

of religion. I myself have testified before Presidents of the United States, before Cabinet officers, before judges of the Supreme Court, before members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and before committees of Congress, that I knew that doctrine was from God. I told them I felt that if I had not obeyed it I would have been damned, because the Lord gave to me a direct command to obey that principle. He was kind enough to reveal this doctrine to me before I ever heard that Brother Joseph had received a revelation of that kind. He manifested to me that that principle would be revealed to this Church and be practiced by the Church. I have testified to this, and have endeavored with my brethren, who also have labored in this direction, to convince the nation that we were not overstepping the bounds of the constitution by believing and obeying a doctrine that had been revealed to us. Over a thousand have gone to prison to show our sincerity. A prominent official of this Territory said to a gentleman the other day: "They say to me that these people are not sincere." "Why," says he, "I know they are sincere. I went myself to the penitentiary and I labored with all the power I had to convince Lorenzo Snow that he should express his willingness to obey the law; but notwithstanding all my persuasions, and notwithstanding he had a year and a half sentence upon him, I could not move him. I believe he would have gone out and been shot rather than to have said he would get out of prison on such terms. And here is Lorenzo Snow going on the stand now before the Master in Chancery and testifying as he does; and I know that man is sincere in giving that testimony, for if he had said one-tenth to me what he said to the Master in Chancery, he could have been a free man." We have done everything that we could to persuade the nation that they were doing us injustice in prosecuting us for this, and that the law was an unconstitutional one. Now some say, "Why, look at these Mormon people, how quickly they will do the thing that the President of the Church tells them to do;" and they bring that up as an argument against us, as though we would continue to defy the law until the President said, stop. The reason for this is a very simple one. We have been acting in this in the fear of God. We believed that it was right to carry this principle out; and if we had been sentenced to be killed, I suppose some would have felt that it was right for us to submit to that rather than yield the principle. God gave the command and it required the command of God to cause us to change our attitude. President Woodruff holds the same authority that the man did through whom the revelation came to the Church. It required that same authority to say to us, "It is enough. God has accepted your sacrifice. He has looked down upon you and seen what you have passed through, and how determined you have been to keep his commandments, and now he says, It is enough." It is the same authority that gave us the principle. It is not the word of man.

Now, it is for us to obey the law. It is for us to be consistent. In all these

things. We always have been, and we will be in this instance. I am willing to leave this matter in the hands of the Lord. He knows what is best, and He will govern and control all things for our good. Some have accused us of defying the law. It has not been from the spirit of defiance; it has been to contend for those God-given rights that we have inherited. I believe the day will come when the course we have taken in this will be applauded. The true feeling that has animated the Latter-day Saints will be recognized; that it has not been a spirit of defiance, nor because we do not honor the government; but because there was a principle of human liberty involved, and we felt it our duty to see that the principle was vindicated to the very utmost. Then when every means was exhausted, we submitted and acknowledged the supremacy of the law, and bowed to it.

But, brethren and sisters, we have left to us all the principles of the Gospel. We have the Holy Ghost to be our companion. We have the gifts thereof to be and abide with us, if we will live for them. We have, as President Woodruff says, the voice of revelation in our midst, and God will not take it away from this Church. He has restored His everlasting Priesthood. It will remain on the earth. It will exercise the power that God has given to it, until He comes whose right it is to reign. God has great blessings in store for the Latter-day Saints. I believe that he is ready to pour them out upon us. I am satisfied that we will be greatly prospered of the Lord, and that He will make up to us for all our trials and for all our anxieties and sufferings. After the trial cometh the blessing. And certainly this people have been tried. They have passed through the furnace of affliction. No human tongue can describe, no pen can write, that which this people have suffered in their feelings for the past few years—the anguish of wives, mothers and children, and the sorrow of men concerning their families; but God has kept a record of it, and it will tend to the purification and exaltation of this people. I have thought many, many times over the devotion of our wives and our sisters—their unalterable, unshaken devotion to the principles of righteousness. No women that I know of, for many centuries at least, have passed through such trials as the women of this Church have during the past few years. Yet they have not faltered. Who has heard of women turning traitors? They have not been guilty of this. They have been most faithful to every covenant that they have made. Now, God has a great blessing to bestow upon them, and upon their children, and upon all the people. I pray that we may live so as to receive this, and live so closely to the Lord that we shall have His voice continually in our hearts, to guide us, to comfort us, to fill us with peace and joy, and lead us along until we come back into the presence of God and the Lamb, which I ask, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The insurance companies have paid over \$5000 to Messrs. Grossbeck and Houghton for damage done by fire to their Lace House property.

SOUTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE.

Following is a brief report of the South Alabama conference, held near Victoria, Coffee county, Ala., on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31st and Nov. 1st, 1891.

The conference convened at 11:30 a. m. Saturday.

There were present of the Priesthood: J. G. Kimball, president of the Southern States mission; Luman E. Shurtliff, president of the Southern Alabama conference, and Elders Alfred W. Peterson, John Pearson, Joe. Sorensen, Chas. S. Cottam, Frank Croft, Wm. H. Ashby, Jr., and Jos. Condie.

After the usual opening exercises, President Shurtliff addressed the conference for a short time, stating the object of the meeting.

President Kimball followed, speaking at some length on the progress made by the Latter-day Saints in settling up new countries, and other topics of interest.

Elders Sorensen, Ashby, Condie and Croft also spoke, explaining the first principles of the Gospel and bearing their testimonies to the divinity of the work.

On Sunday morning the conference was addressed by Elder Cottam and President Kimball, the main tenor of their remarks being on the teachings of Christ as literally believed and taught by the Latter-day Saints, in contrast to the creeds and tenets of other denominations.

In the afternoon the speakers were Elders Pearson, Peterson, Presidents Shurtliff and Kimball, who spoke on the restoration of the Gospel, its divinity and identity with that taught by Christ and His Apostles, the power of Satan and the temptations and snares he throws in the pathway of mortals.

There were three council meetings held, in which the Elders reported their labors for the past year and received valuable instructions from President Kimball. They were appointed to their fields of labor as follows: Elders Pearson and Condie to Holmes Co., Florida, and Geneva Co., Alabama; Elders Sorensen and Croft to Henry and Dale counties, Alabama, and Elders Cottam and Ashby to Lowndes and Crenshaw counties, Alabama.

Elder Alfred W. Peterson was appointed president of the conference, to succeed Elder L. E. Shurtliff, who was released to return to his home in Idaho.

FRANK CROFT,
Clerk of Conference.
VICTORIA, Coffee Co., Ala., Nov. 4th, 1891.

So John R. Howard has been sentenced to confinement in the penitentiary for one year, under conviction for adultery. This is a singular case. The defendant seems to have acted in a most extraordinary manner toward the woman with whom he was charged with committing the offense. There was not, however, in our judgment, one particle of evidence produced at the trial that was entitled to be accepted as actual proof of his guilt. It looks as if the jury had been governed, in making up a verdict, by their opinion unsupported by sufficient testimony. This view of the case is, we believe, almost universal among people who have given it any attention.