

which requires the obedience of the heart as well as of action. The law to be thus obeyed is referred to by the Apostle James as "the perfect law of liberty." God gave to man his own free agency. If it were not so man could not elevate himself in the path of eternal progress. But as there must needs be opposition, we find that temptation came to Adam, and, the results of disobedience of this perfect law of liberty grew among men in proportion to their disregard of that law. Through their disobedience the aborigines on this continent became the degraded people they now are.

If man would rid himself of bondage he must render that free obedience of heart and action that is in harmony with the perfect law of liberty. Through obedience to this law Christ broke the bonds of death and brought redemption to mankind. The Lord tells us that the truth will make us free. We have this law of truth—the Gospel—obedience to which will bring us freedom from sin and sorrow and death. It is our mission to give to this law that free obedience that will bring us liberty in the midst of the earth. May God enable us to observe His laws, that we may become mighty in His power.

SISTER MARIA Y. DOUGALL

was next called. She testified that truth was in the work of mutual improvement. It was preparing the young to bear off the kingdom of God. Sister Dougall expressed her earnest desire to be faithful in all her duties as a Latter-day Saint.

#### SENTIMENT.

To the sentiment, "Priesthood vs. Priestcraft," the following response, from Davis Stake, was read by Elder Wm. S. Burton:

Priesthood is the rule of Him who maintained in the Spirit World the free agency of mankind, and it is establishing a perfect law of liberty; priestcraft is the invention of him who desired to have the spirits of men enslaved from their birth, and it has ever sought to reduce them to bondage during their lives. The one is bestowed by "The light of the world" and continually leads man on to greater knowledge and intelligence; the other was instituted by the "Prince of Darkness" and has ever sought to prevent the spread of truth and liberty. Priesthood ever breathing the spirit of perfect liberty, has only sought to rule by convincing the reason of mankind. Priestcraft has ever striven to persecute to death those whose reason convinced them of its error. Priestcraft only exists because of ignorance and wickedness; Priesthood can only be retained through virtue and intelligence. Priestcraft gains its power from usurpation of man and will end with mortality; Priesthood derives its authority from the King of Kings and will endure throughout all eternity. The one is doomed to disappear before the rays of Gospel light, as the darkness fades away at the rising of the sun; the other is destined to bear universal sway when the knowledge of God shall cover

the earth as the waters cover the mighty deep. Priestcraft is a stagnant pool whose poisonous vapors carry disease and death everywhere their influence extend. Priesthood is a stream of living water, giving life and vigor to all who partake of its influence, and ever flowing on to the ocean of eternal truth.

#### ONE OF THE BRETHREN

of Box Elder Stake responded appropriately to the sentiment, "Liberty vs. License," as follows:

Liberty vs. license deserves a more eloquent representative than myself on this occasion; but having been assigned a subject of such vital and immediate importance to every civilized man, I shall by the help of God and your faith express my views in brief.

Liberty does not as many think consist in choosing what one pleases nor does it consist of an instantaneous restrained impulse of a popular will shooting forth like a meteor, but it is the simple, just exercise of power which is a creature of checks and restraints, like the law of gravitation, governed by the regular action of constant and well balanced principles; such principles can only be established by those who are wise and virtuous, who, with a clear vision, have seen what is essential to the greatest happiness of the people. The fundamental principles of liberty are embraced in the Declaration of Independence; its simple statements are founded on truth. The natural expression of rights there set forth, and the relations of humanity are drawn from the pages of the history of nations that had played prominent parts upon this world's stage and doubly impressed by the experience of a struggling people, who first sought religious liberty and was now contending for civil liberty. No man who is imbued with the principles of freedom can say that the sentiments uttered in that instrument are not in accord with the spiritual light of Divine revelation. True liberty may be set forth in these words: Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you. Liberty is not, as sometimes used, a true synonym of license. Liberty refers to things spiritual, when high moral law is an element; license refers to things carnal, when excesses and selfishness are elements. Liberty denotes a thorough understanding between those governed and those exercising dominion, and all objections are by common consent removed. License denotes a struggle between prerogative and power; and only special permission to do some phases of a thing, is given, because they dare not give liberty to do whatever is desired. License is dross. Liberty is a jewel. And where it is there are prosperity and life. Civil and religious liberties are the chief of our blessings. For these have martyrs laid down their lives upon the scaffold and at the stake, and myriads of men fought to establish or defend them. Take away these and we are degraded to the rank of slaves, of brutes, and life becomes not worth the living. Give these, and every

faculty is exalted, the work of our hands is blessed, the gifts of nature smile upon us, and brighter hopes beam upon us from the future.

Great God, we thank Thee for this home—  
This bounteous birth-land of the free,  
Where wanderers from afar may come  
And breathe the air of liberty.

ELDER JUNIUS F. WELLS

said he esteemed it a great privilege to express his satisfaction at the proceedings of the conference. The reports showed a gratifying progress in mutual improvement. During the past year there had been thirty new associations organized, and nearly 1500 new members added. The work done had also greatly increased, and was being carried out in a more systematic manner. We are looking after and endeavoring to protect the virtue and honor of our community. We are seeking to establish righteousness, and we realize that the blessing of the Lord is with us. We are becoming better qualified to minister in the offices of the Priesthood to which we are called. We feel that we are engaged in a great and glorious work, and have deep interest therein. I pray that the desire to secure a knowledge of God's will may continue in our associations. This spirit keeps our organization alive, and is leading it on to its destiny. May God grant that our field of usefulness may continue to increase.

Singing, the anthem, "God of Israel."

Through an inadvertence, the name of Evan Stephens, as musical director of the associations was omitted. At the evening meeting he was unanimously sustained in that position.

President Woodruff made some remarks supplementary to his discourse delivered in the afternoon, at the conclusion of which they will be found.

Benediction was pronounced by President Wilford Woodruff, and conference adjourned to June 1 and 2, 1890.

#### APPALLING FLOODS.

On May 31st, a freshet occurred in the North Fork river, east of Johnstown, Pa., in the Allegheny mountains, causing the bursting of a great reservoir, and one of the most disastrous floods that ever occurred in the United States.

In order to understand the nature of the calamity it is necessary to describe the location of the reservoir at Johnstown. The reservoir lies about two and a half miles northeast of Johnstown, and on the site of an old reservoir, which was one of the feeders of the Pennsylvania canal. This sheet of water was formerly known as Conemaugh lake. It is from 200 to 300 feet above the level of Johnstown, being in the mountains. It is about three and a half miles long and from a mile to one and a quarter miles wide, and in some places it is 100 feet in depth. It holds more water than any other reservoir, natural or artificial, in the United States. The lake has been quadrupled in size by artificial means and