

fifty years ago would have been deemed below the dignity of a well-born gentleman. Bulwer Lytton was among the first to break the aristocratic barrier by taking the editorship of a magazine, and now English earls and baronets are serving customers with coals, vegetables and other marketable commodities, and are silent partners in hundreds of mercantile and manufacturing houses. Thus are the titled classes adding to the dignity of labor by engaging indirectly in its pursuits and disregarding the conventions in the way of a freer intercourse with it.

In the United States, where manual labor is better fed, better clothed, better housed and better rewarded than in any other part of the world, the exceptional conditions of the laboring classes are fundamentally due to its form of government, based upon the independence and intelligence of its citizenship, and implying the necessity of general wage rates large enough to enable the wage worker to educate, as well as properly feed and shelter, his household. A people content to remain half starved and in ignorance are incapable of self-government. There is nothing robust in the patriotism of an empty stomach, nor is there any assurance of national stability in an empty head. Successful democratic government depends upon an intelligent, self-reliant and amply nurtured citizenship, and to provide the living wage adequate to the maintenance of these popular conditions in the United States labor has been assisted by land bounties and immunities, and taxes have been laid upon imports to protect it from the blight of unrestricted foreign competition.

The average living standard of the American laborer, skilled and unskilled, is far above that of the most favored of the working classes of the Old World, and the statesmanship is shortsighted and unpatriotic that would bespeak it otherwise. It is the liberal living standard of labor, with its ever-increasing wants, that is building up the tremendous interstate commerce of the Republic, and swelling its foreign trade to mighty aggregates. In proportion as a people consume they will produce, and by the combined volume of both is their greatness as a nation measured.

American labor can gain nothing in the end but discomfort and degradation by reducing its wants to the scant necessities of mere animal subsistence. On the contrary, it is its patriotic as well as its personal duty to expect, in return for the honest toil of its hands, a fair share of the creature comforts of life, and to insist upon a standard of living measurably consistent with its dignity and manhood, with the assurance that the living wage to maintain it will in some manner be provided through intelligent adjustments of ever-changing industrial and commercial conditions.

STAKE CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Boxelder Stake.

Brigham City, Utah, Nov. 14, 1898.

The quarterly conference of the Boxelder Stake of Zion was held in the new tabernacle Sunday and Monday, Nov. 13 and 14.

The weather was most favorable and a large attendance was present at each of the meetings.

There were present on the stand during the conference President Lorenzo Snow, Elder John Henry Smith and Elder Rudger Clawson of the Council of the Twelve, besides the Stake authorities.

On Sunday morning the Sunday school children occupied the galleries and sang a number of school songs.

Elder Rudger Clawson was the first speaker. He reported the condition of

the Stake as being flourishing. The various organizations of the Stake were in good working order. The best of feelings existed between the Bishops and the Stake presidency. This unity is bearing fruit in the good work being done in all departments. He spoke of the excellent showing made by the Beaver, Bear River, Three Mile, and other wards in building fine meeting houses.

Referring to himself, the speaker said that he had not realized how much he loved the Saints in Boxelder Stake until his recent calling to the Apostleship, which presumably would change the relationship existing between himself and the people of the Stake. He bore testimony that to whatever success he had attained in life, it had been through the principles of seeking counsel of his presiding brethren.

Elder John Henry Smith spoke eloquently of the blessings of our western home and the grandeur of our mountains. He spoke of the effect that the loving Spirit of Christ had had on the world in inspiring them to charitable and beneficial works.

In the afternoon Elder Geo. F. Gibbs was the first speaker. He spoke of the great blessings we enjoy in being permitted to take bodies in this estate and showed the necessity of taking care of them and saving them. He said we should be careful and let no spirit contrary to the Spirit of God take possession of our tabernacles.

President Lorenzo Snow spoke of the importance of the experience we are passing through in this life. He said that after a while the Saints would attain to that unity of which we talk; but first we must be united in temporal things. When that time comes each now will have the opportunity to develop his particular talent. Our spirits are immortal. Our identity can never be destroyed. We will always have our agency. After a time we shall have perfect control of our bodies. Don't be discouraged. Do right and all will be well in the end.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Bishop A. Goodlife reported the Snowville ward in be in a good condition, with the Saints feeling well generally. He believed in being obedient to the authorities whom God had placed over him.

Bishop Wm. Meecham said the Park Valley ward is quite scattered. Its organizations are all complete with active officers at their head. He spoke of an aged sister who, in a fast meeting, bore a strong testimony in regard to the Prophet Joseph Smith. She knew him, heard him prophesy and had seen the fulfillment of his prophecy. She told of incidents of his martyrdom and said she was at the meeting when President Brigham Young spoke and appeared as the martyred Prophet.

Elder Adolphus Madison said the Saints are accomplishing a great temporal work in sustaining thousands of missionaries in the field, in meeting the numerous home calls that are made upon them, as well as being generally prosperous. This is evidence of great faith as well as works among the Saints. He spoke of the redemption of the dead, a work that many of the Saints are neglecting but some, especially among the poor, are manifesting great interest in.

Elder Chas. Kelly said he had been a member of this Stake for thirty years. He had seen the developments among the Saints here. President Brigham Young said in early days that if this people would allow President Snow to lead and guide them, he would lead them into the celestial kingdom. He referred to the United Order and the early institutions here in this Stake. He spoke of their success in bringing property to the people here. Though things have changed now, he said, the spirit of unity which existed

then is still among the Saints of the Boxelder Stake.

Elder John Henry Smith said God gave us faith in the Gospel and this faith impelled us to receive the testimony of the Elders in the world. We were not satisfied with the doctrines of the churches; they lacked the spirit and power to bring conviction to our souls. The Gospel changed the whole condition of our lives, made clear the Scriptures, the characteristics of the Supreme Being and made us feel that faith without works is dead, being alone. The work of the Lord became exceeding practical. It entered into all the details of our lives and we feel we must conquer the evil within us and make it subservient to the good. We were tested in temporal affairs and it developed our souls. The uneducated as well as the learned, in order that they may be possessed with faith, must be educated side by side in this great school. This is no easy school. Many difficulties must be overcome. It enters not only into the spiritual but the temporal affairs and attends more in all his walks of life. It requires all persons, the weak as well as the strong, to become industrious and perform their part without shirking in the sphere God has placed them, and all will be rewarded according to their works.

Afternoon session, 2 p. m.—The home missionaries for the Stake were presented and unanimously sustained.

Elder Clawson said the Park City relief fund from the Stake amounted to \$131. He read a letter from the Bishop of Park City branch acknowledging the receipt of the above amount.

Elder Wm. L. Watkins said we have glorious privileges in becoming acquainted with the principles of life and salvation. The Lord's hand has been manifested in delivering His people from the influences against them. We have entered into covenant to keep the commandments of God. Faith caused us to receive the principles as they were presented to us in the world. All people are not blessed with this faith. God has given unto us many revelations through His Prophet Joseph Smith. We do not carry out all these commandments, but we are taught our duty and if we keep the faith, we grow in knowledge and power.

President Lorenzo Snow said the men whom the Lord has selected to do His work in the world are not great in learning, the mighty and the wise in scientific knowledge. Joseph Smith, so unlearned, was selected to do such a great work and combat with all its difficulties. God bestows spiritual gifts and knowledge upon the unlearned and the greatness of the kingdom is made known to them through the power of the Holy Ghost, and as they gradually learn they become great in the knowledge of the things of God. He spoke of his feelings on being ordained an Elder and starting out to preach the Gospel. He felt the Lord would assist him through the power of the Priesthood in his missionary work. He referred to the sacredness of the marriage contract. Great promise are made to us at the altar when we get married and they are made by a higher power than man. These gifts of God are greater than any earthly gift, for they are eternal. This was revealed to me: "As man now is, God once was; and as God now is, man may become. I'll tell you these things because I know they are true; and every man can have this ambition, which is the greatest of all gifts. It will cause him to purify himself, even as God is pure."

Elder John Henry Smith said God has reached His high position, not by evolution but in the growth of the mind and its development. Man should imitate Him and strive to control all his passions. In the family, children should