

provement, and we believe we can safely promise that if some improvement shall be manifested in the substantial aid and comfort given by the public to the various organizations of the Guard wherever located, the latter on their part will not fail in showing the advancement which all would like to see in order to make the State's pride and security complete.

#### SPIRIT OF THE CONFERENCE.

The Sixty-sixth semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, just ended, has been one of much interest to the members of the Church. It has been noticed that, as years go by, the attendance has been increasing steadily, a testimony of itself to the growth of the Church numerically and to the fact that the principles of the Gospel, as taught by the martyred Prophet and his successors, are a spiritual force among the people—a "power of God unto salvation" to the believers. Nothing but the actual experience of its truth and its reality could inspire the faith exhibited by the Saints from time to time, of which these gatherings are one evidence. The promise was given in the beginning of the work of restoration that it should continue until accomplished, and so far, everything goes to prove that this promise is to be fulfilled.

There are several features of this Conference which will be long retained in the remembrance of the Saints. One is the appearance once more in the midst of the people of their venerable President, Wilford Woodruff, who for about half a century has been an Apostle of the Lord and during this time rendered the Church invaluable services in many ways. His testimony is still powerful, and all the more valuable because of the treasure of experience that supports it. President Woodruff, like "the disciple whom Jesus loved," has been, and is today, devotedly attached to the cause of the Master; he has witnessed some of the most important and solemn events in the history of the Church, and he has shared her trials and her triumphs more than most of the Saints now living in the flesh. The people feel that the presence in their midst of such a veteran in the faith is an inestimable blessing.

One of the topics dwelt upon by the speakers of the Conference was the influence gained by the Church, not only in this country but throughout the world. This influence has been at work from the first. Even when the Saints were the objects of the attacks of unprincipled mobs and were driven from place to place, threatened with annihilation, seemingly, the doctrines of the Gospel found their way among all the religious denominations of the world modifying creeds and spreading light among worshippers of the Almighty, causing revolutions hardly less remarkable than those brought about by the "fishermen of Galilee" in their age of Greek and Roman civilization. But the Church, lately, has gained recognition in various ways, and Mormonism is today a greater force in the world than ever.

This victory, it was pointed out, had been gained by the faithfulness of the Saints to the Gospel, by their unity and self-sacrifice and by their obedience to the divine command. The Lord Almighty has been with them in the past and will continue to guide them, as long as they follow in the footsteps of their fathers and remain true to the cause entrusted to them.

The history of this Church, as indeed that of the Churches of God in all ages, is a demonstration of the fact that there is perfect safety in following the counsels of the Lord as given from time to time through His inspired servants. With this lesson imprinted on the minds of the Saints and with a determination of acting upon it, they can look into the future with perfect confidence; not because all troubles belong to the past, but because in all trials they are guided by a divine wisdom superior to that of any adversary—because in listening to the voice of inspiration they obey not man, but God.

#### THE BROOKLYN—OLD AND NEW.

Apropos of the launching last week of the new United States warship, Brooklyn, students of American history will recall the old Brooklyn, a stout craft with wooden walls which bore at her mast head the Union colors during the dark days of 1864. She altered only once in the line of duty, and then but for a moment. Briefly told, the incident was as follows:

In his attack on Mobile, Alabama, in the summer of that year, Farragut placed the Brooklyn, Captain Drayton commanding, at the head of the column of frigates, while the Tecumseh led the monitors. Opposite Fort Morgan the Tecumseh was sunk by a torpedo and her entire crew of 100 men were lost. The captain of the Brooklyn was appalled by the catastrophe. He feared that his own ship would be the next to strike one of those hidden engines of destruction. The good ship was seen to pause and turn half round like a frightened steed unwilling to take his leap. This was the great crisis of the action, and how sublimely Farragut challenged fate forms one of the most dramatic and heroic episodes in our naval history. From his place on the Hartford, steaming behind, the admiral asked the reason of the leader's hesitation. "Torpedoes," was the reply. "Damn the torpedoes; damn the torpedoes," shouted Farragut. "Go ahead, Captain Drayton; four bells." And the nose of the Brooklyn was turned to the front again, ahead she went and the day was won before the setting of the sun.

The new addition to the U. S. navy accordingly bears an honored name; and every patriot will expect her to prove worthy of the transmitted luster clinging round the leader of the desperate battle in Mobile bay thirty-one years ago.

#### WHAT IT MEANS.

The following inquiry has been received by the News:

OCTOBER 4, 1895.

To the Editor:

Will you kindly explain, through the columns of your widely circulated paper, what is inferred by the provision in the enabling act for the admission of Utah

as a State in the Union, "that the new State shall assume all debts and liabilities of the Territory?" Does it mean that the government has a long list of back accounts to present to the new State for settlement? If not, what is its meaning?

Respectfully,

G. DENNEY.

The provision means precisely what it says, that the debts and liabilities of the Territory shall be assumed by the new State. This is the usual and necessary procedure in the case of merging into statehood. The Territory has debts, the \$700,000 bonds, for instance, and other obligations to municipalities, to counties, for salaries, court expenses, etc. The new State cannot repudiate these, but must assume them as a matter of right. As to any government back account, such a thing would be as easily chargeable to the Territory as to the State, if Congress could do it at all. As the Territory has entered into no contracts of that character, there are none for the State to assume. Perhaps Mr. Denney refers to the penitentiary expense, which is charged against the Territory on the books of the department of justice. That is merely a clerical procedure in the department, and can have no connection with the provision referred to. The government took the penitentiary, and meets its bills. When it wants to balance the department accounts named, it may make an appropriation therefor. The Territory or the State has nothing to do with it so far as the quotation from the enabling act is concerned; that account is not a debt or liability which has been assumed by the Territory, and therefore does not come as an heirloom to the State of Utah.

#### A STRONG, UNITED PULL NEEDED.

Among the many interesting and important meetings held in this city within the past week, few, if any, surpass, in their relation to the welfare and growth of the commonwealth, the session of the state irrigation association in the Assembly Hall on Saturday, the 5th inst. There were in attendance representative and leading men from every section and county in the Territory; and the remarks made, while not unmingled with gentle reproach for the laxity which, under marked recent advancement elsewhere has characterized our operations in the acquisition, care and use of water for irrigation, were still full of praise and encouragement for the examples set and the work accomplished in the past in the great agency which has wrought out the redemption of arid America. Though there was no formal expression of the sense of the meeting, it was easily to be seen, from the interest manifested, that the association received a great impetus, and there is no doubt that excellent results will follow. One of the first of these should be the organization of county and town societies in every part of the Territory; regular meetings for the exchange of views and experiences, frequent and intelligent reports from these bodies to the central association, and preparation for an early state convention of irrigators for the purpose of framing a code or article to be presented to the