

ushered in. I can almost imagine with what riveted attention their eyes would be fixed upon the speaker. Oh, what a grand privilege to listen to the voice of an Elder inspired by the Holy Ghost. How their hearts must have rejoiced, and how eagerly would they listen to the Gospel as it had formerly been preached by Paul, by Peter and by Jesus Christ! Tidings of great joy had come to them. The earth had lain in darkness for seventeen centuries, and now the Gospel light had been ushered in. The same doctrines preached, the same gifts of the Holy Ghost manifest, and the same organization as existed in the primitive church.

The building will seat about five hundred people.

Turning to our attendant, I inquired, "Is there anyone living who can remember when the Latter-day Saint Elders preached in this room?"

"No," she replied. "My father could have told all about it, but he has been dead ten years. There were two other old persons who could remember the incident, but they have also passed away."

We learned that the ancestors of the present owners of the building had purchased it in the year 1836—a year previous to the arrival of Elder Kimball and his party.

Proceeding about half a mile further we reached Avenham Park, where, for the first time, we caught a view of the famed river Ribble. Traveling through the fine park we soon reached the river side. Most of the river in sight was a mass of ice. It is believed that the present winter is the coldest since 1867. Our guide informed us that himself and companion Elder had recently walked over it. That portion where there was no ice the water could be seen gently flowing onward. The tide had made sad havoc with the ice. We strolled along by the river side for about three quarters of a mile when we came to the identical spot where the first baptisms were performed—nine in number—which event transpired on the 30th of July, 1837. It is stated that George D. Watts was the second person baptized.

What changes have taken place since that period. A rapid increase occurred directly after the date mentioned, for we learn that when the first conference was held, which was within five months from the time the first converts were baptized, there were one thousand members in the British mission. The harvest was then ripe, although the laborers were few. What grand results were produced! How interesting it must have been to the Elders! They thrust in their sickles and reaped abundantly. Since that time many thousands in these lands have embraced the truth and a numerous host have emigrated to the valleys of the mountains. Compare the labors of the Elders in those days to the present time, and what a vast difference we behold! The city of Manchester once had a branch of nine hundred members—at present it has about two dozen. In thickly populated cities where large branches were flourishing, today you will find no active members. It looks as if the harvest was past, the summer ended, the gleaners had finished their work, and we had come after the gleaners had gone. Cities, towns and villages are tracted and preached in without little apparent result. Truly can it be said it is a day

of warning. The spirit of indifference that is manifest is great—it is discouraging to the Elders. But if we warn the people, we are fulfilling our mission and playing our part well. It is not the Latter-day Saints only who have noticed this lethargy regarding spiritual affairs. The different denominations make the same complaint. They are puzzling their brain how to awaken interest in the people so they will attend divine worship. Pleasant Sunday afternoon services are being held to unite the people. The churches and chapels are thinly attended. The theaters are crowded, entertainments and dancing halls are well patronized; but the desire for spiritual food is very meagre, comparatively speaking.

About a stone's throw from that part of the river where the baptisms were first performed is a massive rock railway bridge. It is believed that there are not many in the world to surpass this extraordinary piece of architecture. There are five arches. The Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and Northwestern railways have lines running over it.

The last sight we took in was the house where the first Elders were attacked with evil spirits. It is No. 21 Saint Wilfort street, off Fox street—a three story building built of brick. A room in the third story was where the incident referred to occurred. About a week after their arrival in Preston, a number of candidates being ready for baptism, Brother Kimball was appointed to perform the ordinance. It seems that the adversary was determined to mar the progress of the work. Towards morning of the night previous to the immersions, Brother I. Russell (who had been appointed to preach on the market place that day) came to the room where Elders Kimball and Hyde were sleeping, and asked them to pray for him, for he was so afflicted with evil spirits he thought he could not live long unless he obtained relief. They laid hands upon him and rebuked the evil spirits. While they were thus engaged, Brother Kimball was struck with some invisible power, and fell senseless on the floor as though he had been shot. They laid him on the bed, but his agony was so great he could not endure it, so he got up, fell on his knees and began to pray. The brethren plainly saw the evil spirits, who foamed and gnashed their teeth upon them. For half an hour they witnessed this terrible scene.

ROBERT AVESON.

SILVER CONVENTION.

Salt Lake City had her holiday attire on for the Silver Convention. From the head of East Temple street to its foot, in the business districts at least, and on all the cross streets in the same section, buildings are gaily decorated in the national colors.

After the procession on Wednesday, May 15th the delegates convened in the Tabernacle. The band rendered a lively selection and at 12:20 Governor Rickards called the conference to order.

Governor West here delivered a happy speech of welcome, saying that all local conditions were favorable to the silver sentiment in this Territory.

Governor Rickards here introduced ex-Governor Prince of New Mexico as "that prince of good fellows." That gentleman responded heartily on be-

half of the outside delegates to the speeches of welcome by Governor West and Mayor Baskin.

Hon. Thomas G. Merrill, of Montana, father of the conference, was unanimously chosen temporary chairman and Hon. Henry W. Laugenour, of California, was made temporary secretary in a similar manner.

A committee of three on credentials was appointed as follows: Hon. H. F. Bartine, Nevada; Senator Clark, Wyoming, and Captain John Plummer, Idaho.

A committee on permanent organization and order of business was named as follows: E. B. Light, Colorado; J. C. Young, Oregon; Hilp, Nevada; R. C. Chambers, Utah; T. J. Clunie, California; George V. Bryan, Idaho; Governor Prince, New Mexico; B. C. Kingsbury, Washington; W. M. Bigford, Montana; F. W. Mondell, Wyoming.

At 1:30 the conference took a recess until 3:30, to meet in the joint city and county building.

The following report from the committee on credentials was reported unanimously:

Hon. Thomas G. Merrill, Temporary Chairman:

Sir—The committee on credentials beg leave to report that they find the following-named gentlemen to be entitled to seats and votes in the silver conference called by Hon. J. E. Rickards, governor of Montana, to be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, May 15, 1895, viz.:

California—Hon. Thomas J. Clunie, Hon. Henry Laugenour and Hon. A. L. Holt.

Colorado—Hon. Alva Adams, E. B. Light, Esq., and Hon. John F. Shafer.

Idaho—G. V. Bryant, J. W. Plummer, W. E. Borah and Joseph Hutchinson.

Montana—Hon. Thomas G. Merrill, Hon. F. E. Sergeant and Hon. Walter F. Bigford.

Nevada—H. F. Bartine, Sol Hilp and B. F. Leete.

New Mexico—Governor L. B. Prince, Hon. Antonio Joseph and Judge Hewitt.

Oregon—Hon. P. Thompson, Hon. J. C. Young and Sydney Dell.

Washington—Hon. Patrick Henry Winston, B. C. Kingsbury and Nelson Bennett.

Wyoming—Hon. C. D. Clark, Hon. F. E. Warren (F. M. Foote proxy) and Hon. F. W. Mondell.

Utah—R. C. Chambers, Hon. C. C. Goodwin and John Seamen.

The following named gentlemen being duly accredited alternates, we recommend that they be given seats in the conference, the question of their right to vote to be determined by the conference itself.

Idaho—W. Watt and John Myers.

Washington—J. J. Brown, W. H. Plummer, C. W. Bushnell and W. M. Welch.

Montana—F. P. Sterling, Robert Smith and George Haldorn.

The report of the committee on permanent organization and order of business was next received. It was as follows:

1. That the officers of the conference be a president, two vice presidents, a secretary and an assistant secretary. And we further recommend the election of the following: President, Hon. David Thompson of Oregon; vice presidents, Hon. T. J. Clunie of California and Hon. Alva Adams of Colorado; secretary, H. W. Laugenour of California; assistant secretary, Joseph H. Hutchinson of Idaho.

2. The conference will meet each day