DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Monday, October 25, 1897.

CONFERENCE OF THE Y. M. M. I. A.

Two Interesting Meetings Held Yesterday in the Tabernacle.

The General and Stake Officers Sustained and an Address by M. I. Wooley by Elder B. H. Roberts.

The semi-annual conference of the Y. M. M. I. A. of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion, commenced in the Tabernacle Sunday, October 24, 1897, at 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. In the morning an hour's meeting was held at which valuable instructions in Mutual Improvement work were given by the general and Stake superintendency, the remarks touching upon the methods to be pursued and the steps to be taken in inducing the young men to attend the association.

In the afternoon the principal speaker was Elder B. H. Roberts, although a portion of the time was taken up by President Joseph F. Smith.

The choir sang the anthem:

"All hail the glorious day
Ye Prophets long foretold."

Prayer was offered by Elder James E. Talmage.

The choir further sang:

"Great God attend while Zion sings
The joy that from The Presence springs."

The general and Stake authorities of the Y. M. M. I. A. were then presented by Stake Superintendent N. S. Lyman, the voting being unanimous in each instance. The Stake officers are as follows:

Superintendent, Richard R. Lyman; assistants, Joseph F. Smith, Heber C. Iverson; secretary and treasurer, Jesse B. Higgs; corresponding secretary, Wm. O. Sears; musical director, Jos. J. McClellan.

Aids—Osmi J. Lang, Horace D. Hurley, Joseph A. West, T. A. Clawson, Jas. R. Rawlins, Geo. R. McAllister, Louis B. Wells, Arthur E. White, Peter Jas Sanders, Joseph S. Mosley, Alvin A. Beesley, Oldon M. Mumford, Dodd Brown, Brent B. Hoover, Fred's Dell, Frank Butterfield, Albert Spencer.

The M. I. A. quartet rendered a vocal selection entitled Lord we come before Thee now.

Elder B. H. Roberts of the superintendency of the M. I associations addressed the congregation. He began by bearing an interest in the faith and prayers of those assembled that his remarks might be beneficial to all who had gathered together. He then referred to the vastness ground thrown open for the young men of Zion, taking as the belief of the Saints as to the opening up of this last dispensation and the heavenly revelations received by the Prophet Joseph Smith at the time when the Father and the Son appeared unto him and told him that none of the churches then organized upon the earth were true. This fact, said the speaker, the Latter-day Saints believed in and they also believed that some three years distant from that time the Lord had revealed to the earth, thus giving unto ancient inhabitants of this continent, by giving unto the Prophet Joseph the plates which contained those sacred records of the ancient Prophets who dwelt and preach the Gospel to those who were in darkness. Subsequent to this time the Priesthood was given, the power which Moses had and was made conjoint of the keys which Elias had, which gave to the fathers and the power of turning the hearts of the parents to their children and those of the children to their parents lest the coming of the terrible day of the Lord.

This were the authorities and powers given to the Saints here upon the earth, continued the speaker. They were revelations which were self-evident to all the Saints of God, and being so, from upon the Saints great responsibilities were placed which required that they live in harmony with that they had received. This responsibility was one which rested upon them the doing of the Father's will, because the knowledge they received was of a nature that was unknown to the world. A departure from this ways would bring upon the Saints the condemnation that had fallen upon those whose actions did not meet the business following a strict adherence to the laws and commandments. There were the happenings to which Mormonism had its origin, and, before the church it believed all Saints to exercise their faith by their works, by following out their duties. To do this, the Holy Spirit had to be sought after that the grace of God would ever rest with the Saints in holiness, that to overcome their frailest weaknesses and living in the manner ordained. Human effort was always necessary in an adherence to religious matters, but with it should be coupled that humility to seek after divine assistance, whereby the saints might be able to build upon their own efforts and this add strength to their individual energies in that direction.

The speaker took the responsibility of speaking the young men among the Latter-day Saints, referring particularly to the duty of preaching the Gospel to the nations of the earth. This duty, said Elder Roberts, was one of the most important in the Church, being the work of disseminating the principles of the Gospel to those who knew it not, and was a task—it was an undertaking which required not only the physical and mental strength of the community but one which was ordained by the mouth of the Lord at all times. It was a work which made the Saints, and yet it was one upon which Jesus Christ, teaching them to unite, was which could never be severed, for which never could be broken.

In speaking to those who were about to engage in the ministry, the Lord commanded that they should go two by two to find and pray and to converse with one another on the principles which they were to teach unto among the people. These instructions had been given to the Elders in the dispensation of forty years ago, and were just as binding since then to-day as they were at that time. The Lord gave unto them a commandment that good was one which covered the whole ground of divine knowledge and gave unto the servants of God a broad ground upon which they were to teach the Gospel, to seek after new truths and to unfolding themselves for the edification in which they would be called to engage. The mission of the Saints was to open up the way for the fulfillment of the prophecies that those in the knowledge that they themselves had received, so that their light would arise and become a glorious star in the firmament of the Gospel work.

Home missionary work was next referred to by the speaker. This was a great essential among the Saints of God, Stakeries of the Mutual Improvement association in the Church was a necessity to the work of 1897. While this was a very good entertainment, it was not what it should be, and the speaker was of the opinion that the Mutual Improvement Association of the Mutual Improvement age who were not engaged in the associations. In the face of this showing there was great need for home missionary work among the young men of Zion. Many of them had not yet been converted to the revelations to which Mormonism had its origin, and said, they had both their assistance in the Gospel work and yet they were little interested. Thus the Mutual Improvement associations had a great work before them to gather up those who were straying away from the duties which should devolve upon them. Each Mutual Improvement association should constitute himself a committee of one to convert another to the association, and thus build up the Mutual Improvement associations.

Elder Roberts congratulated the Mutual Improvement workers in the work in which they were engaged. They were, said the speaker, doing extra results if they would stick to the line of the exercises mapped out by the Mutual Improvement Association. Active energetic work was required—work calculated to build up the spiritual interests of saints and which would bring those engaged in it nearer to their heavenly Father. The Mutual Improvement associations were not improvement anthropy for the purpose of passing away idle hours. They had and yet have work and endeavor to fit and prepare the youth of Zion for future responsibilities.

President Joseph F. Smith was the next speaker. He called the attention of the congregation to the great work in which the Latter-day Saints were engaged, and referred to the necessity of the young men and young women of Zion becoming acquainted with the importance of the Mutual Improvement work, which, said President Smith, was no trifle, neither was it a trifle; it was a reality which, if complied with, would be profitable to the Saints of God, and which would enable them to reach the destiny in store for them to live their religion in the manner expected of them. President Smith lately referred to the tendency of immorality in the Church, and referred to the necessity of the young men and young women of Zion becoming acquainted with the importance of the Mutual Improvement work, which, said President Smith, was no trifle, neither was it a trifle; it was a reality which, if complied with, would be profitable to the Saints of God, and which would enable them to reach the destiny in store for them to live their religion in the manner expected of them. President Smith lately referred to the tendency of immorality in the Church, and referred to the necessity of the young men and young women of Zion being