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Mr. James Dwyer is special agent for the heliotype pictures in Salt Lake City.

Correspondence.

The Regular Session—Reading the Message—Infernal Atmosphere—Reduced Cost of Living—Where and How Members of Congress Live.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

The extra session has been quietly merged into the regular session of Congress. The first Monday of November has heretofore been a day of much political interest, and the opening of Congress the occasion for an over-crowded capitol, but this has seemed to be a day of less than ordinary interest. I was surprised to find the galleries of the House and Senate not more than two-thirds full.

The reading of the President's message is a monotonous formality. In the House the clerk reads in a voice distinct and commensurate in volume with the area of the room, and the turbulence of noisy members that has to be overcome, while, in the smaller Senate chamber, and to the better beloved senators, the reader does not find it necessary to raise his voice above a conversational tone. Neither senators nor members pay much attention to the reading of the message, but employ the time in writing, reading newspapers, or, perhaps, in looking over those parts of the message that are of special interest to them. After the reading had been concluded both houses adjourned, the Senate for two days; it needs rest, for its arduous vigil over the Butler and Kellogg cases have impaired its energy if not its stamina. Not every man can endure to sit up "o' nights" and breathe furnace air. The experiment killed Senator Bogy, and has sapped or impaired the health of many others. It was not exciting debate or consuming passions engendered in political strife that sent Conkling across the Atlantic in search of health, and have given Blaine and Lamar their sallow, wearied appearance, and heavy, inelastic step, more than the infernal (I use the word in its etymological sense, the air comes from the furnaces below), devitalized atmosphere which they are compelled to breathe, and which no one can inhale without injury to health.

Now that the regular session has commenced, and the fashionable season is opening it may be of interest to the many who will come to Washington to see "the sights," to learn that the expense of living has been very much reduced since last winter. Good board may be had at a number of places for twenty-five cents per meal. At a fashionable restaurant, where, three years ago, a luncheon would cost from seventy-five cents to a dollar, a good dinner may now be obtained for fifty cents. One of the first class hotels advertises table board for \$25 per month, and at a restaurant recently established six courses, including a half bottle of claret, are given for seventy-five cents. In regard to lodgings, the price of rooms varies with their size, location and furniture. A small furnished room may be rented for seven or eight dollars per month, while larger and more elegantly furnished apartments cost no more than from fifteen to twenty dollars, and when the renter expresses his intention to remain three or four months he can secure the room for less. There are one or two places where board is offered for fourteen dollars per month, but the fare, as might be expected, is very poor in quality and quantity. For those who de-

sire to spend a few days and a great deal of money at the national Capitol, the amplest facilities are still afforded. Some of the old hotels still stand out in their charges, and there is at least one restaurant where the luxury of paying a dollar and fifty cents for a small but highly artistic luncheon may be enjoyed, but it is scarcely necessary to say that these stylish places have not their former patronage. Hotels, like statesmen, dogs, and other individuals, have their day of prosperity, and it is plain that the numerous cheap houses are cutting down the profits of the big hotels very rapidly. It is remarkable to see the great number of well-dressed and apparently well-to-do people who go to the less expensive places. Their patronage is made up largely of government employees, but they are frequented also by professional men and their families, lawyers, journalists and physicians. The first-class hotels, with their extortionate prices of five and six dollars per day, will doubtless have to succumb sooner or later, and be re-organized with less style and display, but not necessarily with less of solid comfort for their guests. While many members of Congress get their meals at the hotels, a large majority of them have apartments elsewhere; usually a parlor and sleeping room, on the first or second floor, for which they pay from forty to a hundred dollars, according to locality and elegance of furniture. The favorite localities for the more aristocratic members of Congress are near Franklin and Lafayette Squares, on the streets bounded north and south by F and K, and east and west by 12th and 18th Streets. They are not however confined within these boundaries, but are scattered promiscuously. Some live on Capitol Hill, others in Georgetown, and Senator Withers of Virginia sleeps in his native State every night, at Alexandria, six miles from the capitol, and on the opposite side of the Potomac. Recently, during the exciting struggle for supremacy in the Senate, he found himself cut off from Washington by the swollen condition of the river. The regular ferry boat had ceased running, but the Senator, equal to the emergency, hired a tug and made the perilous passage, arriving in time to cast his vote.

C. A. S.

Labor and Prospects—Poor Saints in Europe—Why Don't You Write and Send the Papers?

SHEFFIELD, England,

Nov. 18, 1877.

Editors Deseret News:

You will perhaps have seen that my lot has been cast in the Sheffield conference of the English mission. I, with my brother Warren, arrived in Sheffield May 30th, and I labored as a travelling elder under the presidency of Elder W. C. A. Smoot, until October 16th, when he was released to return home, and I was called to succeed him.

About August 1st Elder Alma B. Dunford also came to labor in this conference.

We have devoted our time exclusively to the ministry, traveling among the people, both saints and strangers, generally going on foot, have held many outdoor meetings during the summer season, in various places, preaching to congregations varying from a score or two up to near a thousand, to whom we have set forth the plain principles of the gospel, scripturally, to the best of our ability, and bore a strong, earnest and honest testimony of the truth of this work, of the divine mission of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, etc., which, like "bread cast upon the waters," we hope will yet be seen, and bear fruit. A few have yielded obedience to the principles of life, eternal life, besides our laboring among, preaching to, building up and encouraging those of the saints who are yet in this country, struggling for life, and for emancipation from the bondage and thralldom of Babylon. My heart aches for, and is filled with pity towards, the many honest Saints I find yet in Old England, not a few of whom are from fifteen to twenty-five and even thirty-four years' standing, and are still looking forward in the hopes of yet gathering to Zion, which hopes I trust, in many cases, will be realized. Many look to and hope for assistance from relatives and friends who have gone before, with promises and

pledges that they would do all in their power to help them out. Yet, in too many cases, years have passed, and still the anxiously looked-for aid does not come, though to this there are honorable exceptions. It would almost seem that "out of sight, out of mind," or that friends forget the pit from whence they were so recently dug. When I behold the poverty of England's poor, and see that times are hard here, and work is bad, and getting worse, with wages low, I can see but slim prospects of the most of the Saints being able to emigrate, only through the helping hand of friends gone and others who are interested in the gathering of Israel. Those who, have promised, or those who through kindred ties or other obligations, ought to help those here, should certainly never rest, nor fail to do all in their power, in reason, to help those still in Babylon. War clouds hang over this and other European nations, which may, too soon, engulf them in all the horrors of the bloody conflict now raging in the east, which intensifies the longing desire of Saints here to gather home.

The DESERET NEWS, which I am pleased to say, comes regularly to my address, is ever a most welcome visitor. Its pages, ever filled with rich and instructive matter, are perused with much interest by myself, co-laborers, and many others in this conference. It is read and re-read, and passed from hand to hand, not only amongst the Saints, but many who are not of us. It is a great dispenser of truth, as well as a powerful instrument in allaying falsehood, prejudice, misrepresentation, &c. concerning the Latter-day Saints. It would be well if those in Zion who have relatives or friends in this or other countries, would send many more of its numbers to them, also write more and oftener to those yet in the world, for they little realize the good that a kind and interesting letter does, to the many who read or hear it read.

I am pleased to say that the health of myself and co-laborers is, notwithstanding the cold, wet, and inclement season of the year, reasonably good, and we are trying to be alive to our duties.

Your brother in the gospel,
ALMA L. SMITH.

RICHFIELD STAKE CONFERENCE.

Report of Minutes of a Quarterly Conference held at Richfield, Sevier Co., Saturday the 24th, and Sunday the 25th ultimo.

Present: of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Orson Hyde, accompanied by James A. Allred of Spring City; of the Presidency of the Stake, Elders F. Spencer and Wm. H. Seegmiller. Several bishops and others of the different wards.

Meeting commenced on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Singing by the choir.
Prayer by Patriarch Wm. McBride. Singing.

Elder Orson Hyde addressed the Saints, of whom there were many from the several Wards of the Sevier Stake of Zion, and manifested a strong desire to edify, instruct, correct and bless the people of Richfield, whom he had frequently visited in times of Indian hostilities and had evinced then as now, a more than common interest in their prosperity and general welfare.

Elder James A. Allred followed, fully endorsing the remarks made, and treated on the degrees of responsibility which attached to every one holding the priesthood, the necessity of humility and the force of example; alluded also to the testimonies borne by many who often fell into darkness and apostatized from the truth.

President Spencer counseled all to give heed to what had been spoken; desired the bishops and people of Richfield to be hospitable and kind to the brethren from the settlements.

Meeting adjourned until 2 p.m.

Choir sang.
Benediction by President Wm. H. Seegmiller.

Re-assembled at 2 p.m.

Singing by the choir.
Prayer by Brother Wm. A. Stewart.

Singing.

Elder Hyde treated freely on U. O. matters and the peculiar condition of things incident thereto, recommending prompt and decisive action in the winding up of its af-

fairs in Richfield, exhorting the directors and clerks to do all that could be done to effect a satisfactory and straightforward clearing up of accounts and counselling all to patience and forbearance and integrity.

The several wards were represented by the bishops or their counselors, and written reports, so far as prepared and completed, were handed to the Stake Recorder for historical preservation. Although some had failed to accomplish this yet it was apparent that the design was being prosecuted and the hope is earnestly entertained that it will prove a success next conference and in time for a full and complete report for the semi-annual general conference of 6th of April, A. D. 1878.

President Hyde desired that the Priests, Teachers and Deacons labor with the people to see that their names are recorded with the saints in the proper way and filed with the clerk of conference; laid it on the authorities of the Stake to see that suitable blanks be provided for this purpose; and to see that they are filled up correctly, that the saints be fully identified with the building up of the kingdom of God.

Choir sang.
Benediction by Elder Geo. W. Bean.

Sunday, 10 a.m.

Choir sang.
Prayer by Elder Wm. H. Seegmiller.

Choir sang.

Elder Hyde spoke on the building of meeting and school houses, and the kind of teachers; how to provide for our schools, and the kind of books to use. He also spoke of the evil tendency of saloons and the sale of intoxicating liquors, and counseled immediate steps for the suppression of such in our midst; exhorted the brethren to resort to arbitration in matters of difficulty, and not go to law; alluded also to the practice arising of parties claiming residence with a view to procure divorces, as tending to evil, and never intended by our lawmakers.

Elder Joseph S. Horne, of Gunnison, spoke of his labors while on his mission to Europe, of the great union among the few Saints in distant lands; of the condition of things among the nations of the earth; and of the slackness of the Saints in Utah to correspond with their kindred and friends in their native lands. Exhorted to diligence and unity in the work of God, and a cessation from fault-finding; exhorted to humility and charity.

President Wm. H. Seegmiller hoped that our experience of the past would be a useful lesson to us in the future. The Kingdom of God was one of order, and its principles had to be practised. He exhorted to continuance in well doing.

Singing by the choir.
Benediction by Bishop Tarleton Lewis.

2 p.m.

Singing by the choir.
Prayer by Bro. Aldroyd.

Singing by the choir.

Sacrament administered.

President Hyde said in relation to the United Order, I am not going to speak against it, nor do I feel against it, and although you are being disorganized here, be not discouraged. Here is an evidence that you have tried to do the will of God, and it will be a record in your favor. I am sorry that you failed to carry it out. Said many things and kindred subjects calculated to facilitate the proper settlement of all matters affecting the welfare and prosperity of the people. Warned the boards of management in all co-operative institutions to do right.

After which the Authorities of the Church were presented as follows:

The General Authorities of the Church as sustained at the last General Conference.

Franklin Spencer, as president of the Sevier Stake, Albert K. Thurber and Wm. H. Seegmiller his counselors.

Wm. McBride as patriarch.

Wm. Morrison as president of the high priests; Tarleton Lewis and Elias Johnson his counselors.

As Members of the High Council:—Andrew Heppler, Albert D. Thurber, Thomas Hunt, John Anderson, Joseph K. Rogers, James A. Wells, Hans Christensen, Ralph Ramsay, Andrew Polson, Niels

Turson, Russell Kelley and O. A. Andeline.

Paul Polson, Bishop of the 1st Ward, Richfield, Lars P. Christensen and Gottlieb Ence his counselors.

Tarleton Lewis, bishop of the 2nd Ward, Simon Christensen and Andrew N. Jensen, his counselors.

Dennison L. Harris, bishop of Monroe; Andrew Larsen and James Farmer his counselors.

Archibald T. Oldroyd, bishop of Glenwood, and Isaac W. Pierce and George Powell his counselors.

Ezra Curtis, bishop of Salina, Jess P. Steel and Wm. McFadden his counselors.

Wm. A. Stewart, bishop of Inverury, Barney H. Greenwood and Wm. N. Spafford his counselors.

Gideon Murdock, bishop of Joseph, and N. L. Marsing and John Ross his counselors.

Joshua W. Sylvester, bishop of Elsinore, and Jas. C. Jensen and James I. Jensen his counselors.

Peter Gottfredson bishop of Vermillion and Henry Nebeker and Isaac Smith his counselors.

John Johnson bishop of Redmund and J. Jensen and Hans Hansen his counselors.

Joseph R. Wright bishop of Grass Valley and Peter Rasmussen and C. P. Anderson his counselors.

William Ogden president of the First Elders Quorum and Oke Salisbury and James W. Elliott his counselors.

Bent Larsen president of the Second Elders Quorum and John B. Warden and Soren E. Petersen his counselors.

Joseph L. Wall president of the Third Elders Quorum and George Pectol and George Casto his counselors.

Hans P. Miller superintendent of Sunday Schools and Geo. T. Wilson his counselor.

Wm. Morrison as Stake recorder and general historian of Sevier Stake and Ch. I. Kempe his assistant.

All of the above were unanimously sustained except one, whose objections to sustaining Bishop Polson of the Richfield First Ward were delivered on the stand, but proved untenable, and without effect.

Meeting was held again in the evening, when President Spencer spoke with good effect on the duties of one and all throughout the sphere of his labors; commended good schools and careful walking in the line of duty.

Elder James A. Allred occupied a portion of the time, apparently feeling well while speaking of the good things of the kingdom.

Elder Orson Hyde gave a most excellent discourse, full of good will and loving kindness, creating a profound sensation on saint and sinner in favor of the truth, which appeared to great advantage, cheering to the faithful saints and highly calculated to make a lasting and beneficial impression on the minds of any thoughtful observer of the great work of God, rolling forth by the glowing inspiration of his chosen ones even the Twelve Apostles in this dispensation. This closing discourse was indeed full of encouragement to all righteously disposed persons.

Thus closed the services of our Conference, every one almost to a man charged with important duties to perform.

Benediction by Patriarch Wm. McBride.

WM. MORRISON,
CHAS. I. KEMP,
Clerks of Conference.

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