

condition. I often think what a great privilege we have, knowing that we have the true Gospel. How grateful we ought to be for the many blessings we enjoy.

Although it is hard to be away from home so long and be deprived of the society of companions and friends, and scoffed at by a cold world, yet my heart is full of thanks to God in that I have the privilege of making this experience. It is the best school I have ever found.

We have had summer for about two months. No rain has fallen for the last seven weeks. Old men of seventy years say they have never experienced such weather. Crops are budding up and the poor farmers are praying for rain. Surely the judgments of God are dawning on every hand and the world is fast ripening for destruction. It is plainly to be seen that we are nearing the eventful times predicted by holy Prophets, both ancient and modern, and we unto them that hearken not to the testimonies of the servants of God. Tomorrow it will be just eighteen months since we reached this continent.

#### BANNOCK STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Bannock Stake quarterly conference was held in the Rexburg music hall on Sunday and Monday, May 14 and 15, 1893. There were on the stand Elders F. D. Richards and Brigham Young, of the Twelve Apostles, Elder T. E. Ricks, president of the Stake, and his counselor, W. F. Rigby and Jas. E. Steele, Elders A. E. Hinckley, Wm. Parker, and Jno. R. Poole, Patriarchs, and most of the High Council and Bishops.

Sunday 10 a. m.—Conference was called to order by Elder T. E. Ricks. After the opening exercises of singing and prayer, Elder T. E. Ricks said he was pleased to witness since the dedication of the Temple a spiritual improvement among the people. The Stake presidency is united and all the other organizations of the Stake are nearly in the same condition. He prayed for the blessing of God to rest upon all during conference.

Elder Franklin D. Richards spoke of the purposes of the Lord in gathering the Saints to the valleys of the mountains, the chief of which was to give them His laws and try whether they would keep them.

Elder Brigham Young said the fact that the Latter-day Saints had not been broken up was evidence that God was with His people. Referring to the declaration in the Temple that the sins of the people were forgiven, he read from the Doctrine and Covenants that such promises were only to those who sincerely repented; otherwise their sins would return and overwhelm them.

On Sunday at 2 p. m. the Sacrament was administered and T. E. Bassett addressed the Saints upon the necessity of partaking of the Sacrament with pure hearts and clean hands.

Elder Brigham Young spoke of the marvelous growth of the Latter-day Saints, their mission and destiny and counseled them to prepare for the great events that await us.

Elder F. D. Richards beautifully illustrated the difference between the Church and the Kingdom of God,

comparing the Church to the kernel of a hickory nut—the kernel being the life and source and the Kingdom the shell which is the protection.

Monday, 10 a. m.—Bishop John Donaldson spoke in the interest of education, and Elders Young and Richards also showed the importance of true education, which is the development of body, mind and soul; they warned against allowing our children to be taught by men who know not God.

The general and Stake authorities were unanimously sustained.

One new ward was created by the ordination of Bishop Chas. E. Liljenquist to preside over the Saluts of Riverside ward.

All the meetings were well attended and the health of the people is good.

JAS. GILLESPIE, Stake Clerk.

#### MORGAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of Morgan Stake convened Sunday and Monday, the 14th and 15th inst. The conference was called to order at 10 a. m. Sunday by Elder Fry. Present on the stand were the Stake Presidency, Elders F. M. Lyman and Abraham H. Cannon and others of the Priesthood. After the usual opening exercises Elder Fry reported the condition of the Stake, which was favorable, and showed that the majority of the people were trying to keep the commandments of the Lord though some were careless and indifferent and were losing their faith. The Stake was in a better condition than when last reported. He was followed by Elder W. G. Smith, who said the Lord had established the Gospel for the salvation of His people, and if we obey its principles it will bring joy, satisfaction and consolation to our hearts. As a people we were more united in spiritual than temporal matters. He thanked the people for their support, their sympathies and prayers in his behalf while he had presided over them and said it was a trial to him to be removed and take a mission among the world, but he felt to submit to the will of the Lord.

The remaining time of the conference was occupied by Elders Lyman and Cannon. Many important subjects were treated on, some of which are: The great blessings and privileges we have enjoyed in being permitted to attend the dedicatory services of the Salt Lake Temple; tithes and offerings; the proper mode of administering the Sacrament; the necessity for training the mind to center it upon the prayer or sermon being given for our benefit; the order and duties of the Priesthood; the proper training of the young and the placing of good literature before them; the duties of parents to children and children to parents; the necessity of settling our own difficulties and not having them brought before the Presidency of the Church; for the Bishops to deal with these difficulties in their wards and not let them get out, but choke them down when they first appear if possible.

The home missionaries who had been traveling for the past six months were honorably released and a new corps appointed and sustained to travel for the next six months.

ALONZO FRANCIS, Clerk.

#### ON A MISSION.

35 NORTHLOAD ST., Glastonbury, England, May 5th, 1893.—The weather for the past several weeks has been lovely, rendering it very favorable for holding open air meetings, distributing tracts, etc., in which we have been very busily engaged of late. We have generally had a fair attendance of the people at our meetings and there has been seldom created much disturbance. The people generally listen very attentively to what we had to say. This has been very encouraging as it enabled us to get the Gospel principles before many.

Last Wednesday evening, May 3rd, was the first occasion for some time that we have been disturbed to any great extent. On that evening we visited the town of Street a short distance from here, and after selecting a suitable place in one of the most thickly settled streets announced our meeting and commenced with the usual exercises. All went on very quietly until we were dismissing, when a lady came up, shaking her fist at us and using very abusive language. We paid no attention to her and went on distributing some of our Articles of Faith, when a young man walked up and presented a large book, enquiring of us if we knew what book it was. We replied that we did not. He said that he would inform us, and went on at quite a rate for some time about polygamy, the imprisonment of women, Mountain Meadows Massacre, etc., stating that he read of this in the book which was written by Mrs. Stenhouse whom he said had miraculously escaped from the Mormons.

Finding we could not reason with him we appealed to the audience (which numbered a hundred or more) asking that they give us fair play by allowing us to state our side of the question. To this request a response of "hear, hear," was given on all sides. We then related the facts as to the premises and to our surprise were listened to without interruption. No one made any reply. We then bade them good night and started but had not proceeded far when we were overtaken by the father of the young man who had been talking. He made use of some very abusive language and brought forth the book which his son had and with which he seemed to be much more familiar than with the Bible. He waved it in the air at the same time informing the people of its contents.

As he was even more unreasonable than his son we again appealed to the audience (which now filled the street) for a chance to state our side and again received the hearty response of "hear, hear." After we had finished, our opponent took the stand and delivered a lecture on the city of Utah, where he said the Mormons live. After listening and replying, we took our departure.

We enjoyed a pleasant walk of about three miles through the country to our lodgings, praising God and rejoicing that we were accounted worth to be numbered with those who were spoken evil of falsely for the Gospel's sake.

O. P. BLACK.

The Rock Springs Athletic association will hold a Fourth of July celebration at Rock Springs this year.