



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday,.....Oct. 12, 1864.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

From Thursday morning till Sunday evening we had the pleasure of attending the General Conference, and we do not remember having seen a Conference so numerously attended for several years past; and it is our opinion that this unusually vast ingathering from all parts of the Territory is, in a great measure, attributable to the indefatigable labors of Presidents Young and Kimball, together with the Twelve Apostles and their immediate associates who have, during this year, visited nearly all the prominent settlements in the Territory, stirring up the people to more perfect obedience to the will of Heaven, to diligence and good works, reminding them of their sacred covenants made in holy places. These fatiguing travels and toils of the leaders of Israel were doubtless the means of bringing hundreds to the Conference that would otherwise have found excuses for staying away.

The day after President Young's return from the south, cool weather commenced, and we feared that the October Conference, like many previous ones, would have to be held in stormy weather; but we were agreeably disappointed when on the day before the convening of the Conference the threatening indications of severity on the part of the elements passed quietly away, and each and every day of the assembling of the Saints was remarkably fine and pleasantly warm, resembling what is understood in this region by the technical phrase "Indian summer."

We have heard various estimates of the numbers present, the minimum of which would be about 6,000 souls. To add to the pleasing and instructive variety that characterized each day's proceedings, Prof. Thomas' well trained band were in attendance from the morning of the 7th, and discoursed sweet, enlivening music at appropriate intervals.

The spirit of instruction made itself manifest in the first sermon of the Conference, which was preached by President Kimball, and a continuous and almost unceasing flood of light, wisdom, knowledge and holy precepts was poured forth by the speakers on each successive day, causing every faithful Saint to rejoice under the influence of the spirit of revelation. Every man who preached testified that Joseph Smith was the man chosen of God to usher in the marvelous work of the last days; and they prophesied, with much unctiousness, of the future prosperity and final triumph of the kingdom of God over all its enemies, under the guidance of that infallible wisdom which comes from the throne of God, through President Young, to the Saints.

Our cotton-growing district received the especial attention of the Conference, and after a plain statement of the condition of the people in that part of the Territory, on Saturday morning, by Elder Erastus Snow, it was unanimously resolved to sustain that mission. To effectually carry out this resolution over one hundred names were called, principally men of wealth, who are required, not so much to go and raise cotton as to furnish the needful and substantial requisites to enable the laboring and willing poor already located there to ac-

complish the work designed by the priesthood and inspiration that sent them there.

The work of the Lord in our day is all that the prophets foretold it would be—a marvelous work and a wonder. Let every man be found at his post, making palpable his integrity by his good works, and ere long the kingdom and the greatness thereof, under the whole heavens, will be given to the Saints, and He will come to reign whose right it is.

We commend to the attention of our readers the minutes of the Conference, printed in this number.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Thursday, October 6, the Saints convened in the Bowerly at 10 a.m.

On the stand were President Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, of the First Presidency; Orson Hyde, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Amasa M. Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow and Franklin D. Richards, of the Twelve Apostles; Joseph Young, Levi W. Hancock, Henry Hariman, Albert P. Rockwood, Jacob Gates and John Van Cott, of the First Presidency of the Seventies; John Young, Edwin D. Woolley and Samuel W. Richards, of the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum; Daniel Spencer, David Fullmer and George B. Wallace, of the Presidency of the Stake of Zion; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, of the Presidency of the Bishoprick; George D. Watt and John V. Long, reporters, and a large number of Bishops and Elders.

The choir sang "The glorious gospel light has shone."

Elder John Taylor offered the opening prayer.

The choir then sang "The time is nigh, that happy time."

President Heber C. Kimball said he felt a great desire to speak for the comfort and consolation of the righteous. He was sensible that we wished to conceive the word of God, and to be benefited by it we must have that spirit which the faithful are entitled to. It was pleasing to him to be enabled to speak from experience of the firmness and integrity of the leaders of Israel, he was a living witness to the power of God that had accompanied the words of Joseph the Prophet, and also the words and labors of the present authorities of the Church. The faithful Saint has an abiding testimony of his acceptance with God, and has continually in his bosom a sure and certain hope of blessings in this life and exaltation in the life to come. It was a gratifying cause of rejoicing to the Saints to know that we live in the greatest dispensation that God has ever given to man. The work in which the Latter-day Saints are engaged, he said, is one that we are called upon to prosecute until the government, the kingdom and the dominion shall be given into the hands of the just. President Kimball then reasoned upon humility, honesty of purpose, faithfulness to God and his kingdom; also upon correction, chastisement, reproof and the general duties of the Saints. He rejoiced to know that the people in all the settlements in the Territory were in a better condition and more prosperous both temporally and spiritually than ever they were before, and this was in part attributable to the visits and labors of the First Presidency and Twelve during the past summer. Brother Kimball's discourse was lengthy, and both interesting and instructive.

President Brigham Young rose and called the attention of the Bishops of this city to the necessity of having a teacher from each Ward to attend during conference and see to seating the congregation. He also wanted to see singers in their places in the choir every day during conference; he likewise wanted to see the brass band in attendance during the hours of meeting. Further, he said, he would like to see the merchants shut up their stores and bring their clerks to the conference. The mechanics ought to shut up their shops, and the farmers leave their work and come to conference, and if their hearts were not there he would like to see their bodies there, and he could assure them that they would be more blessed in doing this than in pursuing another course. To the city Bishops he remarked that he wanted when companies arrived to see them have a man from each ward with a hand-cart or a suitable basket, to gather up some onions, potatoes, some tea and coffee for the weary and worn and comfort them;

he did not care if they apostatized in half a minute, he wanted them treated kindly while they did stay. He was aware what would be said and done in such cases, people would go and seek out their particular friends, but those persons coming in here are all our friends or should be, and he wanted them looking after.

Choir sang "Praise ye the Lord, my heart shall join."

Elder Hyde pronounced the benediction.

2, p. m.

Choir sang "When all thy mercies, O my God."

Elder Lorenzo Snow offered prayer.

Choir sang "How are thy servants blest! O Lord."

Elder Orson Hyde said the brethren in the land of cotton are blessed in the labor of producing the article so much needed by this community. To contrast our present numbers and position with that of the church thirty-three years ago, is truly marvelous and encouraging. Exhorted those portions of families who have come to this country to prepare the way for the rest of the faithful to the purpose they came to accomplish, and not sell and waste the substance they have gathered, and scatter it to strangers. The Saints have been gathered to this land to accumulate the necessities of life in abundance to meet the coming emergency, and to carry out the great purpose and policy of the Most High. Heaven designs to send multitudes of people here, and they shall come to us, for says the Lord "I will make them who have persecuted you to worship at your feet, and I will make them know that the Lord thy God hath loved thee." Plagues will continue to roll upon the world. It looks now as though the "red horse," spoken of in the scriptures was on his mission. The "black horse" will go through afterwards, which represents death and mourning. Then thousands will come to us for safety and for bread. Are we preparing ourselves for these times? I do not see any prospect of famine here, for thy bread shall be given thee and thy water shall be sure, but famine will be elsewhere. The standard of the Almighty is reared in Utah, and to it all people will look. We shall have plenty of human persons to feed, let us have on hand plenty to eat, for then we shall feel strong. Be ye also ready, for in the day and hour ye think not, the son of man cometh."

Elder Joseph W. Young expressed his pleasure in meeting with the Saints again in this bowerly on the Temple Block. He was full of confidence in the God of Israel and also in the progress and increase of the kingdom of God. He realized that the Saints had weapons that were more potent than the weapons of human warfare, and by them they would eventually break down and for ever destroy the powers of Satan and of death. He then gave an interesting account of the present season's emigration; spoke of the labors of the Elders to help the Saints through the States and from the frontiers. Reviewed the past and present condition of the American nation in an interesting and instructive manner, using a number of appropriate figures of speech, and predicting that the time of peace in this land would be when the people would say "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Choir sang "Great God, attend while Zion sings."

Benediction by Elder F. D. Richards.

Friday, Oct. 7, 10 a. m.

Meeting commenced by the choir singing "Come, sound His praise abroad."

Prayer by Elder Charles C. Rich.

Choir sang "My God, the spring of all my joys."

Elder John Taylor arose and addressed the conference. The convening of a general conference was always a pleasing time to him; it was a time for the assembling of the officers of the church and kingdom of God, and he often thought how difficult it was for us to realize the importance of the positions we occupy in the Church of Jesus Christ, but we are blessed with the privilege of sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is said in the scriptures "Ye are not of the world, for I have chosen you out of the world, therefore glorify God in your bodies and spirits which are His. We, who are Latter-day Saints, have left the spirit of the world, our habitations that were in the world, we have forsaken our former friends and associates for the gospel's sake. He then called the attention of the conference to the great privileges and blessings enjoyed by the Saints in this dispensation when compared with those engaged in the apostolic age. The Saints know that the kingdom of God will eventually extend

from the rivers to the ends of the earth, for the Lord God has spoken it.—The God of Israel is the safeguard and protector of His Saints, and in him they put their trust.—The Spirit of God takes of the things of God and shows them to the faithful Saints. Every Saint should know that we have come here to do the will of God.

Elder George G. Bywater gave a very interesting account of his late mission to Europe, and said he was really glad to again meet with the Saints in Utah. He had been on a four years' mission, and during his absence he had done the very best he knew how, perhaps not the best he could, but he felt satisfied with his labors. Stated that he had preached in the City of Worcester, also in the principality of Wales. Said he had engaged himself in the preaching of the gospel, and was still willing to labor for the benefit and salvation of the human race. Bore testimony that he knew this to be the kingdom of God, and also that it had been led by revelation all the time, and he likewise knew that the great storm of the judgments of the Almighty was reserved for the day of vengeance.

Choir sang a hymn on the 32d page, after which the meeting was adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Benediction by Elder Amasa M. Lyman.

Afternoon.

"Hark, ye mortals. Hark! be still," was sung, and prayer offered by President Joseph Young.

Elder Amasa M. Lyman arose and delivered an interesting discourse on the causes that brought the Latter-day Saints together. It was the obedience to the invitation of our Savior, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you" which had brought the people to this the land of Zion; it was the following of the gospel revealed unto the present generation. It was said in olden times that the kingdom of heaven was like a net cast into the sea, which gathers of all kinds of fish. Those who doubt the kingdom of God being in Utah might be enlightened by looking what the Saints have been doing. Some suppose the preaching of the gospel to be the declaring of a certain number of doctrines in just so many words, but the preaching of the Lord's chosen servants is for the purpose of correcting the errors of the ignorant and unenlightened. After the gathering home of the Saints, he remarked, there is a constant labor of keeping before the minds of the people that which will save them from folly and vice, that will purify their thoughts, and lead them to pursue that course which will be most conducive to their own happiness. He knew that there was but one people whose conduct harmonizes with the purity of character and holiness of purpose, that exist with the Almighty.

Elder Thomas E. Jeremy rejoiced in again being permitted to mingle with the Saints in Zion, and in the knowledge he had of the work of God. Related some pleasing and amusing incidents of his late mission to Europe. It was 15 years since he first arrived in the valley, and 7 years of that time he had been absent on missions. Bore testimony to the truth and argued the necessity of the Saints having constantly within them the spirit of revelation. In the course of his remarks, br. Jeremy treated of the present state of things generally in the principality of Wales, and made observations relative to his journey across the Atlantic Ocean, through the States and over the plains.

President Brigham Young made a few remarks on the state of feeling that once existed in Nauvoo, when men were so foolish as to contend that no revelation was needed more than was contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and said that if we have not the living oracles and the living witness within us we are nothing. The Latter Day Saints are blessed with the oracles of divine truth in their midst, and they know that ere long the kingdom must pass into the hands of the Saints, and then they will possess it for ever and for ever. The people of God are required to be one in faith and one in action.

Choir sang "Guide us, O thou great Jehovah."

Elder George A. Smith dismissed the meeting.

Evening.

A priesthood meeting was held in the Tabernacle at early candle light, at which Bishop Hunter, President John Young of the High Priests' Quorum, President Joseph Young of the Seventies and President Brigham Young delivered addresses. Business pertaining to the priesthood was also transacted during the evening, and the meeting was upon the whole truly interesting.