

MINUTES

Of a Conference, held at Laie, Oahu, Sandwich Islands, commencing October 6th, 1867.

Conference convened at 10 a.m. Present of the Elders from Zion, George Nebeker, A. L. Smith, B. Cluff, Eli Bell, E. Green and C. Boyden. Br. World being unwell was not present.

Conference called to order by Elder A. L. Smith. Singing by the native choir, led by Elder Kaleohano. Prayer by Elder B. Cluff. Elder G. Nebeker was appointed President of the Conference, and Elder J. W. H. Kou, clerk.

President Nebeker arose and made a few opening remarks applicable to the occasion, which were interpreted by Elder A. L. Smith. Elder Smith then addressed the Conference at considerable length, speaking upon various subjects, instructing and encouraging the Saints. He was followed by Elders Kauhau, and G. Keoeoe, who spoke in a spirited manner, the latter giving a brief account of his recent mission to the Island of Kauai, where he baptized some twenty-five new converts.

Conference adjourned until 2 p.m. Benediction by Elder Bell.

At 2 p.m. Conference convened pursuant to adjournment. Singing. Prayer by a native Elder.

Elder Cluff next addressed the meeting. He made some good and pertinent remarks, and dwelt somewhat upon the gathering. He was followed by Elders Kaleohano and Kaohimauna. The latter compared the present lukewarm condition of the Church upon these islands, to the days when it flourished, in the time of Elder George Q. Cannon.

The sacrament was administered; and Conference adjourned until to-morrow at 10 a.m.

Meeting in the evening for the foreign brethren and sisters.

Oct 7, 10 a.m. Conference convened agreeable to appointment. Singing and prayer.

Elder Bell occupied the greater portion of the forenoon, speaking to the people, showing the difference between the works of God and the works of man; the one tends to life, the other produces death. He was followed by Elder Pahili and Solomona.

Elder A. L. Smith then presented the following authorities who were unanimously sustained:—G. Nebeker, President of the Sandwich Islands' Mission. A. L. Smith and B. Cluff his counselors. J. W. H. Kou, clerk of the mission. Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints throughout the world; H. C. Kimball and D. H. Wells his counselors; together with the Twelve Apostles and all the constituted Authorities throughout the world. Elder Kakanui was appointed President over the Islands of Maui, Lanai and Molokai, with Puoanui as traveling elder; and Elder Nehemia president of Kauai, with Kea as traveling elder. Meeting dismissed till 2 p.m.

Conference met as per appointment. Elders Kou, Kea and Nephi each spoke for a short time. They felt well and felt spirited.

President Nebeker spoke. He felt well, and was pleased with the spirit of the Conference. He was glad to meet so many native brethren and sisters, and thanked them for the good order they had observed, also for their liberality in donating money to assist in furnishing the meeting-house. His remarks were interpreted by Elder Smith.

Elders Smith and Cluff each made a few closing remarks, exhorting the Saints to treasure up the words that had been spoken during the Conference, and try and benefit by them.

Conference adjourned until the 6th of next April.

A meeting was held in the evening for the native Saints, which was addressed by Elder Smith and a number of native brethren, who spoke in an interesting manner.

During the entire Conference, the Saints seemed blessed with that good Spirit which usually characterizes the assembling of the Saints of God, when they meet to worship Him and to advance the interests of His work upon the earth.

OMAHA, Nov. 12, '67.

Editor Deseret News:—I reached this city in safety by railroad yesterday, in company with Silas Hoyt, Jesse Murphy and Wm. C. A. Smoot; all of whom were appointed on missions to the States at the last Conference. We were 24 days on the road, traveling to the terminus of the railroad with mule train. The present terminus is twenty-two miles this side of Cheyenne—the entire distance being a little over 1,000 miles, the railroad reaching about half way.

We saw no Indians, and except cold, high winds we had a comparatively pleasant trip. Nothing very exciting occurred till we reached Millersville. Here we saw the body of a man by the name of Macatee, who had been shot twice, one ball through the head and another through the heart, a few minutes before we arrived, by a man by the name of Benjamin Bell. The dead man seemed to have no friends, and as it was too late for us to befriend him, we passed on. We saw but few obstacles on the new route in the way of the advancing march of the iron horse. The entire route from Cheyenne to Bridger, with few exceptions, seemed as level as the Valley of the Platte, and we were told that the construction car moved to the west at the rate of about one and a half miles per day. Many long trains, heavily laden with railroad iron, ties for the road, and timber for bridges, &c., &c., were met by us. Twenty-two miles this side of Cheyenne I saw the Indian Commissioners, among whom are Generals Sherman and Harney, on their way to Laramie to conclude a treaty of peace between the Government and the hostile Indians. The Indians affirm, as I am told, that although they gave permission for a road to be constructed through their country, they never did consent that it should be traveled by iron horses. These terrible monsters frighten away all their game and scatter fire over their hunting grounds. As we passed the prairie was on fire for hundreds of miles. The present rates of fare, as well as freight, are very high, yet it is to be hoped that these rates will be lowered, so as not to tempt men to run opposition ox and mule trains over the road. Here at Omaha all is bustle and noise. The river is very low; but the cars are arriving and departing day and night on both sides of the Missouri, and a steam ferry crosses the river every 15 minutes. A traveler can now reach this city from Chicago in 25 hours and from Cheyenne in about the same length of time. How great a change has come over this country since '46, when the Latter-day Saints, surrounded by Indians, settled in this then unimproved country, forced away from the abodes of civilization by threats and violence.

J. W. CROSBY.

THEODORE, EMPEROR OF ABYSSINIA.

The difficulty existing between England and Theodore, Emperor of Abyssinia, produced by the latter's deeming it an affront cast upon him that he did not receive an autograph letter from Queen Victoria in reply to an autograph letter sent by him to her, has given, at the present, special interest to anything relating to that African potentate and his dominions. He seized certain British subjects, imprisoned them, and subjected them to numerous indignities; and refuses to release them, threatening their lives, of which the only tenure they hold is a despot's caprice.

The expedition now being sent against Theodore, and the causes which have led the British Government to take such a step, have called forth a considerable amount of information respecting the Abyssinian Emperor, his country and people. Among the works published on the subject is one entitled the "Narrative of a journey through Abyssinia, in 1862-3, by H. Dufton," the writer of which, speaking from personal observation, entertains a higher opinion of the Abyssinians and their monarch than is generally entertained concerning them. He thinks it very probable that on the advance of the English army into the country, Theodore will "disband his forces, retreat to his native province, and let loose the forty or fifty thousand men he commands to operate against the invaders as guerrilla bands." As the English forces must pass defiles that "enable five hundred well-armed, resolute Abyssinians to hold them against an army, the rocks and trees forming an excellent ambush," it is scarcely necessary to add that the results are likely to prove very harassing and destructive to the British.

The gentleman was kindly and hospitably received by Theodore, whom he describes as an enlightened and shrewd monarch. The following is the description he gives of the monarch's personal appearance.

"His appearance was that of a man about forty-five, of middling stature, and possessed of a well-knit but not over-powerful frame, conveying more the idea of being tough and wiry than of strong physical development. His complexion is dark, approaching to black, but he has nothing of the negro about him. His features are altogether

those of an European. His head is well formed, and his hair is arranged in large plaits extending back from the forehead. The forehead is high, and tends to be prominent. His eye is black, full of fire, quick, and piercing. His nose has a little of Roman about it, being slightly arched and pointed. His mouth is perfect, and the smile, which during the conversation continually played upon it, was exceedingly agreeable, I may say fascinating. He has very little moustache or beard. His manner was peculiarly pleasant, gracious, and even polite, and his general expression, even when his features were at rest, was one of intelligence and benevolence. On the whole, the physiognomist would find no trace of fierce passion save in the lightning glance of his eye. I watched for the keen shot of light coming from them at times, and reflected upon what he could be capable of, but they did not strike me as treacherous eyes. I felt that he could act savagely under irritation."

The monarch thus described is, like other potentates at the present time, very much interested in the manufacture and improvement of cannon. He was extremely anxious to have his cannon founded in his own dominions. Mr. Dufton and the French consul were present, by invitation, at the trial of a newly founded mortar, which was very successful.

Presents carried to him, about the same time, by the French and English consuls, he viewed with indifference, manifesting a little interest merely at the sight of some revolvers.

He started out on his public career with very merciful feelings and with a desire to carry out improvements for the good of his people; but they objected to his attempted reforms, rebelled against him; and he, finding his good motives unappreciated, changed in his disposition and became terribly cruel, visiting with most relentless wrath punishment upon all who roused his angry feelings.

Other accounts are given of him which are not quite so favorable; yet there is little question but he is a more than ordinary man, and that he will make a bitter, implacable and dangerous enemy. His troops are said to be exceedingly fierce in combat, and when led by him they have been almost irresistible against every foe with whom they have hitherto gone to war.

Tradition states that Theodore is a lineal descendant of the Queen of Sheba and Solomon, she having given birth to a child, it is alleged, after a visit to that monarch at Jerusalem.

THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.

Our investigations go to show that the roaring waves and the mightiest billows of the ocean repose not on the hard or troubled beds, but upon cushions of still water; that everywhere at the bottom of the deep sea the solid ribs of the earth are protected, as with a garment, from the abrading action of its currents; that the cradle of its restless waves is lined by a stratum of water at rest, or so nearly at rest that it can neither wear nor move the lightest bit of drift that once lodges there. The uniform appearance of these microscopic shells, and the almost total absence among them of any sediment from the sea or foreign matter, suggests most forcibly the idea of perfect repose at the bottom of the sea. Some of the specimens are as pure and as free from the sea sand as the fresh fallen snow-flake is from the dust of the earth. Indeed, these soundings almost prove that the sea, like the snow cloud with its flakes in a calm is always letting fall upon its bed shadows of these minute shells; and we may readily imagine that the wrecks which strew its bottom are, in the process of ages, hidden under this fleecy covering, presenting the rounded appearance which is seen over the body of the traveler who has perished in the snow-storm. The ocean, especially within and near the tropics, swarms with life. The remains of myriads of moving things are conveyed by currents, and lodged in the course of time all over its bottom. This process continued for ages, has covered the depths of the ocean as with a mantle, consisting of organisms as delicate as hoar frost, and as light in the water as down in the air. The tooth of running water is very sharp. See how the Niagara has cut its way through layer after layer of solid rock. But what is Niagara, with all the fresh water courses of the world, by the side of the great currents of the ocean? And what is the pressure of fresh water upon river beds, in comparison with the pressure of ocean water upon the bottom of the deep sea? It is not so great by

contrast as the gutters in the streets are to the cataract. Then why have not the currents of the sea worn its bottom away? Simply because they have not been permitted to get down to it.—*All the Year Round.*

A PECULIAR SITUATION.

Captain Rogers had once accepted the invitation of a brother officer, in a totally different part of the island of Ceylon, to try a few hostilities against the elephants of that neighborhood, and had arrived, after a day's sport, within a mile or two of the bungalow, where his host and hostess were awaiting his arrival; when passing by a delightfully cool-looking river, he thought a plunge would be the most renovating luxury in existence. So a dip he determined to take, sending on his servants with his guns, and an intimation that in ten minutes he would arrive to dinner. Stripping accordingly, he placing his things very carefully upon a stone, he began to luxuriate in the water. He was a capital swimmer, and had swam some distance, when, to his horror and dismay, on looking to the place where he had left his habiliments, he perceived a dozen monkeys overhauling his entire wardrobe. One was putting his legs through the sleeves of his shirt; another was cramming his head into his trousers; another trying to find if any treasure was concealed in his boots; while his hat was a source of wonderment and amusement to some two or three others, who were endeavoring to unravel the mystery by ripping the lining and taking half a dozen bites out of the brim. As soon as he had gained his mental equilibrium (for the thing was so ridiculous as to make him laugh heartily, notwithstanding his disgust at seeing his garments turned to such "vile purposes"), he made with all haste towards the shore; but judge of his horror when he saw these "precious rascals," each catching up what he could lay hold of, rattle off at full speed into the jungle, not leaving poor Rogers even the vestige of an article of raiment to cover himself! All he heard was the glorious chattering as they one by one disappeared, the last one lugging off his shirt, which, being rather awkward to carry, was continually tripping him up by getting between his legs. Here was a pretty pickle for a Christian under a broiling sun! and here he stayed until the inmates of the bungalow, beginning to suspect some accident, came out in search, and found poor Rogers sitting up to his neck in water, in a frame of body and mind which we may conclude to be "more easily imagined than described."

EXERCISE AND ITS EFFECTS.—Archibald MacLaren, in a volume entitled "Training, in Theory and Practice," speaks of the immediate effects of exercise on the muscles most actively engaged at the time. He found the law of development strongly demonstrated in a long pedestrian tour, extending over nearly four months, in which the average per day on foot exceeded nine hours, and usually with a knapsack weighing twelve pounds. During this time the chest fell from 41 to 39½ inches in circumference; the upper arm from 14½ to 13½; the lower arm remaining unchanged at 12½ inches. The lower limbs, on the contrary, were greatly increased—the calf of the leg passing from 16 to 17½ inches, and the thigh from 23½ to 25 inches. Often recorded examples to the same purport are seen in the great development of the legs of dancers and the arms of a blacksmith, etc.

THE EXPENSE OF DAILY PAPERS.—The *Evening Gazette* informs its readers that editorial, reporter and correspondent staff on the *New York Herald* number more than two hundred persons, that the sum paid Thos. W. King on his return from his around-the-world voyage was \$5,000 in gold, and that only ten of his letters were ever published, making the cost of each letter \$500 in gold. During the war Messrs. Richardson and Browne, while acting as correspondents to the *Tribune*, were captured and for some time imprisoned. They received \$3,500 each on their release, and for which they wrote about three columns, costing the *Tribune* Association about \$1,200 currency per column.

THE Marquis de Mouchy maintained that the flesh of pigeons possessed a consoling virtue. Whenever this nobleman lost a friend or relation, he said to his cook, "Let me have roast pigeons for dinner to-day. I always remark," he added, "that after eating two pigeons, I rise from the table much less sorrowful."