

THE DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

THE DAILY PAPER.

The time is not far distant, it seems to us, when, among our people, the daily paper will be more popular and more widely known than any other periodical. We imagine we can already see the causes in operation which will bring this about. We live in a fast age; electricity and steam have wrought wonders in annihilating distance and in bringing nations and communities, widely separated, into close communication. Isolated as we have been in this Territory, still we sensibly experience the effect of these improvements. We have only to contrast our condition to-day with that of twenty years ago to be aware of this. The contrast is almost startling even to those who have been eye-witnesses of the gradual development of affairs here.

Only a few years have elapsed since the people of this Territory had to wait, occasionally for months, to hear intelligence of the greatest importance from the East. Communication was slow, and at certain seasons, almost impracticable. But the world has continued to move and we have progressed. Through the improvements which have been introduced we are placed in electric communication with the rest of the world. Events which now take place in London and the other capitals of Europe are known here within a few hours after they occur, and in a few moments can be transmitted from this city to the most remote parts of the Territory. We are far removed from the conveniences which abound in older-settled countries, yet we have not been backward about availing ourselves of the improvements of the age. Already, our settlements from Logan in the North to St. George in the South, are connected by electric bands. Should anything important transpire here, or at any other point in the Territory, it is immediately known throughout the settlements north and south. There is no necessity to resort to our old plan of sending expresses, wearing out men and animals, and in times of danger, risking the lives of both. The present system is safer and more expeditious, and not so expensive. The advantages which attend this improvement are every day becoming more apparent to the people.

Many did not appreciate them in the beginning, for they had never been accustomed to them; they had lived all their lives without having recourse to a telegraph wire, and it was but natural that they should be slow to perceive its benefits. But should they be deprived of the wires now, they would miss them and feel that they had suffered a great loss. Telegraphic communication is fast becoming an indispensable necessity with them. We may reasonably expect that there will be developed among all our people a greater anxiety for the news of the day. There is no people in the world who take greater interest in the affairs of the nations and the progress of events than the people of this Territory. In consequence of their circumstances this disposition has been repressed. But now that there are opportunities afforded for its gratification, it will make itself felt.

A great impulse has also been given of late to education. We must in the very nature of things become a reading people. No great length of time can elapse before we will have daily mails carried between all the settlements of the Territory. Of course such facilities for the speedy transmission of postal matter will bring the daily paper into demand, especially if the price of subscription be so low that the masses can pay for it and not feel it too heavily. The force of example has a wonderful influence in this respect. We have noticed that where the daily paper is taken by a family other families in the neighborhood are not slow to perceive the advantages which arise from it, and as soon as they can they subscribe too. As education spreads this will become more common; for the young must have their taste for knowledge gratified. Nothing but a judiciously edited daily paper will satisfy them, and they will look for such a paper each day as naturally as they look for their meals.

The day is not far distant, we hope, when the importance of properly-conducted journals will meet with a full recognition among our people. Money invested in that direction yields a rich return to every parent in the intelligence and consequent usefulness of their children. If any doubt this, let them

converse with the children of a family where no paper is taken, and then mingle with another class whose parents have a good journal to which they can have access. In the one instance the children will grow up in ignorance, with uncultivated and barren minds, while in the other an amount of knowledge will be accumulated and a familiarity with the great movements in the world and the current topics will be gained, that will surprise those who have not had experience in the effects which are produced by the regular reading of such a periodical.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference has closed, and to-day the people who have come from other places are on their way home again. The weather has been more than usually fine for the season, and those who wished to attend the meetings did so without being exposed to storms. Large congregations have attended every meeting; but particularly in the afternoons; at such times the number present has been estimated at ten thousand. The body of the building is now furnished with the new seats, and these added materially to the comfort of the congregation. Though a portion of the people present found it difficult to hear what some of the speakers said, and in some parts of the house it was probably not always possible to distinguish every word said by those with the best voices, still the audience had much greater satisfaction in listening at this Conference than at last Fall Conference. This probably arose from the erection of a canopy over the stands, and from the speakers being more accustomed to the vastness of the building and their being better able to accommodate their voices to the audience than they were last October. With the improvements which are contemplated we have no doubt about the new Tabernacle proving as great an acoustic success, as it is a success in other respects. With a properly constructed sounding board over the stands, and with such a gallery as has been projected, it will be the finest building on the Continent in which to assemble a large audience.

We have heard but one expression from all with whom we have conversed respecting the Conference, an expression of satisfaction. The subjects dwelt upon have been eminently practical, and such as the humblest capacity could comprehend. We shall be disappointed if great results do not follow the teachings which the people are now receiving. The food we eat and the clothing we wear are topics of the greatest importance to sentient beings. And if the people can be taught what food is best for them, and how they can most easily produce it and manufacture their clothing, a great point is gained. By dwelling upon the importance of dietetics, and imparting information upon the subject, the people will be led to reflection, and when they once see the necessity for a change in their diet and other modes of life, the chief difficulty in the way of their progress is overcome. We aim at physical regeneration. With the knowledge we now have, no question that did not incorporate within it the principles by which such a result could be brought about would be acceptable to the Latter-day Saints. Such teachings as have been given at this conference lie at the foundation, therefore, of our religion. By carrying them into effect, health, physical energy and beauty and longevity will be obtained, and a race of men produced that will possess every needed requisite to carry on the great labors which shall devolve upon them.

The instructions which were given respecting the proper observance of the sabbath, the immigration of the poor, and home manufactures were all excellent and timely. President Young's remarks on the subject of digging gold ought to be riveted on the mind of every Latter-day Saint.

Instead of hunting gold we ought to pray the Lord to hide it up. Gold is not wealth, wealth consists in the multiplication of the necessaries and comforts of life. Instead of hunting gold, go and raise wheat, barley, oats, get your bread and make gardens and orchards and raise vegetables and fruits that you may have something to sustain yourselves and something to give to the poor and the needy."

This is counsel which every man who has any interest in Zion would do well to remember.

The counsel which was given to the ladies about organizing themselves into

societies, and taking the lead in fashions and matters of taste, will we trust be carried into effect. An ample field for usefulness has been opened to them, and there will be many causes for regret if they do not avail themselves of the opportunities which they now have within their reach.

Those who came from a distance to attend conference will go back feeling richly repaid for their time and trouble in coming here. The practice of assembling together twice a year is beneficial. By those from different parts of the Territory mingling together, and becoming acquainted and brightening up and strengthening old friendships, homogeneity is preserved and the growth of sectional feeling is checked.

A CONVERTED BACHELOR.—The zeal of new converts is proverbial; there is no zeal that will compare with it. If you wish the evils of intemperance vividly depicted, employ a reformed drunkard to do it. If the dangers of an irreligious life are to be described, who can do so with more earnestness and eloquence than a man who has just emerged from such a condition? Such men realize with greater force and distinctness than any others the blessed escape they have had in being emancipated from their previous state. The acuteness of their sensations in awakening to a true sense of their position adds vigor and force to their language, and enables them to stir up the emotions of their hearers to their profoundest depths.

An article appeared in our yesterday evening's issue, under the title of "Bachelors." It was a well-written article. We confess we could not have stirred up the class for whom it was intended so thoroughly as did the writer, even if we had tried, for the simple reason we are not a bachelor—we are, as Artemus would have it, considerably married. It required a bachelor to write that article in such a piquant and vigorous style; but we are happy in being able to add that he was a converted bachelor. We had almost given him up as incorrigible. To use a familiar, but rather irreverent expression, we had almost looked upon him as past praying for. We had exhausted all our eloquence upon him, but without any perceptible results. Reason, entreaty, jokes and everything else had all been tried in vain. Whether the fear of having to pay a fine of two hundred dollars into the treasury of the P. E. Fund Company, has been potent in bringing conviction to his flinty heart we are not prepared to say. But we are convinced he has reformed. We saw indisputable evidences of his entire conversion on Sunday last, as he wended his way to the Tabernacle. We were surprised at the change which we saw in his appearance. He was not the man he had been. His countenance was demure, and his deportment most proper. Yet, withal, he seemed so happy and contented, and his companion looked into his face with such an expression of fond confidence that we were quite prepared for a caustic article from his pen on bachelors.

THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Monday, 2 p.m.

A vast congregation of people had assembled together by the time for commencing the afternoon meeting.

The choir sang the hymn commencing "An Angel from on high;" prayer was offered by Elder Orson Pratt; after which the choir sang an anthem.

Elder George A. Smith dwelt upon the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy, quoting from the revelations in the book of Doctrine and Covenants, 149th page, and second section, and 160th page, and fourth section, where it is enjoined upon the Saints to observe the Sabbath day. We should not work on that day, but we should meet together to offer up our oblations and sacraments to the Lord. And not only is it right in a religious view, being a command of God; but it is also necessary that the human system should have regular seasons of resting, when it can relax from the constant strain of work, and these the Sabbath affords. He referred to the efforts made to gather the Saints, and said that though much had been done, much remains to be done; and he urged the preparing of teams and wagons, food, &c., to bring them from the railway terminus. He advocated fish-culture, maintaining that fish can be as easily and as cheaply raised as any kind of food, and is superior to the flesh of animals. Silk making and silk manufacture were urged by him as a most profitable branch of industry. Our climate and soil are excellent for these purposes, and we possess advantages such as can be found in few if any other places on the earth, for keeping worms and obtaining an excellent quality of silk. We can have silk as cheaply as we can woolen and

cotton fabrics, though it is much richer and more durable.

Elder George Q. Cannon said that to properly enjoy the blessings within our reach, we must pursue a course to prolong our lives and preserve our health. Abstinence from stimulants, such as tea, coffee, tobacco and alcoholic liquors is not only desirable but necessary; and the very sparing use of beef and mutton in hot weather is conducive to health, while swine's flesh should be entirely abstained from. But we must have sufficient variety of food, not a great variety at every meal, but our food varied at different times, that the stomach may be kept healthy and the appetite unpalated. He advocated the importance of fish-culture, and the value of fish as an article of diet, which was declared to possess brain-making material to a greater extent than any other kind of animal food. Simplicity of diet is necessary, so that the digestive powers may not be overburdened, and that our wives and daughters may not be overtaken with unnecessary household duties.

President B. Young referred to the efforts made in the beginning of cotton growing to get machinery introduced; and to the labors which have been performed by the Saints. He instructed the congregation on the use of meat, and said it was the will of the Lord that this people should cease eating swine's flesh. We should cultivate fruit to a still greater extent than we now do. And fish, as an article of food, is as healthy as any animal food that we can eat. He recommended the sisters to organize Relief Societies where it has not been done, and to organize societies to take the lead in fashions and in everything good and useful; called upon the Bishops to plant rye, that the straw might be used in braiding hats and bonnets; and urged the raising of silk, and the carrying out the counsels given with regard to home manufactures and other means requisite to make us independent in supplying our wants.

Singing, Anthem, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven." Prayer by Elder John Taylor.

Tuesday, 7th.
10 a.m.

Singing, "The towers of Zion soon shall rise." Prayer by Elder Ezra T. Benson. Singing, anthem, "O, come let us sing."

Elder John Taylor glanced at what has been performed by the Saints during the past thirty-eight years, since the Church was organized, in spreading the Gospel and extending a knowledge of truth among mankind. The principles which we have proclaimed and others which are yet to be taught, are not new, as many in the world say, but they are as eternal as the heavens, and only appears to be new to degenerate man, who if sunk in ignorance and knows not the purposes of God nor understands the principles of truth. The Gospel has been revealed to raise those who will obey it from the low condition in which it finds them, to salvation and exaltation. We have been so enveloped in ignorance and evil, that it is often difficult to discern between truth and error, between good and evil, between light and darkness. Many think they have the most perfect right to do, eat, drink and wear whatever they please, no matter how injurious it may be. As moral agents, as members of society, as beings endowed with the power of procreating our kind, we have no right to do or partake of that which will injure our bodies, shorten our lives, or excite us to wrong doing. We are accountable to God for abusing the tabernacles and powers which he has bestowed upon us; we are responsible to society of which we are members, for our actions in society, and our influence for good or evil; and we have no right to entail disease, suffering and enfeebled organizations upon our posterity. He took up the subject of home manufactures and cited the examples of France and Britain, nations which trace their greatness to and base it upon their manufactures. If we wish to be independent, we must be self-sustaining. President Young has led the way in the cultivation and manufacture of cotton, and in the manufacture of wool, and in other things; and his example is being followed. He is now leading out in silk. There is a duty devolving on the Saints that they should cease to pattern after the world in foolishness; to live as servants of God and obey His laws; and to strive earnestly to follow the examples set before them, in the initiative steps to becoming self-sustaining.

Elder Ezra T. Benson testified to the joy he experienced in obeying the principles of the Gospel. He referred to the