



**GEORGE Q. CANNON,**  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE suggestions which are made by the President of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, in his address respecting the purchase of suitable fair grounds, are worthy of serious consideration. Without such grounds the Society will be crippled in its exhibitions. One of the chief excellences of the California State Fair was its fine grounds, on which exhibitions of stock and their speed were made. At 10 o'clock every morning there was a grand parade on the grounds of all horses and horned stock on exhibition. They could then be examined by the judges and visitors to the best advantage. Horses could also be speeded in harness and under the saddle on the track provided for the purpose. If racing should not be permitted, the track is still indispensable. But racing is one of the great attractions at these fairs in the States and other Territories. Without them their managers say they cannot be self-sustaining and would have to depend for their continued existence on donations and contributions.

Gambling, which seems to be the inevitable accompaniment of racing, is the great and serious objection to having trials of speed; but it is a question, which is now forcing itself upon the attention of our Society, whether it will take racing or trials of speed under its own management and control them properly, or abandon them to any or every one who may choose to get them up. In this Territory it has been found far better for leading and influential citizens to provide amusements and take the control of them, than to leave them to the management of the vicious and impure. Under such auspices theatres are places of healthful and innocent recreation, and balls can be frequented by the most pure and guileless, without the least risk of contamination. The same wise management may cleanse the race track from many of its present objectionable features, and make it a place where all can resort and participate in innocent enjoyment. There is no disguising the fact that every healthfully constituted man or woman takes pleasure in admiring good horses and their performances. The horses themselves show delight in exercising themselves and exhibiting their speed. There is no sin in this; but the sin consists in the abuses which creep in and accompany the practice.

We have a very good assortment of blooded horned stock and sheep. They are increasing. There should be suitable grounds provided at an early day, so that when another fair is held there may be room to house and exhibit them. The taste for blooded horses will grow with the periodical opening of such grounds. We hope, therefore, suitable steps will be taken to secure them. Under proper management, the income which will be derived from them will go considerably towards defraying the expense of improving and maintaining them.

TUESDAY, Oct. 8, if we are correctly informed, will be a great day among the politicians. On that date the following elections will come off—Dacota, Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. North Carolina was the first criterion-election, then came Maine, another, but on Tuesday the two powerful States of Indiana and Ohio will write their political destiny and throw their weight decidedly for or against the administration. But greatest of all comes Pennsylvania, the keystone State. The old political adage being, more positively than of any other State, that "as goes Pennsylvania so goes the Union," the anxiety of the politicians will naturally be most intense until it shall be definitely known which way the sylvan State goes, and the rejoicing and confidence

in ultimate victory, of the triumphant party, whichever it may be, will be correspondingly great. Situated at this great distance away from the scene and having no voice in the matter, we can contemplate with greater calmness and equanimity than our fellow citizens east the intensely exciting struggle for political mastery.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE Forty-Second Semi-Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints, met in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday October 6th, 1872, at 10 a.m.

Conference opening on Sunday, the weather being fine and the people in the settlements having mostly gathered their crops, the attendance was unusually large for a first meeting, there being probably in the vicinity of ten thousand people assembled.

There were present on the stand:

*Of the First Presidency.*

Brigham Young, Sr., Geo. A. Smith, and Daniel H. Wells.

*Of the Twelve Apostles.*

Orson Hyde, Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, George Q. Cannon, Brigham Young, Jr., Joseph F. Smith.

*Patriarch—John Smith.*

*Of the First Seven Presidents of Seventies.*

Joseph Young, Albert P. Rockwood and Horace S. Eldridge.

*Of the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum.*

Elias Smith, Edward Snelgrove and Elias Morris.

*Of the Presidency of this Stake of Zion.*

George B. Wallace and John T. Caine.

*Of the Presidency of the Bishopric.*

Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little.

There were also Bishops, Elders and leading men from every settlement in the Territory.

Conference was called to order by PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

The grand choir sang:

"Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join,  
In work so pleasant, so divine."

Opening prayer by ELDER ORSON HYDE.

"Earth, with her ten thousand flowers,  
Air with all its beams and showers;"

Was sung by the choir.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG addressed the Conference. He requested the people assembled to be as still as possible, as the building was large and it was consequently difficult to make all hear. He also requested that those who might speak should direct their discourse in a direct line from the stand, without turning to the right or left. It was not necessary to speak excessively loud in order to be heard throughout the building, but each word should be distinctly enunciated, before commencing to articulate others.

President Young then spoke of the objects for which the people met together in Conference. The various influences calculated to lead away the Saints from the spirit and genius of the gospel of Christ were alluded to in a clear and pointed manner. It was shown, in the discourse, that but a few of the people were able to bear prosperity. In prosperity many were liable to forget God, when they had most reason to be true to his cause, and show to him the devotion and gratitude of their hearts. There were some, however, who could be prospered materially and thank God for his blessings, and who were willing to sacrifice all, if necessary, for the cause of righteousness.

The speaker next drew a vivid picture of the present condition of the Saints. He spoke of the causes of their gathering from the various nations, as well as the objects of their coming to this land, and pointed out the way in which the people could promote the cause of God and prepare for the coming of Christ.

PRESIDENT GEORGE A. SMITH addressed the assemblage. He said if Latter-day Saints wished to be edified, they would be so according to their faith. If faith was exercised in God for our speakers to be inspired to deliver to us the revelations of the Al-

mighty, our desires would be gratified.

The speaker described the inevitable results of apostasy from the truth—infidelity and its concomitant evils. He contrasted the present with the past temporal condition of the Saints, showing how greatly the Lord had blessed them. He was sorry that, in many instances, an increase of wealth had not produced a corresponding increase of faithfulness, but rather the contrary. Many who, when poor, faithfully and punctually paid their tithing, now neglected that important duty. He explained the nature of the law of tithing, and showed that compliance therewith was required of all the people of God in every age. He alluded to the bountiful harvest of the present season, and exhorted the Saints not to place themselves in the position of the people of Israel who lived in the days of Malachi, who were charged with robbing the Lord. This charge was preferred because of their neglecting to pay their tithes and offerings.

President Smith next alluded to the recent visit of himself and other brethren to California, and to their visits to various sectarian churches in that State. It had been between thirty and forty years since he had visited such religious institutions previously, and it was his opinion that they had made no visible progress during that period. He alluded with satisfaction to the condition of the Sunday school system of Utah. The speaker then bore testimony to the fact that God had raised up Joseph Smith to introduce a progressive system of religion, in which were the principles of eternal life.

PRESIDENT D. H. WELLS was the next speaker. He commenced by bearing testimony that the Almighty had restored, in this age, the power and authority of the Holy Priesthood. It was true that the Scriptures existed previously to this restoration, but there were none having authority to administer the ordinances taught in holy writ as being connected with the plan of salvation. Blessings were the results of obedience only, and could be obtained upon no other principle. The gospel of Christ was one of promise. The Elders of the Church went forth proclaiming that those who would receive the gospel would obtain a knowledge, by individual revelation, of the heaven-born nature of its principles.

The speaker continued for some time, showing, in his remarks, that all who would ever attain to an exaltation in the celestial kingdom would arrive at that position by complying with the plan of redemption devised by God, and by laying aside their own ideas of religion wherever they were not in unison with the system adopted by the Almighty. The building up of the Kingdom of God on the earth was a co-operative work, and we were engaged in it only so far as we co-operated with and were obedient to the Lord.

The choir sang the anthem:

"Praise God, in his holiness."

Conference adjourned till 2 p.m.

Prayer by Elder Orson Pratt.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 2 p. m.

The Choir sang:

"Hark! the song of jubilee,  
Loud as mighty thunders roar."

Opening prayer by Elder JOHN TAYLOR.

"T was on that dark, that solemn night,  
When powers of earth and hell arose."

Was sung by the choir.

While the Sacrament of the Lord's supper was being administered,

ELDER ORSON HYDE addressed the Conference. He read a portion of the 18th chapter of Isaiah, commencing at the 3rd verse, which relates to the gathering together of the people of God in the latter days. After expressing thankfulness for himself and brethren being spared to mingle together, and to unite their testimonies regarding the goodness and work of God, he delivered a discourse on the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, as well as other predictions, relating to the same subject, by other servants of the Almighty, delivered in modern as well as in ancient times. He introduced, as a branch of his subject, and commented upon, the nature of the Holy Priesthood, showing that without it no administrative act purporting to be connected with the gospel, performed by man, would be endorsed or considered as legal by the Almighty. The speaker also reviewed the causes of the antipathy which existed among the world towards the Saints. His discourse was elaborate, and was illustrated and embellished with appropriate and happy comparisons, and, before concluding, he alluded to the folly of par-

ties in this Territory who were seeking and striving for the overthrow of the Latter-day Saints.

ELDER ORSON PRATT was the next speaker. He said he would endeavor to impress on the minds of the Saints an important revelation, given through the Prophet Joseph forty years ago, and which was contained in a letter written by the Prophet, at Kirtland, Geauga county, Ohio, and addressed to W. W. Phelps. Elder Pratt then read several extracts from the letter alluded to, which treated upon the laws of tithing and consecration, and also upon the fate of those who apostatized from the Church of Christ. The speaker then treated upon the importance of obedience to the law of tithing, which had been given by revelation from the Almighty. The revelation of the letter just read showed clearly that those who refused to comply with this law would, by this course, cause their own and their fathers' and children's names to be blotted out from the records of the Church. His discourse was short, but powerful, clear and impressive.

Conference adjourned till Monday, the 7th, at 10 a.m.

The choir sang the anthem,  
"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."

Conference was dismissed by prayer by ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF.

A noticeable feature of this Conference is the large number of singers in attendance for the purpose of participating in the musical exercises, there being a grand choir composed of an amalgamation of the Tabernacle choir and many members from the choirs of the various settlements of the Territory, the whole numbering about three hundred persons. The gathering and utilization of this large body of singers was in response to an invitation issued some time ago by Brother George Careless to the leaders of the different choirs, and to secure harmonious rendition of the various pieces to be sung at Conference he sent them copies of music that was to be used on the occasion, he also had this grand choir practice in the New Tabernacle the evening before the commencement of Conference, continuing each evening subsequent. By this means a degree of proficiency, as evidenced by the beautiful singing, was arrived at, which surprised and charmed all having a taste for music who have attended the Conference.

The following are the names of the leaders whose choirs have contributed members to participate, with the Tabernacle choir, in the musical exercises of the Conference, and the names of the settlements to which they belong:

A. Lewis, Logan.  
R. L. Fishburn, Brigham City.  
Brother Carter, Lehi City.  
J. E. Daniels, Provo.  
Wm. Robinson, Beaver.  
D. P. Jones, Willard.  
W. Frampton, Pleasant Grove.  
W. Clayton, Payson.  
F. W. Ellis, North Ogden.  
F. Weight, Springville.  
W. B. Smith, American Fork.  
W. J. Pugh, Ogden.  
W. R. Jones, Spanish Fork.  
Brother Oliver, West Jordan.  
Wm. Cottrell, Farmington.

It was estimated that not less than twelve thousand people were in attendance in the afternoon, the huge building being so densely filled that not only were all the seats occupied, but there was, little, if any, standing room left.

SECOND DAY.

Monday, 7th, 10 a. m.

Conference was called to order by PRESIDENT B. YOUNG.

The grand choir sang—

"O God! our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come."

Opening prayer by ELDER ERASTUS SNOW.

"Come, all ye Saints who dwell on earth,  
Your cheerful voices raise;"

Was sung by the choir.

ELDER JOHN TAYLOR addressed the Conference. He delivered an elaborate and lengthy discourse on the various political and religious systems existing in the world and defined the only true order of government, as exemplified in the organized church and kingdom of God. He commented upon the liberty enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints in contradistinction to the lack of freedom among other people who looked upon the Saints as living under a species of bondage.

The choir sang:

"An angel from on high  
The long, long silence broke."

ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF was the next speaker. He alluded to the departure from the true order of the