

"The groves were God's first Temples" was most beautifully exemplified here when a humble group of worshippers gathered under the wide-spreading branches of a sturdy sugar-water tree, which showed all the rustic beauty nature everywhere in her primitive order presents.

The conference was called to order at 2 p.m.

There were present on the stand: President of the mission, Wm. Spry; President of the conference, D. H. Ensign; traveling Elders, Joshua Homer, C. S. Wood, R. G. Shields, Robert McMichael, Mabouri M. Brown, James Duncan (who had just been transferred from the Georgia to this conference, and John Hansen.

Elder James B. Clark, through ill-health, was unable to attend; and will return home at his earliest convenience.

The opening prayer was offered by Elder Joshua Homer.

The speakers were President D. H. Ensign, Elders M. M. Brown, Robert McMichael and President William Spry.

The last had great pleasure in meeting with the Latter-day Saints whether at home or abroad, as among them a kindly and brotherly feeling was always present. The Elders of Israel have unbounded love for their fellowmen, and in their zeal to set before them, in purity, the Gospel of Christ, often use apparently harsh language, to which, too often, exception is taken, and some go away with wounded feelings when no offense was intended. He hoped none of the listeners would do this, but judge rather by the spirit than the letter. None hold a monopoly upon the Gospel, it being free to all who are willing to put themselves in a way to receive it. He urged upon the Saints the necessity of gathering as the judgments of God had already commenced and would continue to follow each other in rapid succession. Besides, the Saints could not fully partake of the blessings the Gospel afforded while in the world.

Meeting closed by singing. Benediction by James Duncan.

Second day.—At the time set for opening meeting the benches were nearly all filled. Conference opened at 2 p.m.

Singing by Elders and congregation. Opening prayer was offered by President William Spry. Singing.

The speakers were Elders G. S. Wood, John Hansen, R. G. Shields, Joshua Homer and James Duncan; also President William Spry, who desired those present to weigh carefully what had been said according to the "law and the testimony," and wherein they found it to be correct not to discard it; called upon all who considered salvation worth gaining to accept the pure and undefiled Gospel of Christ as committed to man anew in this last dispensation.

President D. H. Ensign, in behalf of all the Elders, thanked the people for the good order and attention

given and asked God's blessings upon them.

Conference closed by singing. Benediction by President D. H. Ensign.

The Elders feel greatly indebted to the Saints and their friends of the Cove for their untiring kindness and hospitality. Often when their (the Elders') minds revert back to their little conference a silent prayer will fall from their lips in behalf of friends so thoughtfully kind.

The unmistakable evidence of the presence of the Spirit of God during our whole conference was greatly manifested in the good spirit that prevailed. This was especially so in our council meeting, when an influence was present and felt as is never known except where the pure, virtuous, and heavenly combine.

The Elders were assigned to labor as follows: Brothers D. H. Ensign and James Duncan to labor in this and the Grant County fields. Elders John Hansen and M. M. Brown to try for an opening in Randolph County, W. Va., and C. S. Wood and R. G. Shields to develop the field in Highland County, Va.

Elders Joshua Homer and Robert McMichael were released, the former on account of sickness in his father's family, the latter owing to his own ill health.

JOHN HANSEN,
Clerk of Conference.

MATHIAS, Hardy County, W. Va., Aug. 28, 1889.

RELICS OF THE MOUND-BUILDERS.

A FRIEND has handed to us a copy of the Hillsborough, Ohio, *Gazette* of late date, from which we take the following:

Prof. Putnam, the gentleman who has been engaged for the past three years in managing Serpent Mound Park and excavating the mounds and graves in that place, was in the city on Monday evening on his return from Madisonville, where he had gone to see about some relics of the Mound-builders. In a short conversation which he had with some gentlemen he gave some very interesting information in regard to the work he has been pursuing. He is certain that some of the graves opened contain the skeletons of human beings sacrificed by fire, and substantiates this opinion by many incidents. In one grave at the Serpent Mound two headless skeletons were found covered with charred wood and earth. Near the hand of one was a portion of a stone implement, the remaining portion of which was found a short distance away in a place where the sacrifice had evidently taken place. In speaking of this Prof. Putnam said that he had noticed, in a grave near Madisonville, two headless skeletons, lying across each other in shape of a star, while in a circle around them were sixteen skeleton heads, each of which had the four principal bones of the head—the occipital, two parietal and frontal—pierced with two holes as if they had been ornamented. There are two kinds

of skeletons found in the Ohio Valley—the short heads and long heads. The former Prof. Putnam thinks came from the south, as the shape of the head resembles those of Central America and the Indians of the southwest. The long heads came from the north down to the coast of the two great oceans, as far as northern California, and then came toward the centre, and near this section met and conquered the short heads. There is a line of earthworks from the Alleghanies to the Mississippi River, along about the same parallel, notable instances of them being Fort Hill, Fort Ancient, one in Butler County, others in Kentucky and the southern part of Illinois, etc. The long heads evidently conquered, for the skeletons of the short heads are much greater in number than those of their foes. In some burial places are nothing but short heads, others contain only long heads, while others have a mixture of both. In answer to a question as to the date these people lived here, Prof. Putnam stated that it was at least over a thousand years ago—not being able of course to tell how much earlier the peculiar people inhabited the country. From the two races he thinks the American Indian evolved. Prof. Putnam is a very interesting and entertaining gentleman and delights in giving information about the subject that has been the object of his researches for so long. He returned to the Serpent Mound on Tuesday morning, accompanied by Dr. W. R. Smith, who has also given much attention to the archaeological research. Dr. Smith returned on Wednesday evening highly pleased with his visit to the Great Serpent and other interesting mounds and graves in that vicinity.

MEDICINAL VEGETABLES.

The following information may be useful to some at this season of the year, if not new to many:

Spinach has a direct effect upon the kidneys.

The common dandelion, used as greens, is excellent for the same trouble.

Asparagus purges the blood.

Celery acts admirably upon the nervous system, and is a cure for rheumatism and neuralgia.

Tomatoes act upon the liver.

Beets and turnips are excellent appetizers.

Lettuce and cucumbers are cooling in their effects upon the system.

Onions, garlic, leeks, olives, and shallots, all of which are similar, possess medicinal virtues of a marked character, stimulating the circulatory system and the consequent increase of the saliva and the gastric juice promoting digestion.

Red onions are an excellent diuretic, and the white ones are recommended to be eaten raw as a remedy for insomnia. They are a tonic and nutritious.

A soup made from onions is regarded by the French as an excellent restorative in debility of the digestive organs.—*Scientific American*.