

singing and prayer the sacrament was administered.

Elder J. W. Taylor was the speaker, occupying all the time. He spoke on apostasy, asserting that the spirit of apostasy had been going on for the last year or two. He advised the Saints not to take sides against the Kingdom of God; alluded to the death of the Prophet Joseph and Hyrum and the wrath of the Lord as manifested in many ways.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Singing and prayer.

Bishops J. L. Wrathall, T. Atkin, W. H. Caldwell, W. F. Moss, F. De St. Jeor, J. C. Sharp and J. G. Shields reported their wards as being in good condition. Elder F. M. Lyman occupied the remainder of the morning session. He said the declaration of the general authorities recently published had been a great trial to some; so also had the principle of tithing, the Word of Wisdom, etc. He dwelt on the principle of forgiveness—a man who would not meet his brother half way was void of the Spirit of God; it was our duty to forgive our brother, no matter what the difference was between us. Alluded also to the habit of fault finding with the servants of God; the Apostles love you; they fellowed; they pray for you; then should you not return to them that same charity? He strongly exhorted the Saints to faithfulness and asked for the blessings of God upon the lovers of truth.

2 p.m.—After singing and prayer, Elder J. W. Taylor addressed the Saints, delivering a powerful discourse. He bore his testimony that this was the work of God, and knew that God had heard his prayers.

The conference was well attended by the Saints of the Stake; a good time was held and the Spirit of God was poured out upon His Saints assembled.

Conference adjourned for three months.

THOMAS WILLIAMS,
Assistant Stake Clerk.

A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW.

[Chattanooga, Tenn., News.]

In the party of Mormon Elders who arrived here a few days ago is Elder J. W. Musser, one of the most prominent missionaries of this faith.

"Our people," said Mr. Musser to a News reporter this morning, "have been profoundly misunderstood in the past. The burden of our labors now is to eradicate from the minds of individuals who will give us audience their impressions of 'Mormonism,' and teach them the Gospel of Christ as understood by us. Should our doctrine succeed in converting—and it certainly does—the main object of our calling is accomplished."

"Are your converts required to emigrate to Utah upon receiving baptism?" the reporter asked.

"Quite the reverse. We counsel our Saints to remain where they are; and branches and Sunday schools are organized for their spiritual development. The Mormons proverbially accept the test, 'By their fruits ye shall know them,' and desire the Master of the Saints' devoted to their God to shed abroad among their neighbors, thus strengthening the cause for which we are laboring."

"How many Elders have you in the South?" quired a News man.

"We have now some 865. These men voluntarily accept their missions, and are chosen from Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona. Their labors extend from two to three years, and their work is prosecuted so far as necessary at their own expense."

"Why do you say so far as necessary?" interrupted the reporter.

"For the reason," continued Mr. Musser, "the Elders travel as the ancient disciples did, 'without purse and scrip.' After paying their own fare from their homes here, they depend entirely upon the blessings of God and the hospitality of the people for sustenance, believing that the 'laborer is worthy of his hire.' They take up no collections and are paid no salaries, hoping, Paul like, only for a just reward in the hereafter. And I am pleased to confess that southern hospitality and liberality of thought are, in my judgment, unequalled by any other people."

"What are the views of your people regarding education?"

"We have profound respect for intellectual advancement. In support of this fact the noted historian, Bancroft, once stated that the Mormons while subduing a wilderness and fighting starvation, expended \$562,000,000 in the space of forty years, in building cities, maintaining schools and in other directions akin to civilization."

"In what respect do you differ in belief from other denominations?" was the next query.

"Our essential differences would require much time and space to discuss. We, however, do not seek to tear down the beliefs of those who oppose us; on the contrary, Mormonism strives to unite the Christian world, and bring all into a unity of faith. We teach and preach from the Christian Bible, King James' translation, and accept as a motto the admonition: 'Prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good.'"

IT IS SEMI-TROPICAL.

Messrs. Reese and Ferron of the State land board, returned from Big Cottonwood canyon, near Brighton, where selections of mineral lands were made. The land adjoins the entries made by the Brightons and is marked "mineral" on the maps in the United States surveyor's office. The question is raised as to whether the land commissioner can select mineral lands for State purposes. One section only has been selected, but the advisability of selecting two mineral sections, taking in the Ontario vein extension, will be discussed by the board. Messrs. Reese and Ferron had a rough trip, but enjoyed the mountain scenery very much.

On Wednesday morning Mr. Ferron will leave for Green river on the Rio Grande Western, meeting Mr. Reese at Thistle on the way. It is expected that some selections will be made at Green River, where the climate is semi-tropical and the altitude is somewhat lower than that of Salt Lake. The season there is about a month earlier than here and the nature of the soil is especially adapted to the cultivation of small fruits and orchards. Alfalfa will also thrive in that locality, but cereals will not thrive so well. Mr. Ferron says there are splendid opportunities and facilities for the establish-

ment of an agricultural community in that vicinity.

From Green river the location of the board will go to the San Rafael country, where other selections will be made. In this section of Utah the climatic and soil conditions are similar to those existing at Green River and the inducements to settlers are equally good. The only drawback heretofore experienced has been in the difficulty encountered in bringing the water on to the land, and maintaining the necessary dams for that purpose, on account of the sandy nature of the soil. Years ago a number of settlers went into the San Rafael country and remained there for two or three seasons; but after meeting misfortune in the washing out of their dams two or three times, and not having means enough to establish themselves, they sold out to cattlemen and left the country to be used for grazing. If, however, substantial dams are put in the agricultural possibilities of the country cannot be estimated.

NEWS NOTES.

On Monday a Chinese passenger on the steamer Umatilla, in San Francisco harbor, committed suicide by strangling himself with a silk sash. He had been refused the privilege of landing, and died rather than be sent back to his native land disgraced.

At Bagge, Wyoming, on Sunday evening, Hiram Straw of Utah and G. L. Henderson got into an altercation over some mining claims and came to blows. Henderson stabbed Straw in the back and side, and is under arrest awaiting the result of the wounds.

Thomas A. Smith, a surveyor and old resident of California, died suddenly Saturday night while in camp at Newman's prairie, ten miles above Arcata, in company with John Willis. They had retired for the night and Willis noticed that Smith was snoring or breathing heavy, but went to sleep without paying particular attention to his companion. When he awoke the camp fire was out and Smith was dead. The cause was heart failure.

Arizona Guardian: Last Monday morning about 4 o'clock a young girl by the name of Pnoeca Tailey was mistaken for a burglar in the house of her brother-in-law, William Kirtland, who lives in Safford, Graham county, and was shot; the wound proved fatal, and she died three days later in great agony. The girl is said to be of lovely disposition and a general favorite. The sad mistake has thrown a cloud over the whole community at Safford and has blighted the future lives of the Kirtland family.

St. Johns, Arizona, Herald: It is a common sight here, after a heavy rain, such as that which occurred last Sunday night and Monday afternoon, to see a considerable portion of the community turn out to shovel dirt and repair the ravages done to the flat roofs and interiors by the rain. This could all be avoided by the general adoption of shingle roofs, and as the damage done to furniture and other household goods is considerable, we believe their adoption would prove to be a great economy. There is no better nor more comfortable kind of house in which to live than one built of adobe, provided it is covered with a shingle roof.