

EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Wednesday, March 21, 1888.

GENERAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

THE Fifty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will commence at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, April 10, 1888, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City. The officers and members of the Church are respectfully invited to attend.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
In behalf of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

THE VALUE OF HOMES.

ONE of the most delightful features connected with the community of Latter-day Saints has been that the great majority of its people have been the owners of their own homes. This has been a characteristic feature since the Church has been gathering place. It has been a matter of pride with them, and exhibited the fact that the Gospel brought temporal as well as spiritual salvation. It has been a contrast to the comfortable condition compared with that of the masses of mankind abroad, or the situation of many of the Saints themselves previous to hearing and receiving the latter-day Gospel message.

It will be a sorry day for the Saints should it ever transpire that this admirable feature of their condition should be extinguished. Then, unless the sentiment of the world should change toward them, they would be, if they remained true to their religion, but little more than wanderers in the earth. The actual possession of their homes has given them a stability and hold wherever located that it would have been impossible for them to otherwise possess.

How much reasoning, should it require to make this matter as clear as day to the most obtuse intellect? A departure from the old, well-tried and beneficent policy of the people owning their homes is a process of communal disintegration. Everything that contributes in that direction, no matter in what guise it appears, or under what specious pretext it is operated, is productive of more or less dissolution. It tends to undermine the solid temporal foundation upon which the community has heretofore stood and causes it to be menaced by a peril of no small magnitude.

It is a fact too patent to admit of denial, that forces are in operation that are causing home ownership by working people in this city to be invaded. If the whole community were to act as numbers of individuals are doing, the entire people would be without places wherein to lay their heads. So far as the work can be done by such persons, the matter has been accomplished. They have contributed all in their power for its attainment. Then would be the time for the desecration of a public political gathering by a man noted for his anti-"Mormon" proclivities. After admitting that there appeared to be no ground on which to base a hope that Congress would pass any special anti-"Mormon" legislation during this session, he thought best that to do under the circumstances was "to buy these people out and let them go where they pleased."

Such appears to be the program and object. It is the present duty of effort on the part of those who desire to possess the country which the Saints have done so much toward redeeming. This aim, however, is impossible of attainment without the co-operation of those whose welfare is not sought by it. Those who are disposed to help along that object will do so, as every person is free to act for himself under our liberal system of government. When pretexts are needed there will be found in plenty. So the work goes on.

Some individual cases of disposals of homes long established, and probably on that account protracted possession—not properly prized, involve much perplexity and distress to the people. Working people have been offered what they considered a high figure for their property. Having caught the heated breeze of the "boom," which is a sort of financial sin, causing many who are caught in its pathway to cover their heads in the sand, they have been unable to take in the surroundings of the situation. A just for gold, which is comparatively valueless except for what it at present represents, causes them to overlook the probabilities of the proposition by which they are confronted, and they barter for gold that which is intrinsically more precious—their homes.

Speaking upon this point from a purely financial standpoint, without taking into consideration what we esteem to be much more weighty reasons, the position of the disposer is often extremely disadvantageous. There are instances where in this way people pile up a heap of gold by purchasing another home at a less price than for which the original owner was disposed of, but many cases are, to our knowledge, quite the reverse. Some of the poorer class who have sold out, are completely out. They are unable to obtain a suitable home for anything like the amount they received for the one they sold. If the price is not high, they must buy at a higher price and take an inferior place with a load of debt upon it. Thus is gone. Presto change! Now you see it and now you don't.

The other alternative is to rent, and that is becoming more and more the case in this city as it will be can be determined. The plan is to rent, and the consideration is so high that they can hardly be reached by a forty-foot financial pole. In this alternative is resorted to, then the pile obtained in the first place has to be applied to for the purpose of paying the rental, and thus a thaw sets in that gradually diminishes the heap till it disappears. It would have to be quite a stockpile to admit of the rent being paid from the interest on it. Add to this the disadvantage of the mislaid individual being under the necessity of living under some one else's roof instead of his own and the melancholy situation is complete. Let it be understood that this is not a picture of the imagination. It is not a fanciful chrome, there being a number of instances of that nature in this city today.

In many transactions it is a question of home or money, although some people seem to be partially blinded to this fact long enough to let the former fade away, they may lay a temporary grasp upon the latter. "Home sweet home" is never so fully appreciated as it is by

deprivation after possession. When the deprivation is self-imposed the loss must be all the more keenly felt. Home has been the subject of some of the sweetest songs ever produced by mortal under the influence of poetic inspiration, and the wanderer in far off lands the more word causes the heart to be stirred by the most ardent emotions, stimulated by the memory of the loved ones around the hearth and board. How much dearer these recollections when they include the sense of security felt by the knowledge that it is the family possession, and not a mere transitory abode from which they are liable to be evicted by the breath of an unsympathetic landlord.

The people will stay by their homes, their homes will stay by them. The disposal of them in a hurry will be more than likely to lead to repentance and loss of comfort at leisure.

DEATH OF ELDER THURBER.

ALBERT K. THURBER, whose death was announced in another part of this issue, was a sterling man. He was an old settler of Utah, and his career has been closely identified with the interests of the Territory for a lengthy period. We are not certain as to his age, but presume he must have been about sixty years old.

He was many years ago, previous to his removal to Sevier County, of which part he was one of the early settlers, Bishop of Spanish Fork. At the time of his demise he was Counselor in the Presidency of Sevier Stake in 1864-5 he was on a mission to England, which he faithfully performed, laboring the whole of the time of his absence. If we recollect right, in the London Conference, which at that time comprised over a thousand members of the church. It was then that the writer formed his acquaintance and learned to respect him on account of his great simplicity of character, devotion to his convictions, and more than ordinary intelligence.

He was a member of the Legislature for many years, having been returned by his constituents quite a number of consecutive sessions. He was esteemed as one of the most capable and earnest workers in that body when he was identified with it.

ANCIENT RUINS.

Interesting Discoveries Recently Made in Arizona.

James T. Wilson, of Mesa, Arizona, furnishes us the following:

Thinking a few items concerning late discoveries here might interest your numerous readers, I have taken a little pains to collect some information in relation to some that have been made in this immediate vicinity, under my own observation.

On Feb 9th I made a visit to the ruins close by, which are being excavated at the present time by parties who are interested in obtaining some information as to the origin of the ancient ruins of this region, and what became of them, for to all appearances they were numerous and prosperous, and the remains of a great and powerful people.

Since Feb 9th I have paid two more visits to these ruins, so that by seeing for myself, and personal inquiry, I am somewhat posted.

On the 12th I was treated most respectfully by all concerned. After learning the names of the general manager, I explained to them the object of my visit, that it was with a view to know why they were excavating and what they had to do with them. They kindly said I was at liberty to propound such questions as I might deem proper and they would give me all the information in their possession. Dr. J. L. Wortman, taking the lead.

Question: What is the name of this expedition?
Answer: The Hemenway Southwestern archaeological expedition, Frank Hamilton Cushing, director.

Q: What position do you occupy?
A: Anthropological expert.

Q: What position, Dr. Wortman, do you sustain?
A: I am a physiological and anatomical expert.

Q: Who pays the expenses of this expedition?
A: Mrs. Hemenway, a very wealthy widow lady of Boston. She is very interested in taking great interest in such movements, and furnishes means to pay all the expenses of the expedition, besides salaries to all of its members, except myself. I am paid by the government of the United States and am here maintained at Washington D. C.

Q: What was the object of Mrs. Hemenway in fitting out this expedition?
A: To ascertain, if possible, where this ancient people came from, where they went to, or what were the causes that brought them to their end; and we should very much like to find some records giving their history.

Q: What has been discovered bearing on their history?
A: As far as we have yet discovered they were civilized, and lived by agriculture. They raised at least corn, tobacco and cotton. All these we have found in a perfect state of preservation.

Q: Have you found any metal, gold?
A: Not the least trace of any of those metals.

Q: How long has this people been extinct?
A: At least 1000 years.

Q: Then you think it is only about 1000 years since they dwelt here?
A: Well, as to that, I am not certain. It might be 1275.

Q: Might they not have been destroyed 1400 years ago?
A: It is possible and may have been so.

Q: Have you discovered any burial grounds?
A: No; it would be impossible to find them after the lapse of so many centuries.

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