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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . June 13, 1891.

## THE YOUNG MEN'S CONFERENCE.

THE General Conference of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations, held in this city on Sunday and Monday, was a notable event. It was well attended from the beginning. Representatives from various parts of the Territory were present, and the interest exhibited in all the proceedings was marked and gratifying.

Notwithstanding his age and indisposition, suffering as he was from an attack of illness, President Wilford Woodruff attended, and on Sunday afternoon spoke to the conference with great force and clearness. This was a very agreeable feature of the occasion.

The young men who were called on for reports, as well as those who delivered lectures on stated subjects, were noticeably lucid in their ideas and distinct in their enunciation, giving evidence of good training in addressing public audiences. The prepared addresses were all timely, eloquent and succinct, and the impromptu discourses of those who were called upon to speak were pertinent and full of light and life.

The letter read from President Joseph F. Smith was received with great pleasure and satisfaction. It is so long since his voice was heard among the people that his communication was something new and unexpected. It breathed the true spirit of the Gospel of Christ, and was strong in the cause of mutual improvement. Its receipt was a gratifying event of the Conference.

One of the chief, perhaps the most important, things done by the Conference, was the appointment of a number of young men who have been prominent in the associations, to act as missionaries during the fall of the present year. They are to take their knapsacks in their hands and travel without purse or scrip, to labor for a few months among the young men of Israel and lead them into the path of rectitude. Their mission is to reclaim the wayward, to win souls from evil, to strengthen and confirm the faithful, and to promote the cause of mutual

improvement generally. This is to be a labor of love. These workers will receive no present pay for their services, but they will not fail to receive an eternal and abundant reward.

The opportunities for such work are ample. The duty assigned them is of vast importance. It should stimulate them to great exertions, and inspire them to conquer all obstacles. If it is a good thing to be called on a mission to people at a distance, it is as great or a better thing to be counted worthy to work for the reclamation and redemption of the youth in Zion. It will need tact, wisdom, faith and perseverance to render their labors effective. But we do not doubt their success. They should be welcomed wherever they go, and receive the support of all who desire the welfare of our young people and the prevalence of truth and righteousness.

The Conference was admirably conducted and the Spirit of God was manifested throughout. The singing by the soloists, the glee clubs and the Tabernacle choir was excellent, and all the services were very enjoyable.

The musical contest was a novel event, and one that should and will be repeated. It will tend to improvement in the cultivation of the human voice and will stimulate male singers to friendly emulation.

The Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations cannot fail to be benefited by this Conference—the latest and best. They should receive the support and encouragement of our leading men in every settlement, and we hope to hear at the next General Conference of the associations, that not only have their numbers largely increased, but that progress has been made in carrying out the plans devised for their benefit, and that the cause of morality, order, peace and general enlightenment has been promoted in every part of the Territory.

## PURSUING ITS OLD CROOKED PATH.

THE organ of the party of hate and advocate of the policy of disfranchisement for all who do not agree with its notions, is as angry at the dissolution of the People's Party in this county as it was at the cessation of polygamy. It still keeps up the anti-polygamy platitudes with which it regaled its readers a dozen years ago, and hurls its envenomed darts at the empty air where once the People Party was, as though that party still formed a substantial target for its aim.

We are glad that the *Tribune* and the sour and crabbed souls that love its voidings, with the venal creatures who profit by contention, are hostile to

the movement recently commenced along national political lines. Their opposition is evidence that the cause is good and that it will be supported by the better classes of the community.

A short time ago we deprecated the divisions, fostered by certain agitators, of American citizens into factions founded upon differences of race and language. We advocated union as promotive of life and showed that disunion tended to death, uttering simple truths which all nature illustrates and emphasizes. At that time the *Tribune* attempted to distort our language to signify that we were opposed to the study of national questions and desired to shut out all but local issues, misquoting our words and misinterpreting their evident meaning. We were merely advising citizens of foreign birth to be simply Americans instead of German, or Irish, or Danish, or Swedish, or English Americans.

Now the same unprincipled sheet attempts to show that the article referred to was against affiliation with the national political parties, and to draw, from this new perversion, evidence that the present movement is a sham and that our approval of it is inconsistent—and yet consistent—with that article.

We do not expect any reform in that paper while it is conducted by persons who are utterly unscrupulous in their methods and entirely indifferent as to consistency in their arguments. But we will say, for the benefit of those who may be confused by its sophistry, that the unity we desire and advocate is, in the first place, unity of religious faith and understanding, brought about by the perception light and truth and the influence of the divine spirit, and in the next place union of citizens under one constitution and government for the liberty, protection and welfare of all.

Every sneer and jibe which the organ of strife casts at the "Mormon" plea for unity strikes at the American system of political government. The attack of the *Tribune* rebounds against *E Pluribus Unum*; against a union of States; against the marching of differing parties under the one flag; against the fraternization of Democrats and Republicans, of free traders and protectionists for the common defense and the general welfare; against the sinking of individual differences and personal interests in promoting the greatness and glory of our common country.

There are among the "Mormon" people men who have always favored Democratic doctrines and others who have contended for Republican ideas, while working together in the People's