

[For the "Deseret Evening News."]

**MINUTES OF THE 25TH MEETING AND FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEMALE RELIEF SOCIETY OF THE 17TH WARD, S. L. CITY.**

REPORTED BY MRS. L. D. ALDER.

UNION HALL, 17TH WARD, }  
Thursday, Feb. 18, 1869.

Met in accordance with adjournment. Present—Acting President of this Stake of Zion, G. B. Wallace, Elders I. Doremus, Geo. Dunford, A. Merrill; also Sister E. R. Snow, with several of the Presidents and officers of other Societies in the city.

After singing and prayer, the Minutes of the preceding meeting, also the First Annual Report of the Society, were read by the Secretary and accepted.

The following is a copy of the First Annual Report:

This Society was partially organized on Thursday evening, Feb. 6, 1868.

The Society, now fully organized, is composed of one Presidentess, two Counsellors, Secretary and Treasurer; sixteen Teachers or Visiting Committee, and their President with one Counsellor and Secretary; a Board of Appraisers, composed of four members; and one hundred and seventy members.

The financial condition of the Society is as follows:

Received in donations during the fiscal year, ending Feb. 17th, 1869,

Cash.....	\$ 62 40
Provisions and merchandise.....	935 62½
Cash from parties given by the Society.....	213 40
In orders and merchandise.....	26 90

Total.....	\$1238 32½
Amount disbursed in behalf of the needy.....	\$854 85½

Balance in Treasury:	
Cash.....	182 85
Store orders.....	12 50
Merchandise.....	188 12

Total.....	\$1238 32½
------------	------------

Articles manufactured by the Society: Bedquilts, 14; 56½ yds. carpet; 42 yds. jeans; 22 prs. of pants; 33 prs. of socks; 8 suits of clothes.

Paid for child's tuition, \$10 00.

Have at command in lumber for building purposes, \$150 00.

The Teachers or Visiting Committee, by request of the Presidentess, then came forward and reported the condition of their respective blocks, and also brought forward what donations had been contributed since the preceding meeting.

After appropriate remarks and instructions from Elders A. Merrill, I. Doremus, Geo. B. Wallace, Acting President of this Stake of Zion, Acting Bishop Geo. Morris, Presidentess Hyde and Sister S. M. Kimball, Sister E. R. Snow made the following remarks:

"I have often thought that unless we had more to do than what it seemed possible for us to accomplish, we should not perform all that we might.

It is a blessing to us, that we, at times, are brought into circumstances which are calculated to bring into exercise every power and faculty which we possess. It is true, it may not seem very desirable for the time being, but it has a tendency to strengthen and develop our abilities and prepare us for greater usefulness.

We have been instructed that each one of us, in our organization, is endowed with the germs of every faculty requisite to constitute a God or goddess. These little ones in their mothers' arms have the germs of all the capabilities which we exhibit; and what constitutes the difference between them and ourselves? Why, a lack of development in them, and this development requires cultivation, energy and perseverance.

The organization of the Female Relief Society places the Sisters in positions to bring into exercise and thus develop all of our faculties; thus, in doing good to others, we benefit ourselves. "In blessing, thou shalt be blest." And those who do the most good will be most blest.

My sisters, let us so cultivate ourselves that we may be capable of doing much good. We are the daughters of our Heavenly Father, and our position as Saints of the Most High, is at the head of the world. Let us try to realize our responsibilities and honor our position.

It is a delicate thing for us sisters, to act in an organized capacity. Our brethren are accustomed to move in organized bodies. We are not, and we need a great deal of the spirit and wisdom of God to direct us. Although we should meet with difficulties, let us never feel discouraged, but move forward in the path of duty, and through the blessing of God and the encouragement of our brethren, we shall surmount every obstacle. When you see one step before

you, take it, and do not wait to see where is the next; if we see one step, it is not for us to stand still until we see the way clear in the distance, but move forward, and the way will be opened before us, step by step. This is a principle. God requires us to make the effort and thus prove our faith and trust in Him, and then He is sure to extend His aid. We have a gratifying illustration of this principle here before us. Sister Rich reports that Bro. Rich donates \$50 00 worth of lumber to this Society. If the Society had not made a move in the direction of preparing to build, this liberal donation would not have been made.

This Society has already done much. God has been with you my sisters, or you could not have accomplished what you have. You have also had the faith and prayers of the First Presidency and of your Bishop.

This organization is a portion of the holy priesthood, and stands in the same relation to the Bishop that the Society which was organized in Nauvoo by Joseph Smith, stood to him; and the idea of the Society acting in opposition to the Bishop, is not only preposterous, but an impossibility. In all its movements it acts in accordance with his counsel, and the moment it takes a step aside from this, it ceases to exist in its proper order, and the spirit of the Institution is withdrawn.

But I am not, in the least, anticipating such an event. You have a President and Counsellors, who have learned by many years of experience to respect and be guided by the authorities placed over them. Yet, I feel to say to you be careful, move cautiously, yet with energy.

I feel to congratulate you on your success—you have done much. You have donated liberally, and you have disbursed as liberally. I trust that in the ensuing year the demands on your treasury will not be so heavy as in the past.

And, by the way, I wish to caution my sisters a little with regard to sympathy. Our sympathies, as well as every other emotional feeling, require cultivation. This I have learned by practical experience. I could not believe that any person would solicit charity unless really needy, and I had been many times imposed upon before I dared to question my sympathies; but I "learned wisdom from the things I suffered."

It is your duty and province, as a Society for the relief of the poor, to make yourselves fully acquainted with the circumstances of those who solicit your aid. I have known instances of people being supported by charity when they had large boxes stored with goods, jewelry, &c. Do not hesitate to inform yourselves—the really needy will not dissemble, neither will they shrink from investigations. You need the wisdom of God to direct you in these matters, that you may neither withhold from the destitute, nor unnecessarily drain your treasury.

Each member of the Society should study to know her place, and honor herself by filling it honorably, and all move forward like machinery that is perfect in all its parts. Let no one overstep her mark, or in the least crowd against another. For instance, I would say to the Teachers, or Visiting Committee, it is for you to visit your respective blocks, to ascertain the circumstances of those you visit, and report to the proper authorities, whose province it is to deal out or administer as shall be requisite. And if this principle shall be carried out in every department, the Society will move on like clock-work.

We must learn to act from principle, not from feeling; we often have occasion to put the bit upon our feelings, and with a strong curb of restraint keep them under proper control, for through this channel the tempter will seek to stir up jealousies and envies; check every feeling of this nature. We may at times think we have not received due respect from this or that one, but let us ever remember that "it is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong;" let us act nobly, as becomes Saints of God, and daughters of Abraham, and ever bear in mind that the greatest and noblest are the most condescending.

This is our branch; there are many branches; but they all constitute one Female Relief Society as it was organized by Joseph Smith. Let each member realize her responsibility, and seek to make the society honorable by being honorable herself. Let us be humble and cherish the Spirit of God, that we may increase in wisdom and knowledge, that we may attain to true and noble womanhood, that we may become what we were, in the beginning created to be, helpmates to our brethren. According to instructions by the Pro-

phet Joseph, at the time of its first organization, this society is designed to be a relief to the Bishop and elders of Israel. In administering to the poor you have already aided your Bishop and lessened his cares, and every labor that comes within the province of woman, devolves upon the Female Relief Society.

In a recent address by Prest. Young before the Female Relief Society of the 15th Ward, he established a broad platform, and pointed out an extensive field, or fields of labor, almost too much it might seem, to be accomplished in this generation.

I desire fervently that we all may grow better day by day, that when the faithful shall be called out, as we have been instructed they will be, we may be of the number.

My sisters, you have my blessing, and my prayer is that we may have grace to overcome evil with good, have power to withstand temptation, attain to the faith of the ancients and obtain victory over everything that opposes us in our way to the celestial kingdom."

Sister Z. D. Young expressed her satisfaction in what she had seen and heard. She spoke very encouragingly to the sisters and exhorted them to continue and increase in faithfulness, and to be united that they may have power with God.

Sister M. T. Smoot and B. Smith followed with encouraging and comforting words.

Presidentess M. A. Hyde said, "I am thankful for the encouragement we have received from our brethren, and also our sisters who have met with us to-day. When we were organized one year ago, I thought that a weaker vessel than myself could not be found. I almost felt to shrink from the position to which I was called. And, although I have succeeded beyond my expectations, I feel my weakness yet. I realize that we have been greatly blessed as a society. The sisters have been very energetic and have cheerfully responded to every call; they have contributed liberally and done much, and although crowded with cares, labors and responsibilities, aside from those connected with the society, they have been punctual to every duty, and have gladdened many hearts. My sisters, I thank you. All that we have done has been through the faith and prayers of our brethren and our union and perseverance. With us it has been all union."

The meeting then adjourned. Benediction by Elder George Morris.

MRS. MELINDA N. HYDE, Prest.,  
Mrs. L. D. ALDER, Sec.

**THE SICK MAN IN OUR CIVILIZATION.**

Again the recurring question is asked, What shall we do with the Mormons? When this occidental Islam began its departure from the banks of the Mississippi, twenty years ago, and struck boldly into the wilderness, it was the wrong answering of this question which made it sanguine and strong. The vigorous compulsion of a large and peaceful community in a matter of morals is at variance with the mild and comprehensive genius of our institutions. The civilized world has got past the flower of ethical absolutism in governments. Even the despotic Czar would not venture in the face of Europe, after a conquest of the Turk, to annul the relationships and thrust out the inmates of the harems. But polygamy is a great evil. It is. So is the drinking of whiskey; yet no one proposes to suppress distilleries with the torch, or to set up laboratories besides them from which to flood them with deadly gases. They are made tributary to the public treasury, and we pay with the revenue for the things of Cæsar and the prayers of Congress.

Nor do we perceive in the dismemberment of Utah either equitable dealing or remedy for abuse. That the surrounding Territories are waiting and eager to receive their respective morsels is the worst feature of the prospect. To the rapacity of covetousness would presently be added the arrogance of domination and the rancor of dissent. Wrangling and waste, strife and bloodshed, would ensue. An intenser fanaticism would be aroused in the body of the Mormon population, to be followed by another exodus—a closer cohesion and a larger growth. In time the precedent might be perverted in its application, and the absorption of small and obnoxious States on other pretences of peccability, moral and political, insisted upon. Here it would be a pillory; there a wrested question of finance. Surely our Christian faith is strong enough, unarméd with the faces of civil

authority, to cope with this peculiarity of Asiatic civilization, even though it be as old as the patriarchs and robust from an Anglo-Saxon crossing. What, then, is the solution of this problem of polygamy? Simply to surround the "saints" and let them alone. They will contaminate nobody—the Christian women will take care of that. So in time the snakes will untwist from the unsevered head of this Medusa, and creep silently and stealthily away.

We protest, further, in behalf of the interests of industry against all projects of proscriptive aggression. That is always a calamity which disturbs the equilibrium of peaceful labor, and chokes the sources of production. Bring discord with her dagger on the scene, and the toiling hand drops nerveless from plough handle and forging tool; those virtues that dwell in serene security quit the land. The Mormon population of Utah numbers nearly a hundred thousand souls. To be usefully busy is a part of their religion. When their pioneers entered the valley which they have since rescued from the wilderness, that same day they drove their teams afield and turned with their shares the virgin furrows. Since then they have labored on undaunted by drought and locust. Everywhere throughout their reach of settlements, north, south, east and west, they have dug canals and ditches for irrigation. Numerous flocks of sheep of superior breeds feed on their pasture ranges. They cultivate successfully diverse staples—wheat, cotton, and the vine. As you look down upon Salt Lake City from the Bench, after emerging from the Wasatch Canyon, it seems almost as umbrageous as Damascus or Padua. Each house has its orchard of apple, apricot and cherry trees; and the wide and watered avenues of the town are shady with locusts, mulberries and cottonwood. Here is a quiet and increasing community of well-to-do consumers, with iron arms reaching for supplies on either side across the continent to the markets of the East and of the West. And it is proposed in Congress to dismember this community and allot it, in a feast of fragments, to the wandering adventurers of the surrounding regions—miners, gamblers and traders, who will sin in an orthodox way.

This project of dismemberment may be to some extent a bid for disorder in the interests of jobbery. We think we see in it a suspicious shadow lurking behind the Cross. The hectoring Mormons will sell their hard-earned improvements at low prices; there will be valuable franchises and congressional subsidies for this and for that; there may be turbulence and another expedition of troops, and then, in a hundred ways, to employ the language of the sagacious Nym, "profits will accrue." Of course, nobody in the last case would be accusable but the perfidious and polygamous Mormons; and the contractors, with full pockets, could very well dispense with the acclamations which would be withheld by an ungrateful country.—Ex.

**Special Notices.**

Having lately received extensive additions to our already large and varied stock, in the shape of type, presses, &c., &c., our facilities for executing all kinds of Job Work in the best and most improved styles have been greatly increased. Co-operative and other establishments can be supplied with plain or tinted Order and Receipt Books, Certificates of Stock, and every kind of work. Orders from the city and the country settlements are respectfully solicited.

We have received one of the latest improved ruling machines, and are, therefore, prepared to do all kinds of ruling according to order, on the shortest notice. s&w tf

**McCormicks Reapers & Mowers!**

We believe these are the CHEAPEST and BEST Machines manufactured for the people of the far west, for many reasons which will be explained at another time, and would request all who intend buying to wait a short time before ordering, as I came here to establish a permanent agency for the sale of these justly celebrated machines, and will send a car load here in a short time for samples. We intend to keep a full assortment of extras, or repair parts, on hand at this point at all times, so if any part fails it can be replaced.

We will guarantee to lay these machines down at Ogden, on the railroad, as follows:

Light two wheel prize Mower, \$160.  
Light two wheel combined self Raker and Mower, \$225.  
Old Reliable self Rakers, combined, \$255.

Possibly a little less than the above prices.

H. C. ADDIS,  
Gen'l Agt. for C. H. McCormick & Bro.  
Chicago & W. L.