

Supt. George Goddard reported the Sunday Schools verbally, owing to the fact that returns from the schools of the Stake had not been received in time to compile a report in time for conference. He stated there were thirty-five schools in the Stake with a total membership of about 5,500; the attendance would average, 4,000; the largest school in the Stake numbers 400 and the smallest 41 members; \$2,500 had been collected for prizes and other purposes. Though there had been some falling off in attendance, in consequence of so much sickness prevailing, the reports showed a gradual increase in the total membership. There were over 900 teachers enrolled, their classes averaging from 7 to 8 each. He made a strong appeal in behalf of the Sunday school cause, and gave some excellent suggestions in regard to the most efficient system of engaging the attention of the young and old in the advancement of this great work.

President Angus M. Cannon said he trusted that the Saints would sustain the hands of the Tabernacle committee, for, though he regarded it as a privilege to meet in the Theatre, it was not convenient to administer the sacrament there. In regard to the question as to whether both sexes should be admitted to membership in the Y. M. M. I. Associations, he said they should be governed by circumstances, and organize them in a way that they would do the most good. He advised that where wards were able they should purchase libraries, and such books should be selected as would increase the faith of the young in the gospel.

He referred to the great responsibility devolving upon parents to teach their children correct principles.

He said that when the brethren were called on missions they should feel to lay aside worldly cares and their families should not present objections to their going, but let them trust themselves in the hands of the Lord and all would be well with them.

The young should be taught to marry only those of their own faith in order to raise children entitled to the blessings of God.

Prest. Joseph Young made some excellent remarks on the principle of charity towards each others failings, the necessity of the Saints living so that they could enjoy the blessings of that peace which the gospel only affords, and the nature of the duties devolving upon the Seventies.

After singing and prayer, conference adjourned till 2 p. m.

At two p. m., as per adjournment, the Conference reassembled in the Theatre.

After the opening exercises, a report from the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Associations of the Stake, up to December 21st, 1878, was read, showing as follows:

Statistical.—Number of members, 1,085. The associations held their meetings regularly. The exercises consisted of original essays, reading from Church works, speaking, singing and prayer.

Financial.—Donations received, \$1,187.58; disbursed, (of which a large portion had been donated to the Temple,) \$1,039.21; on hand, \$148.37.

Elder Brigham Young addressed the Conference. He said there was a general disposition among the Saints to do right and to labor for the building up of the kingdom, notwithstanding the seeming indifference of many, and the individual differences that might exist. He deplored the folly of some who had gathered from Babylon for the purpose of learning the ways of the Lord and that their children might be free from the influences of the world, and yet would place their little ones under the care of those whose object was the conversion of the children from the faith of their parents. It was of great importance that Sunday school teachers should be efficient and faithful, as they had opportunities of giving instruction which in many instances, others had not. He regarded it as the duty of the Saints to deal with each other, and where advantage was taken, they should frankly speak of it, that confidence might be restored, for that which tended to unite the Saints, in any particular, tended to the prosperity of Zion in all things.

Bishop Edwin D. Woolley next addressed the Conference. He endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers in regard to the Saints sending their children to "Gentile"

teachers, for though they claimed to have advantages above our own schools in some particulars, they obtained their funds from the East by villifying the character of the people here. He was not opposed to the education of the young, and was in favor of their storing their minds with knowledge from every good source.

Bishop Robert T. Burton spoke upon the peculiar organization of the kingdom of God and its adaptability to the circumstances of the people. He referred especially to the importance of having efficient quorums of teachers and priests organized, whose duty it was to visit the families of the Saints, filled with the spirit of their calling and a desire to bless and build up the Saints, by taking them as they found them and endeavoring to lead them along by kindness instead of attempting to drive them.

Bishop Edward Hunter referred to the labors of the several Stakes in building the Salt Lake Temple, and said the Salt Lake Stake compared very favorably with the others in that respect. He felt the great importance of the duties devolving upon the Saints in laboring for the salvation of the living and the redemption of the dead. He referred to the beauty of the organization of the Church and more particularly in relation to the settling of difficulties among the Saints.

President David O. Calder, addressed the conference. Rejoiced in the blessings enjoyed by the saints in being warned of great events about to transpire and the coming of the Son of Man, and in being especially called to prepare for this coming. It was an individual work, and all should endeavor to prepare themselves to respond to the calls of the servants of God, whether it was to labor at home or go to the nations of the earth. Bishops should perform the duties of their callings in all righteousness, without fear or favor even, when all other means had failed to reclaim, to severing the unworthy from the Church.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet January 5th at 10 a. m.

January 5, 10 a. m. Conference reassembled. After the opening services Elder A. Miner addressed the meeting. He referred to the suffering of the Saints in the Old Country, and urged the Saints at home to pay up their indebtedness to the P. E. Fund, and those who were not owing to contribute to it. He gave some excellent instruction on the necessity for union among the Saints, the importance of properly training and influencing the young, of dealing justly and honestly with each other, and the necessity for and consistency of rendering obedience to the priesthood which God has placed over us.

The general authorities of the Church and the authorities of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, and the officers of the various institutions thereof were presented and unanimously sustained as at the previous Conference, with the following exceptions and additions:

The name of Orson Hyde was omitted as one of Twelve Apostles, he having departed this life.

The name of T. Edward Taylor was omitted from the Home Missionary list of the Stake, he being engaged as superintendent *pro tem.* of the 14th Ward Sunday school. The following names were sustained as Home Missionaries in addition to those previously presented: Wm. C. Staines, Aurelius Miner and Rodney C. Badger.

The presidency of the Deacon's Quorum of the 10th Ward was disorganized through the president and one of his counselors being ordained to the Melchisedec Priesthood, and was consequently omitted.

The presidency of the German meetings of the city was presented and the presidency of the Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. Associations, which was omitted at the previous conference.

President A. M. Cannon addressed a few pointed remarks to the conference, in the course of which he referred to the charge that the authorities of the Church were severe. He showed that the saints had obeyed the gospel for the love of truth, at the sacrifice, in many instances, of all they naturally held dear on the earth, and they realize that though the servants of God sometimes spoke in great plainness they did so only for the good of the people, who realized that they were in possession of

the words of life. He spoke of the importance with which the keeping of a pure genealogy was regarded anciently; also of the danger of placing the young under the influence of those who profess so much anxiety to see them properly trained, and who charged ignorance upon the parents, but would not tell them that it was through the priestly intolerance of so called "Christians" that they had been driven from their homes into a wilderness and thus deprived of the advantages of a good education. He exhorted parents to teach their children the principles of the Gospel, that they might not be led into infidelity, but be prepared to measure science by the spirit of God. He exhorted the brethren who were laboring in the midst of the Saints to humbly and faithfully discharge their duties, ever seeking to God for the power and spirit of their callings.

Adjourned till 2 p. m.

Dismissed by singing and prayer.

January 5th, 2 p. m.

Conference re-assembled.

After the opening exercises, President John Taylor delivered a powerful discourse, showing that the Saints were indebted to the Almighty, and not to any superior intelligence of their own, for the knowledge they had received of the truth. All the people of the earth were of the family of God. He showed from the Scriptures that God did all that He could for the salvation of His children, but that He as well as His creations was governed by law, and that if they were destroyed it was because they disobeyed His laws and rejected His warnings. He deplored the folly of so-called learned men who, when they gain a smattering of some few of the laws of God pertaining to the earth, would presume to philosophize away the truths of heaven. The priesthood of God should be full of life, ready at all times to be spent in the service of God and to labor with all their might in the positions to which they were assigned, and the spirit of God would rest upon them; but those who were shirking their duties and hoping to get through and doing as little as they could, were deceiving themselves, and would fall short of the glory they were anticipating. His remarks were reported verbatim.

President Angus M. Cannon said that it was complained that quorum meetings were held on Sunday mornings and thus drew away teachers and others from Sunday schools. He trusted that such meetings would be held in future, as far as possible, at such times as would not interfere with any of the public gatherings of the Saints. He exhorted the Saints to refrain from round dancing, for it was contrary to the counsel of the servants of God; and an influence should be used against it by those in authority. He exhorted the priesthood to be examples to the Saints in the principles they taught them.

Conference adjourned *sine die*, and was dismissed by singing and prayer.

WM. W. TAYLOR, Clerk.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Deseret Sunday School Union (by permission of President John Taylor) was held Sunday evening, the 5th inst, in the Theatre, which was crowded to excess and many had to go away disappointed at not being able to obtain admission. The meeting was opened by the congregation singing.

Come let us anew our journey pursue.
Prayer by Elder C. W. Penrose.
Anthem by the 15th Ward Choir.
The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Superintendent Goddard said the brethren and sisters would notice one peculiar feature in the minutes of the last meeting, and that was that the assistant superintendent and his counselors and the missionaries set apart to visit the Sunday schools, had been blessed; and as it was perfectly right and proper that they should be. He called on Brother Mitchell, as a missionary to the Sunday schools, for a report. Elder F. A. Mitchell said that with Brother L. W. Richards, he had visited four of the city wards since the last meeting. He spoke very highly of the way they were conducted and the good condition they were in, and expressed the pleasure he and his companion had in visiting the Sunday schools.

The Union Glee Club then sang,
O my Father thou that dwellest.

The city and county wards were then called over. All of the city wards were represented and most of the county wards.

The following resolution was then offered by Assistant Superintendent Goddard:

That we will endeavor to do better in 1879 than we have done in 1878.

Counselor Joseph E. Taylor was then asked to speak on the resolution. He attached a great importance to the position of a Sunday school teacher, and spoke of the rewards which would be given to the teacher who is diligent to his or her calling. While giving Bro. Goddard and his assistants great credit which was due them, yet they could not be present at every school, and the local teachers of the different wards had the duties and responsibilities of the schools on their hands. He hoped that the Bishops, though they had plenty of work, would do all in their power to assist the Sunday schools. He stated it was the duty of teachers in visiting their blocks to ask each family whether they sent their children to Sunday school.

The resolution was then put and carried.

2nd Resolution. That we will be united in attending the ward meetings, and observe punctuality, sobriety and family prayer.

President A. M. Cannon was asked to speak on this resolution, who counseled the superintendents to be punctual in commencing their schools to the minute, teachers to commence at the time appointed, and the young to be punctual in all they have to do. Related an interesting circumstance that came under his own notice, of one of our missionaries in the east, who, having an appointment to fill, and being disappointed in getting a conveyance, ran the distance of seven miles on foot and rode 20 miles on horseback rather than forfeit his word, and another in relation to sobriety, of a young man who having resolved not to drink, refused, notwithstanding he received the same temptation and was thrown at him by his fellow-printers. Punctuality will give us character, sobriety will give us reputation and standing in society, and family prayer will bless us all. There is a source of strength in it that no one knows unless they indulge in it. If you will be prompt, sober and industrious, I promise you, the Bishops, the fathers of the people, will bless you. In administering the Sacrament, prepare the hearts of your scholars, so that when it is administered by the Bishop or his council the children will know what it tends to.

The second resolution was put and all voted in favor of it.

The Union Glee Club sang a Sunday school song.

Supt. Goddard asked all who would like to have these meetings held in the New Tabernacle, which would hold all who desired to attend, to hold up the right hand. There was a cordial response.

3d Resolution. That we will continue the use of the *Juvenile Instructor* and the Musical Cards in the Sunday Schools.

Elder C. W. Penrose was then called to make a few remarks on the 3d resolution. He said it was scarcely necessary to recommend the *Juvenile Instructor*, for every Sunday School used it and he hoped every child read it. It was not only good for the young, but for "children of a larger growth." In the *Juvenile Instructor* we have a periodical that advocates and explains the principles of our faith, and nothing is allowed to enter its columns but what tends to good. He hoped that all the parents would see that our children have the privilege of reading it.

The music cards published by the Sunday School Union can be placed in the hands of all our children, for they are published at a nominal price. A good feature of them is, that the sentiments expressed are those of our own faith. All our children should be taught music, as it has a powerful effect in training the soul in the right direction, especially when combined with good sentiments. He hoped the cards would be well patronized. And there is another paper he would here ask the people to patronize, and that was the *Woman's Exponent*. He advised the sisters to write for it as well as subscribe for it, and learn to advance their views

and ideas in well chosen words. He also urged the boys and girls to learn to write for the press, for through the medium of the press our doctrines will yet be scattered broadcast over the face of the earth.

The third resolution was then put and sustained.

The 14th Ward Sunday School sang

Never from Thee will we stray.

Supt. Goddard in his characteristic way said that he had noticed the was sustained at the conference as one of the new tabernacle committee, and inasmuch as it is not quite finished, how pleased he was to see the number of hands held up of those who would like to have our monthly meetings held there. In that he could see a thousand dollars for the tabernacle, and he wished all those who would pay in one dollar or more during the coming month to their bishops for the tabernacle, without being asked for it, to hold up their hands, which was freely responded to. He made a number of cheering remarks, and thanked the choir for their sweet singing.

The congregation sang the Doxology.

Benediction by Supt. Goddard.

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