

MINUTES

OF A CONFERENCE HELD AT JORDAN MILL BRANCH, WEST JORDAN, OCT. 15 & 16, 1856.

Present, Patriarch John Young, Daniel D. Hunt and J. V. Long.

Singing.
Prayer by Patriarch John Young.
Singing.

Br. Young addressed the meeting on the present condition of the Saints, necessity of reformation and the importance of the people's renewing their covenants; and was followed by J. V. Long upon the same subject.

Elder D. D. Hunt bore testimony to the truths advanced by the brethren, and called upon the people to manifest their feelings respecting the reformation, and whether they wished to renew their covenants.

The Saints manifested, by their vote, their unanimous desire for reformation.

Benediction by Elder Hunt.

WEDNESDAY, 10 a.m.

Singing.
Prayer by Bishop J. Bennion.
Singing.

Elder Hunt was chosen to preside over the conference, and made a few remarks upon order, &c.

Elder Long spoke upon the present state of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Patriarch J. Young bore testimony to the truth of what had been said. Bore testimony to Joseph's being a Prophet of God, and to Brigham Young's being his lawful successor.

Elder Hunt spoke on self government and of the judgments of the Almighty being at hand, if we do not repent of our sins and turn to God.

Elder Long bore testimony to the truth of what had been said, and spoke upon evil spirits in our midst.

Benediction by Elder Hunt.

2 p.m.

Singing.
Prayer by Elder Long.
Singing.

Prest. Hunt requested the bishop and his council to pray that the evil in our midst might come to light.

Br. J. Bennion, McGee Harris and James Kilfoyle each prayed in succession, and then spoke their feelings to forward the reformation and to live their religion.

Many acknowledged their faults one to another, and expressed a great desire to renew their covenants before God and receive the Holy Ghost.

Br. H. Cutler said the reformation was much needed.

Elder Long said he felt glad that the follies of some had been exposed, and that self righteousness was of the devil.

David Park was cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, for reviling against the Bishop.

Singing.
Benediction by Elder Pettegrew.

7 p.m.

Singing.
Prayer by Prest. Hunt.
Singing.

Elder Long spoke upon the darkness that was upon the minds of some of the people.

President Hunt called for an expression of feeling, when there was an unanimous expression of a desire to renew their covenants by baptism.

Elder Long sung, "A mighty man is Brigham Young."

Gifts and blessings of the Lord were made manifest.

Singing.
Elder Hunt blessed the people, and wished them to meet at 8 o'clock in the morning, to renew their covenants by baptism.
Benediction by Patriarch John Young.

THURSDAY, 8 a.m.

Meeting at the water for baptism.

Prest. Hunt explained our duties in relation to the renewal of our covenants, and asked the people if they were willing to covenant in the name of Almighty God and his Son Jesus Christ, in the presence of holy angels and the servants of the Lord, to discharge their duties according to the ability that God should give them. This they did with uplifted hands.

Ninety three were baptized by Elders Long, Bennion, Harris, Kilfoyle, Rammell, and Egbert.

MEETING HOUSE, 11 o'clock.

Singing.
Prayer by Elder Long.
Singing.

Prest. Hunt called on Elders Long, Bennion, Kilfoyle, Rammell, Harris and Woodward to confirm those that had been baptized.

Patriarch J. Young prophesied that the Spirit of the Lord should rest upon the congregation, and that they should speak in tongues and prophecy.

Elder Long spoke concerning the Holy Spirit, and encouraged the Saints to live their religion, that charity and brotherly love may dwell in their habitations.

Brs. Harris, Bennion, Kilfoyle and others spoke on the same subject.

Elder Hunt spoke upon the solemn covenants the Saints had made, and blest the people in the name of the Lord.

The congregation seemed to be lighted up with the Holy Ghost; they prophesied, spoke in tongues, had the interpretation thereof, and the blessings of the Almighty God rested upon them.

Motioned that Matthew Gaunt and wife be cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for unbelief and reviling against the authorities. Carried unanimously.

Benediction by Elder D. R. Allen.

Singing.
Prayer by Patriarch J. Young.
Singing.

Prest. Hunt spoke upon the unity of the Saints.

Patriarch John Young made some remarks concerning the reformation. The Spirit of the Almighty seemed to light up the countenances of all present.

Elder Long spoke upon the celestial law, and blest the people in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prest. Hunt said it was the mind and will of the Lord for this branch of the Church to receive all the blessings that have been pronounced upon their heads, and put the vote whether all that had been baptized would sustain the Prophet, Seer and Revelator and all the authorities of the Church.

All hands were raised.

He then asked the congregation whether they were satisfied with their services. A manifestation of gratitude was manifested, throughout the congregation, for Patriarch John Young, Daniel D. Hunt and J. V. Long.

Benediction by Patriarch John Young.

The missionaries pursued their journey southerly, Friday, 10 a.m., leaving the people of Jordan Mill Branch filled with joy and thankfulness to them and their God.

DANIEL R. ALLEN, Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[From Elder John L. Smith to Prest. Brigham Young.]

RUE DU CENDRIER 108, Geneva, }
Switzerland, June 12, 1856. }

I often think of your wise counsels and fatherly care over the Saints, and feel that I have never appreciated them to that extent that I have since I have been on this mission. And I feel to thank the Lord and you for calling me to go abroad, that I might have a chance of proving myself in endeavors to spread the glad news of truth among those that are in darkness.

My only desire is to do the will of the Lord as revealed through his servants; and my constant prayer is that I may hold out faithful, do the work that has been placed upon my shoulders, return to the land of Zion and meet the prophets and apostles, and the rest of my brethren clean and unspotted by the sins of this world; and except I can do this I never wish to behold their faces more.

I thank the Lord for calling me on this mission, and I feel that it has already been the means of partially opening my eyes to behold the goodness of God and the necessity of following counsel.

Weak as I was when I left the valley, I felt determined, as I told you, to go on my mission or die in the attempt. You, like a good Father, laid your hands upon my head and told me that I should begin to recover my health from that very day, and should go and prosper, do a good work and return home in safety. I felt that your words would be fulfilled. I gradually recovered my health, and at present it is the best I have ever enjoyed. Your blessings have in part been fulfilled, and the remainder will be, if I am faithful and true to my trust, as I hope to be. I feel to thank God for his goodness towards me in giving me his Spirit thus far, and pray that it may continue to guide me continually.

On our arrival in Liverpool, Prest. F. D. Richards appointed me to succeed Elder Daniel Tyler in the presidency of the Swiss and Italian Missions. I felt that he had chosen the least to bear the heaviest burden, still I knew that the Lord was able to fit the back to the load, and that he would do so, if I was humble, prayerful, "living my religion."

This I have endeavored to do, and the Lord has blessed me beyond my utmost expectations, often informing me of dangers and how to shun them.

Prest. Richards asked me whether there was any particular place in which I wished to labor. I replied that I wished to go where the Spirit directed him to send me for the good of the work of the Lord.

Brs. Franklin D. Richards and Wm. H. Kimball came with me to Geneva, where we arrived on the 12th Sept., 1855, and found Elders Tyler and Chislett in good spirits and greatly rejoiced at our unexpected arrival.

The Saints were much strengthened and greatly rejoiced by their visit. With heavy hearts we bade them adieu, and on the 29th they returned to England. I set myself immediately to studying the German language, and making myself as well acquainted with affairs as possible.

Prest. Tyler's ill health compelled him to leave the mission sooner than was intended, and on the 27th of November, 1855, he started for England, leaving me in charge of the missions, unacquainted with the language, manners, customs, &c. I had however got a tolerably good understanding of the situation of the Saints, for Elder Tyler spared no pains in making me acquainted with affairs.

Elder Chislett, who had been with Elder Tyler during his presidency, and could speak the French language very well, remained with me until the 10th of March, 1856, when he took charge of a small company of our German Swiss emigration to Liverpool, and finally proceeded to the Valley.

Elder Samuel Francis, who had been to Liverpool with the Italian emigration, called at Geneva on his return, and remained with me until the 10th of April, 1856, when he continued his journey. Since that time I have been without English company, except when I have visited my translators.

My progress in the German language has been rather slow, owing to the French language being principally spoken in Geneva.

7 p.m.

The work of the Lord prospers in some parts of these missions slowly but steadily, in others the elders have been mobbed, and prohibited from holding public meetings.

Last month Elders Hug and Buhler (natives) were mobbed by about a dozen persons; their clothes were torn, their hair was pulled, and they were beaten severely. They wrote to me, in a few days, that they felt the better for it; so you can realize that they have a little "Mormonism."

Two of the brethren have been banished from their canton for one and two months. Geneva is the only canton in the Swiss confederation where religious liberty is tolerated for foreigners, hence I have to remain here.

FORT SUPPLY,

OCT. 1, 1856.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:—

Sir:—We have just got through with our wheat harvest, and are now harvesting our oats, potatoes, beets, &c., &c. Notwithstanding the frost of Sep. 7, we will have about half a crop of wheat, and our potatoes are turning out as well as could be expected.

Our Snake friends are coming in to receive their portion of wheat, potatoes, &c. Bazel, one of the Snakes who has lived in the fort with us during the last year, has raised about 30 bushels of wheat and some vegetables. He and his squaws have harvested it clean and neat, and appear to feel well satisfied with their prospect for bread through the winter.

Brs. Jerome Kempton and Wm. Sterrett have burned a kiln of lime of first-rate quality.

Br. Edson Whipple has attached a thrashing machine to his gristmill; it is propelled by water.

Brs. Alger, Pulsipher and Daniels are erecting a sawmill, which we expect will be ready to run in the course of eight or ten days.

The brethren are all alive, preparing for winter, and Fort Supply is becoming more desirable than it was.

A large party of Snakes and Arapahoes is on the headwaters of North Fork of Platte, preparing to go to war with the Utes.

Yours respectfully,

ISAAC BULLOCK.

TEXAS.

[Elder Homer Duncan to Elder Robert Campbell.]

ELLIS CO., July 5, 1856.

I have had a very severe attack of fever, but am better now. I am able to sit up most of the day, although my mind is quite wandering and my body trembling.

The Texas mission met here, those of us that remain for another year, to take into consideration the best course to pursue, seeing that the people have become so hostile and almost closed their doors against us.

We held a few meetings; some believed our doctrines, but such persecution followed that those dare not be baptized, for fear of the black-jacks and cow-whips. A mob of 30 men came armed to take and black-jack us, but we have a God who reigns above that told us to leave the settlement for a time, which we did.

I traveled upwards of one hundred miles and then returned, when I learned that on the next day after I left, a mob of 32 men armed with rifles came to the house, four abreast and eight deep, but dispersed, upon not finding the object of their search.

Br. Wm. C. Moody, John Ostler and Morris J. Snedaker have gone into the southern counties. I have not heard from them since they left.

I do not expect that Ostler and Snedaker will return to this point until next spring. I expect to start the camp early next spring, and intend to be in the Valley by the last of July, 1857.

If there is no part of the world that wishes to hear the truth more than Texas, I think that the gentiles have about counted themselves unworthy of eternal life.

I believe that I would rather travel among the blue-bellied Yankees, than amongst this ignorant people.

A Novel Journey.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 12, 1856.

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:

Dear Sir:—I was at Payson, about 70 miles south of G. S. L. City, at the time of our last April Conference, but upon being informed that I was appointed on a mission to England I repaired to G. S. L. City, where I arrived on the 22nd of April, the same day that the missionaries left.

I waited day after day for a team going to the States, but as I could not find any opportunity for conveyance I determined to go on foot. Elder Richard Ballantyne procured me about 18 lbs of crackers and some meat, and I then started on foot and alone, on the 8th of May, to perform a journey of 1200 miles.

A brother told me that I should never get to the States, that I might be killed by the Indians, or be eat up by wild beasts, or be starved, or die by some disease, no one to administer to my wants.

I arrived at br. Kilyon's, at the foot of the Little Mountain, on the first day. I asked him if he would let me stay there that night; he told me I was quite welcome.

I renewed my journey after breakfast, and when I had got over the Little Mountain some distance I met a man coming out of a house; he asked me where I was going. I told him I was going to br. Robison's at Fort Bridger. He told me that br. Robison was a selfish man, that he would do nothing for me, and that I had better come in and stay at his house a few days, for a team to come past and take me along. I went in and stopped, but when I turned my back he took about half of my crackers and robbed me

of my pistol. I then thought it was time to leave his house, and took my things and went on my journey.

Before I reached the top of the Big Mountain three lads overtook me. I asked them where they were going; they said to Fort Laramie. I told them that if they were willing I would go with them; they had a gun and expected to kill game for food. I told them that I would share my crackers until they were gone; they lasted until we got into Echo canyon, where we saw two mountaineers on horseback.

We told them that we had nothing to eat; they gave the lads some crackers and told them to overtake them in the evening and rode on. It soon began to rain pretty hard, and I stopped under a tree for shelter. When the rain was over I came from beneath the tree, but I could see nothing of the lads; they had made off with the crackers and left me with nothing to eat.

It was getting dark and began to rain again. I fixed up one of my blankets to keep the rain off, and laid down upon the other. In the morning I wrung the water out of my blankets, and having no food I picked up some wild herbs and eat them. I thought of Elijah when he was in the wilderness, about the same as I then was, and how the Almighty fed him by sending a raven with bread. I thought that the Lord could do something for me, seeing that I was placed in the same circumstances, and I prayed to my Father in heaven that he would cause me to obtain some bread by the way.

Did the Lord hear my prayer and grant my request? I may say that he did, for about four in the afternoon, and just east of Bear river, I saw a stick stuck up in the middle of the road with a budget tied to it. I untied the budget and found some crackers, and a note stating that the mountaineers, upon being told that I was left without anything to eat, said to each other that the missionary will be starved if we don't leave him something to eat; that they had passed that day at noon, and for me to make haste and overtake them.

On the next day I arrived at Fort Bridger, earlier than I expected. I remained there a week and did some work, and br. Robison gave me a little bread to take along with me.

When I got to Green river I had nothing to eat, but I met with a band of Indians, and traded some gun caps for a good portion of dried meat. In three miles I met another band of Indians, and it being near dark I stopped, and one of them invited me into his lodge and gave me some dried meat for my supper, and a buffalo robe to lay upon.

I had a good night's sleep, and as soon as day they made preparations to start. They were going part of my way, and I went with them. There were about 300 of them. I crossed Green river with them; one could talk a little English, and he told me not to go any further, that I would be killed by a hostile tribe. Being determined to perform my mission I shut up my ears and went on, trusting in the Almighty.

I traveled on until I came to Platte bridge, and on the east side I saw a camp of United States' soldiers. I went to the cook house and told the cook my circumstance; he told me to wait a little and I should have something to eat. The soldiers came round me, and gave me a pair of shoes and some other things.

When night came, they told me to come into their tent and sleep along with them. They were laying under arms, and had an Indian chief bound in irons, and expected that the tribe would come and try to rescue him.

The officers told me I might stop as long as I liked and rest myself; and that they would give me provision enough to last me to Fort Laramie.

At the Platte bridge I engaged with a man going to the States, and was to have \$10 a month. When we got to Fort Laramie a man that I saw at Fort Bridger overtook me, he was not a Mormon, and told the man I had hired to that I was a missionary to England. I was then discharged on the plains, but on the same day I met with a government train and engaged for \$25 a month to Fort Leavenworth.

I arrived at Fort Leavenworth on the 21st of July, having rested on the plains about four weeks of the time out, and I can say truly that the Spirit of the Lord has been with me all the time. While I was alone, and even when I had nothing to eat, I could rejoice, I could lay down with safety, knowing that the power of God was round about me. I could rise in the morning thanking my God for his protecting arm. But I believe that if I had been an apostate I should not have reached the States.

I went on board a steam-boat for St. Louis, at which place I found Elder Snow, and the Saints in St. Louis were kind to me; they fed me and helped me on my way.

I went on board a steam-boat for Cincinnati, and after being stuck on the sand bars for several days was put on shore, when I went on board another boat and got fast again, but at length I reached Cincinnati, where I found a warm-hearted branch of Saints. They have paid my fare to New York, where I expect to meet Elder John Taylor.

I can say that I have been in the best of health ever since I left Great Salt Lake Valley, and that I took not one cent of money with me.—Yours faithfully,

SAMUEL JOHN COOK.

[We certainly think the above an instance of going forth without 'purse,' and with but very little 'scrip.' By the Mormon we learn that br. Cook arrived in New York.—Ed.]

SCRATCHES.—To cure scratches on a horse, wash the legs with warm soapsuds, and then with beef brine. Two applications will cure in the worst case.

No character is more glorious, none more attractive of universal admiration and respect than that of helping those who are in no condition of helping themselves.