

JUAB STAKE CONFERENCE.

On Friday evening at 7 o'clock, a priesthood meeting was held in the Tabernacle at Nephi. Present: Of the First Presidency, John Taylor and Joseph F. Smith; of the Apostles, Wilford Woodruff and George Teasdale; visitors, Elders George Reynolds, Wm. Paxman and George F. Gibbs; the Presidency of the State and all the leading authorities. The hall was filled with the local Priesthood.

After the opening exercises the Presidents of the various quorums represented their quorums in a satisfactory manner.

President Teasdale thanked the Priesthood for the manner they had sustained him as President of the Stake, and bore testimony of their advancement and faithful labors.

President Joseph F. Smith gave an excellent discourse upon the duties of the Priesthood, and the glory and exaltation resulting from the magnifying of their various responsibilities and callings.

President W. Woodruff gave a very interesting account of his early labors as a Priest, his experience in magnifying the Atonic Priesthood and the power of God demonstrated in his early labors.

President Taylor concluded by expressing his pleasure at meeting so many of the Priesthood, and briefly alluded to the change about to be made in the Presidency of the Stake, etc.

Saturday, 10 a.m.

The Tabernacle was full. The Nephi Brass Band was out, and a most lively interest was manifested by the people.

The morning was occupied by the Bishops representing their several wards.

President Taylor on hearing of the burning of the Mona Ward meeting-house, introduced the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

Resolved, That we assist in rebuilding that meeting-house. The following amounts being appropriated:

By the Trustees-in-Trust,	\$400.
" Nephi Wards,	800.
" Mona "	200.
" Levan "	100.

President Teasdale spoke upon the pleasant and profitable experience he had enjoyed during his Presidency of the Stake, and referred to the works of the people, demonstrating their steady progress.

President Taylor expressed pleasure at the reports, and gave a most excellent, fatherly discourse, filling the hearts of the Saints with joy.

2 p.m.

The afternoon was occupied by Presidents Woodruff and Taylor. The statistical report was read.

Sunday, 2 p.m.

After the usual exercises, the General Church Authorities were presented, and then the Stake Authorities, as follows:

William Paxman, President of Stake; Joel Grover and Chas. Sperry, Counselors.

Andrew Love, President of the High Priests; Jas. T. Belliston and Thos. G. Schröder, Counselors.

Members of the High Council—Geo. Kendall, K. H. Brown, Saml. Cazier, David Cazier, John Vickers, Thos. Ord, Abraham Orme, Chas. H. Bryan, John D. Chase, John Kinkle, Matthew McCune, Jacob G. Bigler, Jr.

Patricarchs—Jacob G. Bigler, Sr., Kynd H. Brown and John Andrews.

Presidents of Seventies—Benjamin Riches, John Adams and Thos. Wright, Sr.

Presidents of Elders Quorum—Silas L. Jackson, Chas. House and Enoch Bowles.

President of Priests' Quorum—Bishop David Udall.

Nephi, First Ward—Wm. H. Warner, Bishop; Edwin Harley and Thos. Crawley, Counselors.

Nephi, Second Ward—David Udall, Bishop; Langley Allgood Bailey and Thomas Bowles, Counselors.

Mona Ward—John M. Haws, Bishop; Geo. W. McConkie and Wm. Kay, Counselors.

Levan Ward—Niels Aagaard, Bishop; Eli Curtis and Eric Petersen, Counselors.

Bishop's agent, Wm. Paxman, who was also sustained as Stake Superintendent of Sabbath Schools.

President Taylor, Apostle Teasdale, Presidents Joseph F. Smith and Wilford Woodruff occupied the rest of the afternoon and evening. The Tabernacle was crowded to excess, and the universal verdict is that it was the best conference ever

held in Nephi and much good is expected to result therefrom.

On Saturday evening the Y. M. and Y. L. M. I. Associations held a conjoint conference; reports very favorable. Instructions were given by Presidents W. Woodruff and Jos. F. Smith.

On Sunday morning the Sabbath School Conference was held; over 600 scholars were present besides teachers and visitors. Reports from the various superintendents were given, very suitable instructions from Presidents Taylor, W. Woodruff, Jos. F. Smith and Geo. Reynolds; a time long to be remembered. THOS. CRAWLEY, Clerk.

BOX ELDER STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Quarterly conference of Box Elder Stake was held in the Tabernacle, Brigham City, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 27th and 28th.

Saturday, 10 a.m.

On the stand were Apostle Lorenzo Snow, Counselor D. H. Wells, the Stake Presidency and several brethren from a distance.

After singing by the choir and prayer by Bishop Thomas Harper, The Bishops of the 3d and 1st wards of Brigham City, also of North Ward, Willard, Honeyville and Malad, reported the condition of their respective wards, when the meeting was dismissed.

2 p.m.

Aster singing and prayer, Counselor John D. Burt addressed the meeting, bearing testimony to the divine mission of Joseph Smith; counseled honesty and punctuality in the observance of the law of tithing, recommending that a strict and correct record of these matters be kept by the Bishops of the several wards.

Counselor D. H. Wells then addressed the congregation. Subject—The increasing infidelity of the "Christian" world since the Lord had revealed himself to the Prophet Joseph Smith; the nature and calling of the Elders and their mission of mercy to the nations; the great work of redemption for the living and dead that was going on at the present time, of which the world was entirely ignorant; the resurrection of the Saints, and the final triumph of the righteous over every principle of opposition.

The choir sang an anthem, and Bishop O. A. Perry closed.

Sunday, 23th.

After singing, and prayer by Bishop John C. Dewey,

The meeting was addressed by President O. G. Snow, who congratulated the Saints on the zeal they had manifested in the prosecution of their religious duties the past season. While the wicked were endeavoring to proscrib and persecute us, and crush out every principle of freedom and human liberty in this land, the Saints were imperceptibly rearing up the Zion of God, and erecting a standard of liberty for the virtuous of all nations to flow unto.

Prest. Snow was followed by Bishop Hughes, of Mendon, and Supt. C. O. Card, of Logan, Cache County.

After which, Counselor Wells spoke in relation to the many and conflicting systems of religion extant in the present generation. There was but one true Church, all others were spurious and inventions of the devil, of this class was "Christian" monogamy, with all its attendant train of evils and corruptions.

After which the choir sang an anthem, and Bishop A. Nichols closed.

Meeting at 2 p.m.

Singing—prayer by Bishop John D. Jones. The Sacrament was administered by the Priesthood of the Third Ward. Apostle F. D. Richards, who had met with the Conference, Saturday afternoon, addressed the meeting, quoting from the second chapter of Isaiah. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, etc." Proved that this prediction, in a great measure, had already been literally fulfilled. The Latter-day Saints had been gathered to the mountains from twenty different nationalities and this work would continue and increase. Discoursed on the principles of faith, repentance, baptism, etc., and showed that these principles had been taught to Adam and

from him down through the prophets to Joseph Smith, who had seen God and his Son Jesus Christ, and who had been ordained to introduce the gospel in all its ancient fulness; purity and power in this our day.

The choir sang an anthem when the Conference adjourned for three months, with benediction by Charles Kelly.

JAMES BYWATER, Clerk.

Correspondence.

St. Johns, Jan. 24, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

During the last week we have had the deepest snow fall that has been known in this place since its first settlement, about one foot in depth. Since the snow fell the days have been warm and pleasant for this time of year, and the nights extremely frosty and cold.

Since last writing the Pioneer Press has changed hands, it now belongs to the St. Johns Publishing Company, and the Company publish a paper called the *Orion Era*, a small weekly newspaper, being at present edited by M. P. Romney. The paper is independent in politics, and will, so far as possible, be run in the interest of truth and right. We hope that some of our friends in Utah will help to sustain it by subscribing for it, that it may grow, and be a help in building up the interests of the Saints in Arizona. Thus far the Company have labored under disadvantages for proper help, but hope that this will be obviated in the future.

There is a fine prospect for crops next season as the snow is quite deep in the Mogollon Mountains.

There is plenty of room here for more families. This place is capable of sustaining quite a large population, though some who come here leave the place in apparent disgust; but as I have said before this place is far ahead of southern Utah for the facilities to make a comfortable living. Of course we have outside influences to contend with, but that we no doubt will always have until the Kingdom of God is established in power.

Our meetings, Mutual Improvement Associations, Sunday Schools and Relief Societies, are well attended and a good spirit prevails among the people; and for being healthy, I do not think this place is surpassed on the American continent; therefore taking all things into consideration I think we have cause to thank God for the blessings we enjoy, and so far as I am concerned, I care but little where my home is, if I can but live, preserve my integrity, and be worthy of the good will of my brethren and the blessings of our Father in Heaven.

Our mail runs much more regularly than it did formerly. This is pleasing, as we are enabled to hear from our friends oftener.

Our co-operative store recently declared a dividend of thirty-five per cent. for the last eleven months. All is well with us.

AMMAN.

(For the DESERET NEWS.)

THE GOVERNMENT FOUNDERS AND THE TERRITORIES.

The fact that the original founders of our great Government never contemplated the existence of such a political condition as prevails in the Territories to-day, is very plainly apparent to readers of the history of those times in which the American Constitution was framed. But it is still more clear on considering the original articles of confederation and the circumstances leading to their adoption, prior to the drafting of the Constitution.

And we are still more forcibly impressed with this great truth when we go back to the acts of the "Continental Congress," which assembled in Philadelphia on Sept. 5th, 1774. This body of men representing twelve colonies, drew up what was called the declaration of colonial rights, and adopted fourteen articles, known as "The American Association." This was really the beginning of the Union. At a subsequent meeting this Congress appointed a committee to prepare a Declaration of Independence, which document, as is now well known, was duly adopted and signed on July 4, 1776.

It will be perceived that the Union was thus originated with twelve colonies, no States were yet formed or recognized. They were called "The United Colonies of America." But on the 9th of Sep-

tember, 1776, the name was changed to "The United States of America," and for the first time in our history "States" were known and recognized in our government. Georgia was at first left out of the association, but having on July 4th, 1778, appointed Delegates, she was added to the other twelve, and thus the "old thirteen" became the United States of America.

At that time, probably, no such thing as a Territory, or a territorial government, ever occurred to any statesman on all this vast domain.

The Articles of Confederation which followed the Declaration of Independence, were adopted by the Delegates, in Congress assembled, on the 15th day of November, 1777, and provided for perpetual union between the original thirteen States. These were New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

In this confederation "Each State retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled."

A mutual league of friendship was established between the States. In these and these alone were all rights vested, unless delegated to Congress by them. All persons who claimed American citizenship were integral parts of these United States, formed the population and possessed the rights enjoyed in the several sovereign organizations. From them as individuals, casting an unseen ballot, all political power emanated. That no other than a State government was contemplated, apart from the power these States delegated to Congress for the general good, is evident from the provisions made in the articles of confederation and the fact that the original States were all on the Atlantic seaboard. Western settlement was then not to be thought of. The territory or domain being controlled by these States extended from the Atlantic only to the Mississippi, and was regarded as a vast country; sufficient for all present purposes. But it was not at that time contemplated that even new States would so soon be added to the original Union; much less that a new form of government destitute of the spirit and genius of local sovereignty would be established in the great Western region.

The revolutionary war progressed, occupying from 1776 to 1783, and terminated in the establishment of the colonies, in reality as well as in name, "Free and Independent States." The articles of confederation which had formed a bond of union for over six years, were now discovered to be inadequate to the requirements of the rising republic. Congress was recommended to call a general convention to revise the articles. Representatives were sent to this convention which assembled in Philadelphia, in 1787, and planned the most able, comprehensive and liberal document which ever formed the system of a great and glorious Government. The Constitution was signed September 17th, 1787; having occupied four months of intelligent thought and learned labor. Every contingency seems to have been provided for; the work was not hurried, nor any subject slighted which should receive attention. Wise provisions were made for future amendments, but under such regulations as rendered it next to impossible to violate its original principles. In this marvelous and comprehensive document we find the burden of the patriotic mind was, "the United States." States, STATES, STATES, face the reader on every page, and in almost every paragraph; and while Sec. 3, of Article IV wisely provides that new States may be admitted into this Union, the word Territory only occurs once, as signifying landed domain, when speaking of the disposition of the property of the United States.

That any number of American citizens would ever be organized by a Congress, through powers delegated to them by these United States, on any but republican principles, never entered the broad brains of Washington or Jackson. And Section four guarantees to every State, (or in other words every organization in the Union) a republican form of government, protection against invasion, and on application against domestic violence. They were to be equal, free, independent; and by contract to sustain

and defend each other in their guaranteed rights.

In the articles amendatory of the Constitution, as provided therein, we find that "Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Here again is shown the design of the founders of our government to not only allow the utmost possible leeway in matters of local rights, but to ensure the greatest liberty to the citizen. Sovereign rights were to be held by the people, unless delegated by them for a specific purpose to Congress.

When was the sovereign right of self-government, which is inherent in the people, and guaranteed by the framers of our Constitution, ever ceded to Congress by these United States, or the people residing in the Territories? Never! Congress assumed and presumed to specially dictate and locally control. They arrogated to themselves the privilege to legislate for the people located on the public domain, and by congressional acts to govern local affairs in the organized bodies politics of the Union, which by virtue of the Constitution and under its protection, are entitled to self government, and on application, subject to the provisions of that noble document, entitled to admission as free and independent States!

If they desire and claim admission into the Union, by what construction of Constitutional law can they be refused? Until they do; can they be subjected to any but a republican form of government? Can any prescriptive law, or bill of attainder be enforced against them by Congress? Article VIII provides that "no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted." Did the author of that sentiment anticipate a total disfranchisement of citizens without trial? or deprivation of office without conviction before a jury? Well might he have worded that article as it appears in our Constitution, if he had foreseen the condition of the Territories to-day! But those great minds who framed our government, determined to prevent this condition of political slavery. They stamped it out with their hands and seals in 1787, and made it impossible to inflict these outrages upon American citizens, without violating the Constitution they framed, and the spirit of universal liberty they breathed and inculcated!

CON CREGAN.

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