

THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of the Salt Lake Stake, held in the Assembly Hall on Monday evening, was more than usually interesting. We have thought that the assemblages of that character held heretofore have perhaps not been so definitely individualized as they might have been. The more strongly they are characteristic of what the associations purport to be, the interest in them and their usefulness will proportionately increase.

It appears to us that there are two primary objects connected with such gatherings, which should always be kept prominently in view in the proceedings throughout. One is to exhibit the progressive effects of the movement upon the young, by specimen exercises by association members. The more advanced they are the better, as they act as a stimulus to emulate the progress developed. This was made a feature of the proceedings of Monday evening, and in that regard they were to some extent an advance upon those of previous conferences of the same kind held here.

The other leading trait that might profitably characterize meetings of the kind under consideration, is the delivering, by the most competent persons to be found, of well-digested explanations of different branches of profitable exercises in the associations, the best modes of conducting them, their effects, etc. In any event, whatever addresses are delivered should be mainly devoted to the practical side of mutual improvement, to the exclusion so far as can be, of generalities. Remarks that are not pointedly addressed to the main subject necessarily detract from the leading object of associations and conferences of that nature, and are more adapted to gatherings whose object is not so clearly specific. They are therefore probably not highly profitable because not absolutely appropriate.

If we were to venture a suggestion we should say that, in view of the foregoing reports, the reading and presentation of which consume a great deal of valuable time—should be condensed as much as possible. The concentrated essence only should be given. In fact as a rule the compendious form of report is not only generally more acceptable to a public audience, but also much more instructive than one that is elaborated. This will be admitted at once when it is considered that probably not one person in several hundred has the faculty of grasping and retaining the facts and figures of a long statement when it is read to a congregation. The bulk, however, would likely have but little if any difficulty in comprehending a report which simply embodied leading facts. This kind of statement would not necessarily obviate the keeping on record of a more elaborate relation which could be referred to when it became necessary. What is sometimes called "lumping," otherwise denominated "boiling down," is a grateful element in reports that are presented before public assemblies for acceptance, unless in the case of an exhibit of purely financial or business facts.

In the minutes of the Conference, which were crowded out yesterday, will be found a preamble and resolutions unanimously adopted. They embody the sentiment of the young people generally in reference to the promoters of and sympathizers with the persecutive crusade against the "Mormon" people. They also express the determination of the youth to stand by their parents and friends who are so inhumanly assailed by those who are seeking to break up peaceful and virtuous families and cast offending citizens into prison. If they can do nothing more they can withhold business patronage from those who are conducting and aiding the crusade. Probably no body of the community can wield a more potent influence in that direction than the young people, of whom Utah has every reason to be proud.

Some of the opponents of "Mormonism" appear to "Lay the flattering unction to their souls" that because a few of the youth turn against the fountain from whence they sprang and, snake-like, sting the hand that fed them, that a process of apostasy is extensive among the rising generation. No greater mistake than this could be made. The great majority of the youth are as brave as any race that ever lived, and as true in their interitags as the everlasting hills. They will stand under all circumstances and will form the nucleus of one of the grandest and purest commonwealths ever seen on earth.

"SOUND AND FURY SIGNIFYING NOTHING."

The "vindication of law" and the "administration of justice" are phrases so full of sound and seeming sense, that we have learned to regard them, partly through their great antiquity, as the very embodiment of wisdom, excellence and propriety. And so they are, when their application is as full of harmony as the syllables composing the phrases. Unfortunately, however, this is not always the case. In a country like this, or rather under a regime such

as that which poor Utah is at present afflicted with, such high-sounding sentences may be used to cover up the most flagrant violations of law, and the most infamous acts of injustice that could possibly be perpetrated.

Where is the law, for instance, and where, oh! where, is its vindication, when the first great law of the land, the Constitution of the United States, must be trampled upon and torn to tatters to admit of partisan legislation against a persecuted religion, supposed to have an equal claim for protection from such outrages, with any other creed sheltered theoretically by theegis of American liberty? Where is the law and its boasted vindication, when an act passed by Congress to govern the jury system of Utah and accord to "Mormon" and Gentile equal privileges, is set aside by the local courts and juries packed, by open venire process, with the accused party's sworn enemies, with whom mercy is an unknown virtue and his conviction a foregone conclusion? Where is the law and its vindication, when its minions are empowered to enter and ransack the peaceful abodes of citizens at all hours of the day and night, without search warrants, frightening sick women and timid girls, and with unwarrantable searches and seizures, accomplishing unlawfully what they cannot or will not do by adhering strictly to the spirit, or even to the letter of the enactment under which they pretend to be operating?

And as to justice! Where is the justice of haling to imprisonment or hounding to disgrace a body of peaceable, virtuous religionists, whose only offense at most is practising their religion under the privilege guaranteed by the supreme law of the land, and simultaneously permitting as vile a horde of scoundrels and scapegraces as ever went unhung to ply as a habit and vocation the most detestable crimes known to the catalogue, unmolested and undisturbed by judges, juries, marshals, deputies, or the prowling sneaks whom they hire to do the dirty work they are ashamed to be seen doing, but are not too proud to be paid for?

Where is the justice—if that is the end sought—of tearing a kind husband and loving father from his tender wife and group of little children, dependent upon him for their daily bread, ruining him financially and incarcerating him in a dungeon, because forsooth some low-lived scoundrel has accused him of something which may never be finally proven against him, and because those having in hand the prosecution of the vexatious proceeding are his personal and political foes? Is this justice? Would it be justice, even if the man were guilty of the awful sin of plural marriage, to thrust him into prison and leave his wives and children, whom he loves and cares for, to starve, unpitied, or be dependent upon others for their support? It may be law, and it certainly is inhumanity; but it is neither mercy nor justice. What, then, would it be if, after all, the case should be dismissed, nothing should be finally substantiated, and the defendant, beggared in purse, harassed in mind and worn out in body, is told by the gentlemanly Prosecutor or the upright Judge, that it seems there was nothing in the charge made against him, but they thought there was, and the ends of justice had to be vindicated in his persecution, until he was able to disprove all that had been advanced against him and go forth a free man. In any other civilized country under the sun, or in any other part of the country but here, the accused would be held innocent until proven guilty, and the burden of proof would rest upon the prosecution. But here a man or woman—for no citizen is safe—may be caught up suddenly on a bench-warrant, without any evidence whatever, forced to give bonds or go to prison, and wait till an indictment can be found against him; tried before a hostile judge and jury, sentenced as a matter of course and punished pending his appeal to a higher tribunal, thus robbing him of every right which for ages the accused in a criminal trial has possessed. And this is called the supremacy of law and the administration of justice. God save the mark! The courts of the Spanish Inquisition could prate about such things with as much consistency, and did so, to the scorn, laughter and loathing of all succeeding ages. Call the crusade against the unpopular "Mormons" by what other name you will, but for the sake of outraged earth and offended heaven, talk no more of law and justice, until illegal and one-sided methods of dispensing those rarities, have been superseded by ways that humanity in the present age is not ashamed of, and all future history will not execrate and despise.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly Conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations of Salt Lake Stake was held in the Assembly Hall on Monday evening, Geo. C. Lambert, presiding.

The Tabernacle choir was in attendance, and sang the two opening hymns.

Prayer was offered by Elder Wm. R. Jones.

The roll of the forty-one associations included in the Stake, being called by

Brother George F. Felt, who acted as clerk pro tem., as was very generally responded to. He then read the statistical report for the past five months of each of the several associations (except those of Mill Creek, Taylorsville and Granger, from which no reports had been received) showing a total of 2,487 members, 1,787 of whom are males and 700 females; with an average attendance of 1,935. The total number of meetings held were 694; while 451 visitors had been sent out and 534 received; and 29 members of the associations were reported as being upon missions.

A band of young musicians, numbering a score or more, mostly members of the 8th Ward Improvement Association, and having for instruments a violin, a number of guitars and several harmonicas, then played an air, which so delighted the audience that it was scarcely possible to repress the disposition to applaud.

A speech on mental and moral culture, was then delivered by Elder Nephi Y. Schofield, a member of the 20th Ward Institute, which was replete with good ideas and sound advice.

This was followed by five members of the 15th Ward Association singing "Evening Bells."

Then came a lecture by Elder Josiah Burrows, of the 21st Ward Association, on the life of David W. Patten, the first apostle of this dispensation who was martyred. The subject proved to be a very interesting one, and the manner in which it was treated evinced profound study on the part of the speaker, and that he not only possessed a good memory, but a proper appreciation of the character of the great man whose life he reviewed.

Evan Stephens next sang the new song, "A Last Fond Look at Home," with organ accompaniment by Jos. J. Daynes.

Elder Edwin F. Parry, of the Sixteenth Ward Association, then read an essay written for the occasion, which was published in yesterday's News under the title of "How Excellence is Obtained."

This was followed by another tune from the band, and then Elder Geo. C. Lambert offered a few remarks on mutual matters in general and the necessity of keeping up the interest in the associations in particular. A continuance of the weekly meetings wherever practicable, throughout the summer season, was recommended, and the holding of meetings once a month at least urged as a necessity. Annual reports were also called for from the various associations, to be handed in not later than April 3rd. The practice of changing officers in the associations every year was discouraged, unless there existed some good reason for it. If they were efficient and faithful there was no reason why they should not be retained in office year after year. The subject of withholding patronage from enemies was also spoken upon and the following preamble and resolutions bearing upon the same were read and unanimously adopted as the sense of the meeting:

Whereas, There exists in the Territory of Utah at the present time a conspiracy against the peace and liberties of the community of Latter-day Saints generally, and our parents and friends particularly, and

Whereas, The conduct of those engaged in this attack upon the people of whom we form a part is, besides being inhuman, cruel and brutal, in direct opposition to constitutional principles and the true genius of the genuine American system of government, which we are bound to uphold; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we consider the course of those anti-"Mormon" crusaders as utterly detestable and reprehensible; also,

Resolved, That we view such characters in the light of enemies of mankind in general and of the Latter-day Saints in particular; therefore, be it further

Resolved, That we mutually agree to withhold from them and all who give them aid and sympathy, all business patronage and use our influence to induce all others to take a similar course; also

Resolved, That henceforward we will patronize those only who are friends of the community of Latter-day Saints, and that we will take a course in all other respects to preserve the liberties of mankind in general, without respect to class or nationality.

It was advised that the foregoing also be presented before the several associations of the Stake for their adoption.

The name of R. B. Young, as the second counselor to Joseph H. Felt, in the superintendency of the Y. M. M. I. A. of the Stake, was also presented and unanimously sustained.

After singing by the choir, the benediction was pronounced by Elder R. B. Young, and this ended the most successful Conference of the young people yet held in this city, the Assembly Hall on the occasion being completely filled with a very orderly congregation.

HOW EXCELLENCE IS ACQUIRED.

AN ESSAY BY EDWIN F. PARRY, READ AT THE M. I. CONFERENCE LAST EVENING.

It is supposed by many that persons who possess extraordinary ability in any line of business or study, are gifted more than usually with natural talent or genius. Very often the excellence one attains in a certain direction is entirely attributed to his natural endow-

ments. Such ideas are entertained by a great many, to their own disadvantage and injury; for when they discover that their own native aptitude will not enable them to produce any great results without a good deal of labor and painstaking, they immediately conclude that they possess no talent, and soon give way to discouragement.

It may be true that all are not gifted equally, still it does not always follow that those who are most highly endowed by nature are the most successful, or acquire the greatest excellence in any pursuit. On the contrary, there are numerous instances that might be cited which go to prove that this is not the fact. No person, however highly gifted, has ever achieved anything great or praiseworthy by virtue of that gift alone. On the other hand, there is no one so lacking in natural ability that he cannot acquire excellence in some direction if he will labor persistently to that end.

It is a generally believed opinion that a good use can be made of everything found in nature—that the Lord has created nothing in vain; and mankind have by their ingenuity discovered some worthy purpose to which they can apply almost every substance known. So every human being is fitted by nature and designed by the Creator to fill some important position in life whereby he can become a benefactor to his race; but it is his individual duty to learn for what he is best adapted and then to qualify himself for that position. To do this requires labor, constant application and perseverance. The most precious metal in its natural, crude state is useless and is only made valuable by the labor bestowed upon it. And it very often happens that the metals considered the least precious in themselves are made to be of the greatest worth by the amount of work and attention exercised in forming them into useful articles. With mankind it is very much the same way. Those who have been the least favored by nature or fortune have by their own exertions brought themselves to the highest standard of usefulness and importance.

No one has any cause to feel discouraged because he is not talented. If he has an inclination, a desire and ability for hard labor, he is more fortunate than if he were blessed with remarkable natural powers. More men have arisen to real excellence and greatness by hard toil than by any other means.

If we will take the trouble to read of the achievements of great men, and how they accomplished the works they performed, we would readily come to the conclusion that there is no true excellence without labor. And if it were possible for us to learn the history of the many inventions and contrivances brought forth for the use of man, we would be surprised at the amount of time and trouble they cost the individuals who were the means of producing them. Many inventors have spent the greater part of their lives in perfecting single contrivances. We would be equally astonished to know what exertions men have made in order to become proficient in certain arts and sciences. It is no uncommon thing for musicians to practice from ten to twelve hours every day to attain to as great efficiency as possible in their favorite study. Those who have become famous as composers are quite as persistent workers. Not less than from fifteen to twenty years have been spent by some of them in completing compositions that might be wholly rendered in one evening's entertainment. Many of the most beautiful poems we have are the results of much study and deep thought. Authors very often write and re-write, revise and correct their productions a great many times before placing them into the hands of the printer. Painters occupy months and years upon works that appear quite insignificant to those uneducated in the art. Weeks and months are spent by sculptors upon their works after they are apparently completed, in order to finish them in the minutest particulars. In fact it is this great attention given to what might be considered by some to be the smallest details that is the cause of success with most great masters.

In short, therefore, what is most required to attain excellence is labor, patience, determination and perseverance, ever having in aim the object we wish to accomplish. Knowledge and skill are indispensably necessary; but one possessing the qualities mentioned will be fully able to acquire the latter. No one should take into consideration the time necessary to perform anything well. Nothing done in haste is of the most excellent quality. We are informed that the Lord, who is all-powerful and possesses all knowledge, occupied six thousand of our years in bringing the earth upon which we dwell into a fit state for the abode of man.

A TRAGIC OCCURRENCE.

A CHILD BURNED TO DEATH AT CIRCLEVILLE.

JUNCTION, Piute Co., Utah, March 10, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

A fearful occurrence took place on the 4th inst. at about 5 o'clock p.m., in Circleville, about six miles south and west of this place, by which a little son of Jetson H. Button, nearly four years old, was burned to death. The circumstances, as related, were as follows:

The members of the family were all in the house when the little boy was

seen on the bed examining his brother's coat, which hung against the wall, and it seems he took a match from the pocket and went out unnoticed. Going to the stackyard he set fire to some hay which was inside a building, composed of logs and lumber. He had crawled through an opening between the logs and got inside, and it is supposed that as soon as the fire began to burn, his place of entrance was blocked so that he could not get out. The notice of the family was first attracted by hearing him scream and on rushing out of the house they were horrified to find the barn and stable on fire and the child inside. The wind was blowing at the time, causing the fire to make quick progress, and when the father succeeded in removing a board from the side of the building with the hope of making an entrance and rescuing the child, the flames puffed into his face and his efforts were in vain, and it seemed only the work of an instant until he saw the child raise its hands and fall on its face overpowered by the fire.

The nearest neighbors, who were some distance away, hastened to the scene, but all they could do for the child was to dash water on to the body and prevent its being burned to ashes, and it was not recovered until badly charred in places.

The loss of property to the family was heavy, but will hardly be noticed on account of the more deplorable circumstances connected with the sad affair. Mr. Button and family have the sympathy of the entire community in their heavy affliction.

Respectfully,
JOHN MORRILL.

BEAVER COURT ITEMS.

A Salt Lake Attorney makes a trip to the Second District and attends Boreman's Court.

BEAVER CITY, March 14, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

On Thursday last, the Utah Central conveyed from the capital city this unworthy correspondent en route for the arena of judicial action known as Beaver City, the headquarters of the Second Judicial District, and the restless and uncertain seat of His Honor Judge Boreman.

At Juab we changed cars, and were furnished with a bed for the night's travel for an extra dollar, reaching Milford station at about 5:30 next morning. Here we took breakfast, and at 8 o'clock mounted

THE "STAGE,"

Which, on this occasion consisted of a buckboard. The seat beside the driver was the only one, and was made as comfortable as the rude circumstances would permit. The time made was five miles an hour, and may be deemed somewhat miraculous when we consider the condition of the stock. The near horse, a cayuse of the most radical type, and the off one—a little uncertain on his pins—would be described by an English jockey as "a trifle groggy before and a bit stiff behind." The driver—a man named Kelsey—was quite chatty and agreeable. At Minersville we changed horses, and got safely buckled on to the real stage, called with good reason by the drivers,

A "JERKEY."

The team now consisted of a sorrel that had seen hard times, and a bay with a lame fore-foot. The driver, named McKnight, said he had got gravel or sand in it. I observed that if that was the case, it was all the "sand" there was in him. The 20 mile trip from there to Beaver didn't improve his gait or his appearance, and the keen eye of the Jehu was kept busy exploring new territory on which to administer the whip with the desired effect.

We reached Beaver at 3.30 p.m., notwithstanding these

TRIPLING IMPEDIMENTS TO TRAVEL,

and the Centennial Hotel on Main St. received into its somewhat primitive embrace the tired traveler and his valise at \$1.50 per day or \$8 per week—three meals a day and two on Sunday.

THE DISTRICT COURT

is held in the County Court House, for which the county receives \$600 per annum. It is a neat and somewhat dignified structure, designed by Hon. Jas. Lowe, the mayor of Beaver City, who is quite a genius, and prominent in public affairs generally.

The Judge sits on an elevated stand and administers judicial wisdom from his lofty bench with all the grandiloquence of one deeply learned in the law. The only

POLYGAMY CASE

on hand was, as the Irishman would say, for unlawful cohabitation. The lady with whom this flagrant outrage upon the modern law was committed has, I understand, been the wife of the accused for about 32 years, more or less; and as may be supposed stoops beneath the burden of about 50 or 60 winters. While the "culprit" has reached a ripe old age, and rejoices in the honorable adornment of grey hair, and beard of the same suggestive hue.

To the credit of the prosecutor be it said, the accused was totally unknown to that official until he was arraigned in court and

PLEAD GUILTY TO THE CHARGE.

Mr. Snow then investigated the case