

CONFERENCE AT LAIE.

Prosperous Condition of the Sandwich Island Mission.

LAIE, October 15, 1888.

Editor Desert News:

The semi-annual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the Sandwich Islands convened on Friday, Oct. 5th. All the white Elders now laboring on the Islands were present, viz: President William King, and Elders E. W. Davis, Elihu Barrell, J. F. Gates, Fred. Beesley, Matthew Noall, E. Farr, Jr., and M. F. Eskle. The latter only arrived by the last steamer, and is therefore hard at it trying to pronounce *ho haa haa*, and *hoo-kie-kie*.

The conference was one of the best attended held in years, a great many new members, especially from Hawaii being here.

Friday and Saturday morning were devoted to hearing reports of the representatives from the different branches.

On Saturday afternoon the Relief Society conference was held, at which was reported a membership of 451. Although societies have been organized in many branches on nearly all the islands, little good is effected by any of them, except those on this island where the white sisters have opportunity to visit and instruct them.

Sunday forenoon was taken up by the Sunday School conference, which was one of our most interesting and instructive meetings. A large representation from four Sunday Schools on this island was present to compete for a first and second prize consisting of a life-size bust oil painting of the president of the Sunday schools throughout the world, viz. our beloved brother, George Q. Cannon, and a Book of Mormon map. By the way these prizes were executed by Elder E. Farr, Jr., and would do credit to a much older and a much more experienced artist. The portrait was painted on a pale blue satin banner, trimmed with heavy cord and tassels. The map was neatly framed by Elder M. Noall.

The exercises consisted mainly of singing and repeating singly and in unison lessons from the catechism. The Laie Sunday school, which had been under the personal and able direction of Elder Fred. Beesley, walked off triumphantly with the banner, and Kaneohe with the map.

Sunday afternoon was mostly occupied by the white Elders in instructing and encouraging the Saints.

Elder J. F. Gates read a translation of the letter which recently appeared in the *Millennial Star*, giving an account of the manifestations in the Manti Temple. The native brethren were very much interested, and felt to praise the Lord for His acceptance of the house, built to His holy name.

The general authorities were presented and sustained, and missionary appointments were made for the following term as follows:

Elders Elihu Barrell, president of the districts of Kona, Kau and Puna, on the island of Hawaii; Fred Beesley, president of Kauai; Matthew Noall, president of Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Lanai; and J. F. Gates, president of the districts of Kohala, Hamakua and Hilo, on Hawaii. None of the Elders except Brother M. Noall expect to be able to leave the plantation, but have efficient native helps appointed who will travel and labor under their direction.

Elder Beesley was sustained as president of the Y. M. M. I. A., and Elder Matthew Noall, president of the Sunday schools. Sister Lucy King was chosen president of the Relief Societies.

Elders E. W. Davis, Barrell, Gates and Beesley continue their labors here at Laie as engineer, book-keeper, sugar-boiler and school teacher respectively.

Friday and Saturday evenings were occupied by the Y. M. M. I. A. The following subjects were spoken upon: Libraries and course of reading, by E. Farr, Jr.; study of the Book of Mormon, J. F. Gates; music in the associations, E. Beesley; study of the doctrines of the Gospel, E. Barrell; science in the associations, Matthew Noall; and government in the associations, Pres. Wm. King.

The financial report of the mission shows the following amounts donated by the Saints, viz.: Mission fund, \$260.00; tithing, \$131.25; temple, \$20.00; for the Honolulu meeting house, \$430.75; for the sale of tracts and books, \$82.00; making a total of \$924.00. The statistical report shows an increase of 326 by baptism.

The temporal part of the mission has prospered exceptionally well this season. The weather has been propitious, noxious rains having fallen during the summer months, thus keeping our cane growing finely. We have just closed down our mill after a short but successful run of about a month, and expect to begin again on December 1st and grind till March or April.

The health of the Utah Elders and their families is generally good. Whooping cough is very prevalent in Honolulu and other places adjacent, but as yet we have escaped.

Elder Enoch Farr, Jr., has been released to return home by next steamer. He has labored here faithfully for three years, and returns with the love and respect of all his brethren and sisters.

All the colony join in Aloha a nui loa to all the Saints in Zion.

J. F. GATES,
Clerk of Conference.

CONFERENCE IN GEORGIA.

GROVETOWN,
Columbia County, Ga.,
October 20, 1888.

Editor Desert News:

According to appointment the Elders of the Georgia Conference gathered in, on October 16th, to have a conference reunion, and receive instructions from our leaders. There were present, President Spry, of the mission, President Smith, and Elders Browning, Ballantyne, Duncan, Fawns, Davis, Danford, Van Leuven and Bannion, of this conference.

Our first meeting convened at Brother A. M. Little's, Oct. 27, at 11 a.m.

After singing and prayer, President Smith arose and explained the object of the conference, to allow the Elders to meet, mingle their feelings, explain different ideas, and to receive instruction as to future labor. He also drew a comparison between what the Saints were in this section one year ago, not having heard the Gospel, what they are now, and what is before them if they prove faithful.

Elder Van Leuven bore his testimony to the truth, and spoke for some time from the text found in Romans 1, 16, showing plainly that we could obtain salvation only in the one appointed way.

Elder Ballantyne then arose, and after speaking for some time upon the first principles of the Gospel, drew a comparison between our condition and that of the outside world. They are in darkness, division, discord, with no knowledge of the truth; while we, by the blessing of God, have the Gospel of Christ, knowledge, union, light, and the communion of God.

Singing. Benediction by President Wm. Spry.

2 p.m.—Meeting called to order by President Smith, and after singing and prayer Elder Larsen was called upon to address the congregation. He spoke at some length upon the joy experienced by the Elders in meeting with the Saints and seeing them obeying the laws of the Lord. Exhorting all to continue in the narrow way.

President Spry expressed his pleasure at meeting with the Saints, and testified to the truth of that which had been spoken. The Saints are blessed above all men. God is willing to bless, not only the Saints, but the whole human family. Still there are certain laws that all men must obey, that they may obtain the favor of God.

Elder Bannion spoke a short time upon the subject of our duties and the necessity of conserving the small things of the Gospel, as they appear to some, and thus laying a foundation to build upon. Also spoke of the necessity of improving the talents that God has given unto us, lest we come and take them away from us.

Elder Duncan followed, exhorting the people to not only hear the word of the Lord but obey it, and teach their children by precept and example to do the same.

Adjourned until tomorrow, 28th inst. Sunday morning. Called to order at 10:30. After singing and prayer, Elder Danford gave some interesting incidents connected with his labors in southwestern Georgia.

President Spry was the next speaker and gave an interesting and instructive discourse on the gathering of Israel.

Elder Davis expressed his thankfulness that God had permitted him to come out into the world to proclaim the truth. Also spoke at some length from the text found in 1 Cor. 1, 10.

Elder Fawns then gave some incidents connected with his being brought, under the direction of the spirit of God, from his native country to Zion, where he found the Gospel. Testified that in the twelve years that he had belonged to the Church he had seen no cause to regret the step he had taken in accepting the truth.

Benediction by President Smith.

3 p.m.—After singing and prayer Elder Joo. M. Browning arose, and taking a text from Psalms 11, 1, gave an interesting discourse upon how the mission of Christ and His Apostles was received in their day, and how the mission of the servants of God is received today; showing conclusively that the people of the world have lost sight of the Gospel in its purity.

President Spry then took up the subject of the principles of the Gospel in a masterly manner and by the spirit of inspiration, showing that all who preach any other are calling down the condemnation of God upon their heads.

President Smith, although being weak from a recent severe spell of sickness, said he could not let the conference close without expressing his joy at the being among the Saints. Spoke for a short time upon the peculiar features of the faith of the Latter-day Saints, as compared with the religions of the so-called Christian sects.

Adjourned indefinitely. Benediction by President Spry.

During our conference, several council meetings were held, and much valuable instructions given to the Elders by our Presidents. A good feeling prevailed among the people, and the Spirit of God was made manifest. But a gloom was cast over the Elders by President Spry receiving, on Sunday morning, a telegram announcing the death of Elder Vincent Pugmire, of the Alabama Conference; and by receiving intelligence about the same time of the death of one of our members here, in this county, Brother Mark Blackstone.

We are now paired off and our fields are assigned us, and we feel like enter-

ing into the work with renewed strength and understanding. Ever praying for the welfare of the cause of God, in all the earth, I remain, your Brother,

DAVID BRANNON,
Clerk of Conference.

CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

Lutheran Conservatism.—Symathy for Russia.—Emperor's Visit. Kaiser and Pontiff.—Signor Crispi.—Prince of Wales in Austria.—General Gordon's Statue.—Dr. Parker's Rebuke, Etc.

Editor Desert News:

The murder of Alexander II. of Russia, and the cancer of Frederick III. of Prussia, placed two inexperienced youths at the heads of the two great northern empires. Hence the interest felt in trying to guess at what lies hidden in the secret recesses of the minds of two young monarchs perhaps destined to reign for many a year, an interest all the greater from the youth and inexperience of both.

Indubitably the politics and character of the young Emperor are wholly opposite to those of his father. The young Emperor is a strictly orthodox Lutheran. The tolerance of American customs forbids us from forming a clear conception of the customs, the passions, and we might say the superstitious that underlie the silence and the concentrative mode of thought of these men of the North. With Frederick the Great, true religious tolerance died. He was succeeded by his nephew Frederick William. A king of shreds and patches took the place of a sublime hero, intolerance checked the spirit of progress, routine took the place of new ideas, and dogmas marred the progress of the nation.

As the Catholic looks back to the middle ages for his ideal, so the orthodox German would draw the world back to the days of Luther. To both, the last three centuries have been nothing better than three centuries of ignominious error. The one salvation to be hoped for, in this world, is a return to the past, with the autocrats on the thrones and the people in the dust. As an instance, they hold it to be an intolerable tyranny that prayer shall be offered for the Parliament, especially for the popular branch, which owes its existence to the suffrage of the people and the advance of modern ideas.

Now as regards foreign politics, both the orthodox Lutheran and the Catholic look toward Russia with the warmest sympathy. There they see what appears to them the most perfect of human institutions. Hence the sympathy of the two young monarchs, and hence the policy of the German Emperor, which has evidently gained him the affections of a large part of the German people.

The statement made a few days ago in the *Independence Belge* that Belgium contemplates making a German loan for the purpose of buying up the lines of Belgian railways, which at present are mortgaged or leased to French companies, has caused considerable apprehension in political circles. The fact that the Belgian government desires to possess the railways on its own territory is in no way remarkable. But when the transfer is to be made by the help of Germany, it points to an understanding at variance with Belgium's treaty obligations, and one that may bring about the gravest complications. The neutrality of Belgium is one of the chief guarantees for the peace of Europe; and a Belgian alliance with either France or Germany would most certainly precipitate the catastrophe of a Franco-German war, under the dread of which Europe has been living for the past ten years. By the expenditure of fabulous sums the German frontier of France has been so fortified as, in the opinion of competent authorities, to be almost impregnable. It is only on the Belgian frontier that France offers the possibilities of ingress. This being the case, a German-Belgian alliance would be an act, the meaning of which it would be impossible to misunderstand. The advantage offered, to both France and Germany, in such an alliance would arouse suspicion throughout Europe. England can alone be looked to for the enforcement of the absolute neutrality of Belgium.

But the great question that has mostly engrossed public attention during the past fortnight has been the Emperor William's visit to Rome. So much has been said by the daily press that the chief features are well known to the public. German sympathy for Italy has always been very marked among all grades of society, and well to-do and well informed Germans spend their holidays more among the art treasures of Italian cities, than anywhere else. This art sympathy has aided greatly in developing the political sympathy which exists between the two countries. Hence the words of the German official organ are true. "Every German patriot's heart beats quicker at the grand and festive reception accorded the Kaiser Wilhelm in the Italian capital." The day before the Emperor's visit a drenching rain visited the city as if to prepare it for the Imperial visit, by settling the dust and alleviating the complex smell peculiar to the Eternal City—a smell which seems to be a combination of stable-yard, strongmeat, roasted garlic and decayed cheese. It was not the Emperor and his suite merely that

visited Rome. The largest number of newspaper correspondents that the world has ever seen together were also there, gathered from every civilized country and nationality under the sun; while photographers, draughtsmen and caricaturists were visible from a hundred house tops along which the processions passed. The whole distance from King Humbert's palace of the Quirinal to the Pope's palace of the Vatican, was thickly lined on both sides by Italian soldiers. For more than four hours all traffic was stopped throughout the long range of streets and piazzas, comprised within the military cordon, which was held with such severity that even foot passengers were not permitted to cross from one sidewalk to another, and doctors on their way to visit their patients were compelled to make a circuit of two or three miles in order to reach their destination over the way. It may be that this display was in the nature of a precautionary measure, to insure the Emperor's safety, fears having been entertained that emissaries of the anarchists might attempt his life in the very streets of Rome; or it may have been a demonstration of Italy's military power asserting its right to guard the King's guest up to the very gates of the Vatican. As to the interview between the Emperor and the Pontiff it was arranged previously to abstain from all reference to political matters.

The Pope received the Emperor surrounded by his whole court. His Majesty advanced and bent the knee to His Holiness as a mark of veneration, whereupon the Pope invited the Emperor to a seat beside him. Afterwards the Pope led the way to a private apartment where he had an interview with the Emperor lasting twenty-three minutes. No other person was present, but when the Emperor reappeared his face bore traces of deep emotion.

The successful bringing together of Emperor, King and Pope to extend to each other a friendly greeting is considered in Europe as a master diplomacy on the part of Italy's Prime Minister Signor Francesco Crispi. Indeed few men have been so generally popular, as is this enterprising statesman and staunch patriot, throughout the whole Italian Peninsula. His popularity is not so much due to his cleverness as to others of his attributes. It is nothing out of the way for an Italian to be talented; but it is unusual that he should be persevering as well. What has awakened and kept up his fellow-countrymen's admiration for him is his sustained energy, inexhaustible power of application, and unappeasable appetite for hard work. The Italians are essentially an indolent people. No wonder that a man who is never happy unless busy; who is not only Prime Minister but likewise holds the two most important portfolios in his cabinet, those of foreign and home affairs, should be respected.

Signor Crispi much resembles Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon in appearance. He is probably sixty years of age, with gray hair and mustache, a round and well balanced head, a firmly-set mouth, and a pair of keen, quick eyes, conveying the impression that their owner has kept them open to a good purpose for many a year past. His is a watchful, earnest, energetic face, the tension of its clear-cut features being now and then relaxed by a peculiarly kind look and pleasant smile.

While Italy is receiving a visit from the Emperor William, Austria, Hungary and Roumelia are rejoicing in a visit from the Prince of Wales. Victoria is attired in her gala dress, the Mountains of the Tyrol resound with the merry-making of royal hunting parties; and fetes and banquets are the topic of the time.

In London the statue of General Gordon was quietly unveiled on the 16th of October. It was well, for silence was more eloquent than that of a few hap-hazard speakers should attempt to pay inadequate tribute to the memory of this great man. To do some good in the world, to care nothing for ease, money or life compared with the faithful discharge of duty—such were his aspirations and ideas. Since the era of the commonwealth, no British soldier ever went into battle who seemed more conscious of heaven's guidance. This gentler Cromwell was incapable of the cruelties that marked the older Puritan. No massacre of Irish garrisons, because they were Papists, stains his name. The poorest Chinaman, the meanest Arab, the largest negro of the Sudan was in his eyes a man to be treated always with justice, if possible with kindness. No sweeter, purer, nobler nature ever animated an English heart.

In reference to those terrible East End murders, the Rev. Dr. Parker in his last discourse at City Temple makes some pertinent remarks. He said: "The pulpit has lost its hold on the tragic and impetuous life of the world. The outcasts of society turn away from the model preacher, as from a man who talks in an unknown tongue, and troubles himself about antiquities and metaphysics for which the sad and maddened heart of the world cares nothing. Away with such machines and such machinery. What is wanted are men who know the country they live in, the sorrows which surge in billows around their very homes, the poverty that ends in hopelessness, and the mental unrest that cannot be touched by ancient controversies or living pedagogues."

J. H. W.

Europe, October 22d, 1888.

PAPER MATERIALS.

HOW THEY ARE MANUFACTURED IN DIFFERENT PARTS.

The Chinese generally make paper from the bark of the bamboo, but they have some kinds made from linen rags, some from the outer case of the silkworm's cocoon, some from the paper tree, some from the cotton shrub, and some from rice. The Japanese paper is made from the mulberry tree, and the material from which it is fashioned is of such strength that from it cordage is manufactured. The Japanese manufacture paper for a variety of domestic purposes, and from it paper cloaks, gowns, tents, umbrellas, book bindings, etc., are made in excellent imitations of silks, satins, and other fabrics. The paper is rendered impervious to water by painting and coloring varnishes, and they are admirably made to deceive.

The Cingalese write on the leaves of the talipot palm; the Brahminial MSS. are written on the leaves of the *ampana* or *Palma malabarica*; in the Maldives the ordinary letter paper is the macquarian, the leaf of which is nine feet long and one and one-half feet broad, and the plantain, after being dried in the sun, in some parts of the East Indies answers the uses of paper. The Algerines were wont to make paper of the fiber of the *algave* or *country plant*, which was originally a native of Mexico. The Romans first made use of tiny rolls of the thin membranes found in some trees between the bark and the wood, the maple, plane, elm, beech, lime and mulberry trees being the principal ones made use of.

It is not known when paper was first made from linen rags nor to whom we owe the invention. Dr. Frideaux is of the opinion that linen paper was brought from the East, because many of the original manuscripts are written upon it. Mabilion is of the opinion that the invention belongs to the twelfth century. One of the earliest specimens of paper from linen rags yet discovered is a document, with the seal preserved, bearing date A. D. 1229, signed by Adolphus, count of Schaumburg. Casiti, however, asserts that there are in the Escorial a number of manuscripts, both upon cotton and linen paper, which were written prior to the thirteenth century. The invention was early introduced into England, for there are some acts of John Crandem, prior of Ely, made on linen paper, which bear date in the fourteenth year of the reign of King Edward II., A. D. 1320, and in the Cottonian library are said to be several writings on this kind of paper as early as the year 1255.

WOOD BUFFALO IN THE NORTH.

A FEW OF THOSE GREAT ANIMALS STILL EXIST IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

There still remain some of the wood buffalo. This is an animal larger than the American bison of the plains. They are larger coarser-haired, and straighter horned. I mention this peculiarity of difference in the horns because it is believed that the shape and the broken and crooked nature of the horns of the prairie buffalo have been caused by the habit of digging into the gravel, where, as in the more northern species they had to contend with other conditions where straight horns would be of more use, as, for instance, they use them there for clearing aside from the pathway the brush and luxuriant undergrowth. These animals would weigh at least 150 pounds more than the buffalo of the Saskatchewan plains. In the northern regions the vetches and grasses are so high and the snow fall not being unduly heavy, they have not had to paw and break the crust of snow, as was the habit of the buffalo, and that may account for their superior size. In the country where these are found horses cannot be used in pursuit and they are stalked in the same manner that the moose and the other large animals are. It is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the number of these animals that may yet be left. But perhaps investigation may show that five or six hundred may remain in scattered bands. Owing to the fact that he horse cannot be used in pursuit it is more difficult for the Indians to hunt them, and indeed to find them, than it was in the old days of hunting up on the plains. So rank is the undergrowth of this rich country and so difficult is it for the Indians to get at these animals that, perhaps, just now any attempt on the part of the government to afford protection to them would be useless. It, however, some regulation which would prevent white sportsmen from deliberately coming into the country to hunt these animals for mere pleasure it might result to advantage. At present it would be vexatious to the Indians and of no great use as the animal has become in its habits so much like the moose that he is able in a great measure to protect himself.

Little Nell—"Mamma, I wish you'd let me read a novel. Susie Minks has got such a lovely novel, and—"

"What? Did you read any of it?"

"Only the last line. It said: 'And so they got married, and were happy ever after.'"

"O! That isn't a novel dear; it's a fairy story."