

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - OCT. 17, 1877.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE General Assembly of the Priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Saturday afternoon was a most solemn and important occasion, and calls for something more than the brief account our space permitted yesterday. About five thousand men belonging to the various Quorums, in addition to the general congregation were gathered within the great Tabernacle, and occupied the seats assigned to them in the order prescribed.

The Twelve Apostles and their two Counselors, with the Patriarch of the Church and the Presidency of this Stake of Zion, were seated in the upper and second stands. The third stand contained those of the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies who were present (four in number) and the Presidency of the High Priests and Presidency of the Elders of this Stake. The lower stand was occupied by the Presiding Bishop of the Church, with his Counselors and several other Bishops whom he had invited.

On the platform to the right or south of the stands, the Patriarchs, the Presidents of the various Stakes of Zion with their Counselors, and the High Councilors from all the Stakes, and the Presidents and Counselors of the various High Priests' Quorums took their seats. Upon the platform to the left or north of the stands, the Bishops and their Counselors, and the Presidents of the various quorums of the Lesser Priesthood with their Counselors were seated. The Seventies occupied the body of the Tabernacle, bounded on the north by the centre aisle and on the east by the aisle running north and south. The High Priests' were in the centre of the Tabernacle, their seats being bounded at the south by the main centre aisle and on the north by the next aisle running east and west and on the east by the main aisle running north and south. The Elders and the Lesser Priesthood occupied the side seats at the north of the main body of the Tabernacle, the former sitting to the east of the latter.

After the usual opening exercises, Elder George Q. Cannon explained the form of voting to be used in the Assembly, which was for those who wished to sustain the affirmative to rise to their feet and raise the right hand; those in the negative to retain their seats until the contrary was called, when they also could arise and vote in the same manner. He explained that at the General Assembly held in the Kirtland Temple the vote was given by the Quorums simply rising to their feet. But subsequent revelations had shown the importance and significance of the uplifted hand, and therefore the voting in the present Assembly would be both by rising to the feet and raising the right hand.

He then presented John Taylor as President of the Twelve Apostles as one of the Twelve Apostles and of the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This was first voted upon by the Twelve Apostles and the two Counselors, who arose to their feet and sustained the motion by raising their right hands. They then took their seats, the contrary vote was called for, and there being no response, Elder Cannon announced the vote unanimous on the part of the Quorum of the Twelve.

The same motion was next put to the Patriarchs, Presidents of Stakes and their Counselors and the High Councils, who sustained it in like manner, and no one arising when the contrary vote was called for, it was pronounced unanimous on their part.

The motion was successively presented to the High Priests, the Seventies, the Elders, the Bishops and their Counselors, the Lesser Priesthood, the Presidencies of the various Quorums, and finally to the whole congregation; the same form being observed in every in-

stance, and not a single contrary vote being elicited, the announcement was made, as the several Quorums each gave their vote, that it was unanimous on their part, and so in regard to the whole congregation.

Each of the Twelve was then presented by name in their order, separately, then the two Counselors to the Twelve, next the Patriarch, after him the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies, severally, and so on through all the General Authorities of the Church, as reported in the minutes of the Conference published last evening. Each Quorum voted separately, in every instance, the whole congregation ratifying each vote, and the same order being observed throughout.

The effect was electrifying. When each body of men arose to their feet and lifted up their right hands to heaven in token of their covenant to sustain the officer presented, the power of God rested down upon them, and the influence was beyond the power of language to describe. There was no dissentient voice. All were of one heart and mind. This perfect union called to remembrance the prediction of the ancient prophet — "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice, with the voice together shall they sing, for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord shall bring again Zion."

There was no haste. Every person had ample opportunity to object to any name mentioned, or any proposition offered, and the utmost freedom was extended for liberty of action on each and all the authorities of the Church. The fact that there was not a dissentient vote throughout the whole proceedings, is an evidence, that no argument can make plainer, of the unity that binds together the priesthood of this Church, and the confidence reposed in its authorities by the whole body.

All who have anticipated and prophesied of a disruption in the Church ought now to see that there is not the shadow of a schism in it, and that the inherent vitality of what people call "Mormonism" does not depend upon its earthly head, nor upon any other human being. God is in it. His spirit quickens and holds it together. It is a living organism. Man cannot destroy it. The Maker of the Universe is its author and He has established it to continue. And no matter what changes may be brought about through the mutations of time and the effects of circumstances, it will live and grow and extend in power and influence, until evil and misrule shall cease, the heavens and the earth are joined in one, and the government and dominion of God prevail over all the earth.

The General Assembly held at the Conference which has just been closed, is a witness to man, to the spirits behind the veil, and to the Holy Ones in the eternal worlds, that those called to hold the Priesthood on earth in this last dispensation are in earnest, and that the Order of the Priesthood is established on such a basis that it can withstand the shafts of death and hell, and in spite of the frailties and errors of mortal man, that those who wield it are prepared to receive the word of the Lord through the living oracles, sustain legitimate authority, and bear off the kingdom for the salvation of the living and the redemption of the dead, until "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Lord to the glory of God the Father." To him be praise and might and dominion and everlasting obedience throughout eternal ages. And all thy people will say, Amen.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

COL. MILES' victory over the Nez Perces was dearly won. Two commissioned officers killed and four wounded, twenty-two non-commissioned officers and privates killed and forty-two wounded, besides several Indian allies, make a bad showing, particularly when his whole command numbered only two hundred and fifty, against seventeen Indians killed and forty wounded.

The honor of the success belongs to Col. Miles and his troops, Gen. Howard, as usual, lagging behind, and not reaching the scene of hostilities till they were over.

The question is now, "What will be done with Joseph?" As he is "only a savage," it is to be supposed that he will be savagely treated. If he were a white chief fighting for his rights, his land, his home, and the lawful possessions of his people, he would be counted a hero. But as he is an Indian and not supposed to have any rights which white men are bound to respect, it would not be at all surprising if the halter was his doom.

When the causes of the Nez Perces outbreak are fully disclosed, it will be found that the wrongs were commenced by the whites. These Indians, like other tribes, have been robbed by the Government Agents, and their reservation has been intruded upon by settlers who have squatted upon their lands and thus violated the terms of the treaty made with the Nez Perces, who have been a friendly tribe with a noble character.

At the Episcopalian General Convention at Boston, last Thursday, the Nez Perces war was discussed, and it was conceded that Chief Joseph was in the right in the present difficulties. The outrages on his tribe were detailed, and many eminent men endorsed the views of Hon. Amos C. Barstow who spoke in defence of the Indians.

It has cost the country far more in dollars, which seem to be the ruling consideration, to say nothing of the lives that have been lost, to chastise these hostiles into submission, than would have been expended in protecting the red men in their rights, and thus avoiding any outbreak.

The trouble in the Black Hills was caused by white intrusion upon lands guaranteed to the Indians. If it was not Indian land why were the first prospectors forcibly expelled from the Black Hills by United States troops? When can it be said the savages were the first aggressors? All the hostilities that have ever spread terror and consternation on the frontiers and been disgraced by horrible cruelties and devilish outrages, have, in the first place, originated in some overt act or disregard of treaty obligations on the part of the "superior race."

There is trouble at the White Earth reservation among the Chippewas of Minnesota; and the whites have been in fear and trembling lest those hitherto peaceful Indians should start on the war path. The difficulty originated, as usual, with the pale faces. A Catholic priest and an Episcopalian missionary, each of whom have met with some success among the red men, became jealous of each other's influence, and the Catholic has been ejected from the reservation, the Government agents supporting the Protestant, who is of their own faith. The priest was defended by some of the Indians with deadly weapons, and a company of soldiers had to be sent to the scene of the tumult. It is to be hoped that there will be no bloodshed, but if there is, Christian bigotry and white, not red, devilry are to be blamed for the evil that follows.

The primary cause of most of the difficulties with the aborigines is the failure to treat them as human beings, having human rights. When they are robbed and spoiled, and plundered and cheated, and contracts and treaties made with them are totally disregarded, what wonder is it that they are roused to retaliation? Their cruelties are inhuman, and their actions, when controlled by the spirit of war, are demoniac. But they cannot be expected to display the virtues of Christians, nor to understand the courtesies of "civilized warfare," particularly when their barbarities are imitated by their conquerors, and scalping and mutilation and horrible revenge are resorted to by their pale-faced antagonists.

The true Indian policy was discussed at the Convention above referred to. We will give one or two of the resolutions adopted, and it will be seen they are in accord with the "Mormon" sentiment and practice on this important question, which are so much denounced by inhuman persons who would rather see the red man exterminated than reclaimed and civilized.

"Indians are men, not much differing from others, with the same wants and governed by the same impulses as other men.

"It is certainly more economical to feed Indians than to fight them, as well as more humane and Christian, and the reservation system is

accepted as a temporary expedient in preparing them for self-support; but great care should be taken that feeding be not continued too long, and the reservation should terminate before it becomes a hindrance to citizenship.

"When life and property are thus protected and the Indians take the first step towards civilization, they should find all obstacles removed to their acquisition of real estate by homestead or pre-emption, that by reaching the condition of self-support, they may take their place among the people who constitute our American nation.

"To successfully accomplish the objects herein enumerated, to civilize, to enlighten and bring the Indians up to the highest and best style of manhood, we regard the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as indispensable and the prosecution of the missionary work among the Indians as imperative."

President Brigham Young is the author of the saying, "It is cheaper to feed the Indians than to fight them," and the "Mormon" policy has been to treat the red people as men and women, and to assist them as far as possible. But when they were clearly in the wrong to make chastisement no child's play, but make them respect power if they did not appreciate kindness.

And so far as the Indians of these valleys are concerned, if the Elders of this Church are unmolested in their efforts to Christianize and civilize the degraded Lamanites, there need be no fear that the whites of these regions will ever be molested by them. Let the oppression, robbery and inhumanity of the pale faces cease, and it will not be long before the depredations of the redskins will be very few and far between.

PETITION TO CONGRESS.

THE following unique and characteristic document was handed to us by a person who is in possession of "items," and has the inside track of the doings of the "Liberal" party. It is presumed that the paper will soon be taken round for signatures among the high joints of the combination. Whether the petition is genuine or not we leave to our readers, simply adding that it is, at any rate, a very clear expression of some of their sentiments and designs.

Petition to Congress, asking special legislation for Utah.

We, the undersigned, residents and citizens, if not tax payers of Salt Lake City and of Utah Territory, knowing that we are greatly in the minority, feel compelled to appeal to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

Gentlemen:—

We are free to acknowledge that the Federal appointees for this Territory, with pardonable exceptions, are of our own sentiments and in perfect accord with us, also their deputies, we further acknowledge that we already have the right of selecting one half the jurors, and the Mormon authorities, the right to select the other half; and that by methods which we need not here describe we manage to get Grand Juries with only one or two Mormons out of fifteen jurors, yet there are cases of doubtful origin, that we may not be able to convict parties charged; with these offenses unless we can have the power and the right to obtain jurors entirely of our own selection. We, therefore, do earnestly pray your Honorable Body to enact a law excluding all "Mormons," and all such persons as may be in sympathy with them, or who believe in any of their doctrines, from serving on juries, and be made ineligible to citizenship. They believe in Joe Smith, in Brigham Young, and in modern apostles and prophets, they also believe the Scriptures mean just as they are written and that God's kingdom will come, and that to that kingdom they owe the highest allegiance, which in our estimation is rank treason, and renders them worthy of being bound hand and foot and cast out and trodden under foot of men.

They even have the audacity in this enlightened age to preach and practise plurality of wives, and practise it openly, while we, more wise and prudent, practise our kind

of polygamy only in secret. They provide for their wives and children, and respect them, acknowledging them boldly in the midst of society, whilst we, bearing in mind the enlightenment and refinement of the nineteenth century, shun our mistresses and perfectly despise them, only when in a like class of society.

The Mormon barbarians have made many portions of Utah a complete Paradise, and we, realizing that we are the true American citizens, wish to avail ourselves of their possessions, and if we can only obtain the legislation that we desire, we can speedily drive out the Mormons, scatter them to the four winds, and supplant them with truly loyal American citizens, and thus bring to a successful termination the vexed Mormon problem which has harassed the United States Government for so many years, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Salt Lake City, U. T.,

October 10th, 1877.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 12.

Dead.—The man Henry Hager, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, who was picked up on the Market Square, yesterday, and taken to the City Hall, died last evening.

Quarterly Conference.—The Quarterly Conference of the Utah County Stake of Zion will convene in the Provo City Meeting House to-morrow, Saturday morning, October 13th.

Accident.—A few days ago James Madsen, son of Bishop Madsen, of Provo, while engaged in duck hunting, accidentally shot off the forefinger of his right hand and injured the finger next to it. So states the *Territorial Enquirer*.

Winter.—The chilly blasts of winter are approaching, and the present is the time for people to prepare for that cold, bleak season, by making every thing as snug and comfortable as possible in and around their dwellings.

Under Cover.—Since the organization of the 21st Ward the public meetings of its members have been held at the residence of Brother Lindsey. The house being too small to hold the assemblages, portions of them have had to be seated out of doors, in the lot. This is rendered unnecessary now, the new Meeting House being so far advanced as to admit of holding meetings in it. The first will convene in it next Sunday evening.

Another Operation.—We regret to learn that another surgical operation is necessary upon the limb of Brother John Acomb, that was accidentally injured severely on the Utah Southern Railroad some time since. The surgeons will have to extract some pieces of dead bone. In other respects the leg is remarkably sound, considering the character and extent of the injuries received.

Conferences.—The regular quarterly Conferences of Utah Co., and Davis Co., Stakes of Zion will be held to-morrow and Sunday. It has been arranged that Elders W. Woodruff, E. Snow and John W. Young attend meetings at Provo, and Elders O. Pratt, F. D. Richards and Jos. F. Smith at Farmington. It is probable that Pres. John Taylor will be present at the meetings in Provo.

Cove Fort.—President Ira Hinkley, of Millard County Stake, is about to remove his residence from Cove Fort to Fillmore, to enable him to be in a position to give close and immediate attention to the duties of his office.

His brother, Elder Arza Hinkley, of Coalville, will shortly move to the Fort, to take up his permanent residence there.

The Fort is a necessity, as a convenient stopping place for persons traveling to and from the South.

The Tabernacle.—The foundation of the new Tabernacle is getting pretty well advanced. It will be a very solid piece of masonry, five feet thick at the base, and tapering to two feet at the junction with the upper walls. Above the water-table, which will run around the upper portion of the foundation, will be a very heavy moulding.

Should a good force of workmen be kept steadily employed, it is thought the mason work of the building will be completed by the end of November.