prevailed.

Two motions were then made; first, that it be deferred till to-morrow; second, that it be referred to the High Council. Speeches were made, or questions asked, by brethren W. H. and E. L. Kelley, H. Robinson, J. F. Adams, G. Hicklin, R. C. Elvin, J. Chisnall and J. M. Harvey, and the chair read a clause of the law from Doc and Cov. 99:13. The motion to refer to the High Council being put, was negatived, and the one to defer till to-morrow afternoon session prevailed.

The committee who were appointed yesterday upon the documents sent up concerning difficulties in the Bevier, Missouri Branch, reported:

We, your committee, appointed to examine and report on the papers forwarded from the Bevier Branch, and from Elder John Taylor, president of the district which includes that branch, report as follows:

We have carefully examined the minutes of the two meetings held at Bevier, in which the questions of disorganization, change of officers, and reorganization, were considered. We also conversed with Bro. Gomer T. Griffiths and Frank P. Scarelliff, president and secretary of the meetings referred to, from whose testimony we gather:

1st. That the members of the Bevier Branch had by these brethren and others been duly and personally notified of the special meeting called to consider the above questions.

2nd. From the authorized reports by us had, we discover that the Rules of Order had not, previous to the holding of those meetings, been adopted by the Bevier Branch. The personal notification given to its members was therefore all that ought to be demanded; and your committee is of the opinion that the absence of any number of the members of said branch from said meetings can not be properly construed into or advanced as a reason for repudiating the action of those who did attend as notified. Sec. 39, page 23, Rules of Order.

3d. That the meetings in which the action complained of was taken, was duly organized according to the rules laid down in the Rules of Order, Sec. 4, page 6, and Sec. 7, page 7.

4th. That the officers now in charge of the Bevier Branch were duly elected, according to rule laid down in Sec. 5, page 7, Rules of Order, and are therefore the legally constituted authorities of the branch.

In view of the foregoing, your committee recommend that conference declare the present organization of the Bevier Branch to be legal, and instruct the members of said branch that it is their duty to earnestly support and pray for the officers chosen, until they shall resign or be released for cause. Respectfully submitted.

J. W. CHATBURN,
MARK H. FORSCUTT,
G. H. HILLIARD.

The report was received and adopted and the committee was discharged.

The committee to which the appeal of Bro. Robert Fuller was referred, reported as follows:

We, your committee appointed to investigate the matter of an appeal to your body from Robt. Fuller, have carefully examined the matter set forth in the appeal, and find no cause existing for the same, and we therefore recommend a dismissal of the case.

G. RODGER,
B. V. SPRINGER,
J. F. ADAMS.

PLANO, Ill., April 8th, 1880.

The report was received, adopted and the committee discharged.

The Secretary also read a letter from Bro. T. J. Smith, president of the Northern Nebraska District, recommending Bro. Hiram Robinson (present) as worthy of appointment on a mission.

On motion the matter about the Chicago mission that was tabled yesterday was taken up, and the Secretary read the minutes of the proceedings then, showing that the original motion to grant the petition and the amendment were still before the house. The movers of the latter asked the privilege to withdraw it, which the body granted.

Bro. Kelley asked that if the petition was granted do we thereby commit ourselves to its continuance and to the expense of the same. Then the following was moved:

Resolved that, in the matter of prosecuting the Chicago mission, we refer the entire matter to a com-

mittee of three, composed of Brn. I. L. Rogers, G. A. Blakeslee and J. Smith, for them to take such action in the matter as they shall deem proper and practicable.

This substitute was spoken upon by brethren Chatburn, Lake and Harvey in opposition, they desiring that the conference express by vote of the body whether it wishes the mission continued or not, and if so ordered it can then be referred. The substitute was favored by brethren Elvin, E. L. Kelley, Yerrington and Blair, who thought the proposed committee were able to decide the matter in all its bearings. Bro. W. H. Kelley reviewed the matter and asked if the Church was prepared to furnish the means necessary for the proposed work. Then the question was called and the substitute being put upon its passage prevailed. Bro. Forscutt hoped that the committee would report before this conference adjourns, informing us as to their views.

The chair called attention to the fact that Bro. F. G. Pitt had not yet been ordained as a counselor to the First Quorum of Elders, as provided for last Fall and on motion it was ordered that he be ordained to said office at this session.

The following was moved:

Resolved, 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.

This was spoken upon by Brn. Hilliard, Brand, Patterson, Harvey and H. N. Snively, in favor of, and by Brn. Jobe Brown, H. L. Thompson, Short, Elvin, Lake, W. H. Kelley, and Chisnall, in opposition, and the question being called and a vote being ordered the resolution was declared as affirmed. A division being called for, a rising vote showed 38 in favor and 12 disapproving.

Announcements were made for preaching this evening, and that to-morrow morning there would be no preaching, the whole time being desired by many to be devoted to prayer and testimony alone.

Adjourned with singing the doxology and benediction pronounced by Bro. W. W. Blair.

At 7:30 p. m., preaching by Bro. B. V. Springer, assisted by Bro. Glaud Rodger.

Saints' Herald.

JOSEPH SMITH, EDITOR.
HENRY A. STEBBINS, ASSISTANT.

Plano, Illinois, May 1st, 1880.

THE missionary efforts made at the late conference, will, in their continuation in the field of actual labor, make demands upon the Church Treasury. And, as there is now but one recognized legal way by which the treasury may be made equal to the demand, all who can, should at once read and pay heed to the late appeal made by the Bishopric. All that the Bishopric can do is to make the necessity of the case known; and, when their appeal is responded to, to keep correct accounts of all they receive and pay away, all of which Bishop Rogers and his Counselors

are doing, as is plainly seen in their quarterly and yearly reports. There is no embezzlement of funds, and no hesitancy to show the books. Such long and persistent carefulness must show to all, even the most sceptical, that the strictest integrity rules in the councils of the Bishopric; and we presume that the Saints have about concluded that we are not likely to die with millions of the Saints' moneys in our hands, for the Church and our heirs to quarrel about; for it must be seen that we do not control either the moneys of the Church, nor the Bishopric. They are men who think for themselves, and act upon their own judgment; men who are willing to confess that they are human and may err; men who are willing to counsel with their brethren, but who will not, (and may God bless them for it), submit to arbitrary human dictation, nor obey dishonest counsel. With such men the monetary interests of the Church are safely trusted; and the missionary laborers will be sustained to the extent that the treasury is supplied. Don't forget the appeal nor the necessities it presents.

WE see by late advices in the papers, that the Church in the Vallies of the Mountains under Pres. John Taylor, cancelled at their late conference about \$800,000 of Emigration debts; or, more properly stating it, they have cancelled certain obligations enforced upon the poor whom the church emigrated to Utah through the Perpetual Emigration Fund, to the nominal amount of \$800,000.

With us it is a question, how much of this sum was due them from fair and honorable contracts made with the poor, through the charity that should have watched over their interests; and how much was paper improperly obtained.

If all the claims cancelled were genuine, valid in law and collectable in fact, it was a very commendable act; but if they were not genuine, not good in law and collectable, the cancellation will be a sorry bid for cheap notoriety.

It is a hopeful sign, however, and clearly indicates a change of policy on the part of the Brighamite Mormons, whatever may have been the causes that have induced, or forced the change.

Joseph Young's dream about the tightening of the hoops until they burst is in process of fulfillment; and we take courage.

It is a princely sum to give away; and the hearts of the church must have warmed with generosity to have bestowed such a gift; and we hope that there are members living to whom this late generosity may be like sweet waters; but it is very late; so late indeed, that it sounds more like the closing out of bankrupt claims, than the beneficence of kind-

ly, churchly love. Two million dollars to the heirs of Brigham Young, less than half of that sum to impecunious debtors. The world moves, and we think the Rocky Mountain Saints are waking up.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

THE late April Conference was signally blessed with the continuance of good weather during all its sittings. Besides the good weather, the session was characterized by a most excellent spirit. There was apparently a sort of dread over the earlier sittings, lest the Herald Office investigation might develop unduly disastrously; but when the worst became known, all this was entirely dissipated, and the freest inquiry was had. The attendance was good, probably the largest personal representation ever present in Plano. The preaching was decidedly good, from first to last; the brethren called upon to speak complying readily, and without unnecessary excuses. No bitterness of feeling was exhibited, and we believe none was felt.

An Elder of the Church in Utah had agreed to meet Bro. Luff in discussion in Sandy, Utah. We hope he will, but don't believe it, till it is done.

Bro. E. B. Mullin of Taitsville, Missouri, says that they are still battling for the cause of truth in that region.

Bro. C. E. Aldrich writes from Canyon City, Oregon, that the Prairie City Branch, twelve members, still exists, and Bro. Buckingham preaches for them. Bro. Clapp is expected in that region this summer, when likely some will obey the gospel.

Sr. Nancy V. Pearson (formerly Richardson) at Rancho, Gonzales county, Texas, writes that her husband and others would be glad to hear the gospel, and Mr. Pearson will welcome an Elder to his house. Bro. C. N. Powell, in the same county, also says that the people in his region are anxious to hear the truth preached. Sr. Pearson bears her testimony to the truth of the work we are engaged in, and expresses gratitude to God for his goodness to her, but so greatly longs for a preacher of the gospel to come there that she feels the isolation very much. We hope some one of the ministry can go to see them this summer.

Bro. J. H. Lake went to Keokuk, Iowa, the 19th of April, and wrote from there the 20th, that he was preparing for the season's campaign. May it be a successful and glorious one for him and for all true-hearted laborers.

Bro. L. H. Ezzell at Marmaton, Bourbon county, Kansas, is anxious to see an Elder come to his aid. He preaches some and thinks good people live there who need to hear more and who will do so.

The Saints' Herald

g15779
OJ Bailey

Official Paper of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Vol. 27.—Whole No. 441.

Plano, Illinois, May 15th, 1880.

No. 10.

Concluded.

GENERAL CONFERENCE MINUTES.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH.

From 9 to 12 a. m., a prayer and testimony meeting was held, in charge of Brn. G. S. Yerrington and Geo. Hicklin. A very excellent time was enjoyed, the Holy Spirit and its gifts being with the assembly, blessing, cheering and encouraging the Saints.

At 1:30 p. m., Pres. Blair in the chair, the assembly sung, "Men of God go take your stations." Prayer was offered by Bro. J. R. Lambert, and the minutes of yesterday's session were read.

The committee on the last half-yearly report of the Board of Publication stated that they were not ready to report, and so did the committee on Bishop Rogers' annual report.

The report of the committee of examination on the Board of Publication books and affairs, as amended by the committee since yesterday's session, as re-committed by resolution yesterday for that purpose, was read by the Secretary:

We, your committee, appointed by resolution of the Semi-Annual Conference of 1879 to examine the "Report and books of the Board of Publication, and report at the Spring Conference of 1880," respectfully submit the following:

By agreement we met at the Herald Office, Plano, Illinois, March 26th, inst., and commenced the investigation, which lasted ten days, Bro. Geo. A. Blakeslee not arriving, however, until the fourth day of the investigation.

1. We find that the Board of Publication assumed control of the Herald Office June 17th, 1872, and resigned September the 17th, 1879, having continued in office seven years and ten days, with the exception of two of its members, Bro. H. A. Stebbins, who was appointed April 1876, to fill the place of Bro. J. Smith resigned, and that of Bro. W. W. Blair, appointed Dec. 4th, 1874, in the place of E. Banta resigned. We find also that Robert Warnock was acting secretary of the Board of Publication from June 17th, 1872, until August 1st, 1874, and I. N. W. Cooper from August 1st, 1874 until May 5th, 1879.

2. We find on page one of the Ledger an entry as follows: Herald Office Dr. to sundries \$5778.58, also an entry, Herald Office Cr. by sundries \$18649.51. The pages of the Journal Day Book from which these items have been posted, as shown by the "page checks," have been taken out of the Journal, and can not be found. Two members of the Board have made the statement that these two items refer to the statements of assets represented by the entry of \$18649.51, and liabilities represented by the entry of \$5778.58, at the time when the Board assumed control of the Herald Office. Accepting this statement of the Board, the committee have collected all the items on the succeeding pages of the Ledger which represent the assets and liabilities, and find the following: That if the item "Herald Office Dr. to sundries" represents the total liabilities of the office, the aggregate

of the items charged against the office—on the succeeding pages—show an excess over that item of \$1039.75, while the item on the assets side show an excess of \$67.05. The part of Ledger 'B' from which these amounts have been collected, is from pages 2 to 29 inclusive.

3. In Ledger 'A' page 499 the Ledger closed with "Bills Payable" to the amount of \$1788.00 and the amount carried forward to page 14 of Ledger "B" and entered "By Herald Office \$2000.00," showing an increase of indebtedness to the amount of \$212, and nothing entered to account for the loss. One of the Board claims this account has been paid, but the books do not show it.

4. On page 133 of Journal "A" there are a number of accounts charged to "loss and gain," amounting to \$261.81, and no explanation anywhere to show what those losses and gains consisted of. This is of frequent occurrence in the books, and no means of ascertaining any items included in the transactions to which the phrases refer, which shows a serious defect in the system of book keeping adopted.

5. In referring to the minute book of the Board of Publication we learn that the liabilities of the Herald Office when the Board assumed control of the same, was \$5678.58 and assets \$18749.51, showing a net worth of \$13070.93 and at the closing of the books it was \$9174.61 showing a loss of \$3876.32.

6. On page 118 of Ledger "B" is an account of a transaction with a certain party and entries not having been made at the proper time upon the books, leaving the Board liable to a loss of \$210.

7. On page 144 of Journal "A" accounts are balanced, books posted and \$18.43 paid out more than had been received, which shows another defect in the system of book keeping.

8. Pages 765 and 766 of Journal A cash entries for Dec. 23, 1874, show a total of \$61.15 on the Journal, while the Letter Register shows the amount received to be \$76.25, showing a loss of \$15.10 in one day.

9. On page 766 of Journal A a partial erasure of \$3.00 is made, as shown by a letter received on that date from W. Whitney, also the original entries changed in various other places too numerous to mention, as may be seen on pages 704, 709, 710 and 824 of Journal A.

10. We find four hundred errors—a list of which is submitted with this report—consisting of omissions and erroneous entries in the cash account amounting to \$1124.37, consisting of \$935.07 debit and \$189.30 credit. \$194.81 was afterward refunded, which leaves a total loss of \$550.96. This is partially secured by a note calling for \$200, but the note being worthless the committee recommend that it be not allowed.

11. At the close of the term of the retiring Board we find that they were carrying as assets the following notes: (1) One given for \$500, due April 1876, bearing interest at ten per cent, with payments of principal to the amount of \$425, but on which no interest has been collected, said interest amounting to \$114.37; (2) one given for \$200; (3) one due bill for \$40, due Oct. 4th, 1876.

12. An error occurred in the report of the Board of Publication to the Semi-Annual Conference of 1879—Herald page 326—in reference to the payment on Herald building, in that it states that \$1064.34 was paid out of the current receipts of the office, whereas the facts are said payments were made with Church monies allowed to accu-

mulate in the Herald Office and belonging to the Bishopric.

13. In the same report the statement is made that the prices of the books compare favorably with those of the same class of works and binding published by other denominations, which is thought by the committee to be very doubtful of being correct.

14. The making of the selling price of books at too great a percentage above that of the cost price was evidently a great mistake in policy; also the paying of too high salaries in some instances to employees.

15. The system of appointing Book Agents was a very loose and unsafe one, and resulted in a great loss of monies to the office, by appointing, in many instances, irresponsible agents. There was, however, some improvement made by the Board in this regard.

16. By the rules of incorporation the Treasurer is made responsible for the monies coming into the office, and your committee recommend that he be held to pay the losses that have occurred to the office so far as relates to the monies that passed through the hands of the employees of the Board.

17. We find that the Board erred against the interest of the office when discharging one of its employees by paying the full amount of his monthly wages, when they knew at the time that he was largely in debt to the office.

18. The want of care and accuracy is made conspicuously apparent by the Board in fixing the cost price of books as it appears upon their inventory at the Herald Office, a price smaller than the cost of the books being given.

19. The books do not show that any balance sheet showing the gain or loss on the business of the Herald Office was made from June 17th, 1872, until after May 8th, 1879.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. H. KELLEY,
G. A. BLAKESLEE,
PHINEAS CADWELL.

Presidents Smith and Blair retired, calling Bro. J. S. Patterson to the chair to preside.

It was moved that the report be adopted and the committee be discharged. An amendment was moved, that the provision to discharge the committee be stricken out, and after some speeches, it was put upon its passage and adopted. This left the motion to adopt as a whole before the house for action.

The following was moved as a substitute:

Resolved, that the report of the auditing committee be referred to a committee of seven, appointed by the body, who shall take the whole matter pertaining to said report into consideration, and report some way of settlement or action that will be in the interests of justice and equity to all concerned.

The propriety of this substitute was discussed, and the chair decided that the substitute was out of order. An appeal was taken from this decision and the chair was sustained, leaving the original motion to adopt the report as a whole before the house.

The following was moved:

Resolved, that we consider each section of the report of the committee separately.

After some discussion this was adopted, and the reading of the first section was called for. It was read by the Secretary, and its adoption was moved, and after discussion it was adopted.

The second section was read moved, and, after discussion, was adopted.

The third section was read, moved, spoken upon by several, and adopted.

The fourth section was read, moved, spoken upon and adopted.

The fifth section was read, moved and discussed. Bro. W. W. Blair was opposed to the adoption, as he said it would carry a wrong impression of the facts, and unjustly bring discredit on the Board; for, while the apparent loss alleged in this section may be real, it did not occur by any dishonesty of the Board, but by depreciation in the value of the property. Bro. E. L. Kelly said he did not wish any shielding or white-washing. Bro. J. Smith explained the discrepancy caused by wear and tear in any property that may be purchased. Brn. J. F. Adams and Forscutt spoke, and then Bro. Blakeslee stated, as one of the committee, that he had no doubt the discrepancy occurred because of depreciation in value, but the book-keeper failed to enter it upon his books of account, and they as a committee had no right to square the books by adding this loss to balance.

Then the following was moved by Brn. E. L. Kelley and J. A. Crawford as an amendment to the section:

Resolved, that, from explanations made here, it is the opinion of this assembly that the discrepancy shown in this section occurred from the failure of the book-keeper to enter upon his books the depreciation in the value of the property.

Bro. Heman C. Smith asked a question, which the chair answered, and the amendment was spoken upon, being favored by Brn. Curwen, Blair, Hilliard, E. L. Kelley, J. Smith, Forscutt, and opposed by Brn. Chatburn and Harvey, and Bro. Conover made some explanation of the causes of the difference existing. Then the question was called, and the amendment was affirmed by vote of the body, followed by the adoption of the section as amended.

The sixth section was read, followed by a motion to adjourn, which was followed in turn by a request from Bro. E. L. Kelley for the privilege to introduce a resolution and have it read, and upon motion, the rules were suspended, and the Secretary read a document on church representation to do conference business for the body, the article being introduced by Brn. E. L. Kelley and M. H. Forscutt. It was laid on the table subject to call.

Adjourned by singing the Doxology and benediction by J. M. Harvey.

At 7:30 p. m., preaching by Bro. Joseph R. Lambert, assisted by Bro. J. F. McDowell.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH.

From 9 to 12 a. m., the Saints enjoyed another time of spiritual refreshing from the Lord, in prophesying by the Holy Spirit, and in bearing testimony and in praising God. The session was in charge of Brn. E. C. Warnky and G. S. Yerrington.

At 1:30 p. m., Pres. Smith in the chair, a

hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Bro. J. H. Lake.

The President called attention to and read the "Book of Rules," page 110, concerning calling members of an assembly to order for infractions of the rules, and he impressed upon the body the necessity of the strict observance of these rules.

Bro. E. C. Brand requested a suspension of the rules for the purpose of introducing new business, and, upon privilege being granted, a resolution concerning Bro. Henry H. Deam was offered by him and read by the Secretary. It was then laid upon the table for future consideration.

On call of the chair for reports of committees, quorums and other matter in his hands, the Secretary stated that he had a report from the committee on Bishop Rogers' books, one from the committee on Church Record matter, also reports from the High Priests, the Seventies and the First Quorum of Elders, and the ministry reports from Brn. Z. H. Gurley and W. H. Kelley of the Twelve, also report of the Presidency and the Twelve on the place of holding the fall conference and on missions.

The presiding officers vacated the chair, calling upon Bro. M. H. Forscutt to preside during the discussion of the question pending at yesterday's adjournment.

The sixth section was read. Its adoption was moved, and the motion to so adopt being voted upon, prevailed.

The assembly was asked concerning its further pleasure, and the following was moved:

Resolved, that the motion of yesterday to consider the report of the committee on the books of the Publishing Board by sections be reconsidered.

This was spoken upon by Brn. J. Smith, E. L. Kelley and J. W. Chatburn, and the reading of the remaining sections being called for, they were read by the Secretary, and the question being called, the motion to reconsider prevailed.

The following substitute was offered for the motion that the report be acted upon by sections, namely:

That the remaining sections of the report be passed upon as a whole.

This was spoken upon by Brn. Blair, Brand, Harvey and Lake, and an amendment to the substitute was moved, as follows:

And that the Board of Publication be permitted to accompany the committee's report by an explanation.

Questions were asked or speeches were made by Brn. W. H. Kelley, Hilliard, E. L. Kelley, Chatburn, Brand and Harvey, when the question being called, the amendment was voted upon, and declared adopted. Division being called for a rising vote showed 24 for and 13 against.

A question was asked by Bro. J. Smith, and an additional amendment was offered, as follows:

Which explanation shall be submitted to this conference for consideration and adoption before being published.

This was discussed by Brn. J. Smith, E. L. Kelley, Harvey and Hilliard, and the question being called, this further amendment was adopted.

Then the substitute, as thus twice amended, was put upon its passage and adopted.

The following was moved and adopted:

Resolved, that we now consider and adopt the committee's report as a whole, and as amended.

A subsequent motion was introduced and by vote prevailed, reading as follows:

Resolved, that any explanations made by the Board of Publication upon the report of the auditing committee be made to the conference at this session.

The Presidency, to whom was referred the matter of the location of the next Fall Conference presented their report:

The Presidency and Twelve, to whom the matter of location of fall session of conference was referred, beg leave and submit that they have examined and considered the petitions from Lamoni, Council Bluffs, etc., and recommend the following: Resolved, that the Semi-annual Session of Conference be held at or near Council Bluffs, Iowa, to convene Sunday, September 12th, 1880. Respectfully,
J. SMITH,
J. H. LAKE.

It was moved to endorse, and that the said session be held at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Other motions were made, one favoring it being held at Lamoni, Iowa; another that it be held at Galland's Grove, Iowa, and another that it be held at Magnolia, Iowa.

Those favoring the various places, being called upon, stated the benefits of each place, and a vote was taken upon each, with the following result: Magnolia 2 votes, Galland's Grove 5 votes, Lamoni 2 votes, Council Bluffs 43 votes. Then it was voted that the choice of the latter place be declared as an unanimous one, which was done.

The committee on the books and annual report of Bishop I. L. Rogers, returned said report and their findings in the matter, which were adopted unanimously. The combined report reads as follows:

Annual Report of Bishop Israel L. Rogers of moneys received and paid out by him during the year ending March 31st, 1880:

Balance in hand April 1st, 1879.....	\$1,263 13
Receipts of tithings and offerings, items heretofore published in the quarterly reports..	4,716 94
Receipts from sale of 20 acres of Church land	375 00

Total credits	\$6,355 07
Expended for the ministry, the poor, and for various Church purposes, as published quarterly	5,122 33

Balance remaining on hand... \$1,232 74

Of the forty-one Bishop's Agents appointed, thirty-four have reported to me this Spring, thirty-three of which will be found to agree with my book accounts with said Agents, though in several cases their reports were only adjusted by subsequent correspondence. The other one is incorrect and does not agree with the books kept by me. From the other seven agents I have no reports. Four of them are recent appointments, and the other three have failed to send a statement, but no balances stand charged against them on the books. The statement accompanying this will show the last balances, the receipts and the expenditures of these thirty-three Agents for the year, together with the amounts now due the Church from them or due to them. As will be seen \$3294.95 was received, and \$3522.12 was paid out by them, including sums sent to me during the year.

If the conference has any further instructions to give concerning the publication of the itemized reports of the Agents I would be pleased to have them.

In accordance with the wish of the Church I have called upon those having meeting houses or other Church property in their charge, to report the same and its valuation. Six chapels have thus been reported out of all the number that are now owned by the Church, or in process. They are as follows: One at San Bernardino, California, valued at \$800; one at Kewanee, Illinois, valued at \$1000; one at Sandwiche, Illinois, valued at \$1200; one at Springertown,

Illinois, valued at \$650; one at Little Sioux, Iowa, valued at \$800, and one at Fall River, Massachusetts, valued at \$1200.

Also by the will of the Church the Bishopric have prosecuted the matter for the possession of the Kirtland Temple, and, in the Court of Common Pleas, Lake county, Ohio, a decision was rendered by Judge

Sherman in favor of the Reorganized Church as the rightful owner of said property, and as the real successor of the original Church of 1830. In this case Bro. E. L. Kelley acted ably and wisely as our attorney, assisted by two other lawyers not of the Church, and Bro. Josiah Ells was present as a principal witness as to the succession, and the Bishopric feel that these

nearly all of the Saints feel more or less neglected by reason of the small amount of preaching done in the respective places visited. This, I think, can be obviated only by sending more laborers into that mission. Brn. B. V. Springer, Geo. Weston, C. Scott, Robert Davis, J. J. Cornish with myself, constitute the ministerial force who have been constantly in the field. Bro. Charles Wickes labored some months in Michigan during the winter, and Bro. J. F. McDowell for a time in Ohio, and each report a good work. We hope they will be like minded hereafter.

The spiritual condition of the Saints is improving, and at the conferences unity of sentiment has characterized all of the meetings, with a single exception, and even that not serious.

The financial side is improving, and noble and generous hearts are putting forth an effort to sustain the cause, temporally. On the whole, there has been a decided improvement in the condition of the work, and members and ministry feel encouraged to labor on.

Zenas H. Gurley, of the Twelve, writes from Lamoni, Decatur county, Iowa:

In pursuance of the appointment of last Semi-Annual Conference I have maintained a regular semi-monthly appointment at Davis City, until recently, have now changed it to a monthly, but hope to be ready to renew the semi-monthly appointments soon, as the people seem anxious, and at this place the interest still continues good, as may be seen by the large and attentive congregations. It is but proper to mention here that Mr. John Clark, of Davis City, has built and furnished a fine brick church there, which he styles "The First Union Church," and it is open to all people for religious purposes. Though not a member of any church, he believes that force of association, and a proper understanding of each other's views, goes far to remove the barriers which separate those who call themselves Christian. Hence the object of a "Union Church." Our services are held in said church, and the people seem to welcome us. It was my privilege to discourse upon three funeral occasions at this place upon three consecutive days, and what seemed especially cheering in the matter was that the three persons taken (all of whom were adults) were members of other churches than ours. Instances of this kind occur frequently, in this region, and speak largely, I think, in favor of the views held by us as a people, relative to "life and immortality brought to light through the gospel." I have spoken once at Pleasanton, in the Methodist Chapel, with good audience, and was earnestly requested to return there, which I hope to do soon. Have also spoken a number of times in Lamoni Branch, and I am pleased to say, as a rule, enjoy fair to good liberty of speech. I made a flying trip to Nebraska City, touching at Shenandoah, Hamburg and Plum Hollow. Met with the Saints in Shenandoah and enjoyed the privilege of saying something in defense of our faith. At Plum Hollow I was in time for their conference, and had the pleasure of speaking twice to a packed house, and plenty of openings appeared all along the line. All around I enjoyed the association of the Saints and the pleasure of meeting with them, and hope to many times again. I called at St. Joseph, Missouri, and was kindly entertained by Bro. J. H. Peters and his amiable lady. Met Brn. Marchant and Thos. Nutt. Hope next time to be able to comply with the many urgent requests and "stay longer."

I am striving to "owe no man," and thus liberate myself for the ministry entire. Until then, however, I shall not be idle, but shall continue to testify of Jesus the Savior of men, believing as I do that God's love and truth will yet predominate over the whole earth, and Jesus reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. And to bring to pass this glory of the Father, may peace, love and truth abide with all the faithful in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The report of the Quorum of High Priests was read, also that of the Seventy, and they were laid upon the table for future consideration.

The committee on Church Records presented their report, which reads as follows:

DISTRICTS.	AGENT'S NAMES.	Last Balance.	Receipts.	TOTAL.	Expenditures.	Due Church.	Due Agents.
English Mission	Thomas Taylor		106 36	106 36	103 80	2 56	
Alabama	Franklin Vickery	5 25	62 85	68 10	66 10	2 00	
California, Northern	John Roberts	121 98	696 45	818 43	692 35	126 08	
California, Southern	*Rich. Allen, Sen.						
Canada, Kent and Elgin	James Robb	9 00	22 50	31 50	15 00	16 50	
Canada, London	Samuel Brown		27 60	27 60	19 10	8 50	
Colorado	John Ellis		149 15	149 15	93 20	55 95	
Florida	†Benj. L. West						
Idaho, Malad	†John Lewis						
Illinois, Kewanee	R. J. Benjamin		27 88	27 88	23 15	4 73	
Illinois and Iowa, Nauvoo and String Prairie	A. W. Head	37	39 25	39 62	33 20	6 42	
Illinois, South-Eastern	B. S. Jones		3 75	3 75		3 75	
Indiana, Southern	J. S. Christie	1 15	23 25	22 40	20 00	4 40	
Iowa, Decatur	David Dancer		256 48	256 48	421 85		165 37
Iowa, Des Moines	John X. Davis		17 75	17 75	17 00		75
Iowa, Eastern	M. G. Maudsley	6 00	22 50	28 50	27 00		1 50
Iowa, Fremont	William Leeka		80 00	80 00	283 62		203 62
Iowa, Galland's Grove	John Pett	2 00	367 13	369 13	362 51	6 62	
Iowa, Pottawattamie	Andrew Hall	30 10	80 70	110 80	108 20	2 60	
Kansas, Spring River	I. R. Ross	1 93	152 12	154 05	42 95	111 10	
Kansas, North-Western	Mahlon Smith		62 46	62 46	59 69	2 77	
Maine, Eastern	†N. W. Crowley						
Massachusetts	John Smith	11 15	8 00	19 15	19 00		15
Michigan	G. A. Blakeslee	80	224 67	225 47	225 47		
Minnesota	J. R. Anderson	2 90	6 00	8 90			8 90
Missouri, Central	E. W. Cato, sen.		7 20	7 20	1 50		5 70
Missouri, Far West	J. D. Flanders		29 20	29 20	29 20		
Missouri, Independence	J. J. Kaster		20 30	20 30	18 55		1 75
Missouri, Nodaway	†A. N. Biervo						
Missouri, North-Eastern	R. Thrutchley		33 39	33 39	30 09		3 30
Missouri, St. Louis	R. D. Cottam	19 25	81 30	100 55	61 60		38 95
Montana	†Lewis Gaultier						
Nebraska, Central	Charles Brindley	5 20	45 20	50 40	57 35		6 95
Nebraska, Northern	Hans Nielson	1 90	150 22	152 12	156 97		4 85
Nebraska, Southern	J. W. Waldsmith		53 25	53 25	50 85		2 40
Nevada	T. R. Hawkins	21 50	30 75	52 25	44 50		7 75
Ohio, South-Eastern	Thomas Matthews		9 97	9 97	8 88		1 09
Oregon	J. H. Lee	42 81	254 55	297 36	276 81		20 55
Pennsylvania, Wyoming	W. W. Jones	20 34	47 75	68 09	56 00		12 09
Utah, Salt Lake	†T. N. Hudson						
Wisconsin, Western	E. C. Wildermuth	1 00	95 02	96 02	96 63		61
		304 63	3,294 95	3,599 58	3,522 12	458 86	381 40

* Report very imperfect; can make no balance.

† No report.

brethren did a good work. The expenses to the Church have been \$211.07, and \$33.15 is yet due to brethren who held the temple for years and paid the taxes on it, which the county would not refund.

We would suggest that an able minister be placed at Kirtland to preach in the temple and in the country about, and to answer the questions of the visitors who daily come there from all parts, to see the famous building, and inquire concerning the faith and doctrine of the Saints.

But nine financial reports of the ministry have been received this Spring up to April 6th, although the request was for them from all the traveling ministry.

Further I have only to say that the financial prospect grows brighter, and the Bishopric hope ere long to see the means furnished whereby laborers may be sent into all fields, and whereby all other Church duties may be attended to.

Respectfully submitted,

ISRAEL L. ROGERS,
Presiding Bishop.

Per H. A. S., Sec'y.

Your committee to whom was referred the Bishop's report, submit the following: We have examined the same, together with the books, and find them correct. Respectfully,

PHINEAS CADWELL,
WM. H. KELLEY,
G. A. BLAKESLEE.

The following was moved by Brn. Springer and Crawford:

Resolved, that hereafter no property of the Church shall depreciate in value, nor shall any member of the Church be liable to make mistakes.

This caused quite a laugh for its suggestiveness, but, on motion, it was laid on the table.

The following ministry reports were read:

W. H. Kelley, of the Twelve, (present), reports:

At the last conference I was continued in my former field of labor, embracing Michigan, Indiana, Canada and Ohio. Soon after conference I entered upon the duties of the mission, laboring principally in Michigan, Indiana and Canada. In Michigan I have visited Galien, Troy, Sanilac county, Mason county, Lawrence, Reed City, Cadillac; and in Canada, London, Carlingford, Osborne and Bothwell; also Steuben county, Indiana, and Coldwater, Michigan. In all these places I found attentive hearers and investigators. The Saints living in those places are, as a rule, earnest and endeavoring to build up the faith. This has wrought effectually in places toward allaying prejudice and inviting a consideration of the facts upon which the faith rests. The Saints are fast learning that the honor of the cause is, in a good degree, committed to them, and its worth measured in some sense by their lives, to those without, hence are growing wiser and more careful, as a rule.

The Lord is indeed opening the way, enlightening the minds, and softening the hearts of the people, so that many of the leading and local papers of the country are beginning to give us favorable notice. It is a large field and the laborers few, and the churches widely scattered; and it has been a source of great anxiety to me as to the best means of meeting the wants and demands; for

We, your committee on Church Record, find that the present style of reporting by branches, often gives a fictitious strength numerically; as many of the branches have on their rolls names of many members absent from their respective vicinities, their whereabouts being often unknown; and also believing that the practice of dropping such members from the branch rolls works injury to the cause and confusion to the Church Record, we would respectfully recommend:

1. 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.

2. 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.

J. A. CRAWFORD,
JOHN CHISNALL.

It was adopted and the committee was discharged.

It was moved that the document submitted by Bro. J. W. Briggs be now taken up. The motion being put to vote was declared lost. Division being called for, resulted in a vote of 25 to take up and 22 against.

The following was moved by Brn. Forscutt and E. L. Kelley:

Whereas, in his letter to this conference, appealing from the decision of last Semi-Annual Conference, a decision based upon the findings of the Quorum of the Twelve in his case, Bro. Jason W. Briggs concedes the position assumed by the Reorganized Church on the subject of "The Gathering;" and, Whereas, in so doing, he virtually recedes from the position charged against him on this question, be it hereby

Resolved, that he be exonerated from the disability attaching to him now, so far as such disability results from the findings of the Quorum of the Twelve in his case, and the action of the Semi-Annual Conference thereon, in which he was declared guilty of teaching contrary to the revelations of God and the faith of the Reorganized Church on the subject of the gathering.

Provided, that he shall in express terms, recede from the position the Quorum of the Twelve found him guilty of occupying, in antagonism to the Church.

This was spoken upon or questions were asked by Brn. Harvey, Elvin, E. L. Kelley, Brand, Chatburn and Forscutt. Then the question being called the motion was declared as having been adopted. A division being called for, a rising vote showed 40 in favor of the motion and 8 against, and the preamble and resolution thus prevailed.

Bishop Rogers made a statement in regard to the organization of a quorum of Priests, and directed the Priests to appoint a secretary and gather names for enrollment, and then notify him and he will meet with them at 9 a. m., Monday next.

Adjourned with singing, "This God is the God we adore," and with benediction by Pres. Smith.

At 7:30 there was preaching by Bro. Columbus Scott, assisted by Bro. J. A. Crawford.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11TH.

At 10:30 a. m. preaching by Bro. Joseph Smith, assisted by Bro. J. H. Lake. Bro. F. G. Pitt was ordained as First Counselor to the President of the First Quorum of Elders

under the hands of Brn. W. H. Kelley and J. W. Chatburn.

At 3 p. m. the house was filled with Saints assembled for the purpose of partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and to engage in services of prayer and praise. After the opening hymn three who had been baptized during the interval between the morning and the afternoon services by Bro. M. H. Forscutt, were confirmed under the hands of Brn. Forscutt and W. H. Kelley. After that the emblems were blessed by Brn. Joseph Smith and H. S. Dille, and passed by Brn. L. Conover and G. F. Weston. Then testimonies were borne by twenty persons, and the gift of tongues was manifested. Time forbade the many who evidently wished to take a part in the worship of the hour from doing so.

At 7:30 p. m. Bro. M. H. Forscutt preached, assisted by Bro. J. Smith.

MONDAY, APRIL 12TH.

At 9 a. m. the usual prayer meeting was held, continuing till 12 m. It was in charge of Brn. Geo. H. Hilliard and Jobe Brown.

At 1:30 p. m., Pres. Blair presiding, sung an hymn and prayer was offered by Bro. W. H. Kelley, and business was proceeded with, the minutes of the 10th and 11th being first read.

The committee appointed upon the last half-yearly report of the Board of Publication presented the following, which was received and adopted:

We, your committee on examination of Report of Board of Publication for the term commencing August 16th, 1879, and ending February 16th, 1880, beg to submit that we have carefully examined said report, have compared it with cash book, ledger, and journal, and find the accounts correct, with the discrepancy only of 97 cents, and this does not affect the cash receipts, nor the cash balance as shown on report of Board of Publication, the error being simply in posting so as to make the ledger account 97 cents more than the cash book calls for. Very respectfully,

J. M. HARVEY,
MARK H. FORSCUTT,
I. N. WHITE.

The report from the Quorum of Priests was read:

Persuant to call ten priests met April 12th, 1880, and, after the opening exercises, Bishop Rogers spoke upon the necessity of a quorum organization, and the duties of Priests, and manner of organizing under the law. All present spoke on the question of organization, and unanimously agreed on its necessity and propriety. On motion Bishop I. L. Rogers was chosen as president and Bro. E. L. Kelley as secretary. The president was instructed to procure a record, and the members contributed two dollars for that purpose, the secretary being authorized to act as treasurer of the quorum. The following was adopted:

Resolved that the members present be requested to present the names of Priests whom they know to be worthy to be passed upon, and the secretary be requested to correspond with and enroll them as members upon obtaining their consent.

The following names were enrolled; Rudolph Etzenhouser, Frank Steffe, Wm. M. Rumel, Chas. Wicks, D. D. Williams, Wm. Crick, Daniel McPherson, Stephen N. Adams, G. F. Weston, Lawrence Conover, Henry Roberts, E. L. Kelley.

The session was a quiet and peaceable one, and the members parted, determined to show in the future good labor for the Master.

It was adopted.

The report of the Quorum of Seventy, as

read on the 10th, was reread, and it was moved that it be adopted.

1st. We, the quorum of Seventy, upon advisement with the following named brethren do hereby recommend them to Conference for ordination to office of Seventy: Columbus Scott, J. L. Bear.

2nd. The quorum having made choice of Bro. Glaud Rodger as its president, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the removal of Bro. C. G. Lanphear to another quorum, hereby recommend him to this conference for ordination to that position.

3rd. One of our quorum, Bro. J. H. Hansen, having been called from the field on account of embarrassing financial circumstances; and, whereas, we consider him an able, efficient, and worthy brother; therefore, Resolved that we ask the Conference to take some steps to liberate him and place him in the active ministry.

5th. Whereas, in the providence of God, our beloved brother, Frank Reynolds, has been removed from us by death, by which we have lost an efficient secretary, and in common with the Church, a worthy member; and, whereas, our loss has been and is in direct sense a still more serious loss to his family to whom his virtues most fondly endeared him, be it Resolved that we do hereby tender to his bereaved wife and family our sympathy and condolence, praying for them, that He who has promised to be a "husband to the widow" and a "father to the fatherless" may be their sufficient helper, defender and guide.

By order of the quorum of Seventy.

B. V. SPRINGER,
J. S. PATTERSON, } Committee.
GLAUD RODGER,

E. C. BRAND, President.

J. F. McDOWELL, Clerk.

Bro. Glaud Rodger asked a question in regard to the calling of the special witnesses and other ones named in the revelation of March, 1873. Remarks were also made by Brn. Lanphear, Patterson and Springer. The brethren of the Seventy wished to know if they as a quorum can properly and justly go outside of the three special witnesses named in the revelation of 1873, two of whom were ordained as presidents of Seventy, in making their choice as a president of the whole quorum. Bro. W. H. Kelley gave his views. It was moved that the report of the Seventy be acted upon by sections. This was lost. It was moved to refer it back to the quorum for further action. This was opposed, and, upon being placed before the Conference, it was voted down. The following was moved and adopted:

Resolved, that the names of those recommended by the Quorum of Seventy for ordination be taken up separately.

The Secretary read the first name recommended, that of Bro. Columbus Scott. On request, Bro. Scott stated his willingness to labor in that body, if he could be of more service to God thereby, and it was, by vote of the assembly, ordered that he be ordained.

Bro. J. L. Bear's name was read, and, upon his expressing a like willingness to labor in such a capacity, a motion was made that he be ordained, which prevailed.

The item from the quorum concerning the choice of Bro. Glaud Rodger as president of the Seventy was read, and his ordination to said office was ordered.

The clause in reference to Bro. J. H. Hansen was read, and, upon motion, the matter recommended was referred to the Bishopric and the First Presidency.

The above report as a whole was adopted by vote of the conference

Pres. Smith took the chair.

The report of the High Priests' Quorum was read:

The quorum has held two meetings during the present session of conference, one on the 8th, and the other on the 9th inst, and from the reports then presented we submit the following report:

There are 88 names on the Quorum Record, 36 have been removed for cause or by death, leaving 52 members as now constituted the quorum. From nine of these the quorum has no report on record. Of the 52 members now in the quorum, five are between 65 and 70 years of age, ten between 70 and 80, and five between 80 and 90, the eldest being 89 years. There are thus twenty members in the quorum, who, by reason of age and infirmities, some partially, others totally, are unfitted for duty, leaving but thirty-two members capable of duty. Of these thirty-two, nineteen are in the service of the Church, six being missionaries under General Conference appointment, three as the Bishopric of the Church, and ten as district and branch presidents. We think, therefore, that the quorum may be said to be in fair condition.

Of the six members of the quorum under General Conference appointment, and devoting themselves wholly to the ministry, C. Derry, president, is in Utah, M. H. Forscutt in Northern Illinois, R. C. B. Elvin in Nebraska, C. G. Lanphear in Northern Illinois, J. Landers in Kansas, and J. A. McIntosh in Iowa. I. L. Rogers, H. A. Stebbins and D. Dancer also as the Bishopric, H. A. Stebbins also as Branch President, and Church Secretary and Recorder.

The following ten brethren labor as holding local jurisdiction: J. Parsons in Pennsylvania; H. P. Brown and D. S. Mills in California; G. A. Blakeslee in Michigan; J. W. Chaburn, C. G. McIntosh, J. C. Crabbe, D. M. Gamet, S. S. Wilcox, and P. Cadwell in Iowa. The remaining thirteen of our membership able for duty are engaged in the localities where they reside, under local jurisdiction.

The brethren now under General Conference appointment express themselves as being willing to be continued in their present missions, or to be removed to new fields, as the Church may appoint, with one exception, resting on a contingency that may not arise, and need not therefore be named.

The Quorum also recommend to your honorable body the names of Donald Maule and of Eli Clothier, of Western Iowa, and ask that you endorse the recommendation for ordination to membership in the High Priests' Quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

MARK H. FORSCUTT, President *pro tem.*,
HENRY A. STEBBINS, Secretary.

It was moved to adopt the report, and, further, that the names recommended by said quorum for ordination, be taken up and acted upon separately.

It was moved to ordain Bro. Donald Maule a High Priest. Attention was called to the resolution adopted last fall, that reads, "Resolved, that no quorum is authorized to enroll a brother without his consent," and, as it was not found that Bro. Maule had been conferred with upon the matter, a motion to lay the matter upon the table prevailed.

Bro. Eli Clothier's name was then taken up, and, for like reason, was disposed of in the same manner.

Bro. M. H. Forscutt, as a question of privilege, asked that either the President, or one of the Twelve, whoever he may appoint, (Bro. Forscutt said that he preferred Bro. Lake), preach during this conference on the subject of the Priesthood, and tell us where, either in ancient or modern revelation, we are taught that every member of the priesthood should be called by revelation.

The request of Bro. Robert Fuller that the Kirtland Branch, Ohio, be disorganized, was referred to Bro. W. H. Kelley, who is in charge of the mission that includes that State.

The request of Bro. M. Shaw, in regard to Sunday-school lesson-leaves was referred to the Board of Publication.

The following was moved by Brn. E. L. Kelley and Forscutt:

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.

A motion concerning the Concordance to the Book of Covenants was made and amended, reading, as finally adopted, as follows:

Resolved, 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.

The following was moved by Brn. Brand and McDowell:

Whereas, a revelation was given in 1853 through Bro. Henry H. Deam, instructing the Church how to organize, and

Whereas the history in the *Herald* fails to name or give credit to the person receiving so important a commandment, and

Whereas, others are supposed to have received it, and being desirous that the truth should be known, therefore be it

Resolved, that this omission be corrected in the history now being published.

After some testimonies being received upon the matter, it was by motion referred to the First Presidency.

Adjourned with benediction.

At 7:30 p.m. Bro. Wm. T. Bozarth preached. He was assisted by Bro. M. H. Bond, who also followed Bro. Bozarth with a few remarks.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13TH.

The usual prayer meeting was held from 9 to 12 a.m., being in charge of Brn. J. H. Lake and R. C. Elvin. A very great degree of the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt, and all hearts were comforted and confirmed.

At 1:30 p.m., President Blair in the chair, "All hail the power of Jesus name," was sung, and prayer was offered by Bro. E. C. Brand.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read.

The report of Bishop I. L. Rogers was read, as found in Saturday's minutes.

President Smith took the chair, and made an apology for a remark of his yesterday that was taken by some as being made in a hasty spirit.

The suggestion of the Bishop in regard to placing a minister at Kirtland, Ohio, was read, and it was moved that Bro. Ellis be appointed to that duty.

Bro. McDowell spoke upon it, and it was moved that the matter be referred to the First Presidency and Twelve for their consideration in connection with the subject of missions. This was spoken upon by Brn. W. H. and E. L. Kelly and M. H. Bond, and, being put to vote, the motion to refer prevailed.

Bro. Forscutt asked a question concerning the amount of \$2500 which was paid out by Bro. Russell Huntley in repairing the Kirtland Temple. The chair answered. The subject was spoken upon by Brn. E. L. Kelley, M. H. Forscutt, and President Smith, and there rested.

The following report of the First Quorum of Elders was read:

The quorum met April 8th, 1880; F. G. Pitt chosen president, and J. A. Crawford, secretary, *pro tem.*, opening prayer by F. G. Pitt. Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved. Case of A. G. Weeks represented to the quorum by Alex. H. Smith. On motion Brn. Bond, Chisnall and Hilliard, appointed committee to recommend action in the matter. The following brethren reported by letter: Thomas Nutt, James Perkins, Daniel Hougas, O. B. Thomas, John S. Kier, Robert Lyle and J. R. Badham.

The following brethren on recommendation and motion were chosen as members of the First Quorum: H. N. Snavely, Jobe Brown and I. M. Smith.

The following brethren were recommended for missions: J. A. Crawford, ready and willing to devote all his time in the field, wherever Conference may direct. E. P. Scarelliff, willing to de

vote all his time in the field, prefers to be associated with some experienced Elder. G. S. Yerrington, desires a mission in Massachusetts and New York in connection with Charles N. Brown. J. L. Bear is ready and willing to labor in Germany and Switzerland, if deemed wisdom.

Committee on case of A. G. Weeks, reported as follows:

"We find that the charges and evidences are not full and explicit enough to enable any decisive action being now taken, and we recommend that the case be referred to W. T. Bozarth, and that he be and is hereby authorized to adjudicate the case according to law." Adjourned.

F. G. PITT, Pres. *pro tem.*

J. A. CRAWFORD, Sec. *pro tem.*

It was moved that the report be adopted. Brn. Brand, Patterson, and Bozarth objected to the clause whereby one of the Seventy is placed in charge of the matter as named in the report, and Bro. Bozarth personally objected to the case being placed in his charge, but others favored it. It was then moved that the name of William Lewis be substituted for the name W. T. Bozarth. It was next moved that this be amended by inserting the words, "district authorities where said person resides," in place of the name of Bro. William Lewis. This amendment prevailed by vote. A further amendment was moved reading, "providing that such district authorities are not parties to the suit, personally." This amendment was put upon its passage and declared as adopted. A division being called for, a rising vote showed twenty-five for and two against it, Bro. Brand voting in the negative and requesting his vote recorded. Then the report of the First Quorum of Elders as amended, was adopted.

The following additional report was presented by the Quorum of Seventy:

Whereas, in the case _____, the course of procedure and decision of the quorum was not sustained by Conference, but was referred to the quorum for further action and reconsideration, we, the quorum of Seventy do hereby notify the Conference that, after duly reconsidering the case, and by investigation, present to your honorable body, not prematurely, our re-affirmation of former decision and act in aforementioned case.

E. C. BRAND, President.

J. F. McDOWELL, Clerk.

It was moved that it be adopted, and then a substitute was moved that it be spread upon the minutes, no reference being made to adoption. It was suggested that the matter be postponed till Fall Conference. The mover of the substitute explained his reasons for moving it, and afterwards it was put upon its passage and adopted. A division being called for, a rising vote showed 14 for, and 9 against the substitute.

The chair read two letters from Elder D. L. Shinn, Clarksburg, West Virginia, and the following was adopted:

Resolved, that Elder Josiah Ellis be instructed by this conference to either go in person or send Elder L. R. Devore or Elder James Brown, at an early day, to answer the call of Bro. D. L. Shinn, at Clarksburg, West Virginia, and to labor in that State and in Virginia as they may find it practicable.

The Board of Publication reported through President Smith that it was ready to present its explanations in connection with the report of the auditing committee, and Bro. Forscutt was called to the chair, and the Secretary read by sections the report of the committee, and the Board presented their remarks and explanations upon each section, the whole of their article reading as follows:

The Board of Publication offer in explanation on item 1 of section 2, of report of examining committee, that no member of the Board is advised as to how, why, when, or by whom the leaves of Journal Day Book, containing pages 13 to 16 inclusive, were taken out; and that they were not removed by or with the knowledge or consent of the Board or any member of it.

In regard to item 2 we have to say that the statement of the two members of the Board referred to, was made with regard to the balances appearing upon the pages of Ledger B. and not to the items of current accounts; and that the excesses of \$1,039.75 and \$67.05 are made up from said items of current accounts and are elsewhere accounted for; as, for instance, items entered on Ledger B. on pages 2 to 29 inclusive, show an aggregate of \$1,234.28 upon the Dr. side of these current accounts, and of \$1,225.28 upon the Cr. side leaving a gain of \$9.00, resulting from a failure to credit job work with the amount charged to Herald Office, as we believe.

These amounts added to the findings by the committee of the balances at heads of Ledger accounts, make the totals of debits \$19,883.79 and the credits \$7,003.86, leaving the total of assets \$12,879.93, an excess of the \$9.00 above referred to, over the total of assets as entered upon page 1, Ledger B.

In regard to the item named in section 3, of \$1,788.00. It appears that the \$2,000 named enters into the statement of assets and liabilities found on page 1 of Ledger B. and the Board have not had time to trace its connection; and that it being a transaction before the Board assumed control, the Board does not feel that they should be held to explain under this report.

In reference to section 4. A large number of accounts had accrued on the several books of account, which by reason of errors, the death, or incapacity of the persons against whom they were charged, were considered not collectable; and were ordered closed out by cancellation. See order of Board on Minute Book for September 3d, 1873, page 18.

In regard to section 5 the Board offer that one item of said aggregate of assets was that of "accounts receivable of doubtful value" amounting to \$3,013.13, cash on hand \$168.41; inventory June 14th, 1872, \$15,567.97 making the total of \$18,749.51. An inventory taken November 16th, 1874, shows that the Editorial Room had in valuation \$142.35; Sales Room and Book Department \$1,936.17; Press Department \$11,825.08; making a total of \$13,903.60, and in February 15th, 1879 shows Editor's Room \$137.14; Sales Room and Book Department 2,436.00; Press Department \$10,329.88; making a total of \$12,903.02.

The discount in Press Department in 1874 was \$1,251.12; in 1879 it was \$1,147.78. These two inventories compared show a loss on Press Department by discount of \$2,398.90. On February 15th, 1873 there was reported a loss by uncollectable debts of \$503.55.

This showing, being all that the time permits us to examine and report, may explain satisfactorily how the loss named has occurred.

In regard to section 6. This being a liability to loss only, needs no explanation.

In regard to section 7 no explanation is offered. Sections 8 and 9 are evidently included in section 10, and for the findings of the committee the Board offer no explanation other than that such commission of errors was discovered by the Board and an investigation begun prior to April Conference of 1879; and that such investigation was not completed in time to report at said April Conference; and that believing that discretionary power to correct, and adjust such errors as were found, lodged with the Board, such correction and adjustment was effected during the summer of 1879 and before the change in the Board at last Fall Conference. That the note referred to as being worthless is not due till June 1st, 1882; and therefore whether it is good or bad remains for time to determine; therefore we are of the opinion that such reference to said note should be stricken from the report of the committee before publication.

In regard to section 11, we submit that the note of \$500.00 was given to Israel L. Rogers, and

by him transferred to the Board, and that the endorsements of payments on said note do not specify that such payments were made on the principal, but on the note as an entirety, as is usual in cases where amounts more than the accrued interest are paid; and we are of the opinion that said note is a valid and good asset, and that the item in the report referring to it should be stricken from the report before publication.

In regard to the note of \$200.00 referred to as an asset. This note is not due; and no proof of its worthlessness appears in the report; and therefore we are of the opinion that the Conference should not so declare, but leave its collection to the Board when it becomes due, or its worthlessness becomes apparent by non payment; and that said reference to it in section 11 should be stricken from the report before publication.

In regard to the note or due bill of \$40.00. This note was for an amount due upon settlement, and was made necessary by the exigency of the case, as we at the time believed; we are therefore of the opinion that reference to it should be stricken from the report before publication.

In regard to section 12, we submit, that there was an account current with the Bishop running upon the Herald Office Books, upon which settlement was made with the Bishop from time to time; and that the moneys referred to as paid out of current receipts were paid out without reference to the Bishop's account, as were all other moneys paid out in the Herald Office business.

Section 13 As to the prices at which books were sold at the Herald Office the Board of management were, at the time of affixing the prices and are now of the opinion that said report complained of in the committee's report, was correct, and we believe that our examination of the matter and our facilities for judging of it, warrant us in such statement.

Section 14 we think is sufficiently explained by our reply to section 13; except that which relates to the payment of too high salaries to employees by the Board; and in this regard, in the absence of specifications on the part of the committee, we submit that we believe that under the circumstances and conditions of the work, we did the best we could.

The system of appointing Book Agents of which complaint is made in section 15, originated before the Board took the management, and was rectified as rapidly as possible.

Section 17. We submit that the payment referred to, we believe was justifiable, as no final examination and adjustment had been had, and investigation was still pending.

Section 18. In regard to the fixing the invoice price of books at less than their cost; we submit, that it is usual to assess assets at what they might sell for if forced to sale—not what might be realized upon them if time for sale at retail were permitted.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH SMITH,
W. W. BLAIR,
JOHN SCOTT,
HENRY A. STEBBINS,
ISRAEL L. ROGERS.

April 13th, 1880.

The following was moved:

Resolved, that the explanation of the Board of Publication be and is hereby received and ordered spread upon the record, and published in connection with the report of committee.

This was spoken upon, and an amendment was moved, that the following words be added:

Provided that the conference does not adopt the recommendations to strike out.

The reading of the parts whose striking out is asked, was called for, and discussion followed, taken part in by Brn. E. L. Kelley, Patterson, Crawford, and questions were asked by Brn. Harvey, E. L. Kelley, Chatburn, Pitt, I. N. White and Yerrington. Bro. J. Smith said that the Board could give their reasons for asking that the items spoken of be stricken out, if the assembly required it. It

was moved that they be requested so to do, which motion prevailed, and Bro. Smith presented the reasons on each point.

It was then moved to amend the amendment with the words, "With the exception of the names of the makers of the notes."

This was spoken upon by Brn. W. H. Kelley, Cadwell and Lake, when the question was called, and, on separate motions both amendments were adopted, and also the original as amended.

Pres. Smith took the chair.

The following was presented by the auditing committee:

The expenses of the committee appointed to examine the report and books of the Board of Publication for railroad fare and board is as follows: P. Cadwell \$36, G. A. Blakeslee \$11, and W. H. Kelley \$16. What shall be done about it? This includes fare to and from Plano.

It was moved that it be paid by the Bishop, and a vote being taken the motion was declared to have been lost, but, by a rising vote when a division was called for, there were 17 found voting in favor and 10 against the payment of the bill.

On motion that the Board of Publication be sustained, Brn. Rogers and Blair said that they would much prefer to be released from the Board, but, by vote, the Board was sustained as now constituted.

[Some mission appointments were read, which will appear with the others.—Sec'y].

Adjourned with benediction pronounced by Bro. J. H. Lake.

At 7:30 p.m. Bro. Jobe Brown preached, assisted by Bro. F. P. Scarcliff.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH.

At 9 a.m., the conference assembled for business. The hymn beginning, "The fulness of the gospel shines," was sung and prayer was offered by Bro. J. S. Patterson.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and amended, during which remarks, questions and statements were made concerning the Kirtland Temple property.

It was moved that Bro. Clarence St. Clair, of Chicago, be ordained an Elder. Bro. St. Clair expressed his willingness to labor for the Lord if it be required of him. The propriety of this ordination was discussed at considerable length, not upon the merits or demerits of the brother, but upon the matter of ordaining men recently received into the Church, or those who may not be sufficiently instructed in the doctrine and laws of the Church. Then the motion providing for his ordination prevailed.

The hymn, "O thou in whose eternal name," was sung, and the following ordinations were attended to, after prayer by Bro. W. W. Blair: Bro. Glaud Rodger was ordained as the president of the Quorum of Seventy, Brn. Columbus Scott and John L. Bear as members of the Quorum of Seventy, and Clarence St. Clair as an Elder, under the hands of Brn. W. H. Kelley, J. H. Lake, and M. H. Forscutt, Bro. Kelley being spokesman in the case of Bro. Rodger, Bro. Lake in that of Bro. Scott, and Bro. Forscutt in ordaining Brn. Bear and St. Clair.

MISSIONS.

The subject of missions was considered, and it was resolved that the recommendations presented yesterday and to-day by the First Presidency and Twelve be taken up separately, and, upon so doing, the appointments made by authority of the Conference were as follows:

Thomas Taylor continued in charge of the European Mission.

John R. Gibbs in charge of the Welsh Mission.

Peter N. Brix in charge of the Danish Mission.

Odin Jacobs and R. Peterson to Norway and Sweden.

John L. Bear in charge of the mission to Germany and Switzerland.

James W. Gillen in charge of the Australian Mission.

William W. Blair in charge of the Rocky Mountain Mission, which mission was created by vote of this Conference, embracing Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Eastern Nevada.

Josiah Eills was appointed to Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Edmund C. Briggs was requested to labor as circumstances permit.

John H. Lake was appointed to Central and Southern Illinois and Southern Iowa.

Joseph R. Lambert, Minnesota and Northern Iowa.

James Caffall, Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado.

Zenas H. Gurley, as circumstances and wisdom may direct.

Thomas W. Smith, Eastern and New England States.

Wm. H. Kelley, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Canada.

Alex. H. Smith, Missouri and South-western Iowa.

Charles Derry, the Rocky Mountain Mission.

Mark H. Forscutt, Northern Illinois.

Robert C. Elvin, Nebraska.

While still considering the subject of Missions, a motion was made to adjourn till 1:30 p.m., which prevailed.

Benediction by Bro. W. W. Blair.

At 1:30 p.m. a hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Bro. J. S. Patterson.

Pres. Blair in the chair.

Privilege was granted to Bro. I. L. Rogers to sign the reply of the Board of Publication to the auditing committee, as read yesterday, he not having been present to sign it then, but agreeing with it wishing now to do so.

MISSIONS CONTINUED.

Glaud Rodger, California.

Bradford V. Springer, W. H. Kelley's field.

Edmund C. Brand, Rocky Mountain Mission.

Robert Davis, W. H. Kelley's field.

Joseph C. Clapp, Oregon and Washington Territory.

John H. Hansen, Scandinavian Mission, if practicable.

John C. Foss, Eastern States.

John T. Davies, South-western Missouri and South-eastern Kansas.

John S. Patterson, Northern Illinois and Eastern Iowa.

Joseph F. McDowell, Northern Illinois and Eastern Iowa.

Heman C. Smith, W. H. Kelley's field.

R. J. Anthony, Rocky Mountain Mission.

Charles N. Brown, New York and the Massachusetts District.

Davis H. Bays, as his circumstances permit.

Morris T. Short, W. H. Kelley's field.

Isaac N. Roberts, Kansas.

Gomer T. Griffiths, W. H. Kelley's field.

Geo. S. Hyde, Western Iowa and Central Nebraska.

William T. Bozarth in charge South-western Mission, embracing Western Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Indian Territory.

Columbus Scott, W. H. Kelley's field.

Gordon E. Deuel, Rocky Mountain Mission.

Robert M. Elvin, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.

James W. Bryan, Texas.

James Brown, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio.

Alex. J. Cato, Missouri, Kansas and Indian Territory.

Joseph A. Crawford in charge of South-eastern States, embracing Kentucky, Tennessee, Eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

James Perkins, Western Kansas.

Geo. S. Yerrington, Massachusetts District.

Frank P. Scarcliff, South Eastern States.

J. Lamoreaux, Ohio.

Hiram L. Thompson, Texas.

Geo. H. Graves, South-eastern States.

Hiram Robinson, Pennsylvania.

John Eames, referred to president of Rocky Mountain Mission.

E. W. Tullidge, under direction of W. W. Blair.

Daniel S. Crawley, Kansas and Missouri.

Jobe Brown, Iowa, Minnesota, and Southern Wisconsin.

Clarence St. Clair, with M. H. Forscutt in Chicago, should it be decided to continue the work there.

Daniel McPherson, with J. R. Lambert in Minnesota and Iowa.

Rudolph Etzenhouser, with I. N. White in Iowa.

Charles Wickes, Texas and Western Louisiana.

Geo. F. Weston, W. H. Kelley's field.

During the appointment of missions it was moved that Bro. J. H. Lake be sent to Australia. Bro. Lake expressed his views that, unless the Spirit of the Lord plainly directed that he should be sent, he did not consider that he ought to be sent by the conference, nor would he consider himself under obligation to go on this distant and important mission without a divine authorization for his being sent. He thought it was time for more of this kind of direction in the matter of missions, so that the right men might go to the right place, as God may himself direct.

In considering the name and mission of Bro. D. H. Bays, Bro. Joseph Smith gave the following explanation:

In regard to Bro. D. H. Bays, it is due to him to state that the inquiry provided for last fall, upon the releasing Bro. Bays, has been made, and the result of such enquiry exonerates Bro. Bays from censure in leaving the Texas Mission; for the statement made by Bro. Bays that he was driven out of that field by the drouth that prevailed in that region, and that he was literally starved out and could not stay, is fully corroborated by others. Bro. Bays answered all questions without hesitancy, and, though Pres. Smith had felt that Bro. Bays was in fault for leaving the field without a recall by conference, he having agreed to stay from two to three years, his feelings were changed, and he believes that Bro. Bays was not to blame, and takes pleasure in stating such fact, that no further misconception to the prejudice of Bro. Bays may be had, for he fully believes that Bro. Bays was compelled to leave the field by circumstances over which neither he nor the church held control, and that Bro. Bays should not be held censurable in the matter, and that he be free to exercise the functions of his calling in the field, as wisdom, the Spirit and opportunity may direct.

Bro. H. L. Thompson, of Texas, confirmed the statement in regard to circumstances having forced Bro. Bays to leave, and he thought that Bro. Bays did extremely well in remaining even as long as he did.

Pres. Smith also gave an explanation regarding Bro. A. J. Cato and the action of the last General Conference concerning him, stating as follows:

In behalf of the Presidency to whom was assigned the duty of making inquiry respecting Bro.

A. J. Cato, silenced by the act of last conference, to report to his quorum, he at once instituted the necessary inquiries, and by a correspondence with Bro. Cato and with the persons aggrieved, the matters complained of were properly arranged, Bro. Cato making proper acknowledgments, which had been accepted and forgiveness extended; upon which adjustment Pres. Smith had returned Bro. Cato's license to him and directed him to labor in the field, as wisdom might direct, until conference should sit. Pres. Smith further stated that he felt it to be due to Bro. Cato to state that he has borne the ordeal like a man, and had answered freely all questions asked him, had not attempted concealment or evasion, but had done all that he could to facilitate a proper inquiry and adjustment of the matter complained of; and, what was very rare, he had not in his replies recriminated any one else, or found fault with any one regarding his difficulties, for which he certainly deserves credit. In Pres. Smith's experience it was a rare thing for one accused of wrong doing to refrain from self-justification, and counter accusations, and he felt to commend such an instance when it occurred. He felt that Bro. Cato had done what he could to make proper restitution and should be held free from further blame.

President Smith stated in regard to the matter of appointing an officer to preside over the Pacific Slope Mission, that the Presidency considered the matter and decided not to appoint any one, for no one could be appointed who would be satisfactorily received except one, who declined the appointment. It was therefore left unfilled.

On separate motions the Conference sustained the authorities of the Church, namely, the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve as a quorum of the Church, the High Priests' Quorum (including the High Council as far as organized), the Bishopric, the Quorum of Seventy, and the several Quorums of Elders as well as the general body of Elders not yet enrolled, the Quorum of Priests now organized and the Priests as a body, also the Teachers and Deacons. Bro. Henry A. Stebbins was sustained as Church Secretary and Recorder, and Bro. John Scott as Church Librarian.

In regard to the mission to the Society Islands, the chair stated that affairs there were not very encouraging; also, that Bro. William Nelson wishes to get away, and promises to reimburse the Church if it will advance the means for him to return to America. Another letter from there does not speak favorably of his work and influence there.

Upon motion this joint matter was referred to the Twelve and Bishopric for consideration and action.

A vote of thanks was given to the citizens and Saints of Plano and Sandwich for their hospitality and deeds of kindness to the visiting brethren and sisters during the Conference.

By permission Bro. M. T. Short made a statement to the assembly which reads as follows:

I own a farm of 130 acres in Labette county, Kansas, within seven miles of Oswego, the county seat, where the great Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad crosses, at right angles, the St. Louis and San Francisco Road.

It has an orchard, two houses, besides out-houses, a well, a pasture and about eighty acres under the plow. It has plenty of timber, rich soil and is near a village in which is a fine mill, a post office, stores, etc., etc. It has a mortgage of \$700 00 running at 8 per cent interest, which will be due in 1883. If any one will pay into the coffers of the Church \$1,000 I will make them a war-

rantee deed, clear of all incumbrance except the one above named.

It being called for, the Secretary read the preambles and resolutions adopted two days ago about conference representation to do business for the Church, and the chairman appointed as the committee provided for in said document, Brn. H. A. Stebbins, E. L. Kelley, M. H. Forscutt and J. R. Lambert with President Smith.

A question was asked regarding the progress made in the Synopsis of the Scriptures, which was answered by Brn. Blair and Stebbins, who stated that some of the Elders called on had rendered the aid asked of them and some had refused, while others had neglected to or not found time to attend to the requests for assistance. All that had been received was in hand, and it remains with the Board of Publication to finish the work and publish on opportunity.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, that the recommendation of the Musical Editor respecting finding out how many will purchase the "Harmony" tune book, when printed, be adopted, and that he be instructed to secure the names of those who will.

Being permitted, Bro. F. C. Warnky made a statement regarding the meeting-house at Independence, Missouri, as follows:

The Saints have commenced to build a house, 36 by 50 feet, of brick. The walls are up and paid for; also some lumber for the roof. But the Saints are poor and not able to finish it; therefore I am sent here to see if the Church and also members of it will contribute so that the building may be finished and become Church property. All who wish to aid in this matter can send their mites to J. J. Kaster, Bishop's Agent, Independence, Missouri.

Bro. W. W. Blair gave some instruction to the Elders in regard to preaching, advising that they preach in simplicity and in plainness the first principles, presenting the milk and not the meat so much, not the deep and distant things. He also urged upon the ministry the living of pure and spiritual lives; such were most successful in their work, and they should avoid the abstruse things and the perplexing theories, and then those who come to hear once will come again. Bro. Forscutt asked a question on the subject which was replied to by Bro. Blair, and further remarks were made by him as to using discrimination in preaching to the world and to the Church, and according to the wants or needs of the people.

Following this a motion to adjourn to the time and place provided for prevailed, namely, to meet at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Sunday, September 12th, 1880.

The closing hymn was "The time is far spent, there is little remaining," and the dismissal prayer was offered by President Smith, in which he invoked the blessing of Almighty God upon the Church and its authorities, and upon the ministry who are about to go forth, or who are already in the missionary fields to which they have been assigned or continued.

In the evening Bro. F. C. Warnky preached to those remaining, assisted by Bro. H. A. Stebbins, and thus closed the April General Conference of 1880.

JOSEPH SMITH, } Presidents.
WM. W. BLAIR, }

HENRY A. STEBBINS, Secretary.
JOHN SCOTT, Assistant Secretary.

The Original Indians.

In an article in the current number of Potter's American Monthly, General Brisbin attempts to prove that the Indian is of Asiatic origin. In summing up his facts he says: "Perhaps the strongest proof that our Indians are from Asia is in the fact that the nomadic tribes of Alaska are related to the Kamtchatkans, and even now pass and repass Behring Straits. A tribe has lately been found in Alaska, speaking the same language that is spoken in Kamtchatka; and still further, as if to remove all obstacles to the belief that the North American Indians is from Asia, I am assured many tribes on both sides of the straits are identical in manners, habits and customs. While the geography of the western hemisphere was unknown, the origin of our Indians could not be otherwise than a matter of conjecture; but now that the locality of tribes and the characteristics of our country are known, we can with almost certainty establish the nativity of the Red Man. It is not within the scope of this article to enter into further particulars concerning this interesting subject, but I will remark that sixty-nine authorities examined, all point to the same conclusion, and it can be satisfactorily proved our Indians are Asiatic: First, by their similarity of features and complexions. Second, by similarity of languages. Third, by similarity of religion. Fourth, by similarity of dress and ornaments. Fifth, by similarity of marriages. Sixth, by similarity of methods of making war. Seventh, by similarity of dances. Eighth, by similarity of sacrifices. Ninth, by similarity of funeral rites. Tenth, by similarity of festivals and beliefs concerning dreams. Eleventh, by similarity of games. Twelfth, by similarity of practice in naming children. Thirteenth, by similarity of dwellings. Fourteenth, by similarity in forms of government."

The Mohammedan Religion Making Headway.

DR. DOLLINGER, authority in such matters, makes this interesting statement:

"At Sierra Leone, Africa, a Moslem university is flourishing, in which are being educated a thousand young men whose lives will be as absolutely surrendered to the cause the school represents as were the lives of the early soldiers of the Crescent, who counted it joy to fall in its defence on the field of battle. In China the followers of this ancient symbol have increased beyond computation, 50,000 residing in Tonquin alone. Among the Malayans and the islanders of the eastern archipelago it is reported that 18,000,000 have been won over to its support; and still one-fifth of the dwellers on the earth are enrolled as its army, of whom 50,000,000 at least are subjects of her Majesty Queen Victoria."

In thy silent wishing, thy voiceless, unuttered prayer, let the desire be not cherished that afflictions may not visit thee; for well has it been said: "Such prayers never seem to have wings." I am willing to be purified through sorrow, and accept it meekly as a blessing. I see that all the clouds are angels' faces, and their voices speak harmoniously of the everlasting chime.