

M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

Address of the General Superintendent to the Young People.

On Thursday evening, October 6th, 1887, the Salt Lake Assembly Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, the occasion being the General Conference of the Mutual Improvement Associations. The meeting was called to order by Elder Junius F. Wells, who presided. The singing was done by the Tabernacle choir, who rendered selections from the Mutual Improvement Association Song Book. The opening prayer was offered by Elder Edward H. Anderson.

Elder Junius F. Wells announced the business of the meeting and presented the general officers of the organization. Elder Nephi W. Clayton, formerly secretary of the Y. M. M. I. A., had resigned, owing to his time being occupied with other business.

THE GENERAL OFFICERS

were unanimously sustained as follows:

Wilford Woodruff, General Superintendent of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations. Joseph F. Smith and Moses Thatcher, his Counselors.

Junius F. Wells, Milton H. Hardy, Rodney C. Badger and Joseph A. West, Assistants to the General Superintendency.

George C. Lambert, Secretary.

William S. Burton, Treasurer.

Elmina S. Taylor, General Superintendent of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations.

Maria Y. Dougall and Mattie H. Tingey, her Counselors.

Mary E. Cook, Secretary.

Fanny Y. Thatcher, Treasurer.

Elder George C. Lambert then read the

STATISTICAL REPORT,

showing that twenty Stakes had reported a total of 194 associations, with a membership of 12,448. Cache, Kanab, Onelda, San Juan and St. George Stakes had not reported. On the basis of the last report from these places, there would be shown a grand total of 275 associations, with a membership of nearly 17,000.

ELDER RODNEY C. BADGER

said that, while the associations were doing good, they might be greatly improved. The state of perfection to which the work was brought depended on the diligence of the members of the organization and the character of the young men chosen as officers. The Stake superintendents should see that each association was properly provided for in this regard. The object in view was not only to acquire knowledge, but to disseminate it for the good of mankind, that men and women might have a stronger love for all that was praiseworthy. It was necessary to devote time outside of the meetings in preparation. No position would bring greater honor than that of being a good Latter-day Saint—an efficient worker in the cause of truth.

SISTER E. S. TAYLOR,

superintendent of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association, said she knew of no grander work in life than performing the will of God. The young are learning to more fully comprehend the principles of the Gospel, and many of them have, since uniting with the associations, obtained a testimony of the truth through faithfulness, and are preparing for the great mission of building up the Kingdom of God. If the youth of Israel would seek the Lord earnestly He would give them strength to fulfill the duties of life.

Elder George C. Lambert then read the following

ADDRESS

of the General Superintendency:

To the Officers and Members of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations throughout Zion:

Dear Brethren—While regretting the existence of circumstances depriving us of the satisfaction and pleasure of mingling personally with you, in your General Conference gathering, we are delighted with the privilege of addressing you in writing.

Our hearts are full of gratitude to our Heavenly Father, and we rejoice exceedingly in the blessings of life and liberty so abundantly bestowed upon the youth of Zion. Upon you, dear young brethren, the hope of Israel largely rests. Be ye, therefore, worthy of your holy calling. Trust in the Lord of hosts, give your hearts to God, and fail not in your mission of improvement. Be watchful, prayerful, obedient; for the eyes of heavenly hosts are upon you. Honor your parents, that your days may be many. Venerate those grown gray in the service of the God of heaven and earth, and the ordinances of the Gospel shall be your portion, the salvation of God your part, and the Holy Priesthood with the powers thereof your inheritance.

A GREAT WORK

is before you. Thrust in your sickles and reap, for the harvest is ripe, though laborers are few. Be not satisfied, rest not content until every young man professing the name of Saint in Zion is enrolled in the cause of mutual improvement.

Civilization, so-called, with a tide of evil and corrupting influences is sweeping the land with temptations, calculated to lead the young into paths of vice and destruction. These must be resisted and overcome, because at war with peace and purity. Be ye

lovers of men rather than lovers of pleasure. Using wisely the gifts and graces with which the Almighty has endowed you, rescue from the allurements of saloons, beer halls, and other haunts of vice, those whom God has destined should move on a higher and purer moral plane.

HUMAN REDEMPTION,

from the effects of the fall, is the grandest work in which God and man can be engaged. Those who would be successfully employed in it, must secure the testimony of the Holy Spirit, make virtue the jewel of the soul, purity of thought the guide of the heart, and honor, integrity and truth companions of daily life.

Conforming your exercises to the organizations of the Church, let all your teachings harmonize therewith; so shall all your works, under the proper use of the Priesthood which you bear, be sanctified to the honor and glory of God. The general authorities of the Church and those of the Wards and Stakes will give you encouragement and help wherever needed.

Half-yearly conferences of the various Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations may be held in the Stakes throughout Zion at such times and places as may be determined by the Stake presidency and superintendency of the associations. These conferences may occupy two days, including one Sunday, and should be made occasions for receiving reports and giving mutual instructions that will tend to harmonize the manner of conducting the associations and achieving the most satisfactory results.

A GENERAL CONFERENCE

of the associations will be held about the 1st of June, 1888, and annually thereafter, the exact date and place to be hereafter named by the general superintendency. The associations should endeavor to continue their regular weekly meetings until about the time of the annual conference, before taking their summer vacation. At the General Conference full statistical and other necessary reports will be required and time will be given for the consideration of the best means and methods of promoting the education and welfare of the young men and women of Zion.

The Primary and Sunday school organizations, Mutual Improvement Associations and Relief Societies have been instituted for a wise purpose. They are "helps and governments" calculated in their nature and design to accomplish much good among the Saints. Each has a special field of usefulness not occupied by the others; and no man in this Church, filled with the Holy Ghost, will lay a straw in the way of either of them. Neither will he find occasion for manifestations of petty jealousies, by which to foster one at the expense of another.

The Sunday schools have gradually and almost universally come to occupy the forenoon of each Sabbath. Have the interests of God's Church or the welfare of His people suffered thereby? Certainly not. What, indeed, is of more vital importance to us than the

PROPER RELIGIOUS TRAINING

of our children? What the Primary Associations begin, let the Sunday school and Mutual Improvement Associations continue. Each has its mission and special field, upon which no servant of God humbly trying to do his duty will seek to encroach.

The Contributor, as the organ of the Mutual Improvement Associations, is a medium of instruction and enlightenment. How, except by judicious exercise of the faculties shall we develop the talent with which the Creator may have endowed us? Few things, if any, are better calculated to strengthen the mind and give it power of concentration than the frequent use of the pen, in writing for publication. And what agency is more potent for good, than the press? The Contributor, whose articles are largely furnished by home authors, is a magazine of which all Israel have reason to be proud. Its circulation should be widely extended, and to this end we invite the co-operation of all Saints. Its editor, Brother Junius F. Wells, has been singularly blessed in his management of the magazine heretofore. His selection and arrangement of matter have been remarkably fortunate, and the Lord has been with him in his responsible labors.

But, notwithstanding the degree of excellence reached, it should be our constant effort to improve, and the young men and women of talent among us can

DO GREAT SERVICE

in this direction, by furnishing regular contributions to the magazine. To this desirable end we very respectfully invite their hearty co-operation.

Libraries and reading rooms should be established throughout Zion, and lectures on various subjects should be encouraged. Thus may you become acquainted with the customs, laws and languages of various countries while seeking to graduate in the science of all other sciences—correct theology. In this connection we would suggest that it will be well in all the Stakes, for the Associations to take the initiative in establishing libraries and reading rooms. This is a labor peculiarly adapted to our organization and has been enjoined upon us from the beginning. We deprecate any disposition on the part of our young men, especially those who have had superior opportunities for acquiring an education, to draw away from the Improvement Associations,

and to form among themselves separate societies of an exclusive nature. Would it not be better if they would lend their talent and efforts to make the Improvement Associations more successful? There is no worthy object they can desire to obtain, that the Improvement Associations does not contemplate and hope to reach. We, therefore, ask the co-operation of all such young men, and trust that it will be gladly given, as we feel sure the results of a united endeavor under proper organization and direction will be most satisfactory.

In all your struggles in acquiring knowledge seek wisdom. In all your efforts to improve

SEEK TO KNOW GOD

and Jesus, whom He hath sent, for in that knowledge is found Life Eternal. The Holy Priesthood that you bear is the key to unlock that door. See that you do not misuse it and thereby fail. "Ask and ye shall receive. Knock and it shall open."

In returning home from this conference we trust that you will carry with you the spirit thereof, and renewed determination to labor diligently and earnestly for improvement in the interest of purity and holiness. Remembering always the reason for the hope within you, make the love of your God and of your fellows the foundation of your work; and moving forward steadily and prayerfully and earnestly, you cannot fail in accomplishing that which brings peace, happiness and salvation.

Praying that the Lord may bless, preserve, guide and prosper you in all your works of love, we remain,

Your fellow-laborers in the cause of Mutual Improvement,

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
JOSEPH F. SMITH,
MOSES THATCHER.

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS

said that it depended on the young men to make the general suggestions of practical value. There never was a time when the young people of Israel should try to more fully comprehend their attitude towards their Heavenly Father and their fellowmen. Witnessing as they did the strange events of the present day, they were passing through a valuable school. The isolation which in earlier years had protected them from the vices of the world was past, and the warnings they had had of trials that would come were being verified. To-day they were having an opportunity to prove their fidelity to the Lord, in living in the midst of Babylon and withstanding its evils. In order to successfully resist evil influences they must be alive to their duties and at work in the cause of salvation. The sins their fathers fled from have followed in the wake of civilization, and with them has come the persecution of men of honor and purity, who are driven from home or cast into prison for the Gospel's sake. The young people are asked to disregard the counsels of those men whom they know to be virtuous and honorable. But those who endeavor to induce them to turn from the Church seek to enthrall them in the chains of sin and death. There is not shown a better or holier life, but the appeal is made rather to the baser passions. A better way than the service of the Lord did not exist. The object of the Associations is to start the young people in the path that leads to success in time and in eternity. They have homes in these valleys, consecrated to the Saints of God, and it is their duty to maintain them against those who fight the truth, trusting in the Almighty for the victory. The morality of the youth of Israel was as far above that of the world as the Church of God was above the churches of men, and he looked for the time when they would receive the credit they were entitled to. Some have yielded to temptation, and are falling short of their inheritances. This temptation should be resisted and the young rescued from evil. There are no better organizations than those connected with the Church for the elevation and training of the youth. With the proper order, wonderful results could be achieved. If the members of the associations took a proper course they could make smoking, drinking and kindred vices unpopular. The officers of each organization should proceed at once to carry out the instructions of the general superintendency, that by next Conference they could report the condition of every young man in the Wards, as was now done in Utah County. They should devote their energies to uphold all good. There was no more glorious field than that of laboring to save the souls of men. The destiny of the youth of Zion is the highest, and the victory to be given them the grandest vouchsafed to any community—that of preparing a people to meet the Savior of the world. Exhort them to purify and perfect their lives and follow the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

ELDER ANGUS M. CANNON,

President of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, spoke of the high principles enjoyed by the Saints. No people in this age were so favored as they, in having the Gospel and the holy Priesthood, with power to act in the name of the Lord. They should devote their time to Him, and not to worldly pleasures. They should strive to perfect themselves in righteousness. It was a good plan to keep a journal and to record faithfully their actions; this would serve as a check on wrong doing, as it would afford no pleasure to record evil

deeds. The young ladies could also exercise their influence for good with the young men, by discountenancing all evil habits. The speaker exhorted the young to so order their lives that they could render a good account at the judgment seat of Christ. He would give them all the assistance within his power to do good. They should purify their words, thoughts and actions, and be worthy inhabitants of Zion, a city set upon a hill, whose light could not be hid, and should seek to glorify God in their lives.

Elder Junius F. Wells announced that a meeting of the Stake Superintendents of Mutual Improvement Associations would be held at the Contributor office at 5 p.m. on Friday, October 7th.

After singing by the choir, the conference adjourned, and Elder Wm. S. Burton pronounced the benediction.

UTAH'S STATEHOOD.

The Convention Adopts a Memorial Asking Admission to the Union.

The State Constitutional Convention resumed its meeting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, and after being in executive session for an hour and a half, adjourned until Saturday, Oct. 8.

At 12:30 p.m. to-day the Convention was called to order by the President, Hon. John T. Caine.

The roll call showed a majority of the members present.

Prayer was offered by Hon. Ward E. Pack, of Summit County.

Mr. Hammond reported amendments to the memorial by the executive sessions, and its recommendation for adoption as amended.

The memorial was ordered read. Some slight amendments were made, and the following is the full text of the document as adopted:

MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

To the President, and the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

GENTLEMEN:—For the fifth time the people of Utah present to your honorable body a constitution providing for a republican form of government, and respectfully ask admission into the Union as a free and sovereign State.

Your memorialists are delegates in a Constitutional Convention, chosen by the people of this Territory in mass meetings to which all citizens of every party were publicly invited. The constitution presented herewith was framed by your memorialists with a desire to effect a political settlement of the questions which have heretofore interposed as the sole objections when Utah has applied for the rights and privileges of statehood.

Under recent acts of Congress, no person practicing polygamy can vote or hold office in this Territory. Your memorialists are registered voters, and the Constitution which they adopted on the seventh day of July, 1887, was ratified at the general election, August 1st, 1887, by a popular legal vote of 13,195, only 502 voting against it. The total number of votes cast at the same election for precinct and county officers and members of the legislative assembly, was 16,178. This shows a balance of 2,705, who refrained from voting on this question: the voters of the minority party having been so directed, openly, by their political leaders, who do not favor any movement for the removal of those disabilities which are common to the Territorial system, unless likely to be specially favorable to them.

The number of the voting population has been considerably reduced by the operations of congressional statutes. The act of March 22d, 1882, disfranchised all polygamists. The act of March 8, 1887, excluded all women from the polls. The test oath prescribed by the same law was so distasteful to many persons of all classes who were otherwise qualified, that they abstained from registration. And, as only registered voters could cast their ballots at the general election, for or against the Constitution framed by your memorialists, the total vote in its favor was, under the circumstances, remarkably large.

The people who have adopted and ratified this Constitution are law-abiding citizens of the United States. They have not violated any law of Congress. The special provisions they have framed in reference to practices condemned by the popular voice, were made in good faith and so worded that they are practically unrepeatable. In these Congress has not imposed unusual requirements upon a new State, but the people have placed these restrictions upon themselves in order to meet prevailing objections and secure political harmony with the existing States. In doing this they have but exercised a reserved and constitutional right. If Utah shall be admitted into the Union, these provisions will be strictly and fairly enforced.

Your memorialists have no hesitation in stating that almost the entire population of Utah are desirous of becoming fully identified as a State with the institutions of this great republic, and of taking part in national affairs as loyal and peaceable citizens. They have demonstrated their fitness for the duties, responsibilities and privileges of statehood. They are thrifty, temperate, industrious, intelligent and progressive. They form a vigorous, stable and permanent community, out of debt and ready to move forward in step with the existing States.

The Territory has a population of

not less than two hundred thousand. Her wealth, exclusive of mines, which are untaxed and represent unknown millions, aggregates not less than one hundred and fifty million dollars. Her resources, products, interests and prospects are conceded by all to be amply sufficient to sustain a state government, and have so frequently been presented to Congress and the nation, with statistics, that we deem it unnecessary to detail them in this memorial.

The soil, irrigated by mountain streams diverted through canals and ditches over large areas once a desert, brings forth grain and fruit in rich abundance. Cattle and sheep range upon a thousand hills and supply both home and foreign markets. Her woolen and other manufactures have become famous for their honest and useful products. Factories and workshops supply labor to skilled and common artisans, who are content with reasonable wages, and among whom strikes and trouble with capital have hitherto been unknown. The necessities and many of the luxuries of life are abundant and cheap. Minerals of all kinds abound within her borders and the mining output aggregates from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000 annually. Apart from the precious metals, there are valuable deposits so varied in character and immense in quantity as to afford in themselves material for untold wealth. These await but the touch of the capital that a settled political condition will draw to Utah, to be brought forth for the benefit of her people, and the enrichment of the Nation. The great railroads which already have their termini in or near her capital city, with others in process of construction, place her people in easy communication with the rest of the country and facilitate commercial relations. The telegraph, the telephone, the electric light and other modern improvements are utilized extensively by her citizens. Her business status and reputation in the great centres of trade are unimpeachable. Her taxes are phenomenally low, and her internal affairs have been honestly and economically conducted. Her school system, with the best text books used in the foremost schools of the country, provides strictly secular education for the children in every city and settlement. Her school statistics bear very favorable comparison with even the older States. Nothing now stands in the way of her march to that proud position to which everything just and natural points as her destiny, but those political disabilities which only statehood can remove.

We appeal to your honorable body to regard the wishes of a people who earnestly desire to aid in promoting the welfare and glory of the Union, and who, from the day their pioneers first unfurled the Stars and Stripes on this then Mexican soil, have looked forward to the time when they should enter the Union as a State, as guaranteed to them in common with other residents on the territory acquired by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

We ask that the Constitution of the proposed State of Utah shall receive the close and impartial attention of your honorable body. It "guarantees a republican form of government." It provides for equal rights and privileges before the law to citizens of all parties, creeds and conditions. It is broad and liberal and contains the best provisions to be found in other State constitutions. It meets the demands that have been made upon the majority of the people of Utah when they have previously asked admission into the Union. What more can be required of any people?

The admission of Utah will relieve the Government of a question that has troubled it for a quarter of a century, and remove it from national to local regulation, where it properly belongs. It will add one more star to the national galaxy, increase the strength of the Union, save the country many thousands of dollars annually, and bind to the interests of the nation a body of honest, patriotic and grateful people who will be found, when the mists of misrepresentation and prejudice are cleared away, to be a community of which any government might be proud.

We ask for "a republican form of government," and we ask that it be given us now. For nearly forty years Utah has been pleading for Statehood. Shall a deaf ear be still turned to her entreaties? We hope for better things. In behalf of the great majority of the voters who represent the vast majority of the people of Utah, we submit that having broken no law, we should not be deprived of our liberties on account of objections raised against others. We ask for justice and a fair consideration of our cause, with the solemn pledge that Utah as a State will be faithfully devoted to true republican principles and to the interest and welfare of the government of the United States: And your memorialists will ever pray.

Adopted in Convention at Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, on the eighth day of October, A.D. 1887, by unanimous vote, and ordered to be signed by the President and Secretary.

JOHN T. CAINE,
President.
HEBER M. WELLS,
Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Sharp, the memorial was adopted and the President and Secretary instructed to sign it.

The Convention adjourned, to meet at the call of the President.