

I received I have made the acquaintance of a number of persons, who otherwise I would not have met. Today some few of them are reading and studying our works, which I have loaned them. In talking over the Gospel message to them, I find them eager and willing to listen and always ready to hear more of the people of God and their belief. It has opened a new field wherein I finally believe there will be good results, and if it should do nothing else, it will tend to remove the prejudice and ill-feeling that we have to contend with.

The work of the ministry seems to be progressing slowly in this part; it is a hard task to uproot the traditions which have come down to them from the ages of superstition and darkness, and to plant in their bosoms the Gospel of our Savior, but as we become better known we shall not have those things to meet that we had heretofore.

If the Saints who may read this little note will kindly act on it, they may be the means of opening up the way whereby some of their relatives or dear friends may have the opportunity of hearing the Word of God as taught by His servants in this land, and of obeying the divine commands in order to become heirs in very deed to an exaltation in the kingdom of God. Hoping that I've not intruded on the space of your valuable paper too much, I remain your brother in the cause of truth and righteousness,

T. W. NICHOLLS.

16 St. Andrew's R. Southampton.

WASATCH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Wasatch Stake quarterly conference was held Saturday and Sunday May 2 and 3, 1896.

Saturday, 10 a. m.—After opening exercises Elder Hatch greeted those present, and trusted all would have a good time. In the course of his remarks he requested all who had lived in Nauvoo to arise. The result was fifteen men and twelve women. There were also five men and three women who had lived in Kirtland in the early history of the Church. He read from the DESERET NEWS of March 26, an account of the burning of the Nauvoo temple. Elders John M. Murdock, P. C. Murdock, William McDonald and James Wilson followed, relating their experience in the Church and bearing testimony to the divinity of the Latter-day work.

2 p. m.—Elders J. Golden Kimball and Edward Stevenson, of the First Council of Seventy, having arrived, Elder Hatch announced that we would hear from them. Elder Stevenson read a portion of the 17th chapter of Jeremiah; said it was good to search the Scriptures and become acquainted with the doings and spirit of the ancient Prophets; the work of God was onward and upward, and it would be so in spite of all opposition; exhorted all to be firm and keep the commandments of God. Elder Kimball exhorted all to build on a solid foundation, as everything that could be shaken would be; but the work of God would accomplish all that was designed it should, and the prophecies of the ancient prophets would be fulfilled.

Saturday evening at 7:30 a Priesthood meeting was held and largely

attended. Much valuable information was given.

Sunday, 10 a. m.—Elder J. G. Kimball referred to patriarchal blessings and the great ambition of some of the mothers in Israel; we will have just what we live for and inherit; read part of the 20th chapter of Matthew, in which a certain woman desired blessings for her two sons; also read from the Doctrine and Covenants, 121 section, "Many are called but few are chosen;" blessings pronounced upon the head of any man by the servants of the Lord would never be realized unless he lived for them.

Elder Stevenson was the next speaker, reading Zechariah, chapter 2, and referring to the first heavenly messenger to Joseph Smith. He was the young man spoken of by Zechariah that the angel spoke to.

2 p. m.—After the usual opening exercises Elder Stevenson addressed the vast congregation while the sacrament was being passed, after which Elder Kimball read the declaration of the general authorities adopted at the recent Conference. When the vote was called for there was but one contrary vote.

The clerk then presented the general and local authorities of the Church and Elder Hatch offered a brief report of the Stake, speaking a good word for all.

After singing by the choir conference adjourned for three months.

A. Y. DUKE,
Assistant Clerk.

AN EXCELLENT CONFERENCE.

HEBER CITY, Wasatch Co., Utah,
May 3, 1896.

We have just closed an excellent conference at this place at 4 o'clock p. m. on Sunday of this lovely day, of the fragrant month of May.

It was said by one who ought to know because he had the audience counted as they passed out, that it numbered just a thousand persons, and that only on one previous occasion had he seen the church so well filled. There were more reasons than one for this turn out. One was, the balmy sunshine—just such as May can afford to bestow in one of the many circle valleys.

This little valley is capable of sustaining, as it now does, 3,500 souls. It is isolated in the tops of the everlasting hills, spoken of by the patriarchs and fathers—Jacob and Moses, of olden times.

Of Jacob we read in Genesis, 49th chapter:

And Jacob called his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

Gather yourselves together, and hear ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

There is something so attractive in the life and history of this great man of God, with blessings and promises so peculiar and interesting, in which all of us now living are deeply interested, that I will digress a little by looking up his original history, beginning with his sublimity in supplanting his brother Esau. In Genesis 26th and 27th we read:

And his father Isaac said unto him [Jacob] come near now, and kiss me, my son. * * God give thee of the dew of

heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Let people serve thee and nations bow down to thee; be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee; cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that bleaseth thee. * * Thy brother came in with subtlety and hath taken away thy [Esau's] blessing. * * And have blessed him, yea, and he shall be blessed.

In the 28th chapter:

And Isaac called Jacob and blessed him. * * And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; and give thee blessings of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger. * * The blessings of thy father [Jacob] have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors [Abraham and Isaac] unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills [The Rocky Mountains]. They shall be upon the head of Joseph, and on the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Jacob, the father of Joseph, to whom God gave the inheritance of this choice land of America, and blessed him, said, Gen. 49; 22:

Joseph is a faithful bough, even a faithful bough by a well, whose branches [children] run over the wall [ocean].

Moses, just before his death, left his blessing with Joseph, as found in Deut. 33; 13, which plainly describes America as the land that Jacob bestowed upon Joseph:

And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven. * * * And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon. And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills.

Only twelve miles from this valley are well developed mines, and the treasures of the everlasting hills in these mountains are yielding millions of treasures, and the fruits of the land indicate that it is a choice land.

We were kindly entertained by President Abraham Hatch and his good house wife who live in a modern mansion built of red sand stone in layers uniform, and brick lining with air chambers. He said only one more wall, with air chamber, and very little fire would keep summer heat up.

The report of the conference was that no debts were hanging over their public buildings or city and county. Scarcely any law suits occur in their isolated valley of peace, health and general prosperity.

Our return by carriage by the kindness of Elder William McDonald, was by way of the Ontario Drain Tunnel, three miles long. We were shown into the tunnel by candle light. The trail is six feet above the rail track under which is the water flow of five feet by twenty-one inches, and not only will this three mile tunnel drain the Ontario mine, but water bodies were found making a flow varying from 10,000 to 90,000 gallons per minute. It falls below the mouth of the tunnel is 100 feet, which will be eventually utilized for electric lights, etc. Then it will flow into the Provo river to be used for irrigation and other purposes. This is a great undertaking—tunneling into the mountain three miles and 1,500 feet below No. 2 shaft of the im-